

# St John the Divine Rastrick Your Parish Magazine



£1.50

December 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 - janehearsen83@gmail.com

**Safeguarding**

Jane Hearson - 01484 968774 - janehearsen83@gmail.com

**Health & Safety**

Please contact the Vicar or a Churchwarden.

**Hall Bookings**

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

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**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
- 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Monday Meet - 50 Archbell Avenue
- 7:00 p.m. Beer & Banter Men's Group (Various Mondays, monthly  
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 the month)

### Wednesdays in the Community Hall

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

### Fridays

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

*Rev'd Michelle writes .....*



**Happy New Year!**

You might think that my greeting is a bit premature but of course, as we enter December then so begins the season of Advent. This is when we begin a new year in the church and return again to the start of the story of our salvation through the birth of Jesus. We enter once again into the season of watching and waiting as we prepare once again for the extraordinary truth of the incarnation of the Word of God in our midst.

We're not always good at waiting but it's so important to take time to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Saviour. There are several opportunities to do this in the coming month. Why not come to an extra service – either the Advent Reflections or a Wednesday morning communion. Or join the Monday Meet group as they discuss the readings from the previous Sunday service, exploring the stories of some of the characters from the Bible who waited patiently for the Messiah in their own time and place.

Why not join us for Carol Singing around the local care homes or outside Tesco, as we spread the message of the peace and joy of the Christ Child within our local community.

You will find more detail about all these things within the pages of this magazine.

As Christmas draws closer one particular highlight will be the Nine Lessons and Carols service with the Rastrick Voices and our refurbished organ on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm. This promises to be a really special service and I commend it to you.

So as we journey through December together, may I wish you a blessed Advent and may you know the peace of the Christ Child when Christmas comes again.

With my prayers and every blessing

*Michelle*

## SERVICES AND CHURCH INFO

### SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - DECEMBER

Sunday 1st Dec. - 11:00 - Advent 1 - All Age Holy Communion

Sunday 8th Dec. - 11:00 - Advent 2 - Morning Worship

Sunday 15th Dec. - 11:00 - Advent 3 - Holy Communion

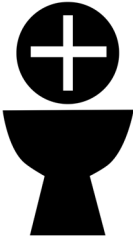
Sunday 22nd Dec. - 11:00 - Advent 4 - Holy Communion

**Christmas Eve 24th Dec. - 23:30 - Midnight Holy Communion**

**Christmas Day 25th Dec. - 11:00 - Holy Communion**

Sunday 29th Dec. - 10:30 Joint Benefice Holy Communion (St. J's)

**Please see the following pages  
For information regarding all other  
special Advent and Christmas services**



### MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - DECEMBER

Wednesday 4th- 10:30 - St Matthew's

Wednesday 11th- 10:30 - St John's

Wednesday 18th - 10:30 - St Matthew's

### FORTHCOMING UNITED BENEFICE SERVICES

- ◇ Sunday December 22nd - 19:00 Nine Lessons & Carols
- ◇ Sunday December 29th - 10:30 - Joint Benefice - St John'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.

United Benefice of St Matthew's & St John the Divine, Rastrick



**A time of watching and waiting**

## Advent Reflections

**Tuesday 10th December**

**7:00 p.m.**

**St Matthew's, HD6 3NF**

**Thursday 19th December**

**7:00 p.m.**

**St John's, HD6 1HN**

## Carol Singing

**At Tesco, Brighouse**

**Saturday 14th December: 11am-12 noon**  
**(organised by the Rastrick Group of Churches)**

**Everyone welcome!**



## United Benefice of Rastrick

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

# Christmas Services

## Sunday 22nd December

9:15 a.m. Holy Communion at St Matthew's

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion at St John's

3:00 p.m. Christingle & Nativity at St. Matthew's

7:00 p.m. Nine Lessons & Carols at St. John's



## Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Christingle at St John's

5:00 p.m. Christingle at St John's

7:00 p.m. Nine Lessons & Carols at St Matthew's

11:30 p.m. Midnight Communion at St John's



## Christmas Day

9:15 a.m. All Age Holy Communion at St Matthew's

11:00 a.m. All Age Holy Communion at St John's



## Sunday 29th December

10:30 a.m. Joint Benefice Holy Communion at St John's

# Daily Lectionary Readings December 2024

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<b>02-Dec</b>	<b>03-Dec</b>	<b>04-Dec</b>	<b>05-Dec</b>	<b>06-Dec</b>	<b>07-Dec</b>
Psalms 70 Isaiah 25.1-9 Matthew 12.1-21	Psalms 74 Isaiah 26.1-13 Matthew 12.22-37	Psalms 76 Isaiah 28.1-13 Matthew 12.38-end	Psalms 40 Isaiah 28.14-end Matthew 13.1-23	Psalms 16 Isaiah 29.1-14 Matthew 13.24-43	Psalms 27 Isaiah 29.15-end Matthew 13.44-end
<b>09-Dec</b>	<b>10-Dec</b>	<b>11-Dec</b>	<b>12-Dec</b>	<b>13-Dec</b>	<b>14-Dec</b>
Psalms 144 Isaiah 30.1-18 Matthew 14.1-12	Psalms 11 Isaiah 30.19-end Matthew 14.13-end	Psalms 10 Isaiah 31 Matthew 15.1-20	Psalms 73 (or) 39 Isaiah 32 Matthew 15.21-28	Psalms 82 Isaiah 33.1-22 Matthew 15.29-end	Psalms 94 Isaiah 35 Matthew 16.1-12
<b>16-Dec</b>	<b>17-Dec</b>	<b>18-Dec</b>	<b>19-Dec</b>	<b>20-Dec</b>	<b>21-Dec</b>
Psalms 25 Isaiah 38. 1-8 Matthew 16.13-end	Psalms 50 Isaiah 38. 9-20 Matthew 17.1-13	Psalms 25 Isaiah 39 Matthew 17.14-21	Psalms 10 Zephaniah 1.1 - 2.3 Matthew 17.22-end	Psalms 4 Zephaniah 3.1-13 Matthew 18.1-20	Psalms 80 Zephaniah 3.14-end Matthew 18.21-end
<b>23-Dec</b>	<b>24-Dec</b>	<b>25-Dec</b>	<b>26-Dec</b>	<b>27-Dec</b>	<b>28-Dec</b>
Psalms 89.1-37 Malachi 1.1 Matthew 19.1-12	Psalms 85 Zechariah 2 Revelation 1.1-8	Psalms 96 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]	Psalms 119.161-168 Acts 7.51-60 Matthew 10.17-22	Psalms 117 1 John 1 John 21.19b-25	Psalms 124 1Corinthians 1.26-29 Matthew 2.13-18
<b>30-Dec</b>	<b>31-Dec</b>	<b>01-Jan</b>	<b>02-Jan</b>	<b>03-Jan</b>	<b>04-Jan</b>
Psalms 111 Isaiah 59.1-15a John 1.19-28	Psalms 102 Isaiah 59.15b-end John 1.29-34	Psalms 8 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21	Psalms 18.1-30 Isaiah 60.1-12 John 1.35-42	Psalms 127 Isaiah 60.13-end John 1.43-end	Psalms 89.1-37 Isaiah 61 John 2.1-12



Join Michelle on line Tuesday - Saturday: <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivinerastrick>

Or use the Church of England Daily Pray: <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 PAGE

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

Rev'd Michelle has chosen the prayer for December.  
It's taken from a book called 'Worship Through the Seasons'  
by Nick Fawcett.

### A prayer for when Christmas Day arrives:

Gracious God, at this time of giving,  
help us to offer the worship, thanksgiving, service and witness  
that you alone deserve.

At this time of receiving,  
help us to open our hearts to your gift of Christ,  
making his love and life our own.

At this time of joy,  
help us to celebrate the good news at its heart,  
the wonder of your coming in Christ,  
walking our earth and sharing our humanity.

At this time of sharing,  
help us to reach out to those whose hearts are heavy,  
crushed by hunger, poverty, sorrow and pain.

At this special time,  
open our lives to your transforming power,  
your love that is able to make all things new.  
Take what we are, and direct what we shall become.

**Amen**

United Benefice of Rastrick  
St John the Divine and the Anglican & Methodist Church of St. Matthew

# Carol Singing

In the Community



For the congregation

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December:**

St Winifred's 2.30pm

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December:**

Railway Bridge View 2.00pm

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December:**

Rastrick Hall and Grange 2:00pm

...and open to everyone



Outside Tesco

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Organised by the Rastrick Group of Churches

## Come and join us!

## 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.

The next Prayer Ministry will be on:

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

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



St John the Divine, Rastrick

A service of prayer and thanksgiving for

**Healing and Wholeness**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 4pm**

An opportunity

to give thanks for, to pray for and to receive prayer for:

Our community, our world, for others and for ourselves.

For further information contact Alan 07756035591

All welcome

## MU MATTERS

### **Mothers' Union Matters....here at St John's, around the corner and across the world!**

At our Branch meeting on **Tuesday 17 September at 2.00 pm** we had a talk by the Yorkshire Building Society on scams and fraud. Scams etc are a scourge and very very worrying to all of us....and particularly at this time of the year. As usual the meeting started in the Lady Chapel for our Eucharist Service led by Revd Michelle and then we retired to the Conference Suite. In the future our meetings will continue in the Church, using the already generated heat and warmth, and avoiding tricky steps and movement.

**On Friday 27 September Bishop George from Tanzania and his wife Janet, MU Diocesan President, visited us.** They had been staying with various people in our Diocese and following a busy 3 day programme of events we were delighted that they came to St John's for their final day. We arranged a Service of Praise, followed by Janet telling us all about her life in Tanzania and the work of the Mothers' Union. It was followed by a sandwich lunch and then a variety of talks about some of the activities which we are engaged with in the Huddersfield Area and across the Diocese: our practical support for the people of Ukraine, our very varied work in New Hall Prison and an over view of the MU's approach to modern day slavery. Jennifer Guy had been on stand-by to take them to Manchester Victoria train station, but in the end Cherry did this on the Saturday. Thank you to you both.



We continue to be blessed with the imagination flowing from Gillian, Carol's sister, as she creates easy to follow craft sessions for us and the residents at Railway Bridge view. Come to our next "Christmassy" session on **Thursday 28 November at 2.00 pm.**

On Friday 6 September Revd. Michelle led a Quiet Day at the Community of the Resurrection. This was open to all from across the Diocese and many of our Rastrick MU Members were able to attend. It was hardly “quiet” but it was peaceful and we had fabulous weather and, in the afternoon, we were able to wander around the grounds considering many of the aspects of the morning session. Three similar days will be held on **20 May – 22 May at The Briery in Ilkley**. Let me know if you are at all interested and we can tell you a little of what to expect and the cost of the accommodation etc. No commitment at this stage!

I take every opportunity to go to different Branches across the Area and often other Members of our Branch come with me: a service at Almondbury to present the Bronze Award for their growing awareness of domestic abuse, plus the enrolment of two new Members; Hepworth Branch to talk about Kilimanjaro; Thurstonland to hear Elaine Swinhoe talk about her time as Diocesan President; visit to Heckmondwike MU Branch; Holmfirth Branch which organised an anti-domestic abuse morning; went with Margaret France to Harrogate who gave a talk about the Prison experiences as a Member of the MU; went to listen to a talk at Gomersal MU about midwifery in Mara; visited New Hall Prison with Margaret France for an Open Day; talk on Modern Day Slavery at All Saints Halifax; attended the end of the Provincial Triennium at Blackburn Cathedral.



*MU Group  
at the  
Domestic  
Abuse  
Meeting at  
Holmfirth*

Events which are ahead of us include the end of the Triennium for our MU Diocese at Bradford Cathedral on Sat 23 November; an anti-domestic abuse service at Halifax Minster. The famous MU Goodie Stall will be at the back of Church on Sunday 8 December; Wave of Prayer on Wednesday 8 January. More about that next month!!!

*Julia*



## MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

Many thanks to everyone who donated to Mary's Meals at Harvest Time. The amount to be sent to the charity will be finalised at our next meeting. At a recent meeting, we decided to send £500 to Christian African Relief Trust based in Huddersfield towards their shipping costs when sending containers to African countries and £500 to the Disasters Emergency Committee following its urgent appeal for funds to continue its work in the many conflict areas across the world.

Remember the Toilet Twinning? Our latest £60 contribution went to Tanzania but unfortunately Tear Fund is not working in Mara Region but in Geita Region which is to the southwest of Mara nearer to Mwanza.



The Nyakiswa girls are just completing their first year of the secretarial course with excellent reports on their progress. I will send money for their second year fees in the December transfer. The new academic year starts in January.

*Oriel*




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### BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL FOODBANK

We are now putting together Christmas bags for our clients. We are well-provided with Christmas puddings, but we've very little meat. Cans of chicken and ham (large or small) make a welcome addition our Christmas bags, but anything you can provide would be very welcome.

Thank you so much for your support.

*Rosemary & Norman*






# Come and sing carols!

Outside Tesco

Saturday 14th December

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

All welcome!



Organised by the  
Rastrick Group of Churches

The CHURCHES IN RASTRICK invite you to join with us to sing  
CAROLS AT TESCO ON SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER  
FROM 11AM TO 12NOON

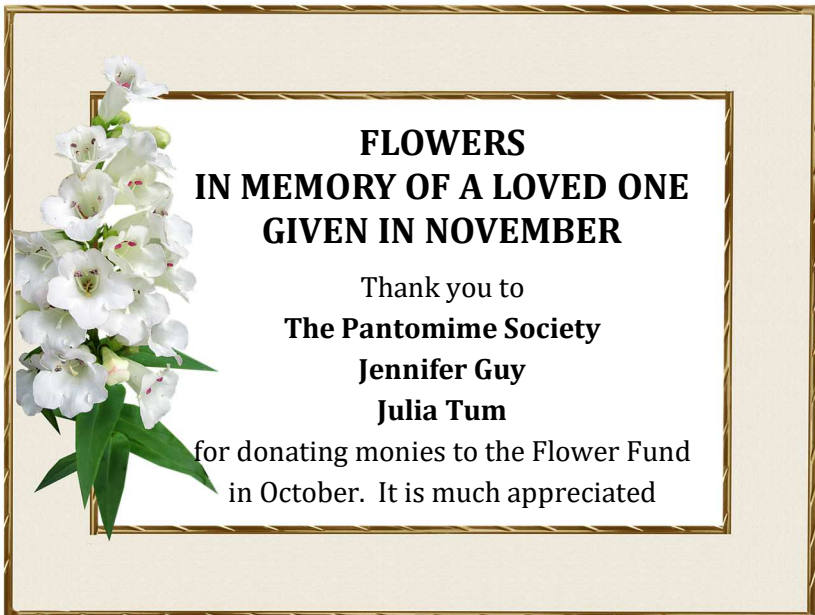
We hope you can join us for all or some of the time.  
Brighouse churches have also been invited

## Celebration of Graham Kelly's Life

Graham's family would like to thank everyone from the St John's community who attended the celebration of his life, which was held in church on Saturday 9th November and afterwards in the church hall. We'd especially like to thank the Rastrick Voices, Gledholt Male Voice Choir and Graham Kennedy on the organ for their wonderful and moving performances, and to the Hall Improvement Committee for running the bar. Graham loved a good sing and, of course, sang with both choirs as well as being a long-term member of HIC. We very much appreciate everyone coming along to remember him, helping us to celebrate his life and raising over £1500 for Gledholt in his memory.



*Oriel and family.*







## PCC SNIPPETS FROM SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

- The areas of the hall floor which needed repair have been replaced and hopefully the floor will now last a little longer. A new floor will be very costly as the boards cannot be sanded down anymore but will need replacing completely .
- Repairs to the paving around the grate are in hand and work on that area should be happening soon .
- The solar panels are now in place on the church hall and we will monitoring our electricity use over the next few months.
- The proposed entrance area is moving along very slowly now as we wait for the faculty and for some grant bids to come to fruition . We will be putting up some plans to show you how the area will look in the near future .
- We would like to get together a group of people to form a Church hall group , this group will plan maintenance, look at works needed and co-ordinate with a list of contractors etc. We are not expecting the group to carry out the work but to act as project managers . Please do think if you can assist in this way and see David Marshall or Alan Hoggard .
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December we propose to put up the Christmas tree in church , volunteers to help please .



*Rastrick Voices - You have the final rehearsal for the Nine Lessons & Carols after the service that day. Please give others the pleasure of tree decorating. Thanks, Ed.*



## T' Innkeeper

*Author unknown. Translated into dialect by Rod.*

If you want to try reading a bit of West Riding dialect, try this.

*n.b. Aitches not pronounced*

Hospitality! Well, it's part of us faith: we're suppoosed ter be hosts as God is host: ter welcome off-comed-uns, same as God does.

If ony it wor that simple! Do yo knaw, a Roman feller telled me once 'at, in 'is native twang, 'hospitality' comes thru same root as booath *enemy* an' *guest*.

Na that meks a bit o' sense, 'cos ther's nowt pure abaht hospitality, tha knaws. Fowk allus want summat. Ah ask yo: can ivver owt be gi'en fer nowt or received fer nowt?

It's hard ter explain why Ah did what Ah did agin all my instict when that couple come knockin at t' dooar. Ther'd bin dozens on 'em, tha knaws, all day, ivvery day fer a wik. Fowk 'at 'ad bin forced ter travel - all cos o' this 'ere census lark.

Oh, Ah wor sympathetic, o' course Ah wor. T' powers that be wor mekkin sich daft demands o' fowk. But Ah'd nowt. Ah'd 'ardly enough fer mi awn family. Ter bi honest, nawther had onnybody else. Ivverybody i ' t' village wor reight flummoxed bi it all.

It wor lat when Ah heeard t' knock. Ah wor hard put to it not ter tell 'em just ter begger off, though 'appen not quite ser politely. But the' kept on knockin -wantin hospitality, Ah thowt. An' Ah thowt ageean what that Roman chap had said abaht hospitality.

Ah went ter t' dooar an' when Ah saw t' state that couple wor in, Ah got mi wires crosed (Ah'm gettin on bit, that sees). Ah says, "Ee, yo look fair done in. Come in an' mek thissens at hooam." Then t' wife behind mi says,

"Whativver atta on abaght? We're full up! Lump heead!"

"Oh aye," Ah says. "Ee, Ah'm sorry, lass. Ah'm doitin ageean." Then ter t' chap ah sez, "Nay lad, we're full ter bustin."

Well, the' wor that worn aht, t' chap wor ammost beside hissen wi it all. An' t' woman, well, shi wor nobbut a lass really, shi wor breathless an' it wor plain ter see 'at shi wor in a fair bit o' pain. At fust, Ah thowt she'd hurt hersen, 'ad 'ad an accident o' some sooart, but then ah saw what it really wor: shi wor pregnant, an' it wor clear 'at shi wor near her time. Onnyrooad, Ah started ter tell 'em same as Ah'd telled all t' rest. "Ah'm reight sorry, lad," Ah said, "Ther's ner room i' t' 'inn." an' so on.

T' couple just stood theer an' waited fer mi ter finish.

Then t' chap said, "Please."

At fust, Ah wor reight mad. Ah felt as though Ah wor bein tekken advantage of. Couldn't the' see 'at Ah'd nowt? Couldn't the' understand 'at Ah'd had fowk bangin on t' dooar all day long, ivvery day fer a wik?

Ther stared at mi.

"Ah can't help. Sorry," Ah said.

"It's t' wife," said t' chap, pointin to her bump.

Ter be honest, ah wor sick o' sob stoaries. Ah began ter shut t' dooar. But then summat appened at stopped mi i' mi tracks.

"Wait!" It wor t' lass's voice. Ah'm sure it wor t' shock of hearin t' voice of a woman that stopped mi, 'cos, as tha knaws, women ony speyk, when the' spokken ter.

"Please," shi said. "Fer t' babby. Somewheer dry fer when it comes."

Ah looked at her. Shi wor nobbut a bairn, but shi wor a tough 'un, oh, ah could tell that, reight enuf. An' Ah could see 'at all shi wanted wor ter get her babby browt safe inter t' world.

Ah stared at her fer a bit. Then Ah nodded an' took 'em ter t' shelter rahnd t' back. It wor a bit mucky but it wor dry at least. It ud do, better ner nowt.

"Tha's blessed God," said t' lass. "An' when he comes, he'll bless thee an' all."



## What the Vicar got up to last month

Just a selection...



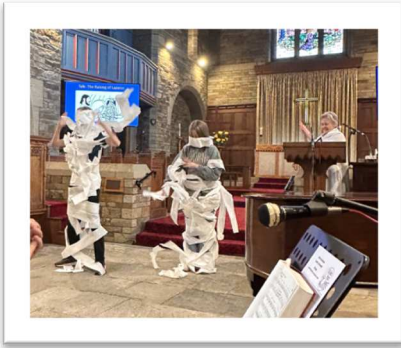
MU end of Triennium service  
Blackburn Cathedral.



Meditation Workshop for  
Spiritual Directors, Ripon



Remembrance Assembly  
Longroyd School



Pantomime Society special service.  
Raising Lazarus from the dead!



Reader Licencing  
Service



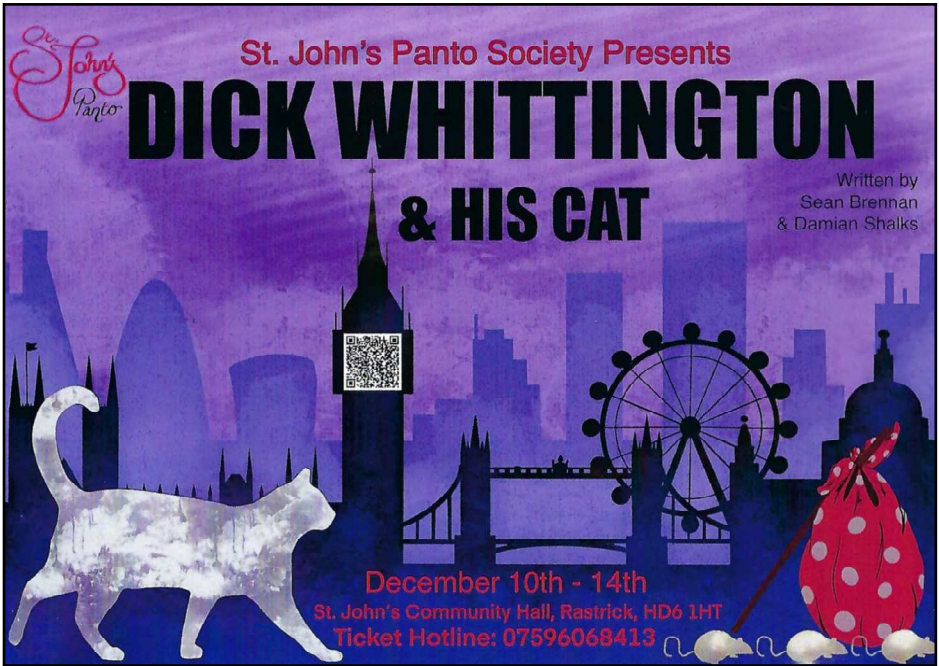
Loved, not Lost  
at St. John's



Eucharist for Peace



Remembrance Sunday  
at the War Memorial



**Tickets for this year's show, which starts on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, are now on sale.** Even though the society has spent a significant sum of money over the past twelve months installing new lights and a new piano for the benefit of anyone using the hall, we have kept the prices as they were last year at a mere £9 (full), £7 (concession) and £28 family (two adults and 2 children).

***Tickets can be obtained by ringing 07596 068413 or going to [www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-johns-pantomime-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-johns-pantomime-society)***

## **Raffle Prizes**

It doesn't matter where you go, people are always asking you to buy raffle tickets; well, as Cilla used to say "surprise, surprise", we're no different, so, if you have anything that would be suitable for a raffle prize please pass it to Graham Readshaw at church or at 27, Daisy Road, Brighouse. Everything will be gratefully received and running a successful raffle ensures that we can keep our show prices at a minimum. Thanking you in anticipation.

*Graham Readshaw*



## Music News

Once again, we're approaching one of the busiest, most rewarding season in St John's musical life.

The Rastrick Voices are busy rehearsing for our Nine Lessons and Carols on 22nd December - something we've been eagerly waiting for since the return of our lovely organ.



You can also hear the Rastrick Voices (*along with other members of St. John's congregation*) at an orchestral concert in the church on Saturday 7th December. See page 37 for more details.

Our Christingles are always a really enjoyable occasion, and for these we welcome back our seasonal players to make a truly festive sound, especially in the 'jazzy' numbers before the service. Come and hear the Archdeacon on drums!

The highlight for me though, is always 'Away in a manger' sung by candlelight to a very simple flute accompaniment. The really festive, celebratory mood has changed to a deeply moving, spiritual one - all in the one service. Do come!

Our Music Group will also be busy at St. Matthew's for their Christingle, and some of the Rastrick Voices will be 'on tour' singing at the local Care Homes. This is open to anyone who fancies joining us. You can sing the tune! Dates below.

A busy but rewarding time as we celebrate, and worship God through our music-making!

*Pam*



### Please join us for our 'Voices on Tour'

- ◆ Wednesday 4h Dec 2:30 - St Winifred's
- ◆ Thursday 5th Dec 2:00 - Railway Bridge View
- ◆ Friday 13th Dec 2:00 - Rastrick Hall & Grange

As last year, very informal - just come when you can - bring friends!





## We're dreaming of a "Green Christmas" Here are 10 ideas

- 1. Choose a gift that lasts.** This Christmas purchase items that the recipient really wants with value, purpose and meaning. Think less, but better.
- 2. Shop locally.** Small and independent businesses need all the support they can get this year so, where possible, buy your gifts, cards and decorations locally.
- 3. Switch to eco-friendly wrapping paper.** Look for wrapping paper made from 100% recycled or FSC-certified paper. Avoid plastic ribbons, tape, foil-backed and glittery wrapping paper. Choose cards that you can recycle (no shiny bits). Save and re-use paper for next year. Use brown paper which is easily recycled and pretty up with ribbons saved from previous years.
- 4. Christmas trees.** Opt for a potted one which can last a life-time. If you buy a new fake Christmas tree it will take 10 years of use to make it environmentally worthwhile so keep it and use it every year. (Ours is 35 years old and still looking OK despite being used as an indoor climbing frame by several cats!)
- 5. If you are buying new Christmas lights switch to LEDs.** They use up to 80% less energy. And if you have to choose a battery powered item make sure you purchase rechargeable batteries (and recharge them in future).
- 6. Send fewer Christmas cards and just wish friends and family a heart-felt "Happy Christmas" and give the money saved to a charity.** This year challenge yourself to send a card only if it's got a personal message inside.



**7. Minimise food (and packaging) waste.** A scary amount of food waste is created at Christmas, equivalent to 4.2 million plates of Christmas dinner going straight into the bin. Take steps to reduce your food waste by planning your food carefully, freezing leftovers and only buying what will be eaten. Consider reducing your meat consumption over the Christmas period by replacing some meals with vegetarian alternatives. Don't buy selection boxes either. They produce so much rubbish. Put a few carefully curated chocolate bars in a pre-used festive bag. Much cheaper too. On the same theme avoid those wasteful over-priced "gift" packs of toiletries. Make up your own personalised sets.

**8. Re-wear your Christmas jumper etc.** If you need new occasion wear buying second-hand saves on resources and cuts waste. It may benefit local charities too.

**9. Give a gift that lasts this year. How about buying a membership to an organisation eg RHS, RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust or even our very own local Nature Reserve – Cromwell Bottom (only £5 per year!)?**

**10. Recycle well.** When it comes to recycling your Christmas waste the most important thing to do is to check with your local authority what they will accept and what they won't. Look on the council's website and you should find the info you need. Some local authorities won't accept any wrapping paper, as much of it is of too poor quality to be able to recycle. Brown paper is ok, even if it has paint on it, but no glitter! Make sure you remove any tape (paper tape is ok) and ribbons/bows etc. The same applies to cards - if they have glitter on they can't be recycled. Some supermarkets have collection points for Christmas cards in the New Year which raise funds for the Woodland Trust, but again, no glitter! Foil from Christmas chocs has to be collected up into a ball about the size of a tennis ball for it to have a chance of being detected on the recycling line. Real trees can be recycled into wood chip and they are often collected by charities for a small charge.





## St. JOHN'S RUCKSACK CLUB

### CHRISTMAS WALK

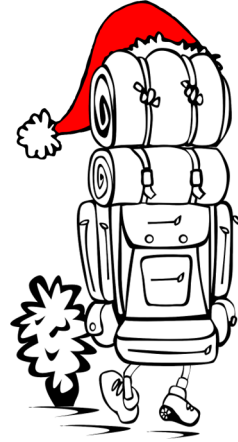
#### ST John's Day

Friday 27th December 2024

Meet at Bradley Park Golf car park for a  
10.45am prompt start.

Leader: Ken Swallow

Contact number 07967796404



The walk is the usual one over the golf course,  
but a little shorter this year:

Woodhouse Lane - Fixby Stores - through the wood  
over Hudds. Road - down behind the High School -  
then back to the golf club along Kirklees Way.  
Hopefully not too muddy this year either.

This will be followed by the annual beef sandwich and chips lunch  
at 2.00 p.m.

All are welcome to join the Rucksack Club whether walking or just  
socialising at lunch.

The cost is £8.50 per person

Could you please advise Roger Ellis - 07551914243  
or email - [rogmarg.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:rogmarg.ellis@gmail.com) .. if you would like to join us

**BOOKING FOR THE MEAL MUST BE COMMUNICATED AND PAID  
BY THE 16TH DECEMBER**

# The Men of the Churches of Rastrick



Host

Beer and Banter 2024/25

Mondays at

The Four Sons, Rastrick 7pm



Wed 18<sup>h</sup> Dec (pre-booked) – Annual Dinner @ The 4 Sons  
20<sup>th</sup> Jan – tba

All Men Welcome

Further Details call Alan 07756035591



## A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 22nd December 7:00 pm.



# Easy ways to make a donation to St Johns Church

## Contactless Donations

Making a donation to church using our contactless payment machine at the back of church is very straight forward. Just select an amount and swipe your card. If you supply your email address the machine will automatically send you a receipt for your donation and you are able to record all your details for claiming gift aid if this is something that you are able to do.



## Regular Giving by Direct Debit



PARISHGIVINGSCHEME™

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a secure and simple way of giving to church on a regular monthly basis. It works by making a Direct Debit from your bank account on the 1st of the month, which is credited to St Johns bank account by the 10th of the month. For those who can add Gift Aid, PGS claims this on our behalf every month.

For those who have not signed up for the parish giving scheme please consider doing so. By giving in this way it saves a lot of admin time and also means that gift aid is claimed immediately. For further information speak to Cherry Fancourt or Alan Hoggard or pick up a leaflet from the back of church

**Thank you for considering these options in your support of St John the Divine. Rastrick**

## The Empty Chair

In our house there is an empty space  
Where there's an empty chair -  
Where a loved one used to sit  
But is no longer there.

I talk to them with longing  
And remember times gone by  
All the years have flown past  
In the blinking of an eye.

I treasure every memory  
Of all the good and bad  
And thank them for their kindness  
And all the love we had



Adapted from a poem by Ms M.R., Stoke on Trent  
which was originally printed in The People's Friend

*Barbara*

## Monday Meet 2pm – 4pm

At the home of Shirley Stow, 50 Archbell Avenue HD6 3SU

An informal gathering with the opportunity to unpack the bible readings from the previous day, talk current issues and tackle everyday dilemmas, drink coffee and eat cake

### Faith, fun and fellowship

For further information or to confirm location call Shirley (01484-714209) or Alan (07756035591)

All welcome

## Coffee & Cake

An opportunity for all Organisations to make a little money for their organisation...




...by hosting a Coffee & Cake morning in church on the 2nd Saturday in the month, 10.00 - 12 noon. Church will provide Tea and Coffee. You will just need milk and cakes - 2 people can host this event.

#### Dates available for 2025:

January 11th, February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, June 14th, August 9th, Sept 13th, Oct 11th, Nov 8th, Dec 13th.

This a good opportunity to meet together for a good natter. Christian Aid will hold their contribution on May 10th which will include lunch. Please contact: Cherry if you are interested: 07816 757334

Cherry 

## RASTRICK GROUP OF CHURCHES CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you are able please could you help by delivering a pile of cards. This is part of our Community Outreach. Please don't just think about the street where you live, we have a large area to cover. Between the three churches the whole of Rastrick will receive a card containing all relevant service details for the Christmas period.

*Barbara Rukin*




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### COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch will be in the New Year



### COFFEE & CAKE

The next Coffee & Cake is on Saturday 14th December in church. 10:00 - 12:00



# Christmas Stall

The Mothers Union are holding their annual  
**Christmas stall**

on **Sunday 8 December** after the Service at the back of the church.

Come and see what is there,

plus there will be promises to bake and deliver cakes and savoury pies for over Christmas or for your freezer.

A CELEBRATION OF

# SIMON & GARFUNKEL

AS HEARD ON  
**BBC** RADIO

PERFORMED **LIVE** BY  
**TIM CHU & IAN BAILEY**

The UK's **NUMBER 1 NON TRIBUTE SHOW**



★★★★★

*"Tim and Ian moved between harmonies and shared vocals like a gestalt entity, with all the vocal nuances, dynamics and phrasing that make S&G so unique while finding their own take on the material. Absolutely first class."*

★★★★★

*"A stunning blend of observation, interpretation, and perfect vocal synergy."*



**SATURDAY 8TH FEB 2025**

**ST JOHN THE DIVINE RASTRICK HD6 1HT**

**Doors 6.45pm Show starts 7.30 / Refreshments Available**

**Tickets £15 ( cash only )** From Ryecorn Wholefoods 33/35 Bethel St, Brighthouse  
or Scan QR Code above

Or email [bookings@stjohnsrastrick.org.uk](mailto:bookings@stjohnsrastrick.org.uk) for general details.

[www.classicsingersongwriters.co.uk/sandg](http://www.classicsingersongwriters.co.uk/sandg)

Tickets also available from church





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

Well Christmas is not very far away, so this month Puzzle Page is slightly different. In addition to some questions, there is something for you to try and make. Good Luck if you want to try it and a Happy and Peaceful Christmas from me.

#### **24 – 21 Christmas Dinner**

Can you answer the following, all relating to Christmas food?

- 1) In early Britain what part of a pig was a traditional Christmas meal?
- 2) What bird now popular as Christmas dinner, was Elizabeth I said to be eating when told of the defeat of the Spanish Armada?

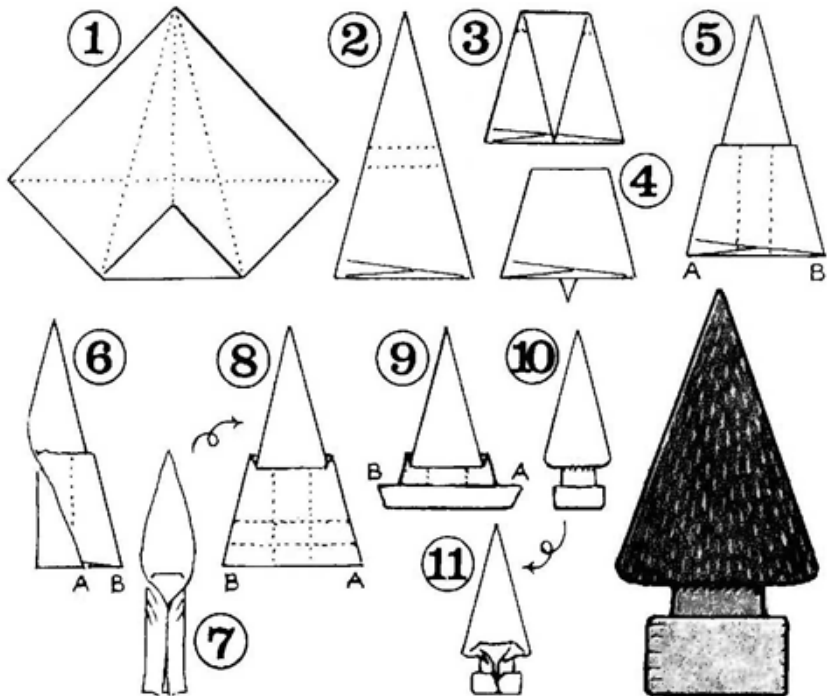


- 3) What is the popular name for the Sunday before Advent when it is tradition to make the Christmas Pudding?
- 4) Which old English coin was put in a Christmas Pudding to bring good luck to the finder?
- 5) Which Christmas dessert features in the song "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"?
- 6) What is the Swedish "Lutfisk" which is often eaten at Christmas?
- 7) When the Norfolk turkeys walked to London they wore boots, what was put on the feet of the geese?
- 8) Which King made eating turkey at Christmas fashionable?
- 9) What is the name of the skin that hangs from a turkey's neck?

10) Which country serves rice pudding with a hidden almond after Christmas dinner?

### 24 – 22 Rupert's Christmas Tree

For those who used to get Rupert Bear Annuals at Christmas you may remember they often had something to make out of paper. Below is a Christmas Tree to make from the 1969 annual. It was submitted by Robert Harbin the Origami man (if you remember him)



You can make this with a square of thin paper. Fold opposite corners together each way to find the middle and fold one corner part way to the centre (Fig 1). Fold both sides in along the sloping dotted lines (Fig 2), note the new dotted lines and bring the top point to the middle of the bottom edge to give the upper crease (Fig 3) and then fold the point backwards using

the other dotted line (Fig 4). Bring the point up again keeping both folds pressed (Fig 5) and mark two upright lines, as shown, at equal distances from the corners A and B. Take A across to a spot on the bottom edge that will make a fold at the left hand dotted line. Press that fold only as far up as the middle crease (Fig 6) and do the same to B so that A and B can be held forward together (Fig 7). Separate A and B as in Fig 5 and turn the paper over (Fig 8). Fold the bottom edge up, then over again, following the horizontal dotted lines (Fig 9). Take B and A round to the back and the creases of Figs 6 and 7 will cause the Christmas tree (Fig 10) to take shape. Turn it over again (Fig 11), lock the end of B into A, then gently flatten the folds at the back into the forms required. If the 'tub' is slightly rounded the tree will stand up.



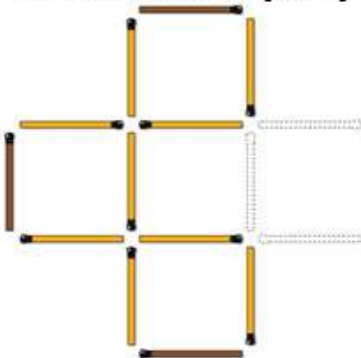
### ***Last month's answers***

#### **24 – 19 November Bits and Pieces**

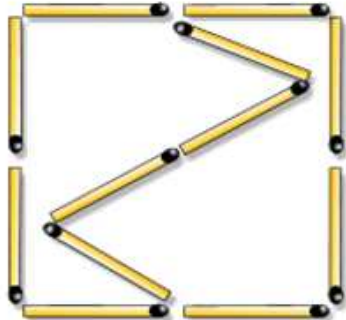
- 1) The October Revolution 2) Scorpio (October 24 – November 22) and Sagittarius (November 23 – December 21)  
 3) Chrysanthemum 4) 1605 5) Russia (or the Soviet Union)  
 6) Edwin Lutyens 7) Plymouth 8) Howard's End (by E M Forster) 9) Ninth (November retains its name from the Latin novem, meaning "nine".) 10) The Suez Canal

#### **24 – 20 Matchstick Mystery**

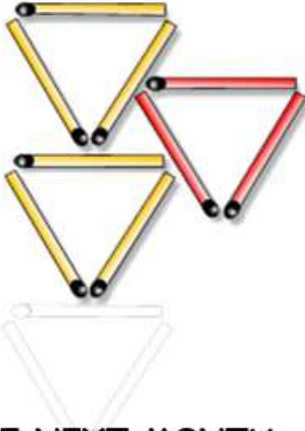
1)



2)



3)



MORE NEXT MONTH




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## Apparently this is a true story...

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them.

As they continued to get "no room" answers, a little voice called from the back "YOU SHOULD HAVE BOOKED!" - bringing the house down.

*Desperate Preacher.com*



# *Paddock Orchestra*

## *Christmas Concert*

*3pm Saturday*

*7th December 2024*

*St. John the Divine Church  
Rastrick*

*Christmas Music  
and carols with the  
Rastrick Voices*

*Conductor; Ben Nearsley*

*Leader; Olwen Hobson*

*Tickets £10. Children free.*



Do join us in the Church for this easy-listening seasonal concert, featuring our very own Rastrick Voices.

Listen to Blossom Palmer sing, "Walking in the Air" with orchestral accompaniment, and enjoy Rod Dimbleby's Yorkshire dialect narration to a Christmas piece, in the style of Peter & the Wolf.

Tickets £10 from Pam (*or pay on the door*)

## SHIRLEY...

**“Hark”, the Herald Angels sing – “Glory to the new born King”**

How quickly time passes. It is December, heralding the close of another year. But not yet- we have some celebrating to do first – the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! Twenty-five days to prepare both spiritually and materially.

I am reminded of a couple who were preparing for a long trip. But not like the one many of us enjoyed earlier in the year. They were going on a long trek to be registered in Bethlehem. They didn't go by train, coach or car to a pre booked hotel or other accommodation. They travelled in hope of finding refuge when they finally arrived. This is difficult to understand in today's world. Except of course, for the refugees of the war-torn countries and asylum seekers who are fleeing to what they hope will be a welcoming sanctuary. Some may even be pregnant like the original couple I mentioned. Luckily, *they* managed to find a kind landlord who allowed them to stay in one of his stables. They could have been homeless if not for his generosity.



It is because of this historic event that we are able to celebrate Christmas too. Depending on our purses we can be extravagant or careful in the material celebration. We may be preparing for our Christmas visitors - family or friends. Our couple in the stable had visitors. Shepherds who found them, not by sat nav, but by directions from angels! Oh, and they had royalty too. Three of them – kings, I mean, who brought them gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. What a contrast to those people who will be alone this Christmas. They may have family who live too far away to visit or with whom they have had cross words in the past, or simply they have no surviving relatives. No friends either, for whatever reason. Even their neighbours don't acknowledge them. Do we think of those less fortunate as we decorate our homes or give expensive gifts to those who are special to us? Do we lay another place at the table for the person we know will be alone?

Do we buy a little extra to put in Food Banks for the homeless or poor? As we buy gifts for those close to us are we willing to share the gifts God has freely given to us, expecting nothing in return?

As mentioned above, we can be extravagant or careful in our *spiritual* celebration too. Sending Charity Christmas cards with religious pictures instead of store cards with jokes or robins, or we can take small children to see Santa Clause ignoring a Christingle visit. What about a visit to Church? Are we busy preparing Christmas dinner or watching a football match or maybe a church service from Westminster Abbey on TV instead?

We all have different ideas, priorities and limitations as to how we spiritually and materially celebrate this special time.

But however you choose to spend *your* CHRISTmas, *I wish you all a Very Happy Celebration.*

*Shirley*



**AND FINALLY....**



Fritz Wegner 1924-2015

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - December

## Sunday 1st December

Healing & Wholeness service 4:00

## Monday 2nd December *(and every Monday)*

Monday Meet - Shirley's 2:00 - 4:00

## Wednesday 4th December

Carol singing at St Winifred's 2:30

## Thursday 5th December

Carol Singing at Railway Bridge View 2:00

## Saturday 7th December

Paddock Orchestra Christmas Concert 3:00

## Sunday 8th December

MU Goodie stall at the back of church 11:00

## Tuesday 10th December

Advent Reflection (St Matthew's) 7:00 pm

## Tuesday 10th - Friday 13th December

Dick Whittington & his Cat 7:15

## Friday 13th December

Carol Singing at Rastrick Hall & Grange 2:00

## Saturday 14th December

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

Rastrick Churches Together Carol Singing at Tesco 11:00

Dick Whittington matinee 2:00 Evening 7:00

## Wednesday 18th December

Beer & Banter Annual Dinner *(pre-booked)* 7:00

## Thursday 19th December

Advent Reflection (St. John's) 7:00 pm

## Sunday 22nd December

Nine Lessons & Carols 7:00 pm

## Christmas Eve

Christingle 3:00 & 5:00

Midnight Communion 11:30 pm

## Christmas Day

All Age Holy Communion 11:00

## Friday 27th December

Rucksack Club - St John's Day, Christmas Walk 10:45

Beef S'wich & chips lunch - Bradley Park Golf Club 2:00



Items for the December magazine to: [stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com)  
by 9:00 a.m. Sat 28th Dec. please. Thanks.



Website : [www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk)



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



Facebook : [www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivine](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivine)

### Wi-Fi

Network : everywhere

Password : anywhere