

St John the Divine Rastrick Your Parish Magazine



£1.50

March 2024

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

Vicar

Rev'd Michelle Petch - 01484 710538 - michelle.petch2@btinternet.com

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



Welcome to the March magazine. We're in the season of Lent throughout the whole of this month, except for one day right at the end – Easter Day on 31st March.

I wonder how Lent is going for you. Maybe you have given something up or taken something extra on. Maybe you've joined us for The Prayer Course, as we journey together through the Lord's Prayer and consider ways of drawing closer to God through prayer. If not, there is still time to join in. There are several different groups meeting at different venues on different days and times of the week. Pick a leaflet up in church or contact myself or Alan Hoggard for more information. Also, don't forget the Prayer Page of this magazine. Please send in your favourite prayers for future editions. Let's share these and encourage one another in prayer.

Whatever we are doing and however it is going, Lent gives us the opportunity to grow in faith in some way. To draw closer to God and to realise the extent of his great love for us, shown especially in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. As we journey through Lent we are challenged, as I said in last month's letter, to take up our cross and follow Jesus.

You will find details of all our Holy Week and Easter services in the pages of this magazine. Please do come along and join the journey with us as much as you can. Just one practical thing to note - although Easter Day 31st March is a 5th Sunday, there will be the usual 9.15am service at St Matthews, and 11am service at St John's that day as we gather to celebrate the resurrection. Our Benefice service will be the following Sunday 7th April, when we will gather to worship and celebrate together at St Matthew's at 10.30am.

With my prayers and very best wishes for a holy Lent and joyful Easter.

Michelle

SERVICES AND CHURCH INFO

SUNDAY SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - MARCH

Sunday 3rd March - 11:00 - 3rd Sunday of Lent- Morning Worship

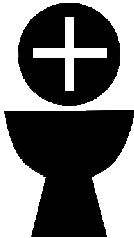
Sunday 10th March - 11:00 - 4th Sunday of Lent -

All Age Holy Communion (*Mothering Sunday*)

Sunday 17 th March - 11:00 - 5th Sunday of Lent - Holy Communion

Sunday 24th March. - 11:00 - Palm Sunday - Holy Communion

Sunday 31st March - 11:00 - EASTER SUNDAY



MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - MARCH

Wednesday 6th - 10:30 - St Matthew's

Wednesday 13th - 10:30 - St John's

Wednesday 20th - 10:30 - St Matthew's

Wednesday 27th - 10:30 - St John's

SPECIAL - MARCH (Benefice) *For more info, please see page 6*

Monday 25th - 7:00 Service of Reflection (St. Matthew's)

Tuesday 26th - 7:00 Service of Reflection (St. John's)

Wednesday 27th - 7:00 Service of Reflection (St. Matthew's)

Thursday 28th - 7:00 Maundy Thursday (St John's)

Friday 29th - 7:00 Good Friday (St Matthew's)

Sunday 31st - 6:30 a.m. EASTER Sunrise service (Vicarage garden)

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 - Pentecost Praise - St Matthew's lawn.

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.

The United Benefice of Rastrick

Holy Week

24th - 31st March

Palm Sunday

Holy Communion **9.15am** St Matthews,
11am St John's

Services will include a dramatised
reading of the passion gospel.

Monday 7pm - Service of reflection at St Matthew's

Tuesday 7pm - Service of reflection at St John's

Wed. 10:30 - Holy Communion at St John's

7pm - Service of reflection at St Matthew's

Maundy Thursday

7pm - Holy Communion

including foot washing and

stripping of the sanctuary at St John's

Good Friday

11.30am - Walk of witness from St John's

12.30pm - Churches Together Good Friday service
at Central Methodist Church

7pm - Good Friday Meditation Service at St Matthew's

Easter Day

6:15am - Sunrise Service in the Vicarage Garden, followed by breakfast
(bacon butties and croissants) Join us in person or live on Facebook.

9.15am All-age communion at St Matthew's

11am All-age communion at St John's



The Anglican and Methodist Church of St. Matthew & St. John the Divine

The Easter story: What's Easter all about?

The Easter story lies at the heart of Christianity, celebrating Jesus' resurrection from the dead, three days after being crucified.

What's Holy Week?

Holy Week is the week between Palm Sunday and Easter eve, a solemn time, when Christians recall the events of Jesus' final days on earth.

What's Good Friday?

Good Friday is one of the most important dates in the Christian calendar, commemorating the day Jesus was crucified. Good Friday is "good" because as terrible as that day was, it had to happen for us to receive the joy of Easter.



What's Easter Sunday?

Easter Sunday is the joyous culmination of Holy Week, and the most important day in the Christian calendar. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, promising new hope, new joy, and new life.

Regular Services:

Sundays: 9:15am at St Matthews

11:00am at St Johns

Wednesdays: 10:30am at St Matthews on 1st & 3rd and at St Johns on 2nd & 4th. (No service on the 5th)



For further information see our websites www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk
or www.stmatthewsrastrick.org

Rastrick Group of Churches

LENT GROUPS 2024

From the week commencing 19th February



A Lenten Journey through the Lord's Prayer

Using the Lord's Prayer as a basis we will explore prayer using the following topics with practical examples that help us to pray.

Session 1: Adoration: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name” – How can we enjoy God’s presence?

Session 2: Petition & Intercession “Give us this day our daily bread” - unpacking the significance of asking God in prayer.

Session 3: Unanswered Prayer “Your will be done” - tackling the challenges and realities when our prayers aren’t answered.

Session 4: Listening - “Give us this day our daily bread” - practical ways we can tune into hearing God’s voice.

Session 5: Spiritual Warfare “Deliver us from evil” - the ways we can pray God’s kingdom Come in the midst of a spiritual battle!

Sign up now – Leaflets in Church.

PRAYER PAGE

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



This month's prayer has been chosen by Alan.

A prayer from the Methodist Church, looking forwards towards Easter:

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen.

Daily Lectionary Readings March 2024

<u>Monday</u> <u>26-Feb</u>	<u>Tuesday</u> <u>27-Feb</u>	<u>Wednesday</u> <u>28-Feb</u>	<u>Thursday</u> <u>29-Feb</u>	<u>Friday</u> <u>01-Mar</u>	<u>Saturday</u> <u>02-Mar</u>
Psalms 26, 32 Genesis 43.16-end Hebrews 1	Psalms 50 Genesis 44.1-17 Hebrews 2.1-9	Psalms 35 Genesis 44.18-end Hebrews 2.10-end	Psalms 34 Genesis 45.1-15 Hebrews 3.1-6	Psalms 40, 41 Genesis 45.16-end Hebrews 3.7-end	Psalms 3, 25 Gen. 46.1-7, 28-end Hebrews 4.1-13
<u>04-Mar</u>	<u>05-Mar</u>	<u>06-Mar</u>	<u>07-Mar</u>	<u>08-Mar</u>	<u>09-Mar</u>
Psalms 5 Genesis 47.1-27 Hebrews 4.14 – 5.10	Psalms 6 Gen. 47.28 – end of 48 Hebrews 5.11 – 6.12	Psalms 38 Genesis 49.1-32 Hebrews 6.13-end	Psalms 56, Gen. 49.33 – end of 50 Hebrews 7.1-10	Psalms 22 Exodus 1.1-14 Hebrews 7.11-end	Psalms 31 Exodus 1.22 – 2.10 Hebrews 8
<u>11-Mar</u>	<u>12-Mar</u>	<u>13-Mar</u>	<u>14-Mar</u>	<u>15-Mar</u>	<u>16-Mar</u>
Psalms 70, Exodus 2.11-22 Hebrews 9.1-14	Psalms 54, Exodus 2.23 – 3.20 Hebrews 9.15-end	Psalms 63, Exodus 4.1-23 Hebrews 10.1-18	Psalms 77 (or) 37* Genesis 39 Galatians 2.11-end	Psalms 102 Exodus 6.2-13 Hebrews 10.26-end	Psalms 32 Exodus 7.8-end Hebrews 11.1-16
<u>18-Mar</u>	<u>19-Mar</u>	<u>20-Mar</u>	<u>21-Mar</u>	<u>22-Mar</u>	<u>23-Mar</u>
Psalms 73 Exodus 8.1-19 Hebrews 11.17-31	Psalms 119 9-16 Isaiah 44:1-8 Acts 2: 14-24	Psalms 55, Exodus 9.1-12 Hebrews 12.3-13	Psalms 40 Exodus 9.13-end Hebrews 12.14-end	Psalms 22 Exodus 10 Hebrews 13.1-16	Psalms 23, 127 (or) 147 Exodus 11 Hebrews 13.17-end
<u>25-Mar</u>	<u>26-Mar</u>	<u>27-Mar</u>	<u>28-Mar</u>	<u>29-Mar</u>	<u>30-Mar</u>
Psalms 36:5-11 Isaiah 42:1-9 Hebrews 9:11-15	Psalms 71:1-14 Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Psalms 70 Isaiah 50:4-9a Hebrews 12:1-3	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19 Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Psalms 22 Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Hebrews 10:16-25	Psalms 31:1-4, 15-16 Job 14:1-14 1 Peter 4:1-8
Holy Week					

Join Michelle on line Tuesday - Saturday:

Or use the Church of England Daily Prayer:

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

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

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



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 10th March

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

On behalf of myself and my family I wish to thank Michelle and all our friends in the church family of St John's for the support, love, and kindness expressed to us at our loss of Kathryn, a beloved wife, mother and grannie. The unstinting efforts put in to allow us to use the church hall after the funeral service, setting up and clearing up, are greatly appreciated and have our grateful thanks.

Music meant so much to Kathryn and the contribution to the service of Pam, organist Graham and our lovely singers, Rastrick Voices, is immeasurable. We cannot thank them enough and our gratitude is everlasting.

God bless you all. **Gerald**

The Reverend Barbara Lydon



A “lady with no guile” is how the Reverend David Earl described Barbara, having worked with her here in Rastrick “back in the day” in the 1970s, when David was the Methodist Minister for St Mathew’s.

Both Barbara and I come from Mirfield, and attended Mirfield Grammar School. My main school memory of Barbara was watching her skills, being a speedy winger in her House Hockey team.

It was an honour for me to give the eulogy at Barbara’s funeral on 16th February in a very full St Matthew’s, and I am thankful to the vicar, Rev’d Michelle, for asking me to provide some words for our Magazine.

A main interest of Barbara was “gardening”, as we all know, so from school days she went to Studley College in Warwickshire for a two year course and gained a diploma in gardening. She had various posts as a gardener, and became famous for her flower arrangement demonstrations on TV. Barbara was married to Tom Gwinett, sadly for only two years, 1962-3.

It was after Tom had died that Barbara felt the call to service God – “Pushed not Led”, as Canon Marion Russell told me. A two year training as a Parish Worker led her to working in Castleford parish, then coming to St Matthew’s in 1969, being made a Deaconess in 1972 and working happily with vicars, Ian Knox, Roy Clements and David Calvin-Thomas, during which time she married Tom Lydon. From 1985 to 1988 she served the parish of St Paul’s Eastthorpe, back in Mirfield!!, being made Deacon in 1984.


Then, from 1988 to 1995, she had a tough and very fruitful time looking after the Parish of Kellington and Whitley, to the east of Wakefield diocese, being made a priest in 1994.

There she was responsible for supervising a £5million project “propping” up the church due to subsidence, caused by coal mining. In 1985 she “retired”, and came back to Rastrick.

One could hardly call it “retirement”!! We shall all have memories of this lovely caring lady, as she continued her Ministry in leading services, caring for people in her own lovely way, as well as her Open Gardens, strawberry teas etc etc – always for Charity.

Everyone reading this will remember a wonderful, lovely caring Christian lady – and as David Earl said, “A lady with no guile.”

Canon Michael Storey

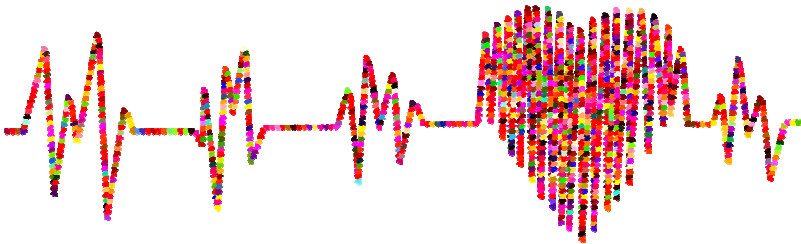
FLOWERS IN CHURCH

If you would like to donate money to the flower fund to remember a loved one, or celebrate a special occasion, there is a yellow list on the church notice board for you to sign. Your donation needs to be given to Cherry with FLOWER FUND written on the envelope. £25 would be lovely but whatever you can give is fine.

Barbara Rukin.

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

Rucksack Club 16th March Walk

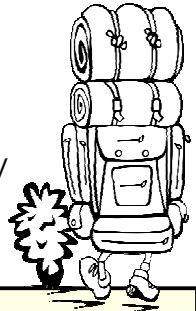
Area - Blackmoorfoot reservoir - Deer Hill - Helme

Length - .6 miles approx with very little steep gradients

Walk Description : Park on the side road of the reservoir, taking in the Blackmoorfoot conduit, passing Melham Cop and then progressing towards Deer Hill End Road, reaching Deer Hill Reservoir, returning along another conduit towards Helme and base.

Departure: Leave church at 9.45

Leaders: Roger & Margaret Ellis - Contact 01484 718013 / 07551914243



The Men of the Churches of Rastrick

**Beer and
Banter
2024**

Host



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

- 4th March - Reflections - Bill Braviner
- 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!

Mothers' Union Matters.....it certainly does!

On **Tuesday 20 February** we had our AGM which was preceded by a Eucharist led by Revd. Michelle. It was a lovely occasion and during that time we enrolled Sheila Richmond as a Mothers' Union Member. Welcome Sheila, we are fortunate to have you as a future Member.

The MU maintains a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer and worship.

Tuesday 27 February saw our Church welcoming Branches and Members from all across the Huddersfield Episcopal Area, which stretches up to Halifax, across to Ripponden and across to Dewsbury. St John's Branch is one of 27 Branches in this Area.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024
FRIDAY 1 MARCH
 A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!
 I beg you, bear with one another in love

World Day of Prayer

There will be a Service to mark this day
 on **Friday 1st March**
 at **2.00 pm**

In the Salvation Army Citadel,
 King Street,
 Brighouse,
 HD6 1NX

Everyone is very welcome

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wwdp.org.uk

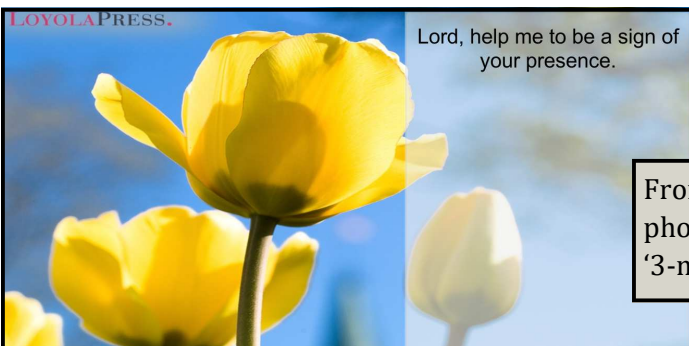
Registered Charity Number 218242

Then a date for EVERYONE'S diary is the World Day of Prayer on Friday 1 March at 2.00 pm at the Salvation Army Citadel. This is not just for MU Members but for all Churches across the Rastrick and Brighouse Group of Churches. Everyone is very welcome. The Prayers for this Service have been created by Women in Palestine, written over a year ago, and we will be using many different artifacts to represent their culture and we will be praying for an end to the war and bloodshed.

We are meeting on **Thursday 29 March at 10.30 pm** in the Conference Suite. Everyone is welcome. Bring a little something to share and eat for lunch. It will be a fun time, and we will be under the tutorship of the ever-patient Hilary! No previous experience necessary. We are making little stitched crosses to place in little stitched pockets alongside a small bar of chocolate, called Divine, with a little prayer on a card. 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?!



Susan Mosely, Janet Thain's niece, is coming to talk to us on **Tuesday 19 March at 2.00pm** about her Quaker Faith and the 'power of silence'. Everybody is welcome. It should be a fascinating insight for us, and an opportunity to experience the virtue of silence.



Lord, help me to be a sign of your presence.

From the mobile phone app:
'3-minute retreat'

What the Vicar got up to last month

Just a selection...



Coffee & Chat in church on 10th.



By the 'desert' after the Holy Communion service at Railway Bridge View



...and the obligatory coffee afterwards!



Two Lent Assemblies at Woodhouse School



Led the Eucharist service for the MU and chaired the AGM that followed.



Rogues' gallery of Vicar/Former Vicars at Barbara's funeral.



Attended the Panto AGM in my capacity as President.

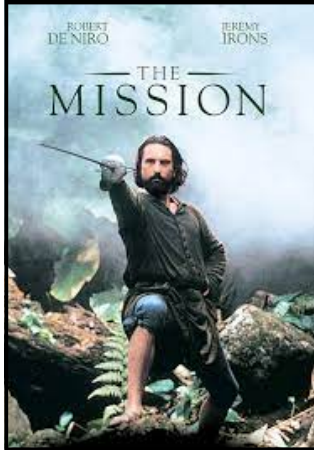


Coffee & Conversation at Railway Bridge View

Went to the World Day of Prayer Bible Study, led by Julia (Preceding the World Day of Prayer on Friday 1st) See page 16



Watched the showing of the film 'The Mission', and took part in the subsequent discussion group, both organised by Anne Ward.



Barbara grows into retirement

*I found this lovely cutting from the Brighouse Echo in 2004.
(Transcribed with their permission.)*



BARBARA Lydon is a retired vicar but the word 'retired' should be used advisedly - because it doesn't seem to feature in her vocabulary.

At 70, the former deaconess of St Matthew's Church, Rastrick, continues to conduct services, weddings, funerals or christenings when required, while maintaining a garden which would have the Chelsea Flower Show brigade agog.

It's a typical English garden, crammed with every conceivable native flower, plant and shrub - and a few foreign varieties as well - all in a considerable chunk of land.

Barbara, a widow, tackles it single-handedly and thoroughly enjoys what has become a passion.

"I suppose I'm a plant-aholic. I'm crazy about collecting different types, preferably the flowering ones," she said.

Alan Titchmarsh would be highly impressed with her diligence and it was certainly appreciated when she organised a garden party for friends

and interested garden 'fanatics' earlier this month.

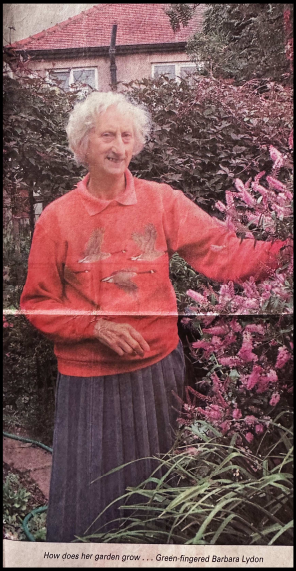
Even though there were a few showers, dozens of people filed into this little Garden of Eden which in mid summer is a blaze of colour.

"It seemed a shame not to share it with others. It was, in fact, a celebration of the garden, but



also marked my 35 years in Rastrick and my ordination as a priest 10 years ago."

Barbara, who actually began her working life as a gardener after training at Studley Horticultural College in Warwickshire, confessed that gardening was very much a labour of love which had grown into a passionate hobby.



How does her garden grow... Green-fingered Barbara Lydon.

The garden in Garlick Street, Rastrick, has a tranquil pond, festooned with waterplants, including water lilies, surrounded by luxuriant border shrubs and is overlooked by a gazebo. There is also the conservatory and two potting sheds.

"Flowers and the outdoors are a big part of my life," said Barbara, who admits housework is fairly low down on her list of priorities.

"Any excuse, and I'd rather be in the garden - weather permitting," she said.

"And, of course, I do talk to my plants and flowers."

Even Barbara's tabby cat is called Flower.

Barbara moved back to Garlick Street nine

years ago, with her second husband, Tom, a "gem of a man", who used to help with the gardening but, sadly, he died five years ago.

She had moved away to work in the parishes of Upper Hopton and Eastthorpe, Mirfield, the area where she grew up and went to school.

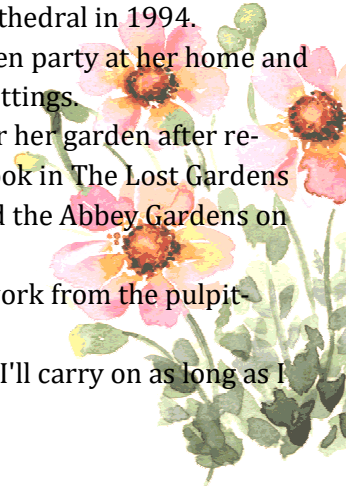
She trained at the Church of England Gilmore Training Centre in London for two years and was ordained at Wakefield Cathedral in 1994.

This month is the sixth time she has held a garden party at her home and many who visit rarely go home without a few cuttings.

Barbara has been given new food for thought for her garden after returning from a summer garden holiday which took in The Lost Gardens of Heligan at Pentewan, St Austell, Cornwall, and the Abbey Gardens on Trescoe in the Scilly Isles.

But she admits she still thoroughly enjoys her work from the pulpit - when other vicars are away or ill.

"I see it as part of my vocation, not a job, and so I'll carry on as long as I can," she said.



New Developments

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving gifts and during this period the church has received some very generous grants.

In late November we received £2890 for extra chairs in the hall and they arrived just in time for the pantomime and Christmas lunch. By accident I got a 10% discount which amounted to £250 and the grant provider is allowing the money to be used by HIC to, sometime, replace the remaining cracked planks in the hall floor. (In a moment you will discover why there is a delay).

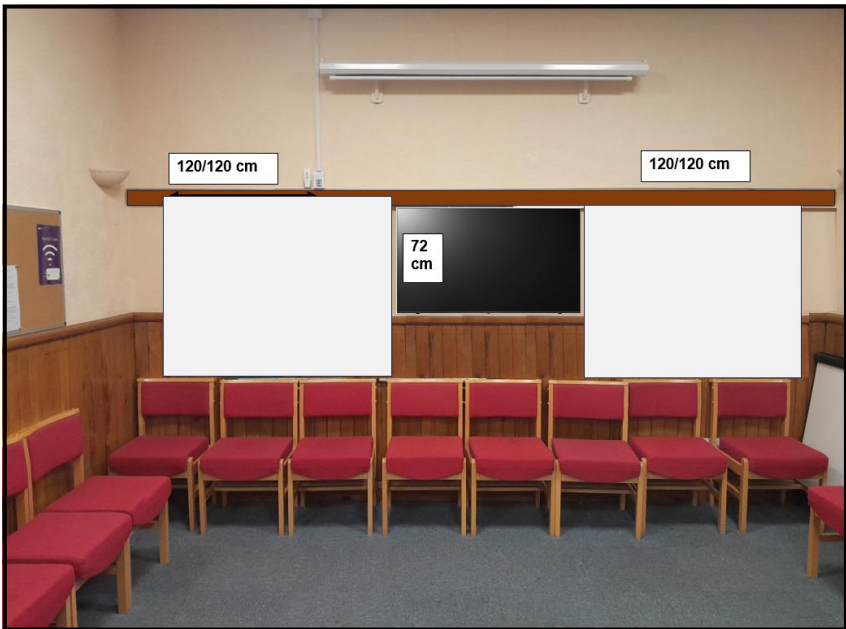
This year the Pantomime Group now have their very own stage lights and no longer need to hire them and when other dramatic groups hire our hall we can now offer them a whole package. It has taken some time for them to come to fruition. The group received £1,000 from the Hillard Trust back in 2019 followed by £1,500 from Rastrick Big Local and £500 from Rastrick Ward Forum in 2020 and finally £2,000 from Tesco in 2022. The pantomime group raised £1,200 from their own resources to contribute to the project. Getting a sensible quote to buy the lights and get them fitted took the extra time.

We are in the process of receiving £500 from the Rastrick Ward Forum for money towards the water boiler in the servery. It is held up at the moment due to paper work.

We also received £2,000 in December from the Rank Foundation as a contribution towards the installation of the servery and toilets. You can never know if you have been successful until you get a cheque !

Rastrick Big Local have given the church £1,500 to upgrade and revamp the Sturrock Room. Julia and her brother, Philip, are also contributing since the room is in their parents' memory. The room will be upgraded to the same technology as the Conference Suite. The Sturrock Room already has a projection screen and a projector will be mounted in the ceiling with a sound system, speakers and DVD player. The facing wall will have a 55" television and two white boards on either side.

Finally, the room will be re-decorated to finish it off. By adding these improvements, the hall will have increased capacity and flexibility. Most speakers require a display screen powered by a computer or projector. If there is a clash of two events needing a TV screen both groups will be accommodated without one having to go into church and requiring the heating to come on.



Thank goodness we have Graham, Ken, Dave and Eric who form HIC and have the skills and time to undertake the tasks they keep being asked to do. Without them this project would be impossible to achieve as it would be too expensive and not done as well. HIC will ensure all the wiring will be hidden behind the panelling and the walls

David James





ECO CHURCH Update - March 2024 - By John

Michelle has encouraged us to see Lent as a time to take stock of the direction our lives are taking, especially in our walk with God. In a similar vein, earth-loving people can:

1. **Join The Big Plastic Count, of household plastic waste.** Run by

Greenpeace UK and Everyday Plastic, the campaign is engaging, empowering and educational for both children and grown-ups. It aims to highlight the urgency and scale of the plastic problem and enables people to play a part in helping solve the plastic crisis.



The brief is simple: count your plastic waste for one week and submit your results online.

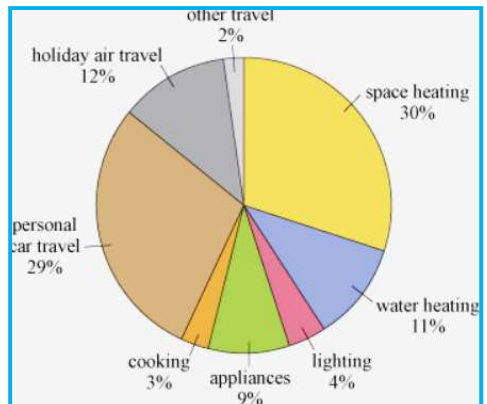
The results provide vital data that helps the campaigners to present the true scale of the plastic problem to decision-makers in government and business.

Register on <https://www.everydayplastic.org/the-big-plastic-count>

2. **Calculate your personal carbon footprint.** You can follow our Eco champion Bev Playle's example and use the WWF calculator (<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>). This took me 15 minutes and I weighed in at 9.1 tonnes of CO₂ per year, about average for a UK citizen. (You have to join WWF to see your results. Sad to admit, I then unsubscribed...)

In some ways I found this a rather blunt tool and preferred <https://www.climatestewards.org/offset/> which is a more thorough, free tool

designed for people who want to pay to offset their emissions. It took 30 minutes to fill in for us a couple. I needed to put in our car mileage for a year, also our gas and electricity usage, which I worked out from our bills. Together we weighed in at 14.6 tonnes of CO₂. (No, we aren't offsetting it...yet!)



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**



Music News

I'm sure, like me, you're looking forward to singing hymns to the accompaniment of the organ once more. Not long now. I'm reminded of Graham Kennedy's comment;

"I just feel that all of you who worship here Sunday by Sunday – if you were able to imagine what this organ could sound like when it has its full breath, and what effect it's going to have on your services, on your worship."

That's why we're doing this of course! (...and for the generations to come!) At the moment, the view towards the organ loft looks rather odd, but I took the opportunity to go up and have a look at the tiny room into which we manage to squeeze all of our organ pipes - over 1,000! It's these pipes which ARE the organ - the part of the instrument which makes our own unique sound. The Console (*the bit we see from the nave*) is only the part from where it's played.

So, because we'll never see the room 'empty' again, here it is!

Bellows
(which send the
air into the pipes)



Looking towards the
top of the stairs



The pipes have all gone away for a bit of TLC - to be cleaned and refurbished. Many of you have sponsored a pipe or two for just this purpose. The ones you see stacked up by the window are false! Just decoration! They make no sound at all.

The 'action' - which is how the message gets from the console (keyboard) to the bellows in order to tell them which pipe to send the air into - is being updated, and will last much longer. The organ itself, (our unique pipes, giving our own unique sound, fed from our existing bellows), won't change!

Psalm 21

13. Be exalted, O Lord, in your own might;
we will make music and sing of your power.

*P
am*

Easter Flowers 2024

The Easter Garden - 2023



It is usual for the congregation
to give towards the
Easter flowers.

There will be
a basket
at the back
of church.

Thank you



MISSIONS AND CHARITIES



The group met at the end of January to discuss our Lent Appeal and to allocate some of our 2024 funds. We agreed to support “Missions to Seafarers” for our Lent Appeal as it is many years since we sent a donation to them. Look out for the display in church and take a jar to fill with loose change during Lent. Please return your jar to church on Easter Sunday.

The “blue” toilet is still in church to receive any further donations for the Twin Toilet initiative. £37-05 has been placed in it so far. This will be made up to £60 from our allocation and we will seek advice from Tearfund re. a country to benefit.



Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) will receive £250 to support the work of delivering the Gospel message and medical help in developing countries. MAF often fly medical emergencies to hospital when a road journey would take many hours possibly days.

We decided to increase our monthly giving from £10 to £25 for “Hands to Mouth” charity. The monthly donations of £40 each to Turning Point and Nyakiswa will continue. Currently, the money going to Nyakiswa is being used to build a Sunday School for the children and young people.

We briefly considered NSPCC, Barnardo’s, Centrepont, Street Angels and Homeless charities as possibilities for support in the future. Please let us know if you would like us to consider your favourite mission/charity



CHEESE SCONES

350g Organic Self Raising Flour
 Pinch salt and pepper
 1 tsp dried mustard
 50g Organic Butter
 150g Organic Cheese - grated
 2 Free Range Eggs
 4 tbsp milk



Heat oven to 220C. Gas Mark 7
 Mix flour and seasonings, rub in butter and stir in cheese.
 Mix to a soft dough with eggs and milk, reserving a little for glazing.
 Roll out to ½ inch thick and cut into scones.
 Place on a greased baking sheet.
 Bake for 10-15mins.

I made these Cheese Scones to take to the [Eco Church Service](#)

It was a shared effort, with Pam providing the eggs and Anne D. the cheese.

Enjoy, *Anne B.*

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:

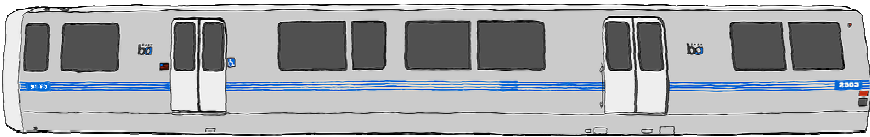
Cans of carrots,
 macaroni cheese, red kidney beans
 Washing liquid capsules
 Toilet rolls



Thank you so much..

Travel after the storm

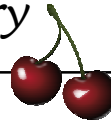
It began before Storm Ischia began, I was travelling up to Edinburgh to see a friend who was celebrating a birthday and has COPD, who is confined to the house most of the time as she has to carry oxygen for 48 hrs. On the morning of my travelling up to Edinburgh I received a text to say my train from York had broken down and therefore cancelled. As the train from Brighouse via Leeds was late this worked in my favour as it gave me time to get a coffee and eat my lunch, and even better, I received another text to say I could claim my fare back as I was delayed for over an hour. I eventually arrived in Edinburgh very late pouring with rain and blowing a gale.



On my return journey Storm Ischia had hit the country, but my train from Edinburgh home travelling via Wigan was running. I arrived at the station to find that it would be about 30 mins late. Not bad considering the chaos that was going on. However we waited and we waited. Eventually 50 minutes later we were allocated a platform, so off we all trailed. There were a lot of people, as the final destination was Euston. It was a very narrow platform, but we all were happy enough as the train was still running, and we waited and we waited, everyone chatting. I spoke to a lady who should have travelled the day before but everything had been cancelled, and had to get back home as her daughter was having a baby and she was supposed to be looking after her grandson. While we were waiting she received a text to say her daughter had gone into labour and was in hospital. As she was answering, the platform board announced that the train was not going to Euston but only to Preston, which was okay for me as I know I could get home from there, but I was meeting my brother in Wigan for a coffee and chat. So I text him to 'change of plan'. 90 mins after departure time the train arrived. Everyone cheered and clapped. It was wonderful.

On we go very, very slowly, eventually arriving in Carlisle, where lo and behold we were informed the train would be delayed as the driver was 'displaced', so we settled back to wait. About 30 mins later there came an announcement that a train standing on Platform 3 was going to Euston via Wigan. There was a mad scramble and everyone running to get to it before it left. I managed to get a seat, leaving my case in the aisle. As the train was packed, a young man plumped himself next to me and offered to put my case on the rack. I now decided text my brother but my phone was flat. Out came the young man's charger - plugged in my phone. Off went the train at right old pace, the sun was shining and the view was amazing. Chatted to my neighbour who turned out to be Chinese/Mongolian. Who's met a Mongolian? He was very interesting, didn't like his job, England or his Dad, but felt he was getting like his Dad. I think his job was more frustrating than hate, partly because the students (he was an assistant teacher at St. Andrews) who were International students and paying a lot of money, weren't bothering to submit good work. He was trying to get to Southampton as it was his young brother's birthday and only had 3 days off, and also hadn't be able to travel the day before. We arrived at Wigan. My brother was waiting and we went for a meal and a chat. I caught a later train and arrived home having been travelling for 10 hours but what an interesting, funny and at times hilarious journey!

Cherry



COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch is on Tuesday 5th March.
12:00



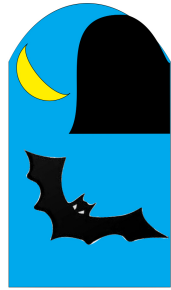
COFFEE & CHAT

The next Coffee & Chat
is on Saturday 9th March, in church. 10:00 - 12:00



PUZZLE PAGE by the Bat in the Belfry

Hope you are all ready for Easter at the end of this month. Hopefully you managed last months quizzes, so see how you go with these two.



Number 24 – 5 Easter Connections

Can you answer the following questions relating to Easter?

- 1) From which country does the Easter lily originate?
- 2) What name is given to the last TWO weeks of Lent?
- 3) Easter Island is an overseas territory of which other country?
- 4) Who directed the 2004 movie "The Passion of the Christ", the dialogue of which was entirely in Aramaic and Latin?
- 5) Which company produced the UK's first Easter egg in 1873?
- 6) The Good Friday agreement signed in 1988 as part of the Northern Ireland Peace process is also referred to as what?
- 7) Which is the only Shakespeare play to mention Easter?
- 8) Who on Easter Sunday 2006 became the first incumbent Head of State to reach the North Pole?
- 9) How many times is Easter mentioned by name in the King James Bible?
- 10) According to the Gospels who was made to carry the cross of Jesus?



Number 24 – 6 Who Lives Here?

Below are some fictional addresses from books and television.
Do you know who lives there?

- 1) Pemberley, Derbyshire.
- 2) 10 Acre Field, Scatterbrook Farm
- 3) 221B, Baker Street, London
- 4) 41, Nelson Mandela House, Peckham
- 5) 23 Railway Cuttings, East Cheam
- 6) Bag End, Bagshot Row, Hobbiton
- 7) 7, Savile Row, Burlington Gardens, London
- 8) 165, Eaton Place, London
- 9) 62, West Wallaby Street, Wigan
- 10) 2132, Windsor Gardens, London



Last month's answers

24 – 3 Tweet Tweet

- 1) Robin 2) Peregrine Falcon 3) White 4) Grebes
- 5) Dunnock 6) Eagles 7) Magpie 8) Unkindness
- 9) Kingfishers 10) Barn Owl

24 – 4 Biblical Origins

- 1) Sour Grapes 2) Jezebel 3) Baptism of Fire 4) Cross to Bear
- 5) Twinkling of an Eye 6) Fall from Grace 7) The Eleventh Hour
- 8) Move Mountains 9) Fly in the Ointment
- 10) By the Skin of your Teeth

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

SHIRLEY...

What's New?

Do you sometimes feel that we are surrounded by bad news? I do. Each news item informs us of the crises in every area of life. We are shown how local shops are being ransacked, more streets cordoned off as house and street murders are investigated, super bowl crowds attacked causing mass disruptions, drug dealing and human abuse. I expect you are saying "That is what the news is for!". However, I cannot help but think that this gives young thugs ideas that if adults behave like this, they could enjoy the thrill too. We are told we are short of police support. This can be quite daunting. Outside cameras are being sold to hopefully prevent the many house crimes. Even Coronation Street, (yes, I still watch this soap!) has scripts which focus on sad or violent subjects. It used to portray larger than life characters which were fun to watch as the subject matter was more tongue in cheek than raw drama. Of course, there are many happy and positive areas of news which lift our spirits so balancing the fear and despondency read in so many headlines and perhaps the news is to make us aware of what is going on around us for our own safety.



In my Happy News Paper, I am informed there have been one hundred and forty-six new species of animals and plants added to the records; including a beautiful fish called the rose-veiled fairy wrasse, which is one of seven new fish discoveries! I

am also informed that bird encounters can improve our mental health (included in a King's College study); and a new singer **tied** with musician and songwriter Silvana Estrada, in the Latin Grammys awards history, to become the oldest winner, at **ninety-five**. She said, "With faith and love everything can be achieved". Trivia you might be thinking, but it is lovely to hear that good things are happening too.

Last month I attended three funerals. They can be very sad occasions, particularly if it is someone very special to us. They can also be a joyous celebration of their lives. I am always surprised to hear the eulogy on these occasions as there are sections of the person's life that I knew nothing about! We are only privileged to know a person in part but God knows each of us intimately. He is there at our birth and He is there at our death. He also walks beside us each day of our life, whether we are aware of His presence or not. He is still with us as we leave our human body and move on to what has been promised to us in our Bible readings.

As we move on, so does Mother Nature. We are now approaching Spring Time when what appeared dead in the garden and countryside starts to burst forth with new life. Just as we do on our death.

This month we can look forward to Spring and Easter. Both with the promise of new beginnings.

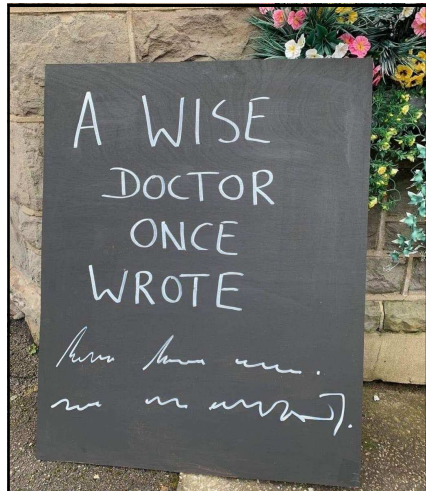
To God be the Glory - Happy Easter

Shirley x



AND FINALLY....

With thanks
to Facebook



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see page 6 for information about all Benefice Services during Holy Week and Easter
Please see page 8 for times and days of Lent Groups

Friday 1st March

World Day of Prayer (Service, Salvation Army - 2:00)

Monday 4th March

Beer & Banter - Bill Braviner 'Reflections' - @ The Four Sons 7:00

Tuesday 5th March

Community Lunch 12:00

Saturday 9th March

Coffee & Chat in church 10:00 - 12:00
Songs from the Shows - St Matthew's 7:30

Saturday 16th March

Rucksack Club Walk - 9:45

Monday 25th March

Service of Reflection - St Matthew's 7:00

Tuesday 26th March

Service of Reflection - St John's 7:00

Wednesday 27th March

Easter Service - Railway Bridge View 2:00
Service of Reflection - St Matthew's 7:00

Thursday 28th March

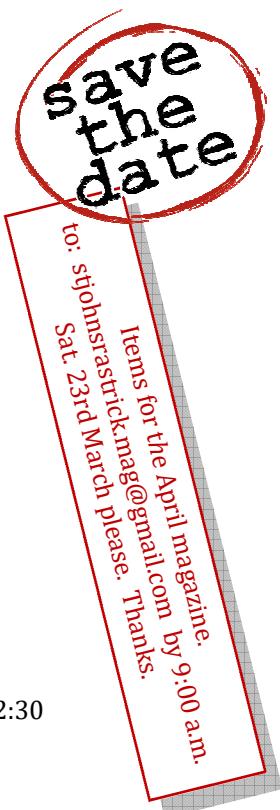
Maundy Thursday Service - St John's 7:00

Friday 29th March

Walk of Witness from St John's 11:30
Churches Together service at Central Methodist 12:30
Good Friday Service Service - St Matthew's 7:00

Friday 5th April

Coffee & Conversation - Railway Bridge View 12:30



Website : www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk



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



Facebook : www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivine

Wi-Fi

Network : everywhere
Password : anywhere