

Your Parish Magazine

St John the Divine

Rastrick



£1.50

January 2026

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Please contact the Vicar or a Churchwarden.

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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 2026. As another new year begins, I would firstly like to thank you all for everything you have done to support St John's church during the last 12 months, and most especially in the last month. December is always a very busy time, and this year has been no exception. We have welcomed so many people into our beautiful building, from the pupils and staff of Woodhouse school, Toybox Children's nursery, performers and audiences for a number of concerts and events and to all our Christmas services. And it's wonderful to see how everyone pulls together to ensure those who come have a special experience. So thank you if you've sung, played, baked, knitted, served refreshments, welcomed, moved chairs and tables and a myriad of other jobs too. You really are a great bunch of people, and it is my pleasure and privilege to serve you as your Vicar.

Looking ahead to this year, I am sure we can build on our successes and encourage more people to join us in building God's kingdom here in Rastrick. People often say what a lovely atmosphere and friendly welcome they receive at St John's and I hope this will be enhanced as we continue to improve our building to make it less draughty and even more welcoming. It was disappointing that our porch project was unable to be completed in time for the Christmas celebrations. The delays were unavoidable due to illness, but I'm pleased to say that work should get underway in early January.

As a new year begins, I do hope that you share my optimism for our church as we look to the future, that with God's help we may grow in numbers, spiritual commitment and service to our local community as we continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

With my prayers and every blessing

Michelle

SERVICES AND CHURCH INFORMATION

SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - JANUARY

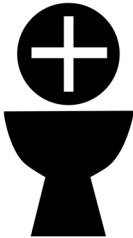
Sunday 4th - 11:00 - Epiphany - All Age Holy Communion

Sunday 11th - 11:00 - Baptism of Christ - Holy Communion

Sunday 18th - 11:00 - Epiphany 2 - Holy Communion

Sunday 25th - 11:00 - Epiphany 3 - Holy Communion

Sunday 25th - 4:00 - Service - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - JANUARY

Wednesday 7th - 10:30 - St Matthew's

Wednesday 14th - 10:30 - St John's

Wednesday 21st - 10:30 - St Matthew's

Wednesday 28th - 10:30 - St John's

UPCOMING UNITED BENEFICE SERVICES

- ◇ Sunday Jan. 25th - 4:00 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (St. J's)
- ◇ Wednesday Feb. 18th - 7:00pm - Ash Wednesday (St J's)
- ◇ Sunday Mar. 29th - 10:30 - Joint Benefice Service (St J's)
- ◇ Thursday April 2nd - 7:00pm - Maundy Thursday (St J's)
- ◇ Friday April 3rd - 7:00pm - Good Friday (St. M's)

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S WITH PRAYER MINISTRY

- * Sunday 18th January
- * Sunday 15th February



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 has been chosen by Jane Hearson.
It is from the Lectio 365,
Jane says, "I find the poetry of the language touches me deeply."

Sabbath Blessing

May this day bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.

May God's image in me be restored,
and my imagination in God be re-storied.

May the gravity of material things be lightened
and the relativity of time slow down.

May I know grace to embrace my own finite smallness
in the arms of God's infinite greatness.

May God's Word feed me and His Spirit lead me into the week
and into the life to come.

John Mark Comer

Prayer Ministry

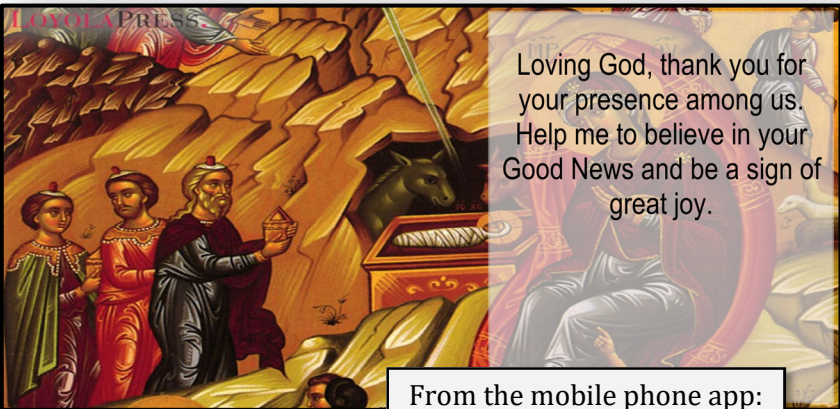
Prayer Ministry is offered monthly during the 11am Parish Communion Service.

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 18th January
- ♦ Sunday 15th February

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



Loving God, thank you for your presence among us. Help me to believe in your Good News and be a sign of great joy.

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

Daily Lectionary Readings January 26

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	01-Jan	02-Jan	03-Jan
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
05-Jan	06-Jan	07-Jan	08-Jan	09-Jan	10-Jan
Psalms 8 Ruth 4.1-17 Colossians 4.2-end	Psalms 73 Ruth 4.1-17 Colossians 4.2-end	Psalms 99 Jeremiah 23.1-8 Matthew 20.1-16	Psalms 46 Jeremiah 30.1-17 Matthew 20.17-28	Psalms 2 Jeremiah 30.18 – 31.9 Matthew 20.29-end	Psalms 97 Jeremiah 31.10-17 Matthew 23.1-12
12-Jan	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan	16-Jan	17-Jan
Psalms 2 Genesis 1.1-19 Matthew 21.1-17	Psalms 8 Genesis 1.20 – 2.3 Matthew 21.18-32	Psalms 19 Genesis 2.4-end Matthew 21.33-end	Psalms 21 Genesis 3 Matthew 22.1-14	Psalms 67 Genesis 4.1-16 Matthew 22.15-33	Psalms 29 Genesis 6.1-10 Matthew 22.34-end
19-Jan	20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan
Psalms 145 Genesis 6.11 – 7.10 Matthew 24.1-14	Psalms 132 Genesis 7.11-end Matthew 24.15-28	Psalms 81 Genesis 8.1-14 Matthew 24.29-end	Psalms 76 Genesis 8.15 – 9.7 Matthew 25.1-13	Psalms 27 Genesis 9.8-19 Matthew 25.14-30	Psalms 122 Genesis 11.1-9 Matthew 25.31-end
26-Jan	27-Jan	28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan
Psalms 40 Genesis 11.27 – 12.9 Matthew 26.1-16	Psalms 34 Genesis 13.2-end Matthew 26.17-35	Psalms 45 Genesis 14 Matthew 26.36-46	Psalms 47 Genesis 15 Matthew 26.47-56	Psalms 61 Genesis 16 Matthew 26.57-end	Psalms 68 Genesis 17.1-22 Matthew 27.1-10

Join Michelle on line Tuesday - Saturday:

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

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

Everyday Faith

Daily Prayer

Monday Meet 2 pm – 4 pm

Resumes 12th January 2026

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, 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

The Men of the Churches of Rastrick
Host

Beer and Banter 2026

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



19th January – Walking the GR20 – Ken Inwood
23rd February – Project Colt – Tony Hargreaves
23rd March - Refugee, Renegade, Redeemer – Bear Grills
27th April - Taste chocolate like a pro–David Greenwood-Haigh



All Men Welcome

Further details, call Alan 07756035591

**Pie
and
Peas!!**



Hand to Mouth Ministries

25th Anniversary of Hand to Mouth

Over the Autumn term the Hand to Mouth team have been busy visiting schools across our area, providing moments of reflection, exploration and questioning.

Marking a quarter of a century of Hand to Mouth has given us a chance not only to honour our roots but also to look ahead with excitement. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the journey so far. Over the past 25 years we have worked with approximately 50,000 children! This term alone we have visited 44 schools in addition to delivering special events, staff twilight sessions, staff Amazing Journeys and ambassador talks.

For prayer:

Pray for the administration and success of funding applications to increase the work we are able to offer schools over the Easter period and particularly for funding to enable us to be able to deliver partnership days again which benefit multiple schools. Without funding, these events cannot happen.

Dates for the diary:

Prep day at The Huddersfield Mission 10am-2pm: 10th February

(If you would like more information on helping prepare the materials we take into school we'd love to hear from you; contact the office for more information).

AGM: 18th March:

Please contact the Hand to Mouth office for more details.

**The Hand to Mouth team would like to thank you
for your support throughout 2025.**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



United with the churches in
Brighthouse and Rastrick,
we come together on 25th January
at 4 pm at St. John's Church, Rastrick,
to celebrate the Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity.

The service will be a launch of the theme taken from Ephesians 4:4: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling."

This theme will take us into our Lent groups, Easter, and beyond

Do come and celebrate one body one spirit with our friends from the other churches.





MU MATTERS

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

Firstly thank you for your support both at the Coffee and Cake Morning and The Goodies Stall. The total amount raised was £ 335.63 so far amazing and all thanks to a team effort by you.

Our Wave of Prayer in The Lady Chapel this year is on Friday the 9th January. This is always a lovely time of quiet remembering MU across the world hope to see as many of you there as in previous years. Our time is 11 am please be down if possible for no later than 10.45. Thank you.

Our Annual Christmas dinner is on the 20th January at The Blacksmith Arms at Kirkheaton (not to be confused with the one closed down at Grangemoor !!) Please see Margaret Hitchcock if you wish to attend if she has not already have your name. There is no need to pre order and we can pay individually.

Our corporate communion this year is on Sunday the 15th February. We will be taking part with a little sketch " The woman who touched the cloak. I will be in touch re this after Christmas for participants. Please could you all think of 2 traditional hymns and see a member of the committee with your choices. We will then pick out the four most popular for the service. As the music will be the organist playing he will prefer traditional hymns. Thank you.

Our Annual AGM is on the 17th February this year after our Eucharist in the Lady Chapel.

We have drawn up a programme for 2026 subject to me ringing some of the suggested speakers after Christmas. Julia has kindly offered to print this out when I have completed my telephone calls. She has also drawn up a rota of who does what and when at the branch meetings etc. Thank you Julia, this has been a great help. Glad you are still on board !!! Margaret France will also have a copy of this rota which will be available in the new year.

Finally thank you all for your support over the last few months since Julia sadly had to step back for the time being. Myself and all the committee could not do the things we have without your contributions.

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

Love and God Bless,

Ann (Johnson)

Some reminders from last month:



2026 marks 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).

Mothers Union Branch, St John the Divine, Rastrick

A Recipe for 2026

(Courtesy of Upper Edge Baptist January Newsletter)

It's that time of year when we call to mind a dozen new months.

Here's a good recipe for them:

Prepare one day at a time, and into each put:

- ◆ 12 parts of faith,
- ◆ 11 of patience,
- ◆ 10 of courage,
- ◆ 9 of work,
- ◆ 8 of hope,
- ◆ 7 of fidelity,
- ◆ 6 of open-mindedness,
- ◆ 5 of kindness,
- ◆ 4 of rest,
- ◆ 3 of prayer,
- ◆ 2 of meditation,
- ◆ and 1 of well-selected resolutions.



My cookery book tells me: add a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play and a heaped cupful of good humour. Next, pour love generously into whole, cook thoroughly, garnish with a few smiles and a sprig of joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.'

Now isn't that a good recipe for a new year?



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/>



Missions and Charities



This is a photograph of Kefline and Kemange

- the two girls from Nyakiswa who we are sponsoring to do a secretarial course at the Diocese of Mara Vocational Training Centre.

They have just completed their second year with good results and have another term to do. They finish in July 2026.

Please remember them in your prayers.

Oriel

Knit and Natter

There are now just 4 regulars that meet every Wednesday morning,
we all put the world to rights, have a laugh
and the needles keep on clicking.

Over the last year we have made children's knitwear,
hats and baby clothes which have been given to the Salvation Army,
Forget Me Not and St Vincent's Charities.
Blankets have also been made and given to the Paediatric Critical Care
at Leeds Children's Hospital and Calderdale Premature Baby Unit.

All money collected goes to Brighthouse Central Foodbank
to be used for milk or groceries.

If your New Year resolution is to start knitting (or natter more)
come and join us each Wednesday from 10 – 12am at Ella's.

Many thanks

Knit and Natter

BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL FOODBANK

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

- Milk
- Cans of macaroni cheese

Thank you so much for your support.

Rosemary & Norman



What the Vicar has been doing

Just a selection...



Annual Gathering of Spiritual Directors at Scargill House

Toy Service
St Matthew's



Carol Service
Cygnet Lodge



Carol Service, St Winifred's



Storytelling with the
Reception Class
At Woodhouse School



Carr Green KS1
Christingle

Carol Service at
Railway Bridge View



St Matthew's Christingle



Longroyd School
at St Matthew's (x2)



Just being silly!



St John's Christingles



A Yorkshire Christmas
Carol Service



Two Advent Assemblies
At Woodhouse School



MU Coffee & Cake

Christmas Eve
Midnight Mass



Taking part in the Pantomime

The complete “What the Vicar got up to during Advent and Christmas!”

To the tune of ‘Partridge in a Pear Tree’!



Four Advent Sundays

Three Care Home Carols

Three Church Christingles

Two School Assemblies

Two School Christingles

Two Christmas Mornings

One Toy Service

One Storytelling

One Carol Service

One Yorkshire Christmas

SIX PANTO SHOWS

Four schools in Church

One Cygnet Lodge

One Midnight Mass

..and a Nursery Nat-i-i-vi-ty!

Thank You

Doreen Davis wishes to thank everyone of her friends in the Church Family for the cards (60) and good wishes given to her on her 90th. Birthday recently.

Very much appreciated.



COFFEE AND CAKE

The next Coffee and Cake
will be on Saturday 10th January, 10:00 - 12:00
hosted by Wednesday Nighters
to get the new year going.

If your organisation would like to host an event
please contact Barbara 01484 718993



ECO CHURCH



The 2026 Big Garden Birdwatch

Emily Dickinson once said “I hope you love birds too. It is economical. It saves going to heaven.”

The biggest garden wildlife survey in the world is back early next year. Across the weekend of the 23rd to 25th January, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers will gather to count the birds that they can see in their gardens, balconies and parks.



As the climate and nature crisis continues, it's never been more important to see how our birds are faring. [The 2025 Big Garden Birdwatch](#) showed that House Sparrows are still our most numerous birds but counts of these chirpy birds are down by 60% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we've lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to look after our birds and get involved in the Birdwatch

Don't worry about not being a 'Twitcher'. When you sign up on the RSPB website, you'll receive a free ID guide. All you have to do is spend an hour watching the birds between 23 and 25 January, and record the birds that land. The website has further help and guidance.

“Everyone likes birds. What wild creature is more accessible to our eyes and ears, as close to us and everyone in the world, as universal as a bird?” David Attenborough



Rosemary



Music News

HUGE thanks to everyone who rehearsed, sang, and played this Christmas, in order to lead the music side of our worship in the various services, both at Church and in the community.

I thought you might like to see a few photos.

The Rastrick Voices (and friends) at the Care Home Carol Services:



St Winifred's



Railway Bridge View

The Rastrick Voices also worked very hard rehearsing the carols for our Yorkshire Christmas Carol Service, which was a most enjoyable event. ...and huge apologies from me that I forgot to take the obligatory group photo at the end! Thanks to Graham on the organ, and to Pauline on piano, who stepped in for the final weeks as Jane had broken her wrist.

In 2026, the Voices will be joining the WAM choir for a special concert on 17th May, which includes part of Vivaldi's Gloria. Keep the date

The Music Group enjoyed their usual 'marathon', providing the music for three Christingle services - not only playing for the service itself, but all the jazzy numbers leading up to the start of the services.

As usual, we were joined by our 'occasional' players, turning our usually gentle strings/woodwind/piano ensemble into a veritable band.



It was good that Jane was able to join us (one handed) at the keyboard. Many thanks to Kim for taking over 'piano duties'!

Thanks too, to Granville for playing the organ at our Midnight Mass, and to David for playing on Christmas Day.

Thank you EVERYONE who was in any way musical in the Rastrick Benefice (and particularly at St John's) this Christmas!

Pam

St. John's Rucksack Club

SATURDAY WALK - 17th JANUARY 2026

4/5 Miles

Leader - Rod France

Mobile – 07920238561

LEAVING CHURCH 10.30 AM

VENUE – SPEN VALLEY AREA



STARTING POINT- Brookfield View Road, Off balm Rd, Cleckheaton.
Parking will be on Road Side.

WALKING ROUTE

DRUB – GOMERSAL – LOWER GOMERSAL – LIVERSEEDGE

then returning back to starting point via Royds Park, Harry Man Dam.

Note: If any walkers would like to join me after our walk for my usual end of walk Fish and Chips at the Golden Hind Brighthouse. I will gladly take your order on the day of the walk.



The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Season of Christmas ends twelve days after Christmas Day - Twelfth Night if you're into Shakespeare - followed by Epiphany (*the visit of the Magi*).

At our Yorkshire Christmas Carol Service we had a bit of fun singing the 'Twelve Days of Christmas'. Thanks to Jennifer at St Matthew's for the following article, which you may have seen in the St M's Newsletter.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



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!

ps. Photo supplied by the Vicar!



Send your suggestions to: stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com with the heading, 'Caption'. Deadline: Wednesday 21st January.



See all of your other suggestions on Page 29.

The winning caption for last month's photo was suggested again by **Melody**, and was chosen by Rod & John from all of your (*anonymous*) replies:

"Ey up John, ow we goin t work this un aht, sumb'dy's dropped a fiver and n'er of us can bend down t sam it up"

...but this was a close runner-up, suggested by **Pat Lee**:

"I think my stick is better than yours." "Maybe but my flat cap is smarter than yours."

Eco Church - Swap Stall

The next
Eco Church
Swap Stall
is on:

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th January



COFFEE & CAKE

The next Coffee & Cake in Church
will be on **Saturday 10th January** 10.00-12:00.
Hosted by the Wednesday Nighters.



COMMUNITY LUNCH

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



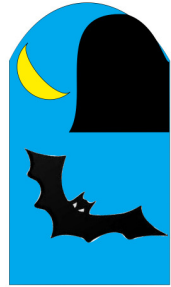
Caption that!

The rest of December's suggested captions:

1. Was that a rat or a leaf?
2. "When Ah wor a lad"
3. Two old codgers, cogitating!
4. The trouble with sitting down is that neither of us know if we can stand up again!

PUZZLE PAGE by the Bat in the Belfry

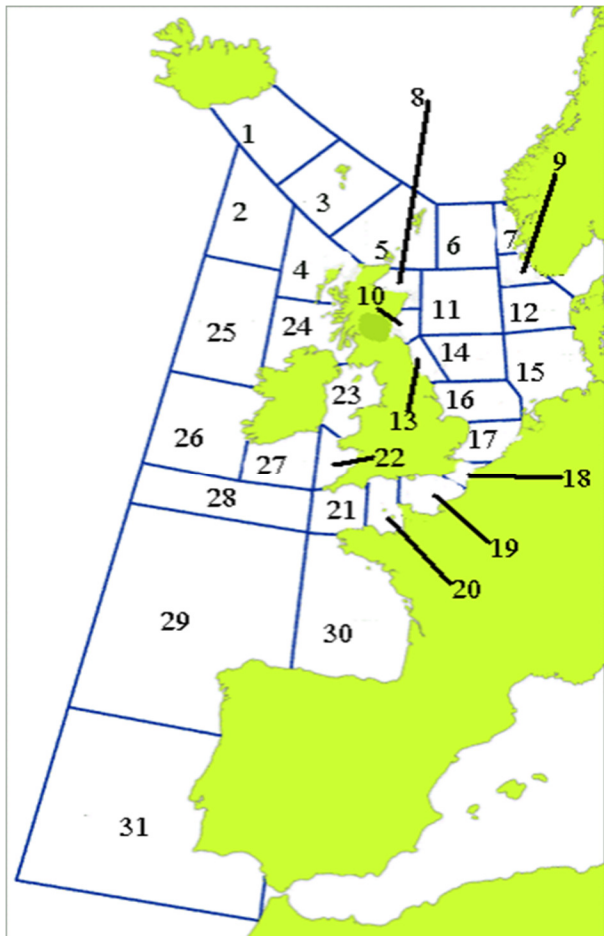
Happy New Year to everybody. I hope you have all made your resolutions. Let's hope for a less turbulent year than last. Try these two to get the New Year off to a flying start.



26 – 01 Rain Later, Good

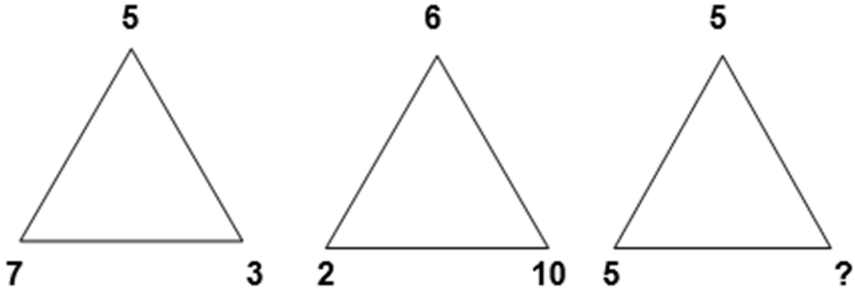
I wonder how many of you have listened, or still listen, to the Shipping Forecast on the radio. I wonder how many of you know where all the areas mentioned are. See if you can identify the numbered areas. To help, the areas are listed below.

Bailey, Biscay,
Cromarty,
Dogger, Dover,
Faeroes, Fair Isle,
Fastnet, Fisher,
FitzRoy, Forth,
Forties,
German Bight,
Hebrides,
Humber,
Irish Sea, Lundy,
Malin, North Utsire,
Plymouth,
Portland,
Rockall, Shannon,
Sole,
South East Iceland,
South Utsire,
Thames,
Trafalgar, Tyne,
Viking, Wight.



26 – 02 Triangle

Which number replaces the question mark?



Last month's answers

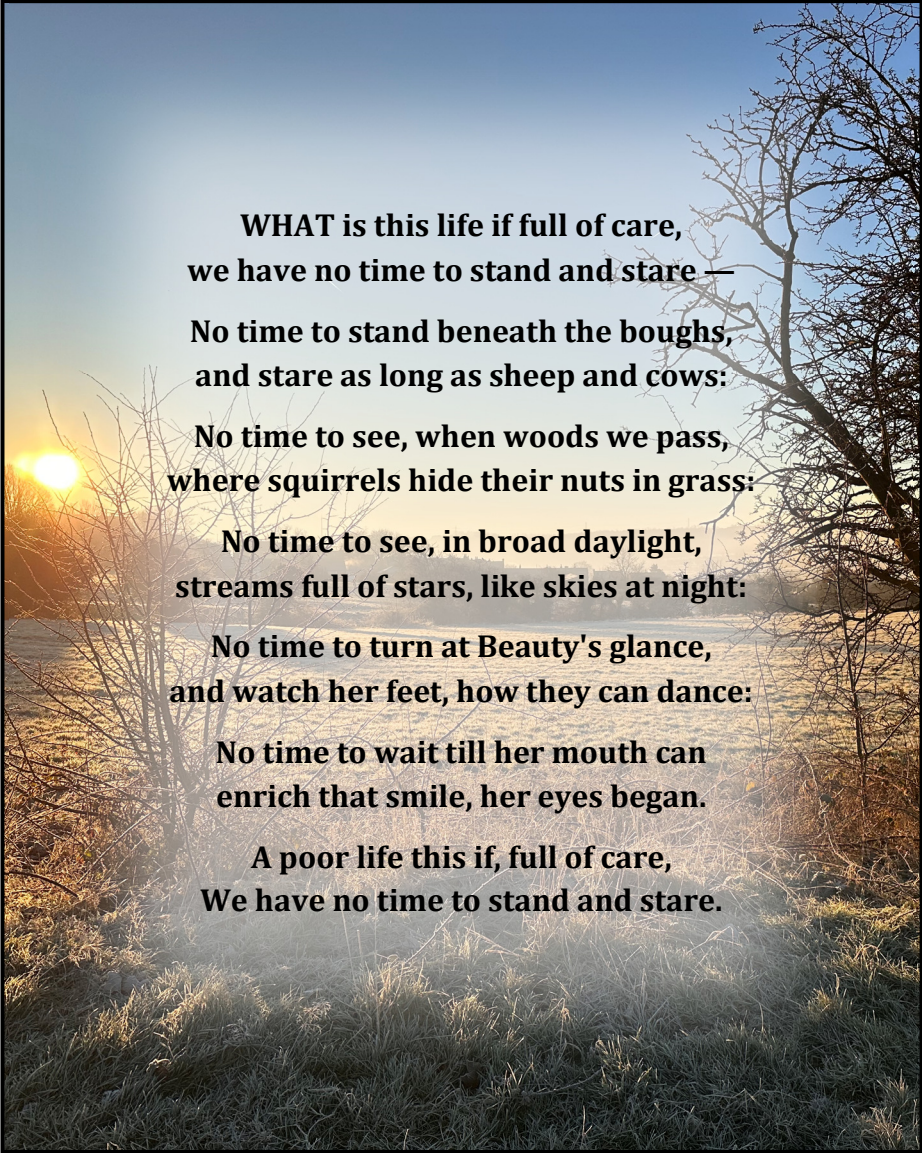
25 – 12 Christmas around the world

- 1) Italy 2) Welsh 3) A mulled wine 4) Portuguese
 5) Belgium 6) Christmas Wafer [made from wheat flour and water, shaped into a thin biscuit such as that used in communion]
 7) Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic) 8) Mountain goats
 9) Canada 10) Turkey 11) Iceland 12) A camel (believed to have been blessed by the Baby Jesus)

MORE NEXT MONTH

Leisure

Were you at the Benefice Service at St Matthew's on 28th December?
If so, you'll remember Alan reading the poem 'Leisure' by W H Davies
as part of his 'Attitude of gratitude' sermon. Here it is again.



**WHAT is this life if full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare —**

**No time to stand beneath the boughs,
and stare as long as sheep and cows:**

**No time to see, when woods we pass,
where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:**

**No time to see, in broad daylight,
streams full of stars, like skies at night:**

**No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
and watch her feet, how they can dance:**

**No time to wait till her mouth can
enrich that smile, her eyes began.**

**A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.**

SHIRLEY...

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!

How time flies. What will this year bring, I wonder?

As I am writing this, I am reminded that we have to look forward not backward. This I find very difficult sometimes, especially as a 'memorable' date comes round each year.

As the Bible calendar comes round again, I have been reading about Epiphany and discover "Twelfth Night, 5th January, is the final night of the Twelve Days of Christmas, leading into Epiphany.



On 6th January the main feast marks the arrival of the Magi to see baby Jesus, celebrating his manifestation to the Gentiles (non-Jews)". I always thought they arrived around the 25th of December! "In the East it commemorates the baptism of Jesus

and celebrates the revelation that "the incarnate Christ was both fully God and fully man". Although I have been a Christian all my life, going to Sunday School and to church as an adult, I realise I do not know my Bible fully, only as a Sunday worshipper. I am discovering that I am learning more now in house groups, which are smaller and explain Bible readings more fully.

One lovely event in August was the birth of my great granddaughter, Miyah Rose. She is lovely! I was able to hold her when she was only a week old – so very small. Then a month later I cuddled her again and what a difference, I convinced myself she recognised me with her lovely blue eyes fully opened! She is now five months old and my granddaughter takes her to a baby group where the children experience and learn from being in different situations and I receive a photograph regularly showing her progress. I am sure this is good, as she is learning

to be with other children and adults from an early age and it also helps her mother too, meeting other new mothers and gaining confidence.

When I said we shouldn't look back, I had forgotten that we also look back each Christmas and remember another Baby, not any baby, but an M & S baby! – the **M**essiah and **S**aviour of the world! Let us rejoice in this special gift we have received and give thanks.

I also looked back to the Old Testament and the Ten Commandments when I decided what my New Year's resolution would be. Each month I will look at a Commandment to see how it interprets in my life today. So, for January I shall remember God is in my life each day walking beside me, guiding my waking hours and give Him thanks and praise for His great power and love, in my daily prayers.

And looking back again, you may remember last year was special for four of our congregation who were born ninety years ago and I cannot help feeling very grateful for all those years, even with their ups and downs. All of us I am sure, experience these from time to time but as the following verses tell us, we must keep on looking forward -



When you walk through a storm
Keep your chin up high
And don't be afraid of the dark.

At the end of the storm
Is a golden sky
And the sweet, silver song of a lark.

Walk on through the wind,
Walk on through the rain,
Though your dreams be tossed and blown.

Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart,
And you'll never walk alone!
You'll never walk alone.

Shirley

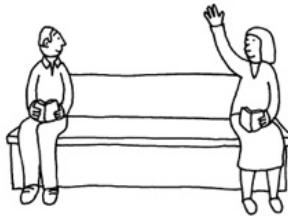
AND FINALLY....

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

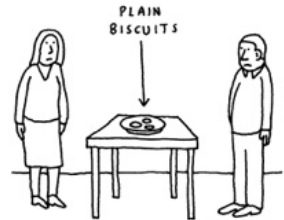
HOW THE CHURCH CAN HELP



EXERCISE



MEETING NEW PEOPLE



HEALTHY EATING

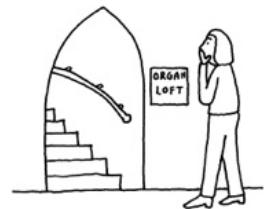


GETTING ORGANISED

AT THE PCC WE'LL DISCUSS THE APCM,
CW VS THE BCP, THE LLM'S CRB,
AND THE OLM'S BAP. OH, AND
THERE ARE LETTERS FROM THE DAC,
THE DDO, THE HOB AND THE ABC



LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES

Cartoonchurch.com

Dave Walker - Used with permission

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - JANUARY

Sunday 4th

Orch. of Square Chapel - New Year's Concert 3:00

Tuesday 6th

Community Lunch 12:00

Reminiscent Cinema 1:30

Friday 9th

MU Wave of prayer 10:45

Saturday 10th

Coffee & Cake 10:00-12:00

Monday 12th *(and every following Monday)*

Monday Meet - 50 Archbell Ave. - 2:00-4:00

Saturday 17th

Rucksack Club walk, leaving 10:30

Sunday 18th

Prayer Ministry during the 11:00 service

Monday 19th

Beer & Banter *(at The Four Sons)* 7:00

Tuesday 20th

MU Annual Christmas Dinner - Blacksmith's Arms

Friday-Sunday 23rd-25th

The 2026 Big Garden Birdwatch

Sunday 25th

Service - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 4:00



All items for the February magazine to: stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com
by 9:00 a.m. **Wednesday 21st January please.**



Website : www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk

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

Facebook : www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivine

Wi-Fi

Network : everywhere

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