

St John the Divine Rastrick

Your Parish Magazine



£1.50

April 2024

Parish of St John the Divine, Rastrick
St John the Divine, Gooder Lane, Rastrick, HD6 1HN

Vicar

Rev'd Michelle Petch - 01484 710538 - vicar@rastrickbenefice.org.uk

Churchwardens

David Marshall - 01484 718182 - mars42@hotmail.co.uk

Hilary Cartwright - 01484 537399 - hilarymccarthy54@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Minister

Alan Hoggard - 07756 035591- alanhoggard@btinternet.com

Pastoral Minister

Jane Hearson - 01484 968774 - family.hearson@tiscali.co.uk

Safeguarding

Jane Hearson - 01484 968774 - janehearson83@gmail.com

Health & Safety

John Hearson - 01484 968774 - john_hearson@yahoo.co.uk

Hall Bookings

Christine Whitaker - 01484 710952 - bookings@stjohnsrastrick.org.uk

PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

God of Mission who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.

Help our churches to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment
to you, and in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE

Here is a list of regular activities which occur in our church.

Please contact Group Leaders for details of their activities.

Sunday Services in Church

- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion (1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays)
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion or Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Joint Benefice Service (5th Sunday as announced)

Mondays in the Community Hall

- 6:00 p.m. Rainbows and Brownies
- 7:30 p.m. Guides
- 7:00 p.m. Beer & Banter Men's Group (1st Monday in the month at The Four Sons, Clough Lane) - Alan: 07756 035591

Tuesdays in Church

- 2:00 p.m. Mothers' Union (3rd Tuesday in the month)

Tuesdays in the Community Hall

- 12:00 noon Community Lunch (1st Tuesday in the month)
- 1:30 p.m. Reminiscent Cinema (1st Tuesday in the month)
- 1:00-2:30 p.m. Tai-Chi
- 6:30 p.m. Cubs
- 8:00 p.m. Scouts

Wednesday Service in Church

- 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th weeks in month)

Wednesdays in the Community Hall

- 6:15 p.m. Beavers
- 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Nighters (1st Wednesday in the month) in the Conference Suite.

Thursdays in the Community Hall

- Brighthouse Community Cinema (3rd Thursday in the month).
- See press for times and film showing.

Fridays

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (by Zoom). Alan:07756 035591

Rev'd Michelle writes



By the time you read this we will be celebrating Easter and the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Easter is a season of hope and joy and I really wanted to find some hopeful words to share with you this month. The problem is I am writing this in the middle of March, in the solemn season of Lent, with the troubles in Gaza continuing, the war in Ukraine rumbling on, and I in mourning and shock after the recent and sudden death of my mum. Despite my best efforts, I am not feeling overly joyful or hopeful.

We all have times when hope and joy seem elusive, so how best can we deal with this?

One positive thing we can do is pray. But prayer can be hard. Sometimes it is difficult to see where a loving God is in all the troubles of the world and the troubles which can beset us. But it does help, as I hope those of you who have taken part in the Prayer Course recently have rediscovered for yourself. My own prayers, and your prayers for me, have certainly sustained me in the last few weeks. Of that there is no doubt and I thank you and God with all my heart for it.

I believe God hears our prayers and weeps with us and with all those who suffer.

The Easter story is one of suffering and death for Jesus, who showed nothing but peace and love, and because Jesus trod that road to the cross, he understands the suffering of each human soul and walks beside us today. Perhaps Jesus is closer to us than we might think.

Each Easter we remember that Jesus, despite his suffering and death, rose from the dead to new life. Ultimately the Easter story ends with triumph that love and hope prevails, that good conquers evil.

The Easter story tells us that hope is stronger than despair, that love is stronger than hate, that peace is stronger than war and that life is stronger than death.

This Easter I pray that this will be true for the people of Gaza and Ukraine, for all those who suffer throughout the world, for ourselves, and for a world that longs for the hope, love, joy, peace and life that only the risen Jesus can bring.

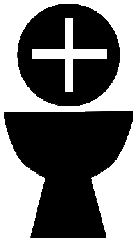
With my prayers and Easter blessings.

Rev'd Michelle

SERVICES AND CHURCH INFO

SUNDAY SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - APRIL

Sunday 7th April - 10:30 - Joint Benefice Service at St Matthew's
 Sunday 14th April - 11:00 - 3rd Sunday of Easter - Morning Worship
 Sunday 21st April - 11:00 - 4th Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion
 Sunday 28th April - 11:00 - 5th Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion



MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - APRIL

Wednesday 3rd - 10:30 - St Matthew's
 Wednesday 10th - 10:30 - St John's
 Wednesday 17th - 10:30 - St Matthew's
 Wednesday 24th - 10:30 - St John's

OTHER FORTHCOMING UNITED BENEFICE SERVICES

- ◇ Sunday 7th April - 10:30 - Joint Benefice - St Matthew's
- ◇ Thursday 9th May - 7:00 Ascension Day - St John's
- ◇ Sunday 19th May - 4:00 - Pentecost Praise - St Matthew's lawn.
- ◇ Sunday 30th June - 10:30 - Joint Benefice - St John's
- ◇ Sunday 29th September - 10:30 - Joint Benefice - St Matthew's

Please join Rev'd Michelle live on St John's Facebook page for Morning Prayer at 8.30am every morning Tuesday to Saturday



or you can catch up later in the day on Facebook or via the link on the home page of our Website.

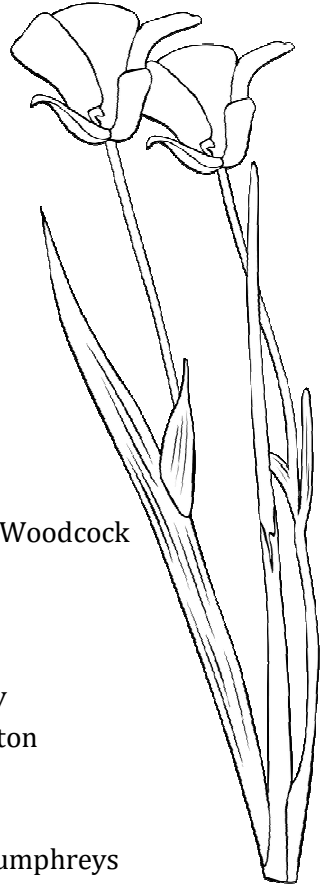
Easter Lilies

Donations for Easter Lilies

Given in memory of a loved one.

John Richmond
 Brian Rukin
 Elsie & Harold Pawson
 Winnie & Maurice Rukin
 Eva & Wilfred Moorhouse
 Dorothy & Stanley James
 John & Marjorie Mackenzie
 Alan Brook
 James Moore
 Joyce Sturrock
 James Sturrock
 Mary Tum
 Jonathan McCarthy
 Andrea Elliot
 Kay Tyson
 Ray Tyson
 Alec Perkins
 Doreen Perkins
 Ian Perkins
 Jan Perkins
 Jean Pollard
 Patrick Breen

David & Julia Pitts
 Raymond Raine
 Elsie Woodcock
 Crossley Ainsworth Woodcock
 Shelley Marshall
 Danielle Parkin
 Stephen Guy
 James Michael Drury
 Nora & Norman Barton
 Elsie Green
 Robert Beaumont
 Harry & Blodwen Humphreys
 Leonard & Freda Davis



All loved ones and lost.

PRAYER PAGE

Do you have a favourite prayer, or have you come across a special prayer recently which you'd like to share?



For April, Alan has chosen a couple of Easter prayers from the Faith & Worship website.

Would we be counted
among the doubters
hiding in the shadow
cast by that cruel cross?

Or, when challenged,
like Peter
openly deny you?

There are times, Lord
when doubts assail
and the distance between us
seems to increase.

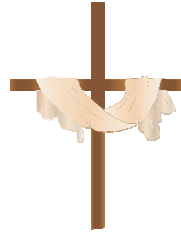
There are times, Lord
when sin has its hold,
like a barrier between us
that will not move.

Who is there we can turn to
when we feel so overwhelmed?

Who can roll away the stone
and reveal the empty tomb?

No-one but you, Jesus,
no-one but you!

Amen



We thank you
that Easter is not about
a people,
but all people,
that your love
and your Salvation
are for all who confess
with voices, hearts and lives
that the tomb is empty
because Jesus is risen,
that we might know
forgiveness,
that lives might be
reborn
and your name
glorified
now and for eternity.

Amen

Daily Lectionary Readings April 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01-Apr Psalms 111, Exodus 12.1-14 1 Corinthians 15.1-11	02-Apr Psalms 112 Exodus 12.14-36 1 Cor. 15.12-19	03-Apr Psalms 113 Exodus 12.37-end 1 Cor. 15.20-28	04-Apr Psalms 114 Exodus 13.1-16 1 Cor. 15.29-34	05-Apr Psalms 115 Exodus 13.17 – 14.14 1 Cor. 15.35-50	06-Apr Psalms 116 Exodus 14.15-end 1 Cor. 15.51-end
08-Apr Psalm 40 Exodus 15: 1-21 Colossians 1 1-15	09-Apr Psalms 8 Exodus 15.22 – 16.10 Colossians 1.15-end	10-Apr Psalms 16 Exodus 16.11-end Colossians 2.1-15	11-Apr Psalms 28 Exodus 17 Colossians 2.16 – 3.11	12-Apr Psalms 57 Exodus 18.1-12 Colossians 3.12 - 4.1	13-Apr Psalms 63 Exodus 18.13-end Colossians 4.2-end
15-Apr Psalms 96 Exodus 19 Luke 1.1-25	16-Apr Psalms 98 Exodus 20.1-21 Luke 1.26-38	17-Apr Psalm 105 (or) 34 Exodus 24 Luke 1.39-56	18-Apr Psalm 136 (or) 37* Exodus 25.1-22 Luke 1.57-end	19-Apr Psalm 107 (or) 31 Exodus 28.1-4a Luke 2.1-20	20-Apr Psalms 108 Exodus 29.1-9 Luke 2.21-40
22-Apr Psalm 103 (or) 44 Exodus 32.1-14 Luke 2.41-end	23-Apr Psalm 126 Exodus 32.15-35 Luke 3.1-14	24-Apr Psalm 135 Exodus 33 Luke 3.15-22	25-Apr Psalm 148 Exodus 34 Luke 3.23-4:15	26-Apr Psalm 33 (or) 51 Exodus 35.20 – 36.7 Luke 4.14-30	27-Apr Psalm 34 (or) 68 Exodus 40.17-end Luke 4.31-37
29-Apr Psalm 145 (or) 71 Numbers 9.15-end; 10.33-end Luke 4.38-end	30-Apr Psalms 19 Numbers 11.1-33 Luke 5.1-11	01-May Psalm 139 Numbers 12 Luke 5.12-26	02-May Psalms 57 Numbers 13.1-3 Luke 5.27-end	03-May Psalms 138 Numbers 14.1-25 Luke 6.1-11	04-May Psalms 146 Numbers 14.26-end Luke 6.12-26

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnthedinerastrick>

Join Michelle on line Tuesday - Saturday:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

All readings in full can be found by downloading the 'Lectionary: from the CofE' App on your mobile or PC

Prayer Ministry



Prayer Ministry is offered monthly during the 11am Parish Communion Service.

An opportunity to bring concerns, people and situations before God in prayer alongside someone else.

Please come to the main door of the Lady Chapel after receiving communion if you would like to take part.

Upcoming dates as follows:

Sunday 21st April

Sunday 19th May

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Phil 4:6)



Thank you, my God, for being closer to me than I can even imagine. May your deep love be what guides my speech and actions as I share my faith with others.

From the mobile phone app: 3 Minute Retreat

Coffee and Conversation

**Next Date:
Friday 5th April
12:30 -1:30**

**Come and join me each month
for lunch/coffee
in The Platform Café
Railway Bridge View**



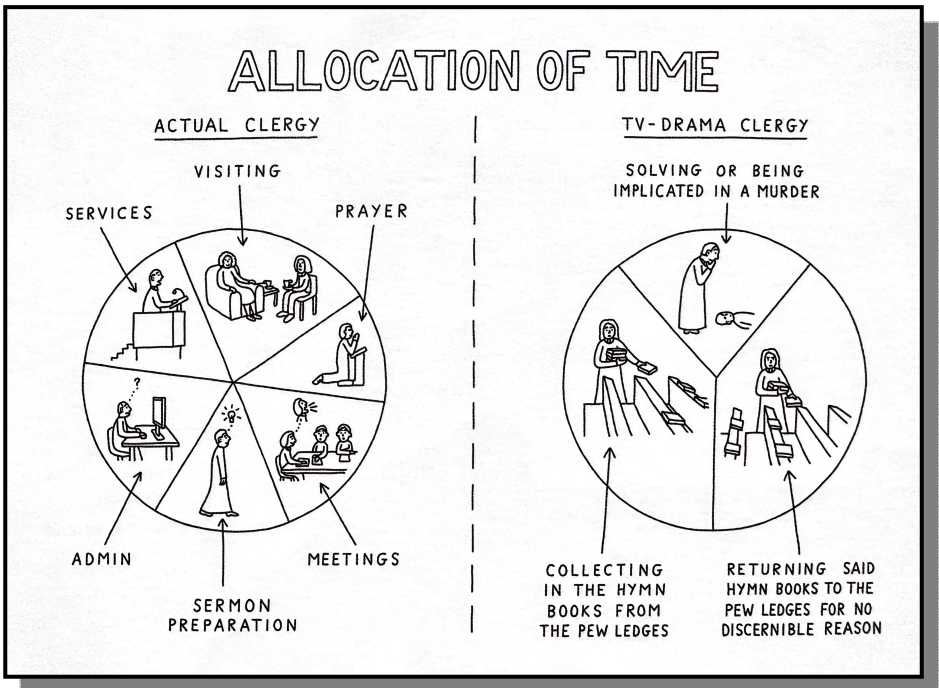
Very informal - may include:

exchanging news

prayer

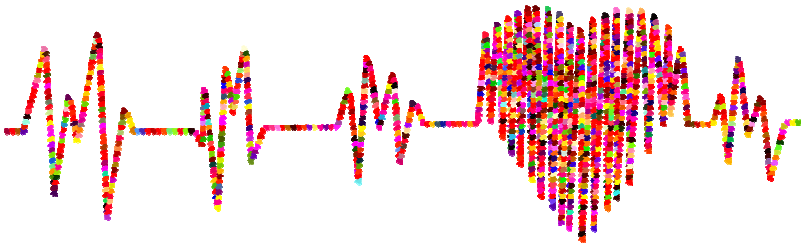
**a discussion around the Gospel reading
for the following Sunday**

As a big fan of Father Brown and Emmerdale, I share this with you with a smile. It is so true, *Michelle*



RHYTHM OF LIFE

Easter Day 2024 will mark the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Leeds. As part of the plans to celebrate the Diocese will be producing daily Bible reflections for the fifty days of Easter. It is hoped they will encourage people in their daily discipleship and more specifically to engage with the Diocesan 'Rhythm of Life' venture. You may remember we undertook the Diocesan Rhythm of Life Lent course last year within our Benefice. These reflections will be sent out each day in an email and published on social media channels.



The verses/passage allocated for each day will be from the Acts of the Apostles, which the Church usually reads during Eastertide. Each daily reading will also be linked to one of the seven Rhythm of Life areas of focus: *pray, encourage, share, reflect, celebrate, rest and create*. The idea is that the Bible reflections illuminate ways in which these seven areas can be a feature of our everyday lives as Christians.

I would like to encourage you to sign up to receive these reflections.

To sign up, [click here](#).

For more on the Rhythm of Life initiative, [click here](#)

Watch out especially for the reflection for Monday 8th April which I was asked to write as Prayer and Spirituality Co-ordinator for the Huddersfield Episcopal Area.

Every blessing

Michelle

St. JOHN'S RUCKSACK CLUB

Next Walk:

Saturday 20th April full day in the Ripponden area ..

Further details can be obtained from Roger Ellis nearer the time for those wishing to join the walk



The Men of the Churches of Rastrick

**Beer and
Banter
2024**

Host



THE FOUR SONS INN



Mondays at **The Four Sons**, Rastrick 7pm

- 8th April - All things Eco - Norman Lake & John Hearson
- 13th May - Providing a Safe Space - Turning Point
- 3rd June - Music and Language - Graham Kennedy

All Men Welcome

Further Details call Alan 07756035591

Pie and Peas!!



MOTHERS' UNION MATTERS!

The St John's Mothers' Union Branch and some Members from Almondbury joined in with other Christians from the Rastrick and Brighthouse Group of Churches to

celebrate the World Day of Prayer on Friday 1 March at 2.00 pm at the Salvation Army Citadel. The Prayers had been created by Women in Palestine, written over a year ago, and so it was with bitter sweet thoughts that we were able to use the words that they had hoped would be used throughout the world on this day.



We met on Thursday 29 March at 10.30 pm in the Conference Suite to continue to create "little crosses in little pockets". We were joined by others from our Church and also, we welcomed a visitor from Wakefield, and she will take away the ideas for a MU Branch there.



We are having a third day to continue to create these little spiritual gifts on Thursday 4 April. No skill necessary, and Hilary will show you how!! Bring a little something to share and eat for lunch. It will be a fun time. With each little stitched cross there is a small bar of chocolate, called Divine, with a little prayer on a card and these are all popped into a little gift bag. These will be given to those in our

congregation who are unwell at this time or away from Church for whatever reason. It is a little token of friendship from St John's Church, reminding them of God's grace and love. We have also been asked to make some for the residents at St Winifred's Nursing Home. What could be better?!

On Tuesday 19 March Susan Mosely, Janet Thain's niece, came to talk to us about her Quaker Faith and the 'power of silence'. She presented a fascinating insight into Quakerism, and its origins. This all fitted very well into a theme of our Lent Course which among other topics we had been considering silence and contemplation. Susan was as thrilled as we were with her presentation and has invited us to go to see her Meeting Room as a return visit! Date to be arranged!!

On Tuesday 9 April the Mothers Union are celebrating Lady Day. This year this will be held at Hanging Heaton and the Service will be led by Revd. Michelle! All the Branches are encouraged to bring their banners. It will be a wonderful time.

This event is swiftly followed by Paul Armitage coming to talk to our Branch about his walking exploits all beautifully illustrated with his photographs. This is to be held on Tuesday, our third Tuesday in the month, at 2.00 on Tuesday 16 April.

Looking ahead there is the MU Coffee and Goodies Day being held at Freda Broadbent's house on Tuesday 14th May, 10.00-3.00pm. Much more detail about this nearer the time, but for now please put this date in your diary.

Also of great importance is that the MU is having their annual retreat at



Parceval Hall from Tuesday 21 -23 May. These days are being led by Revd. Michelle and it promises to offer a spiritual haven in glorious countryside. Please let me know if you want to go and haven't got an application form. These days will offer a wonderful break.

With love and best wishes to you all,

Julia

What the Vicar got up to last month

Just a selection...



At the Rhythm of Life Retreat
With Bishop Smitha
at Dewsbury Minster.



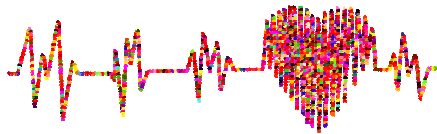
Led the Worship at the
MU Area Gathering



World Day of Prayer
at the Salvation Army



Took part in the
Lent Groups
Prayer Course



Contributed to the Diocese of
Leeds Rhythm of Life reflections

Was at the the MU event,
making little crosses
in little pockets
for pastoral visiting
and the residents of St Winifred's



LENT GROUPS 2024

Over 40 people attended one of the five ecumenical groups that ran throughout Lent. People found the meetings very practical, and the videos stimulated



lots of discussion which challenged us all to make space for a quiet time with God each day. The main topics covered were:

Adoration: How can we enjoy God's presence? Using a telescope, not a microscope in praise and worship.

Petition: the power of prayer, praying incrementally and consistently and accepting that sometimes the answer to prayer is like the traffic lights: Yes(go), Wait (not yet), No(stop).

Intercession: When we pray God intervenes - four steps: get informed, get inspired, get indignant and get in sync.

Unanswered Prayer: tackling the challenges and realities when our prayers aren't answered.

Contemplation: spending time with God can enrich our relationship with him: Meditation, Contemplation & Communion

Listening: Ways we can tune into hearing God's voice. Read, explore, pray, enjoy. God speaks to us in the normal routines of every day.

Spiritual Warfare: Exploring the ways we can pray God's kingdom Come, in the midst of a spiritual battle! Putting on the armour of God

The continuing theme about prayer was to keep it simple, keep it real and keep it up, most helpful for making time for God was the acronym P.R.A.Y. – Pause, Rejoice, Ask and Yield (saying yes to God).

All the videos and helpful toolshed resources are on the 24-7 webpage and if you would like to find out more, please speak to Alan Hoggard

Anglican & Methodist Church of St Matthew,
Rastrick

SUNDOWN SWING BAND



Sunday 12th May 2024

2.30 pm in the Parish Centre

Tickets £10.00

(including tea and cream scone)

Tickets available from Jennifer (01484 713482)
or Derek (01484 711727)



PCC SNIPPETS FROM MARCH 2024

- The benefice administrator started at the beginning of March , her name is Claire Summerscales and she is employed for 6 hours per week . The cost will be shared between St Matthews and ourselves.
- Various policies have been agreed and renewed by the PCC , these are on the noticeboards in the Church and Church Hall.
- After a meeting of the IOCS group (improving your church space) , the PCC was asked to agree the plan to create an inner vestibule with the aim of reducing heat loss in the church. A grant will be applied for from the Church buildings fund.
- Health and safety – John kept us a breast of some areas in church and the hall where we need to introduce some measures in line with our health and safety review, which was efficiently carried out by Helen Broadbent , thanks were expressed to Helen for doing this.
- In line with this review the PCC agreed to the moving of the sound desk from where it is at the back of the church, a grant has been applied for and this includes the purchase of a screen for the organist and a desk to keep all the electrical items in a safe manner.
- After Easter the organ builders will start to rebuild the organ , this will hopefully be finished by the end of May. The outer case of the organ has been painted and the organ pipes should be away for spraying soon.

Electoral Roll Revision

Membership on the Electoral Roll entitles a person to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to vote at the meeting in the elections to the Parochial Church Council and to the Deanery synod. A member aged 16 or over may stand for election to the PCC and a member aged 18 or over may stand for election to the Deanery Synod, the Diocesan Synod and the General Synod.

Please let me have any new applications for inclusion not later than Sunday 21 April 2024 to be included on the Roll that applies for this year's APCM. This is to allow time for the PCC to give formal approval to the revised Electoral Roll and for it to be displayed for the required 14 days prior to the APCM on 12 May 2024.

Rosemary Lake

Electoral Roll Officer, St John the Divine, Rastrick



May God make safe to you each step,
May God make open to you each pass,
May God make clear to you each road,
And may he take you in the clasp
Of his own two hands

Carmina Gadelica (a Celtic prayer)

ECO CHURCH Update - April 2024 - By John



Did you join the Prayer Course during Lent? I'm going to put to use some of the 'tools' that we learnt, in bringing these three issues to God.

1. **Plastic Waste** - The 4th Intergovernment Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution takes place on 23-29th April in Ottawa, Canada. The Committee has a mandate to agree a treaty to prevent plastic waste contamination by the end of this year, but progress is being hampered by the industry itself. The results of the Big Plastic Count will strengthen the argument that the average UK citizen has little choice but to use a lot of disposable plastic.

2. **Court Cases against the UK Government** – Friends of the Earth

have taken our government to court for the second time because it hasn't produced a credible plan to achieve its climate objectives by 2030. The poster to the right of Rishi's head reads,



“it doesn't matter how rich your children and grandchildren are if the planet is uninhabitable.”

Chris Packham is also taking the Government to court for scrapping or weakening its commitments.

3. **Campaign for Warm Homes** – about 10 million homes in the UK – about 40% - aren't well enough insulated, leaving many in fuel poverty. 1 in 4 children live in cold houses, affecting their development and ability to study. Several charities including Friends of the Earth are campaigning the Government to commit to a street-by-street insulation programme.

Here's a link to [their petition](#).

St John the Divine, Rastrick

AFTERNOON TEA



SATURDAY 27TH APRIL

2:00 - 4:30 IN THE CHURCH

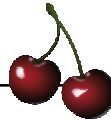
TICKETS £ 8 CONTACT: 07816 757334

Proceeds for church garden

I accidentally took my cat's medication!
Don't ask me meow...



Cherry



COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch is on Tuesday 2nd April. 12:00
All welcome. (No charge - donations much appreciated)



COFFEE & CHAT

The next Coffee & Chat
is on Saturday 13th April, in church. 10:00 - 12:00



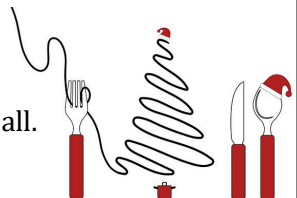
AFTERNOON TEA

The next Afternoon Tea
is on Saturday 27th April, in church. 2:00 - 4:30
Tickets from Cherry: £8



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The annual Christmas Lunch
is on Tuesday 3rd December, in the Community Hall.
Booking essential: £20



MISSIONS AND CHARITIES


From Tearfund.

Thank you so much to all the members of St. John the Divine Church, Rastrick, for raising funds of £60 to twin toilets and helping us to provide clean and safe toilets, sanitation and hygiene solutions for communities living in extreme poverty. I have attached your certificate for twinning with a toilet in Uganda.

THIS TOILET HAS BEEN

TWINNED

ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH RASTRICK



WITH A LATRINE IN
UGANDA

Latitude: -1.1972, Longitude: 29.9812
Kabale District





SCAN ME
to learn more



1 in 4 people around the world don't have a loo.
By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty.

Tearfund is a Registered Charity Number 265464 (England and Wales) and Number SC037624 (Scotland).



Music News

Just a 'note' for the Rastrick Voices this month.

A couple of things to look forward to:

We're singing at the Ascension Day Service at St John's on the evening of Thursday May 9th. We'll be having a rehearsal or two (or three...) but for the moment, please keep the date free if you can.

We're also looking forward to a big musical celebration when our lovely Conacher organ finally returns. Obviously we can't set a date for that yet, but we may start rehearsals. Watch this space...



Pam

CENTRAL FOODBANK

The Foodbank is very grateful to all at St. John's Church for their kindness and generosity.

We are currently in need of:

Cans of carrots,
macaroni cheese, red kidney beans
Washing liquid capsules
Toilet rolls



Thank you so much..

I was asked to write an article for the diocese and here it is.

From Darkness to Light: A Church's Journey to Solar Panels and LEDs

In a remarkable journey fuelled by community collaboration and strategic fundraising, David James, a dedicated fundraiser for St John the Divine, Rastrick, spearheaded a transformative project to modernise the church's lighting system and integrate sustainable energy solutions. Having worked on other projects totalling over £130,000, this journey unfolded with a series of strategic steps guided by the needs of the church and the generosity of local groups.

The recent initiative took flight when the youth of the pantomime group suggested upgrading the stage lighting in the Parish Hall. Recognising the opportunity for enhancement, David mobilised efforts to secure funding. Through diligent research and understanding of grant criteria, £4,000 was secured from local grant holders, illuminating the stage with state-of-the-art lighting.

Embracing the momentum, the Hall Improvement Team (HIC) identified the potential for further enhancements. With a clear vision and determination, David embarked on a quest to replace all the conventional lights with energy-efficient LED fixtures. His efforts bore fruit as two community groups extended their support with a generous contribution of £2,000 from the Rastrick Big Local (£1,500) and the Rastrick Ward Forum (£500), illuminating the path towards sustainable lighting solutions.

Although there were lots of challenges, David remained undeterred, recognizing that fundraising is akin to untangling a knot, where each success unlocks new opportunities. Leveraging the grant funders' criteria and aligning them with the church's needs, David continued to navigate the fundraising landscape with precision and purpose.

The next milestone in the journey came with the support of the Community Fund for Calderdale, when David secured a significant grant of £12,500.

This funding enabled the installation of solar panels and a battery system, costing at £9,000, ushering in a new era of sustainability for the church. Additionally, the grant facilitated the replacing of all the lights and the installation of additional LED lights (£3,500), casting a radiant glow upon the once dimly lit wooden barrel ceiling, which had languished in darkness for years. The solar panels and equipment were installed by a local firm, Eclipse Energy from Halifax.

Reflecting on the journey, David attributes his success to thorough research, understanding the funders' criteria, and a steadfast commitment to the church's mission. With each achievement, the vision for a brighter, more sustainable future for the church becomes increasingly tangible, underscoring the power of community collaboration and strategic fundraising.



As the church basks in the luminous glow of its new lighting system, David's journey stands as a testament to the transformative impact of dedicated individuals rallying communities towards a shared vision of progress and sustainability.

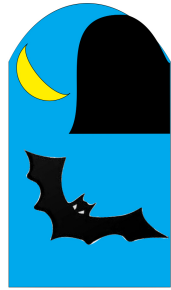
End

My only regret is that when I started out fund raising I didn't have **Chapgpt** to help me. It is an Artificial Intelligence program which writes for you if you provide a few bullet points. This document was written by Chapgpt with very little editing from me ! It only took 15 minutes.

David James with some help.

PUZZLE PAGE by the ***Bat in the Belfry***

April is known for its showers, so if it does rain, have a go at these two.



Number 24 – 7 All about George

These questions all relate to St George, whose day we celebrate this month.

1. Which King in 1327 declared St George the patron Saint of England?
2. Britain's first two decimal coins were issued on St George's Day in 1968, what were their values?.
3. On what date do Bulgarians celebrate St George's Day?
4. Which play by Shakespeare was first performed on April 23rd 1597 in front of Queen Elizabeth I?
5. According to local legend near which landmark on the Berkshire Downs did St George slay the dragon?
6. Which Pope demoted St George to "optional worship" in 1969, prior to Pope John-Paul II reinstating him in 2000?
7. Which English King was crowned on April 23rd 1661?
8. St George slaying the dragon is featured on which British coin first introduced in 1817?
9. Which Spanish writer died on the same day as Shakespeare, April 23rd 1616?
10. Who made his first appearance as Dr Who on St George's Day 2010?

Number 24 – 8 I talk to the trees

Below are leaves of nine familiar trees. Can you identify them?

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



Last month's answers

24 – 5 Easter Connections

1) Japan 2) Passiontide 3) Chile 4) Mel Gibson 5) Fry's of Bristol 6) The Belfast Agreement 7) Romeo and Juliet 8) Albert II of Monaco 9) Once (Acts 12:4) 10) Simon of Cyrene

24 – 6 Who Lives Here? With apologies the address of Number 10 was incorrectly quoted as 2132 Windsor Gardens, London instead of 32. Hope you were still able to work it out.

1) Mr D'Arcy (Pride and Prejudice) 2) Worzel Gummidge 3) Sherlock Holmes 4) Del Boy Trotter 5) Tony Hancock 6) Bilbo Baggins 7) Phileas Fogg 8) The Bellamy Family (Upstairs Downstairs) 9) Wallace & Gromit 10) Paddington

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

SHIRLEY...

Be Still – God is Near

I was down in the village of Knowle, nr Solihull, for the week which included Mothering Sunday. A meditation in the Christian tradition entitled “Breathe” was advertised in their magazine for the Saturday morning in Knowle Parish Church and I decided I would like to go.



The church dates from the 15th century. It is thought to have been consecrated on 24 February 1403. A college was founded in the church in 1416 which existed until 1547. It is noted for its high chancel with a processional subway from north to south. There was a restoration in 1860 and in 1900 there was a further restoration costing £1,000, which included the building of a new organ chamber, clergy and choir vestry. The organ and choir were moved from the north transept to the north side of the chancel and the north chapel was opened out to the church and the old stalls removed from the end of the south aisle to the choir. *(Wikipedia).*

Although I have attended services in the past when the church has been full, on this occasion it was very still with only the people interested in the Meditation session quietly making their way up the chancel steps



towards the circle of chairs around lit tea lights. My daughter had offered to come with me but I sensed it was not really ‘her thing’ so I bravely suggested she collected me at the end of the session. The small group of mostly ladies, glanced at me and smiled and I was invited to take a seat. Viewing the empty

church from the front in the stillness of the morning, I was able to glimpse the beautiful stain glass windows and ancient wood carvings. The perfect setting for my meditation. Apparently, this was the third and last meeting of the ‘Breathe’ meditations. The Curate, Revd. Emily Spencer opened the session recalling the previous weeks and said this morning we would open with a prayer then for the next twenty minutes relax our bodies and think of a word relating to God.

She said our minds would wonder away from this word but we should try and come back to it again, as we let other subjects come and go. Twenty minutes of utter silence, deep quietness and stillness enveloped me and when Emily began speaking again, I was amazed how good I felt. Members of the group offered comments on the words they had chosen which was very interesting and thought inspiring. It would be good if we could do something similar here at St John's.

He is Here too

An arm of a porcelain figurine was accidentally broken recently. It was a present to me years ago and had sentimental value. These figures can be repaired but the joint can usually be detected when examined closely. At auction we learn from TV programmes, this considerably devalues the object. However, it could perhaps be returned to the maker for a better restoration. This made me think about ourselves when we are broken. I decided the best way is to go to God, our Maker. If we tell Him of our brokenness and ask for help, He is always there to listen and we are restored again by His unfailing love.

Happy Easter to Everyone!

Shirley x



AND FINALLY....

God is talking to one of his angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?"

The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?"

God says, "I think I'll call it a day."

Source: Stewardship of Life Institute

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday 2nd April

Community Lunch 12:00

Thursday 4th April

“Little Crosses in litte Pockets” workshop

Friday 5th April

Coffee & Conversation - Railway Bridge View 12:30-1:30

Monday 8th April

Beer & Banter - The Four Sons 7:00

Tuesday 9th April

MU - Lady Day - Hanging Heaton

Saturday 13th April

Coffee & Chat in church 10:00 - 12:00

Tuesday 16th April

MU - Paul Armitage talk 2:00

Saturday 20th April

Rucksack Club Walk - Ripponden area

Sunday 21st April

Deadline - applications for membership on the Electoral Roll

Friday 26th April

Coffee & Conversation - Railway Bridge View 12:30

Saturday 27th April

Afternoon Tea 2:00-4:30

Items for *the May* magazine.
to: stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com by 9:00 a.m.
Sat. 27th April please. Thanks.



Website : www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk



Parish Calendar : <http://tinyurl.com/jcjrehp>



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