

Your Parish Magazine

St John the Divine

Rastrick



£1.50

December 2025



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 Ministers

Alan Hoggard - 07756 035591- alanhoggard@btinternet.com

Anne Wiggin - 07507 155186.

Pastoral Minister

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

Safeguarding

Jane Hearson - 07503 931444 - janehearsen83@gmail.com

Health & Safety

Please contact the Vicar or a Churchwarden.

Hall Bookings

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

Our Prayer For Growth

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

Wednesday Service in Church

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

Wednesdays in the Community Hall

- Time Wednesday Nighters (1st Wednesday in the month)
- Varies in the Sturrock Room.

Fridays

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



Rev'd Michelle writes



Welcome to December and one of the busiest times of the year. There is so much going on this month. I encourage you to look at the various pages in this magazine to find out more about what is happening and then to get involved as much as you can. There is surely something to appeal to everyone – from fun Christingle services, a traditional ‘Yorkshire Christmas’ carol service, opportunities to sing carols in the community, our Advent reflective services, traditional midnight communion service and much else besides.

Of course, December spans both the Advent and the Christmas seasons. I do encourage you therefore not to not rush too quickly into the joy of Christmas, but to take time to step back and reflect and prepare your heart and mind for the coming of the Christ Child, the word made flesh. Christmas really is the moment that changes our world for ever as we remember that God came to earth and made his home among us in the birth of Jesus. Our Advent reflections will help you to do this. There will be one at St Matthew’s on Thursday 11th December and one at St John’s on Thursday 18th December both at 7pm. Why not see if you can make time in your busy December diary to attend both. Good preparation and the discipline of waiting always makes the main event more special.

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 INFORMATION

SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - DECEMBER

Sunday 7th - 11:00 - Advent 2 - All Age Holy Communion

Sunday 14th - 11:00 - Advent 3 - Morning Worship

Sunday 21st - 11:00 - Advent 4 - Holy Communion

Sunday 21st - 19:00 - A Yorkshire Christmas (Carol Service)

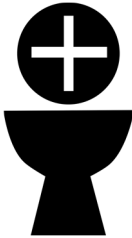
Christmas Eve - 24th - 15:00 - Christingle

Christmas Eve - 24th - 17:00 - Christingle

Christmas Eve - 24th - 23:30 - Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day - 25th - 11:00 - Holy Communion

Sunday 28th - 10:30 - Holy Communion (Benefice, St Matthew's)



MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - NOVEMBER

Wednesday 3rd - 10:30 - St Matthew's

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

Wednesday 17th - 10:30 - St Matthew's

Wednesday 24th - no service (Christmas Eve)

Wednesday 31st - no service (5th Wednesday)

NEXT UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE

◇ Sunday December 28th - Christmas 1 - 10:30 - St Matthew's

NEXT SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S WITH PRAYER MINISTRY

Sunday 21st December



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.

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 is a bit different, as we remember
that Jesus was also once a refugee in Egypt.

A Prayer for Refugees

Lord Jesus,

You were born into this world with nothing.
Help us not to jealously guard what we have.

You escaped the wrath of Herod and went to Egypt as a baby.
Help us protect those forced to flee their home.

You had no family, money or place to rest your head on earth.
Help us to welcome those currently staying in shelters and hostels.

You declared yourself to be the way of life.
Help us to remember that we are all temporary dwellers on this earth.

You were killed outside the city walls.
Help us be a city of sanctuary for those who hope to live here.

You left your home in heaven to share your life with humankind.
Help us give thanks for the gifts migrants and refugees
bring to our communities.

You are with us in the face of the hungry, the naked and the stranger.
Help us receive you gladly with all our hearts here in *Rastrick*

Lord Jesus, refuge of every tribe, and people, and nation,
Help us, save us, and have mercy on us.

Amen

Source: Birmingham Cathedral.

Written by the Canon Precentor , and used with permission.

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.

♦ Sunday 21st 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)



Advent

A time of watching and waiting

Advent Reflections



Thursday
11th December
7:00 p.m.
St Matthew's,
HD6 3NF

Thursday
18th December
7:00 p.m.
St John's,
HD6 1HN

United Benefice of Rastrick

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

Christmas Services Sunday 21st 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. A Yorkshire Christmas 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 28th December

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

The United Benefice of Rastrick

Come and celebrate

A Yorkshire Christmas

with us at

St John the Divine

St John St., off Gooder Lane, Rastrick, HD6 1HN

in a Carol Service on

Sunday 21st December: 7:00



The Christmas Story
told through readings and music,
with your favourite
Christmas carols
and a good splash of 'Yorkshire'

Daily Lectionary Readings Dec 25

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<u>01-Dec</u>	<u>02-Dec</u>	<u>03-Dec</u>	<u>04-Dec</u>	<u>05-Dec</u>	<u>06-Dec</u>
Andrew the Apostle Romans 10.12-18 Matthew 4.18-22	Psalms 80 Isaiah 26.1-13 Matthew 12.22-37	Psalms 5 Isaiah 28.1-13 Matthew 12.38-end	Psalms 42 Isaiah 28.14-end Matthew 13.1-23	Psalms 25 Isaiah 29.1-14 Matthew 13.24-43	Psalms 9 Isaiah 29.15-end Matthew 13.44-end
<u>08-Dec</u>	<u>09-Dec</u>	<u>10-Dec</u>	<u>11-Dec</u>	<u>12-Dec</u>	<u>13-Dec</u>
Psalms 44 Isaiah 30.1-18 Matthew 14.1-12	Psalms 56 Isaiah 30.19-end Matthew 14.13-end	Psalms 62 Isaiah 31 Matthew 15.1-20	Psalms 53 Isaiah 32 Matthew 15.21-28	Psalms 85 Isaiah 33.1-22 Matthew 15.29-end	Psalms 145 Isaiah 35 Matthew 16.1-12
<u>15-Dec</u>	<u>16-Dec</u>	<u>17-Dec</u>	<u>18-Dec</u>	<u>19-Dec</u>	<u>20-Dec</u>
Psalms 40 Isaiah 38.1-8 Matthew 16.13-end	Psalms 70 Isaiah 38.9-20 Matthew 17.1-13	Psalms 75 Isaiah 39 Matthew 17.14-21	Psalms 76 Zephaniah 1.1 – 2.3 Matthew 17.22-end	Psalms 144 Zephaniah 3.1-13 Matthew 18.1-20	Psalms 46 Zephaniah 3.14-end Matthew 18.21-end
<u>22-Dec</u>	<u>23-Dec</u>	<u>24-Dec</u>	<u>25-Dec</u>	<u>26-Dec</u>	<u>27-Dec</u>
Psalms 124 Malachi 1.16-end Matthew 19.1-12	Psalms 128 Malachi 2.1-16 Matthew 19.13-15	Psalms 45 Malachi 2.17 – 3.12 Matthew 19.16-end	Christmas Day Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]	Stephen, First Martyr Acts 7.51-end Matthew 10.17-22	John, Apostle/Evangelist 1 John 1 John 21.19b-end
<u>29-Dec</u>	<u>30-Dec</u>	<u>31-Dec</u>	<u>01-Jan</u>	<u>02-Jan</u>	<u>03-Jan</u>
Psalms 19 Jonah 1 Colossians 1.1-14	Psalms 111 Jonah 2 Colossians 1.15-23	Psalms 102 Jonah 3-4 Colossians 1.24-2.7	The Naming of Jesus Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21	Psalms 18.1-30 Ruth 1 Colossians 2.8-end	Psalms 127 Ruth 2 Colossians 3.1-11

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

Google search: 'Everyday Faith' or search 'Daily Prayer'

Everyday Faith

Daily Prayer

The Journey to Bethlehem

1st December - Following the Star

- What did the stars say?
- Getting ready for the journey?
- The journey 2000 years ago? The journey today?

8th December - No room at the Inn

- The Roman Census, life in Bethlehem 2000 years ago
- Hospitality, getting ready for visitors, entertaining visitors
- Bethlehem & Palestine today

15th December - The Saviour has been born

- The shepherds, their sheep, and a vast host of angels!!
- The residents of the stable - who are all these people?
- Making time to take it all in, to ponder, to be in the presence of God

Monday Afternoons

2 pm - 3:30 pm

50 Archbell Ave, HD6 3SU
(Shirley Tel 714209)



All welcome - Mince Pies
Guaranteed!!

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



FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE



Thank you to
Michael Storey
Jennifer Guy
Anne Drury
for donating monies
to the Flower Fund in November
It is much appreciated

PEOPLE ARE GIFTS

With perhaps the most popular gift-giving season approaching; here is a lovely poem, found by Margaret.

People are Gifts

The gifts You give me are people, Lord.

Gifts for a moment, or the years of my life,
all from You, reflections of You if I but look.

Each with a dignity, a worth, imprinted with Your hand,
Your image clearly carved upon their being.

Behind each eye, each mask, within each package,
beyond all hiding and all camouflage, a precious one
to be handled with the greatest care and sensitivity

- a gift beyond all price, never to be damaged or rejected
or abused

- a gift unlike all other gifts.

A gift to love protect and cherish with wonder and with
awe;

A gift of God.

Dennis Wrigley

Reproduced with permission from:

Word for Life Trust, and the Living Word Centre: <https://www.wflt.org>



MU MATTERS

**Mothers' Union Matters,
Join us, join in.....we are changing lives.**

We will be serving coffee and cake on the 13th December down at St John's. This will incorporate our usual Christmas goodies stall of cakes, wrapping paper, gift tags and mince pies etc. and as last year will be at the back of church. The stall will then continue the following day 14th December. Please do support us and let's make it a wonderful celebration as Christmas approaches.



A gentle reminder, next year is 150 years since Mary Sumner started the Mothers Union. We will be arranging our own celebrations yet to be discussed so watch this space!! However, there are national celebrations and these are as follows: -

The Provincial 150 years celebration service will take place on Saturday the 14th March 2026 at Manchester Cathedral at 2,30 pm. Evelyn, our Diocesan President, will have more details from the conference she is attending on the 27th/28th October. As soon as we have these, we will pass them on.

On the 10th June 2026 there will be a service at St Pauls Cathedral in London at 5pm. Tickets need to be booked for this. If you wish to go my understanding is please see Julia or Jennifer.

11th June 2026 10.30 to 4.30 is the Annual gathering at Emmanuel Centre (next to Mary Sumner House).

Last month, here at St John's, Carol Paget came to our meeting to demonstrate how to make winter flower arrangements. As usual she produced a beautiful array of contrasting displays of winter blooms and leaves which she kindly made available for our funds.

There are so many ways in which each member of our branch can feel included in its ideas and smooth running of whatever we do; for example, we have rotas for refreshments, reading or Intercessions at our services. Also, suggestions are welcomed for events and speakers at our various meetings. The Mothers' Union is represented both locally and worldwide. It is inclusive in welcoming everyone who cares about helping and supporting family life. Please come and visit us and see what you could offer, and receive, from being a member of our local branch at St Johns.

We wish all our Mothers Union members at home and abroad, together with churches around the world, **a Peaceful and Joyful Christmas.**

May we all be surrounded by God's Blessing and reach out as His hands to everyone in need.

Mothers Union Branch, St John the Divine, Rastrick



Christmas Stall



The Mothers Union are holding their annual
Christmas goodies stall

Saturday 13 December

10:00-12:00 during the Coffee Morning

Sunday 14th December

after the Service at the back of the church.

Come and see what is there!

Missions and Charities



December 2025

At a recent meeting, we decided to support the following organisations.

- Project Colt (£500) - a charity in Elland which provides a safe place, selected partners and specialist pathways to successful recovery and sustained healthy lifestyles.
- Brighthouse Foodbank (£250)
- Tearfund (£500) - to support their work around the world
- Bible Society (£500) - to support their work around the world and in translating the Bible into native languages
- Embrace (£500) - a Christian development charity working with partners in the Middle East to tackle poverty and injustice in the region
- Mediciens sans Frontiere (£500) - an international, medical, humanitarian organisation that provides emergency medical aid in areas affected by conflict, epidemics and natural disasters.

We also discussed increasing our standing orders to Nyakiswa, Turning Point and Hand to Mouth ministries in 2026.

There is now another £60 for Toilet Twinning, which will provide a toilet in Nepal. Thank you for your donations in the basket by the toilets in church.



Missions and Charities Group



Shoebox Appeal

Feeling very grateful to everyone who has filled and provided a shoe box, packed with toys and goodies for children this Christmas, who are in need of love and joy, in parts of the world where there is little of both.

25 boxes have been taken to the pick up point.

Happiness is well on its way....

Many thanks once again.

Gill Mills

BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL FOODBANK

We are grateful for all your contributions to the Brighthouse Central Foodbank. In December we would particularly appreciate the following:

- Anti-perspirant - men's in particular
- Anti-bacterial kitchen/bathroom cleaner
- SMALL tins of chicken & Corned Beef
- Packets of mashed potato.
- Cream crackers

Thank you so much for your support.

Rosemary & Norman



What the Vicar has been doing

Just a selection...



Coffee & Cake with the
Wednesday Nighters



Visit to Cygnet Lodge



St John's Community Lunch



Remembrance Service
at St Winifred's



Remembrance Sunday





Remembrance Service at
Longroyd School



Spirituality Training
at The Briery, Ilkley



Taken part in
'Open the Book'
at Carr Green
School



Taken part in
'Open the Book'
at Field Lane
School



Loved
not Lost



Eucharist
for Peace



ECO CHURCH

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 36 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.

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.

Rosemary



ECO Extra - **A cry for Planet Earth** by John

Written after returning from a protest rally on November 15th in Leeds to coincide with the COP30 Sustainability talks in Brazil

*“No more gas, coal and oil,
Leave the carbon in the soil!”*

It felt good to shout at the top of my voice for an hour as we paraded through the drizzle, especially since I believed in the slogans. I find that rallies are very colourful spectacles at which the participants are good-humoured and friendly, united by a common cause.



The speakers afterwards included opponents of the Drax wood-burning power plant, accused of destroying virgin forests in North America whilst claiming to operate sustainably.

The programme organisers of COP30 are concerned to protect the rainforests. Once again, trees! We were entertained by the DiscObedience Dancers, who dressed as trees with the exception of one who played the role of chainsaw executioner!



The first speaker, Rev John Swales MBE, used to warn his listeners that the world must act now to avoid a climate catastrophe. We didn't act. Despite the crisis now at our door, he's committed to engaging with both climate deniers and victims, with Christian compassion. God hasn't stopped caring for our planet, neither must we. Indeed, God seeks to work out his redemptive purposes as fully as ever. That's why I was glad to take part.

Clifton Handbell Ringers Present:

Christmas Handbells

A Seasonal Concert performed by the

Clifton Handbell Ringers

and the

Clifton Youth Handbell Ringers



Sunday 7th December 2:00pm

**St John the Divine, St Johns Street,
Rastrick HD6 1HT**

Refreshments available

Free entry, donations welcome.



Music News



*"Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song."*

There are plenty of opportunities for every voice to prepare a song this Advent and Christmas! ...and how wonderful to be able to reflect, praise and rejoice through singing!

In our church services, we'll be singing Advent and Christmas carols: As part of our Yorkshire Christmas (Carol) service on 21st, you will have the opportunity to listen to our own Rastrick Voices singing some well-known (*and some not so well-known*) carols, all with a Yorkshire connection, as well as singing some favourite congregational carols yourselves. I believe there may well be some dialect in the service. Come and be uplifted, and leave with a smile on your face.

On Christmas Eve, the extended Music Group will again provide the music for our two Christingles. Come and hear the Archdeacon on drums (!) and be moved by singing 'Away in a Manger' by candlelight, with simple flute accompaniment.

Come to our Midnight service on 24th, for a moving start to Christmas, including again, the singing of some favourite carols. Or join us on Christmas morning for our 11:00 Holy Communion - again, a good sing!

It would also be lovely if you could join us for our carol singing in the community, (*see poster on page 25*). Enjoy singing favourite carols while bringing the joy of Christmas to residents in our local care homes. All welcome!

Details of all services can be found earlier in the magazine.

Wishing you a meaningful Advent,
and a joyful (& musical) Christmas,

Pam



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

Carol Singing

In the Community



Friday 5th December:

Rastrick Hall and Grange 2:00 pm

Wednesday 10th December:

St Winifred's 2.30 pm

Thursday 11th December:

Railway Bridge View 2:00 pm

Come and
join us!



St. John's Rucksack Club

CHRISTMAS WALK

Saturday 27th December 2025

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

Leader: Eric Ogden

Contact number 07777494681

The walk is the usual one over the golf course.

Woodhouse Lane - Fixby Stores - Through the wood over Hudds. Road - Down behind the High School - into the wood, up Shepherds Thorn Lane and back to the golf club.

Hopefully not too muddy this year. Approx 2.5Miles or 2 hours

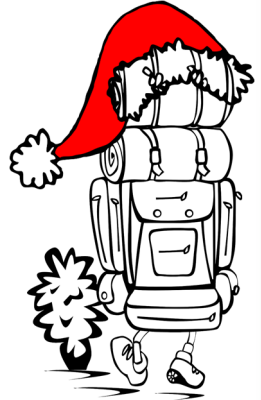
This will be followed by the annual beef sandwich and chips lunch at approximately 1.30 pm

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

The cost is £9.00 per person

Could you please advise Roger Ellis - 07551914243
or email - rogmarg.ellis@gmail.com .

DEADLINE 15th December for names and payment.





Orchestra of Square Chapel's

NEW YEAR TREAT!



New Year Viennese Gala Concert

St John the Divine, Rastrick

Sunday 4th January 2026 3pm



Waltzes, polkas and marches from the Strauss family and their contemporaries

FREE bubbly and mince pies!!

Tickets: <https://tickets.orchestraofsquarechapel.net/>





Caption that!

Can you think of a suitable caption for this photo?

The winning caption will be printed with the photo in the next magazine.

Have a go!



Send your suggestions to: stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com with the heading, 'Caption'. Deadline: Saturday 20th December.



Rev'd Michelle has chosen two (*anonymous*) captions this month, as a tie:

- **A large glass of wine would compliment this large chair!**

Suggested by Melody

- **The Vicar was having 2nd thoughts about her Missionary placement in Lilliput.**

Suggested by Pam

See all of your other suggestions on Page 29.

Eco Church - Swap Stall

There is no
Swap Stall in
December.

The next Swap Stall
will be in **January**.



COFFEE & CAKE

The next Coffee & Cake in Church
will be on Saturday 13th December 10.00-12.00.
Hosted by the Mothers' Union (*see page 14*)



COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch will be on January 6th, 12:00
Followed by the Reminiscent Cinema, 1:30



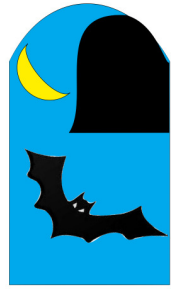
Caption that!

The rest of November's suggested captions:

- Harrogate? It feels more like Southport, I have my deck chair and I cannot see the sea!
- 'Any offers to lift me out please?'
- The greatest show on earth.
- The diet's working!
- Never let it be said that the Vicar's too big for her boots!
- I knew I shouldn't have gone down that rabbit hole
- I didn't think those diet pills would work so quickly

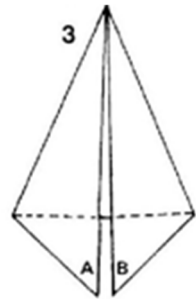
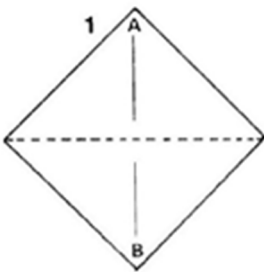
PUZZLE PAGE by the Bat in the Belfry

Christmas is coming, so I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year. If you have time between the mince pies, Christmas pudding and mulled wine try these two. One is something to make.

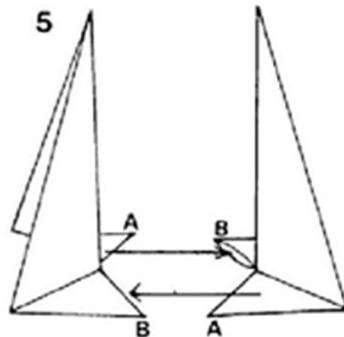
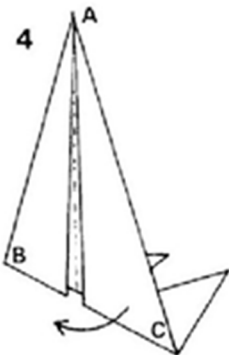


25 – 23 Christmas Decoration

As last year, here is a piece of Origami for you to make and put on your tree, courtesy of Rupert Bear. It's so simple that you could easily make enough to decorate a Christmas tree. Try it with different coloured papers about 8 inches square. (You'll need 2 pieces per decoration)



Fold the square to make a centre line **AB(1)**, then take **B** up to **A** to give you **(2)**. Fold edges **AB** and **AC** along the dotted lines to the centre, giving you **(3)**. Now fold back the points **A** and **B** along the dotted lines. You have **(4)**.



Bend the edges **AB** and **AC** towards each other so that the model looks like those in (5). Slot the points **A** into the pockets **B** to lock the two parts together.

Finally fix a hanging thread through the points. If you can make the two parts of different coloured papers, so much the better – or you could paint them. You might also try making the decoration in different sizes



25 – 24 Christmas around the World

Here are some questions about Christmas celebrations from different countries.

- 1) In which country are gifts bought to children on Epiphany Eve by a female Santa Claus named BEFANA ?
- 2) In which language is Christmas referred to as NADOLIG ?
- 3) What is GLOGG, traditionally served at Christmas in Sweden?
- 4) BOAS FESTAS is the Christmas greeting in which language?
- 5) In which country is COUGNOU a sweet bread served for Christmas breakfast ?
- 6) Eaten prior to the Christmas Eve meal in Poland, what is OPLATKI ?
- 7) Good King Wenceslas was not actually a king but a duke. Over which country was he duke ?

- 8) According to Swedish folklore, which animals pull Santa's sleigh ?
- 9) Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees ?
- 10) In which modern country did Saint Nicholas spend most of his life ?
- 11) In which country are the Christmas presents delivered by the JOLASVEINAR [or Christmas Goblins] ?
- 12) From what do Christian children in Syria receive their Christmas presents ?



Last month's answers

25 – 21 Do it by Numbers

1) 87 – If you turn the page upside down it is a straightforward sequence (86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91)

2) There's no missing £10. The math mixes amounts in an invalid way. The £270 already includes the bellboy's £20.

3) Use the formula:

$$\text{Circumference} = 2 \times \pi \times \text{Radius}$$

Where π is the famous number "pi" equal to 3.14159....

Before: Original Circumference = $2 \times \pi \times R$

After: Original Circumference + 10m = $2 \times \pi \times (R + \text{Gap})$

Subtracting the two:

$$10\text{m} = 2 \times \pi \times \text{Gap}$$

So, the Gap = $10\text{m} / (2 \times \pi) = 1.6\text{m}$ approximately

So a person could fit under it easily (though they might bump their head)

25 – 22 Mine's a pint

D	A	R	B	L	T	S	E	N	B	C	T	A	T	L	S	H	Y	G
R	E	D	N	O	L	B	D	L	I	U	B	G	I	B	I	N	O	R
S	P	F	L	D	M	A	B	L	O	N	D	E	W	I	T	C	H	U
T	C	I	N	C	I	P	E	T	K	I	R	B	P	I	C	N	E	L
R	N	E	E	Y	A	N	S	S	E	N	K	R	A	D	T	H	U	L
I	O	J	A	M	A	S	F	A	R	L	O	R	C	H	T	O	K	R
K	R	E	H	R	R	D	S	E	Y	E	E	K	A	N	S	P	J	I
E	D	T	D	E	E	L	R	K	T	A	M	C	H	D	E	A	A	K
F	L	H	M	H	A	T	U	O	H	S	A	O	N	R	M	B	P	L
L	U	R	I	C	G	R	H	N	L	Y	E	A	F	A	R	M	E	Y
E	A	E	D	T	R	A	T	D	O	D	T	B	I	G	U	C	V	P
L	C	E	N	A	F	E	A	L	S	R	N	C	S	H	T	A	R	N
A	S	S	I	C	A	R	G	C	A	L	A	A	B	D	Y	W	E	O
P	E	W	G	D	R	B	T	E	C	N	H	W	L	R	E	C	T	I
L	H	O	H	L	M	K	H	T	G	U	D	I	M	A	C	E	I	T
L	C	R	T	I	E	L	T	I	H	S	M	S	I	L	V	R	L	U
A	T	D	B	H	W	A	N	G	A	K	E	H	D	L	E	B	S	L
T	I	S	E	C	J	G	I	N	R	E	Y	T	R	A	F	A	C	O
S	W	T	L	I	E	H	W	A	C	B	L	A	S	M	R	G	R	S
K	I	R	L	R	S	N	D	R	S	U	M	W	H	E	G	K	O	B
R	T	A	R	E	T	T	U	B	D	N	A	D	A	E	R	B	D	A
I	R	K	S	A	T	G	E	H	E	L	R	U	L	R	O	R	S	F
K	I	R	P	I	C	B	R	E	R	E	L	B	M	A	G	E	T	A

MORE NEXT MONTH



SHIRLEY... WHY I LOVE and FEAR CHRISTMAS.

The downside of Christmas for me is the fear of wondering what presents to buy. Not because I don't want to give but it is deciding what to give. I so want my present be the right choice. Unless I ask, and spoil the surprise, I am always anxious. Something to eat or drink is usually a safe bet, or a voucher; but here again, which kind of voucher, and money shows little imagination. I know in my heart it is the thought that counts in giving and receiving but, I have received lots of lovely gifts which sadly, and ashamedly, I still haven't used to their full potential, so I want to make the right choice when I am giving a present.

In spite of sharing this with you, I simply love Christmas! It still fills me with excitement. I love decorating our Christmas tree, a treasure that has



been with our family for forty-four years! Prior to this, my husband would carry a real tree home for us and make it safe to decorate. However, when it became my responsibility, I found difficulty juggling with the height and balance in the process of erecting it. We soon found our artificial tree of similar height which each year is decorated with all the old sentimental

baubles and memories, plus newer ones which are special to me.

I love meeting up with all my family together sharing our delicious Christmas fare, laughing and joking with each other as we pull crackers. Then the playing of silly and/or skilled games with forfeits and prizes, in a lovely warm atmosphere. I am encouraged to have a go at the most challenging things which causes great laughter to everyone. This is such a special gift for me.

Another precious gift given, was not wrapped in Christmas paper but it was given with so much love. It is quite possible you received this too with grateful thanks or you may have put it to one side for later and maybe you have rediscovered it now with great pleasure. It is at this special time of year we remember again receiving this gift of a tiny Baby. Born, not in wonderful, cosy surroundings but in a manger, cold and bare. He is a gift from God, still to be treasured, reminding us of His goodness to us. Also reminding us of other babies and families struggling

at this time to find comfort and food and all the good things we take for granted I mentioned above. Perhaps whilst we are struggling to think of appropriate gifts for our families and friends, we could also think of a gift to give to the organisations who care for those in need, especially at Christmastime.

I hope also that I will be going again with some members of my family to a service at their local church. It is always packed full of families, from babies to oldies. The young members of the Sunday School and youth club dress appropriately to act a variation of the Nativity each year. They do it seriously but occasionally there will be a little member who has to be quickly rescued and guided into the correct place, much to the amusement of the congregation. This is always a good start for our Christmas together.

Although snow looks really pretty on Christmas cards, and the children have a fun time as they sledge and snowball fight, I am hoping for a clear journey down to the Midlands for my Christmas fun!

I pray we all share a blessed Christmas however celebrated.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE – Ho Ho Ho!!!

Shirley



AND FINALLY....

*Reproduced by kind permission
of Andy Robb,
who invites you to visit
his 'Derek the Cleric'
Facebook page.*



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - DECEMBER

Monday 1st (and every Monday to 15th)

The Journey to Bethlehem - Shirley's 2:00 - 3:30

Friday 5th

Carol singing at Rastrick Hall & Grange 2:00

Sunday 7th

Clifton Handbell Ringers concert 2:00

Tuesday 9th - Friday 12th

St. John's Panto: Cinderella 7:15

Wednesday 10th

Carol Singing at St Winifred's 2:30

Thursday 11th

Carol Singing at Railway Bridge View 2:00

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

Saturday 13th

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

Cinderella 2:00 Evening 7:00

Wednesday 17th

Beer & Banter Annual Dinner *Contact Alan by 10th Dec.*

Thursday 18th

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

Sunday 21st

A Yorkshire Christmas (Carol Service) 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Christingle 3:00 & 5:00

Midnight Communion 11:30 pm

Christmas Day

Holy Communion 11:00

Saturday 27th

Rucksack Club Christmas Walk 10:45

Beef S'wich & chips lunch - Bradley Park Golf Club 1:30



All items for the January magazine to: stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com
by 9:00 a.m. Saturday 20th December please.



Website : www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk



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



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