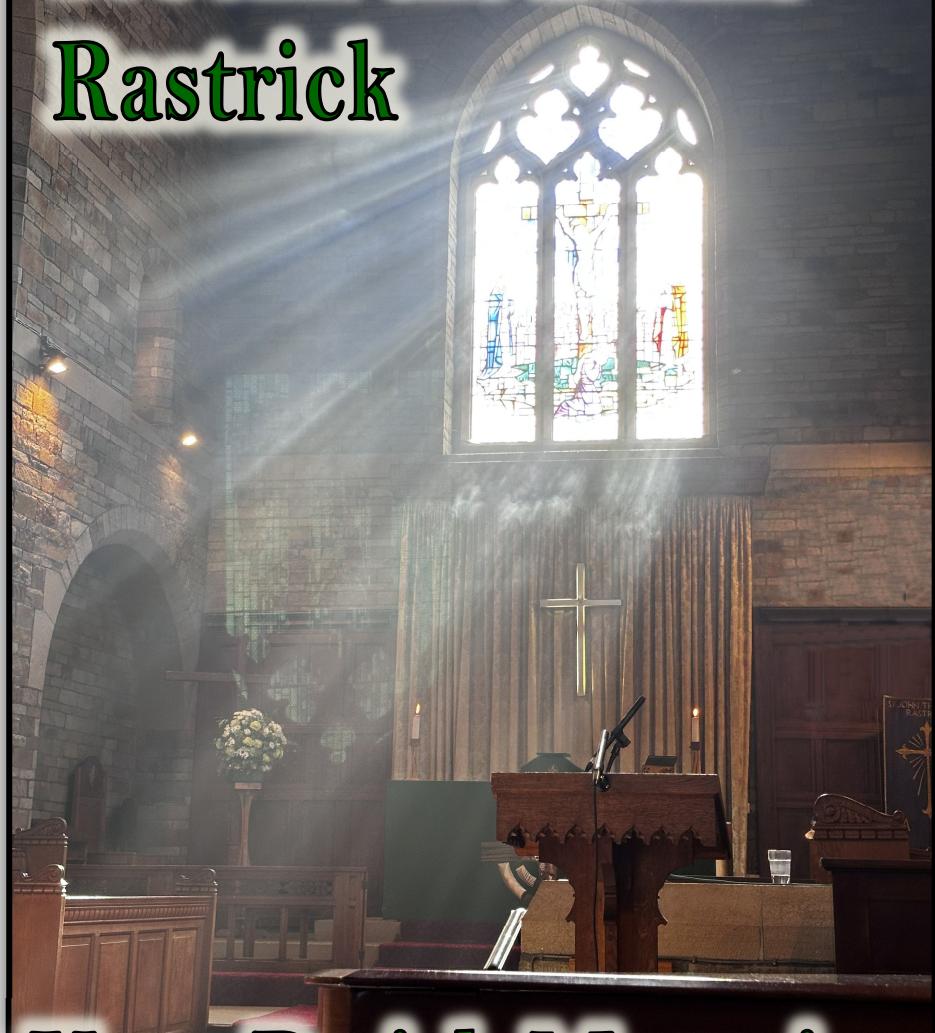


St John the Divine Rastrick



Your Parish Magazine
February 2026

£1.50

**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 - janehearson83@gmail.com

Safeguarding

Jane Hearson - 07503 931444 - janehearson83@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



The most significant happening during the month of February this year is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Have you thought about what your Lent discipline may be this year?

If you decide to fast or give something up, what about following the lead of the late Pope Francis. He said:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
 Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
 Fast from anger and be filled with patience
 Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
 Fast from being worried and have trust in God
 Fast from complaints, contemplate simplicity
 Fast from pressures and be prayerful
 Fast from bitterness, fill your hearts with joy
 Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
 Fast from grudges and be reconciled
 Fast from words, be silent and listen.

And while you are thinking about all that, don't forget the Lent course. There are various days and times available. See the advert elsewhere in the pages of this magazine for more information.

I hope whatever Lent brings for you it might include opportunities to deepen your relationship with God and lead you to recognise more fully the depth of his great love for you and all creation

With my prayers and every blessing

Michelle

SERVICES AND CHURCH INFORMATION

SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - FEBRUARY

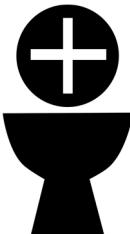
Sunday 1st - 11:00 - Candlemas - All Age Holy Communion

Sunday 8th - 11:00 - 2nd before Lent - ECO/Guest Speaker - M Worship

Sunday 15th - 11:00 - 1st before Lent - MU - Holy Communion

Wednesday 18th - 7:00pm - Ash Wednesday - Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd - 11:00 - Lent 1 - Holy Communion



MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - FEBRUARY

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

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

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

Wednesday 25th - 10:30 - St John's

UPCOMING UNITED BENEFICE SERVICES

- ◊ 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)

NEXT SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S WITH PRAYER MINISTRY

* 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?

February's four short prayers are rather special.
They were suggested by Carol Sanderson,
who would like to share with you some prayers
which were written by her late mother.

Why is it Lord, we always crave for what we can't have?
You, Lord, will help me to bear whatever may come.
How blest I am. Yea, I have a goodly heritage.
"Out of evil cometh good."
To enfold our brother man in the robe of true righteousness and Love
will indeed bring us great peace.

You look lost.
There are signs everywhere to show you the way.
Be alive and rejoice in the infinite all.
Jesus is with you now.
Because of that, you'll make it safely through.
That's a guarantee!

There's always a way out of every difficulty.
God is ever with us. He surrounds us. He protects us.
Nothing can ever separate us from him.

Today I awake and God is before me.
Judge not, lest ye be likewise judged.

Amen

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 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)



A service of prayer and thanksgiving for

Healing and Wholeness 2026

Sundays @ 4 pm

Feb 15th, April 26th, June 28th, Sept 20th, Nov 22nd

An informal gathering with music and videos to reflect, to pray and receive prayer for our Community, Our World, Others, and Ourselves.

For further information, contact Alan 07756035591

All welcome

Daily Lectionary Readings February 26

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
02-Feb	03-Feb	04-Feb	05-Feb	06-Feb	07-Feb
Psalms 1 Genesis 24.1-28 1 Timothy 6.1-10	Psalms 5 Genesis 24.29-end 1 Timothy 6.11-end	Psalm 119.1-32 Genesis 25.7-11 2 Timothy 1.1-14	Psalms 14 Genesis 26.34 – 27.40 2 Timothy 1.15 – 2.13	Psalms 17 Genesis 27.41 – end 28 2 Timothy 2.14-end	Psalms 20 Genesis 29.1-30 2 Timothy 3
09-Feb	10-Feb	11-Feb	12-Feb	13-Feb	14-Feb
Psalms 27 Genesis 29.31 – 30.24 2 Timothy 4.1-8	Psalms 32 Genesis 31.1-24 2 Timothy 4.9-end	Psalm 34 Genesis 31.25 – 32.2 Titus 1	Psalm 37* Genesis 32.3-30 Titus 2	Psalm 31 Genesis 33.1-17 Titus 3	Psalms 41 Genesis 35 Philemon
16-Feb	17-Feb	18-Feb	19-Feb	20-Feb	21-Feb
Psalm 44 Genesis 37.1-11 Galatians 1	Psalm 48 Genesis 37.12-end Galatians 2.1-10	Ash Wednesday Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19 1 Timothy 6.6-19	Psalm 77 (or) 56 Genesis 39 Galatians 2.11-end	Psalms 3 Genesis 40 Galatians 3.1-14	Psalm 71 (or) 68 Genesis 41.1-24 Galatians 3.15-22
23-Feb	24-Feb	25-Feb	26-Feb	27-Feb	28-Feb
Psalms 10 Genesis 41.25-45 Galatians 3.23 – 4.7	Psalms 44 (or) 73 Genesis 41.46 – 42.5 Galatians 4.8-20	Psalms 6 Genesis 42.6-17 Galatians 4.21 – 5.1	Psalms 42 Genesis 42.18-28 Galatians 5.2-15	Psalm 22 (or) 55 Genesis 42.29-end Galatians 5.16-end	Psalms 59 Genesis 43.1-15 Galatians 6

Coffee and Conversation

Next Date:
Friday 27th February
12:30 - 1:30



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



Very informal - may include:

exchanging news

prayer

a discussion around the Gospel reading
for the following Sunday



Rastrick Group of Churches Lent 2026

Seven Ones of our Faith

Session 1: One Body & One Spirit

Lent invites us to rediscover our belonging to the Body and our dependence on the Spirit.

Session 2: One Hope

Hope shapes our lives, our endurance, and is communal; we share the same promised future in Christ.

Session 3: One Lord

Lent calls us to re-align our loyalties and surrender rival “lords”: status, comfort, control. Confessing Christ as Lord is both worship and obedience.

Session 4: One Faith & One Baptism

Lent is a time of remembering baptismal identity and renewing faith

Session 5: One God & Father of All

Lent draws us back to God as Father: source of life, unity, and identity.

It's Easy to Book Your Place!

The Groups will be inter-church and will meet on different days and at different times. Choose the day and time that suits you, then phone the host to confirm there is room for you in the group. Do feel free to mix and match groups if you are unable to make the same group every week

Meetings will start the week beginning February 23rd.

For further information, please contact Alan Hoggard
on 07756035591

Day	Time	Host	Address	Tel. No.
Monday	2:00 pm	Shirley Stow	50 Archbell Avenue	01484-714209
Leader: Alan Hoggard				
Tuesday	7.00 pm	Hilary Cartwright	120 Clough Lane	01484-537399
Leader: Alan Hoggard				
Wednesday	10.00 am	Paul Armitage	Upper Edge	01484-714944
Leaders: Jane & John Hearson				
Thursday:	2.00 pm	Barbara Rukin	13 Bell Row	01484-718993
Leader: Daryll Hackett				
Thursday:	7.00 pm	Christine Hood	33 Carr Green Avenue	07837 334345
Leader: Pam Dimbleby				



MU MATTERS

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

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a global, ecumenical Christian movement led by women, that encourages people of all traditions to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. It is observed annually on the first Friday in March and this year will be celebrated **on** March 6 with a service for everyone at the Salvation Army Citadel. The WDP motto is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action" and is celebrated in over **170 countries**. The day begins in Samoa and follows the sun across the globe for 36–38 hours, ending in American Samoa. Each year, a different participating country is chosen to write the worship service, highlighting their unique culture, history, and current needs. This year it is **Nigeria** and their theme is: *"I Will Give You Rest: Come"* (based on Matthew 11:28–30). It aims to bring together women of diverse backgrounds to learn from one another, empathize with international concerns, and use their talents in service to society. *See poster on Page 20*



On Saturday 10th January, it was our turn to hold the Cake and Coffee morning which was very well attended, raising over £100. Thank you to everyone who supplied the goodies to eat or sell and to those who came to support us.



We also enjoyed good food and friendship at our annual New Year lunch, this year held at The Blacksmith's Arms.

15th February we celebrate our Corporate Communion in St John's Church.

On 17th February at 2pm we celebrate the Eucharist in the Lady Chapel followed by our AGM at the Chancel steps

On Thursday 26th February at 2pm in the Conference Suite there is a Bible reflection on St Matthew 11: 28-30 in advance of our participation in the World Day of Prayer the following week, on March 6th.

We hope to visit Railway Bridge View during February - date yet to be confirmed where we enjoy a short service, craft activity and fellowship. If you would like to join us at any of the above events, please come along, you will be made most welcome.

Shirley and *Ann*



Missions and Charities

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the retiring collection after the Yorkshire Christmas service.
 £300 was sent to Brighouse Salvation Army.



The following is a letter we've received from the parish of Nyakiswa.

DEAR FRIENDS,

HOW ARE YOUR CHURCH PARISHIONERS AND FAMILIES DOING? WE HOPE THAT YOU ARE ALL WELL, JOYFUL, AND CONTINUING IN FAITH IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO YOUR CHURCHES, ST. JOHN CHURCH AND ST. MATTHEW CHURCH, FOR THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION YOU HAVE GIVEN US. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY.

THE CHRISTIANS OF ST. JOHN NYAKISWA TAKE THIS CHANCE TO THANK YOU FOR THE FUNDS YOU SENT TO US THIS DECEMBER. WE PLAN TO USE THIS SUPPORT TO PURCHASE CHOIR EQUIPMENT, WHICH WILL HELP US IN SPREADING THE WORD OF GOD. WE ARE ALSO FACING CHALLENGES WITH ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, SO WE ARE PLANNING TO BUY A GENERATOR TO ASSIST US WHEN POWER IS UNAVAILABLE. IN ADDITION, WE HOPE TO PURCHASE A PIANO FOR THE CHURCH CHOIR. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR US.

WE THANK GOD FOR OUR NEW PASTOR REV. BONIFACE AWITI. HE IS MARRIED TO MARY BONIFACE, AND TOGETHER THEY ARE BLESSED WITH FOUR SONS.

AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW PASTOR, WE CONDUCTED ELECTIONS FOR CHURCH ELDERS AND LEADERS. MONICA JOAB, WHO ALSO SERVES AS THE CHURCH'S LINK OFFICER, RECEIVED THE HIGHEST

NUMBER OF VOTES AND WAS ELECTED AS THE CHURCH WARDEN. ALL THE LEADERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE NEW PASTOR AND TO BUILD STRONG FELLOWSHIP AMONG THE PARISHIONERS. WE THANK GOD FOR MONICA BECAUSE HER AND HER HUSBAND LOVE THE CHURCH ALTHOUGH SHE HAS BEEN OCCUPIED SINCE HER HUSBAND IS NOT WELL, HE ATTENDS CLINIC AT BUGANDO SO MONICA TAKE RESPOSIBILIY. PLEASE REMEMBER JOAB IN YOUR PRAYERS.

WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THAT GOD MAY BLESS YOU ALL. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. MAY GOD FILLS YOU WITH HIS LOVE AND CARE, LET ALL THAT YOU WISH FOR 2026 COME TRUE. NYAKISWA CONGREGATION WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR YOU ALL.

WITH LOVE AND THANKS GIVING,

NYAKISWA PARISH

MONICA JOAB

Due to unforeseen circumstances, a place has become available on a diocesan visit to Mara this summer (July 21st - August 6th), ending with a 2-day safari.

For more information, please contact Anne Wiggin 07507 155186.

BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL FOODBANK

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

- Pasta Sauce
- Cans of stewing steak
- Cans of macaroni cheese

Thank you so much for your support.

Rosemary & Norman



Missions and Charities *Continued*

Lent Appeal 2026

Unwanted currency = School meals



This year we are collecting your foreign currency to help feed hungry children with Mary's Meals. Mary's Meals serves nutritious school meals to children living in the world's poorest countries and can turn your foreign coins and notes into meals for hungry children.

Look out for more information and a collecting box in church.

Oriel

**FLOWERS
FOR A SPECIAL MEMORY**

Thank you to
Michael Storey

for donating monies
to the Flower Fund in January
It is much appreciated





Cut out and keep

What's on at St John's in 2026



<u>Special Events</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>
Orchestra of Square Chapel	04/01/2026	3pm	Church
Service of Healing & Wholeness	15/02/2026	4pm	Church
Paddock Orchestra Concert	14/03/2026	7:30pm	Church
Orchestra of Square Chapel	22/03/2026	3pm	Church
Easter Sunday	05/04/2026	11am	Church
Halifax Winter Choir	22/04/2026	7pm	Church
Service of Healing & Wholeness	26/04/2026	4pm	Church
Roger Davis & his band	16/05/2026	7pm	Hall
Rastrick Voices Concert - with WAM and String Group	17/07/2026	t.b.a.	Church
Orchestra of Square Chapel	21/06/2026	3pm	Church
Service of Healing & Wholeness	28/06/2026	4pm	Church
Organ Recital—David Price	02/07/2026	7pm	Church
St Johns Beer Festival	18&19/09/2026	Various	Hall
Service of Healing & Wholeness	20/09/2026	4pm	Church
All Souls Operatic Society	10/10/2026	2pm	Church
A Celebration of Simon & Garfunkel	14/11/2026	7:30pm	Church
Service of Healing & Wholeness	22/11/2026	4pm	Church
Pantomime	w/c 07/12/2026	7pm	Hall

What the Vicar has been doing

Just a selection...



Visit to Cygnet Lodge

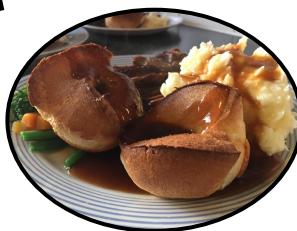


Home Communion
with Cherry

World Day of Prayer
preparation meeting



MU Annual Dinner
The Blacksmith's Arms



Missions &
Charities
Meeting

MU Wave of Prayer



Attended inaugural
Deaf BSL
church service



At The Space @ Field
Lane with
Canon Michael Storey

Wednesday Nighters'
Coffee Morning



Attended the
Bishop's
Study Day



Annual Huddersfield Episcopal
Area Epiphany Service



Meeting about
walls, trees
and paths in
St Matthew's
Churchyard



Unpacking Cherry's
shopping



Music Group Vocals at the
service for the Week of
Prayer for Christian Unity

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

Nigeria 2026

Please join us for a service
2.00 pm

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



Supporting the theme of the service,
 you are also very welcome at the

Thursday 26th February: 2:00

The Conference Centre

St John's Community Hall, Rastrick, HD6 1HN

Bible Reflection
I will give you rest, come

Matthew 11: 28-30

BSL Service at St John's, Rastrick,

Second Sunday each month:

11 Jan, 8 Feb, 8 Mar, 12 Apr, 10 May, 14 June



St John's Rastrick HD6 1HT

[Home](#) [Worship & Services](#) [Prayers](#) [Groups](#) [Events & Bookings](#) [Giving](#) [Safeguarding](#) [About](#)



**12.15pm = Coffee
1pm Service start.**

Email: deafminister@leeds.anglican.org

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



Church Porch Completion



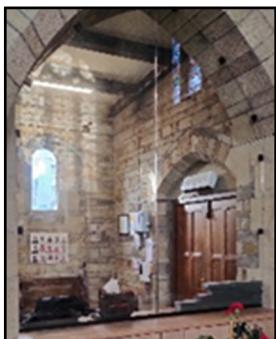
It was wonderful to see the new porch installed in January. The porch will provide a buffer against the cold from the outside door. It also gives us a space to display information about everything that is happening in our church and community. There is money left in the 'Pot' to ensure we create high-quality displays and information points

for anyone coming to church for services or the increasing number of events. The cost of the porch was £28,718, which has all been covered by grants as follows:

Bishops Development Fund	£1,420
Benefact Trust	£1,750
National Lottery	£16,520 (net of fundraiser costs)
Community Foundation	£3,000
Church Buildings Grant	£3,000
Congregation & General	£4,400 Total £30,090



In addition, in March 25, we purchased a new solar battery for the church, costing £3520, funded by the Bishop's Development Fund.

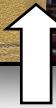


Over the last 3 years, we have spent over £200,000 on the church building and the organ refurbishment. More people are coming to church and wanting to book our church for regular events. Thanks go to those who work hard to make our church the welcoming place that we all want it to be.

Alan



Side aisle door



Crosses detail



Looking from
the church

2nd Annual Huddersfield Episcopal Area Annual Epiphany Service

Celebrating Volunteers



After a very successful service last year in Halifax Minster, the (now) Annual Epiphany Service for the Huddersfield Episcopal Area took place in Huddersfield Parish Church on Saturday 24th January.

Rev'd Michelle and Jane had been attending the Bishop's Study Day in the morning, but they were joined by members of our two congregations for the afternoon service. Hidden behind the pillar is Margaret Brown and Elizabeth Goddard.

The theme for the service was, "Celebrating Volunteers", and the sermon, given by The Rev. Canon Dr Mark Pryce, illustrated this very well and in such a way that it will stick in our memory.



He began with the figure of Joseph in the crib scene. Tying in with his theme from the morning, the Canon pointed out how Joseph is often pictured in the background (especially in art), but reaching into the crib scene, he pulled Joseph out and set him down at the front.

Joseph's role was an extremely important one, explained the Canon, a role which was told to him through dreams and which he took on, even though it meant taking on such a lot - but with obedience and trust.

- Remaining with Mary even though the child she was carrying was not his.
- Bringing up a child for which he wasn't the father.
- Taking his family on trust to Egypt as refugees.
- Finally returning, but not to his home but to a different city (Nazareth) where he had no connections and where he would have to start his carpentry business from scratch.

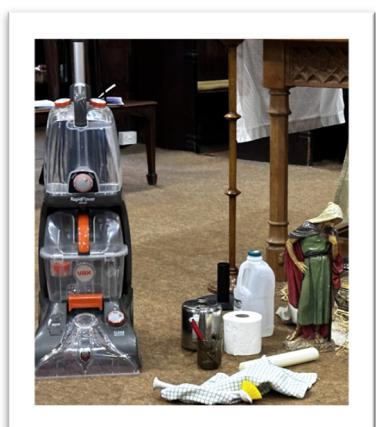
It was a big ask!

From a hidden spot in front of the first pew, Canon Dr Mark Pryce began to bring out some 'Sacred Symbols' to lay by Joseph, the first of which was a toilet roll! He went on to add cleaning materials, a milk bottle, a teapot, and a candle (amongst other things), culminating in a vacuum cleaner! These represented all the many people behind the scenes, who make up the church volunteers and who are essential in the life of the

church. Like Joseph, they are often in the background, but like Joseph, the roles they undertake are God-given and vital.

The Canon reminded us that our prompts from God may not be through a dream as they were with Joseph, but like Joseph, we need to listen, trust and obey.

We thank God for all of the wonderful Volunteers, quietly working in the background, who responded to God's prompting!



P
am

St. John's Rucksack Club

SATURDAY WALK - 14th February 2026

Area : Holme

Distance: 5.5 miles

Leave Church: 9.30

Walk Details:

Park at the quarry car park on the northside of Digley reservoir (Postcode HD9 2QD).

We will leave the car park and loop Digley reservoir, through Holme heading towards Yateholme reservoir.

Then passing Brownhill reservoir to Holmbridge returning to Digley.

Leaders: Roger & Margaret Ellis

Contact: 07551814243



The Helper

A Vicar was walking down the street one day when he noticed a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street.

However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the Vicar moves closer to the boy's position. He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the lad. And placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring.

Crouching down to the child's level, the Vicar smiles benevolently and asks, "And now what, my little man?"

To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"

Broadcaster.org.uk—Christian jokes.

Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee & Cake!

Held on the second Saturday each month. 10:00 - 12:00

Here's the complete list for the year.

January 10th:	Hosted by the Wednesday Nighters
February 14th:	Hosted by Church Music
March 14th:	Hosted by Missions & Charities
April 11th:	Hosted by Wednesday Nighters
May 9th:	Hosted by Christian Aid
June 13th:	Hosted by the Brownies
August 8th:	Hosted by the Mothers' Union
September 12th:	Hosted by the Wednesday Nighters
October 10th:	Hosted by the Rucksack Club
November 14th:	Hosted by the ECO Group
December 12th:	Hosted by the Mothers' Union

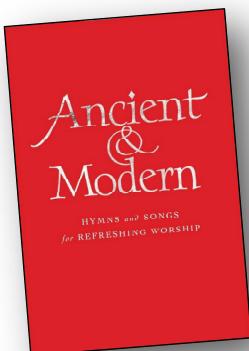




Music News

After a very busy December, it's been a bit quieter for our musicians.

The Music Group provided the music for our worship at the usual All Age Holy Communion on Sunday 4th, and on 25th for the special service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. (*Did you notice our two new recruits in the vocal section?*) The Group will also be playing at The Salvation Army Citadel for the service for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6th March. *See the poster on page 20.* I'm very pleased to say that Jane's wrist is mending beautifully, and that she returned to the piano and the music group in January!



On Saturday February 14th the church musicians are hosting the Coffee Morning, so please do come and support us. I'm hoping we can buy a copy of this hymn book for the organ loft from the money raised. It's the latest version of 'Ancient and Modern' and now includes some favourites like Bernadette Farrell (e.g. 'Christ be our Light'). There may also be ideas inside for the Rastrick Voices. Remaining monies to church funds.

Rastrick Voices; I'll be letting you know of our next opportunity to sing shortly.

P
am

p.s On 17th May, the Voices will be joining the WAM choir for a special concert which includes part of Vivaldi's Gloria. Keep the date free!



Paddock Orchestra Spring Concert



7.30pm Saturday March 14, 2026

Programme

St. John the Divine Church,
Rastrick, Brighouse. HD6 1HN

Emile Mayer, Overture No.2

Mozart Sinfonia Concertante

Mendelssohn, Symphony No. 4 'Italian'

Soloists

James Woodrow, Violin

Ben Kearsley, Viola



Conductor, Ben Kearsley Leader, Olwen Hobson

Artwork: Paelzerby - Pixabay



Advance tickets £12, students* £6, under 18 free

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/paddock-orchestra/t-rzpkpg>

On the door £14, students* £7, under 18 free.

*Student ID required

Caption that!

Can you think of a suitable caption for this photo of the Vicar with her plastic duck bishop?

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 21st Feb.



The winning caption for last month's photo was suggested by **Julia**, and was chosen by Anne from all of your (*anonymous*) replies:

"If nobody sees this photo then the calories won't count"

Eco Church - Swap Stall

The next
Eco Church
Swap Stall
is on:

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th March



COFFEE & CAKE

The next Coffee & Cake in Church
will be on **Saturday 14th February** 10.00-12:00.
Hosted by the Church Musicians



COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch
will be on **Tuesday 3rd February**, 12:00
Followed by the Reminiscent Cinema, 1:30



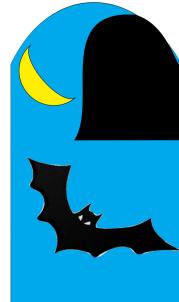
COFFEE & CONVERSATION

The next Coffee & Conversation
at The Platform Café, Railway Bridge View
will be on Friday 27th February 12:30 - 1:30



PUZZLE PAGE by the Bat in the Belfry

February already. Still need to keep well wrapped up. Try these two whilst toasting your toes in front of the fire.



26 – 03 Candlemas questions

Candlemas occurs this month. See how much you know about it.

- 1) Why is it called ‘Candlemas’?
- 2) What well-known flower is sometimes called ‘Candlemas Bells’
- 3) In traditional English folklore, what would happen if Christmas decorations weren’t taken down by Candlemas Eve? (Hint; From a poem by Robert Herrick)
- 4) In parts of Europe, what food is traditionally eaten on Candlemas, often with a coin held for luck?
- 5) What is the name for Candlemas in the Eastern Orthodox Church, referring to the meeting of Jesus and Simeon?
- 6) When does Candlemas usually fall in the Western Church?
- 7) What French painter and illustrator, who moved to London in 1871, painted ‘The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple’?
- 8) When Mary presented Jesus at the temple, she was told ‘a _____ will pierce your own soul also’ (NIV). What is the missing word in the blank space?
- 9) An appropriate poem for the Feast of the Dedication of Jesus is ‘A Song for Simeon’. What 20th century poet wrote it?
- 10) A traditional Scottish rhyme suggests that ‘If Candlemas day is bright and clear’ what will happen?



26 – 04 Nothing to be afraid of here.

The following is a list of phobias, but do you know of what they are a fear?

- 1) Alektorophobia 2) Batophobia 3) Chronophobia
- 4) Cyclophobia 5) Ephebiphobia 6) Hypnophobia
- 7) Papaphobia 8) Penthereraphobia
- 9) Pogonophobia 10) Selenophobia



Last month's answers

26 – 01 Rain Later Good

- 1) South East Iceland 2) Bailey 3) Faroes 4) Hebrides
- 5) Fair Isle 6) Viking 7) North Utsire 8) Cromarty
- 9) South Utsire 10) Forth 11) Forties 12) Fisher 13) Tyne
- 14) Dogger 15) German Bight 16) Humber 17) Thames
- 18) Dover 19) Wight 20) Portland 21) Plymouth
- 22) Lundy 23) Irish Sea 24) Malin 25) Rockall
- 26) Shannon 27) Fastnet 28) Sole 29) Fitzroy
- 30) Biscay 31) Trafalgar

26 – 02 Triangle

In each triangle, the number at the apex of the triangle equals the average of the two numbers at the bottom. So, the answer is 5.

MORE NEXT MONTH

SHIRLEY...

There are now four supermarkets in close proximity to each other in Brighouse and another less than a mile away. I wonder which will survive in the share of the money being spent? As they all vie for market share what about the corner shop and small traders in the town? They are struggling too. We all think how good it is to have personal service but we go to the supermarkets to buy bargain priced food. Will we regret putting the small shops out of business? As more and more people are shopping on line, will the supermarkets close the doors of their big stores to cut their costs of staff, lighting and heating? On line shopping will suit the housebound, infirm and worker with limited time to shop. However, when it comes to selection, I like to see what I am buying, whether it is clothes, household or some food. As stores close locally and the inconvenience caused by creating a new road around Brighouse just now, we may have to travel further for easier car parking spaces, i.e. ASDA or shopping centres, to achieve more comfortable 'hands on' shopping choices. How I miss the Brighouse of the past with such a variety of family-owned shops selling most of the things I needed. We had good shoe shops, fashion stores and electrical goods which have sadly disappeared. The best DIY shop has closed and Wilkinson's has been sold. Luckily the market has been renewed and Bon Marché and Peacocks have prevented another vacant shop occurring. Is it Council rents which prevent people from bringing their wares to sell in Brighouse or is it competition from the supermarkets and on-line markets? Which do you prefer?

It is not only local shop premises that are closing down. Some chapels have suffered in a similar way because they were not being used. It will not be long before churches are converted into apartments, warehouses or left derelict. I know some people won't care but a town without a 'heart' or 'soul', or place where solace can be found, will die too.



We have just celebrated Christmas but how many of you really thought about the origin of this particular event? Maybe it is just a Winter

spectacular with presents, pantomimes and parties. Whatever your beliefs, remember whether it is shops or churches, if you don't use them, you will lose them!

I apologise for the doom and gloom of the above. There is so much to be glad about. The longer days are on their way and Spring is just around the corner. Life's cycle still continues and its pendulum still swings from one side to the other. What I am trying to say is that we must have optimism and enjoy whatever we are doing each day – whether it's a little or a lot. Let's use any money, time or energy we have, in whatever way makes us happy. If we can share it so much the better!

Shirley

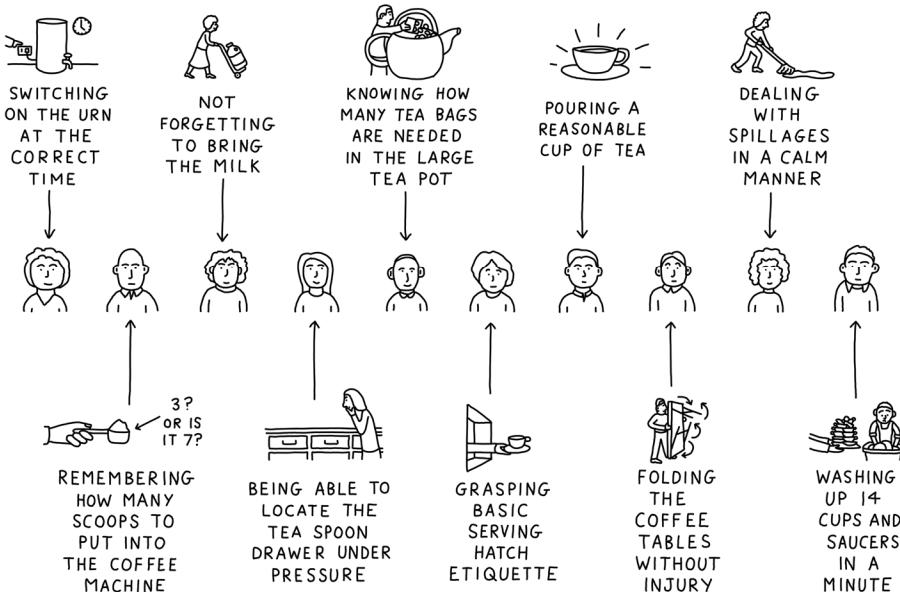
AND FINALLY....

In honour of all the talented people on the coffee rota, and because 'Music' is hosting the next Coffee Morning, and I've very happily managed to escape any kitchen duties **up till now !**

SKILLS

GAINED OVER A LIFETIME OF CHURCHGOING

Pam



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - FEBRUARY

Monday 2nd (*and every following Monday till Lent Groups*)

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

Tuesday 3rd

Community Lunch 12:00

Reminiscent Cinema 1:30



Sunday 8th

BSL Service, St John's, 1:00

Saturday 14th

Rucksack Club walk, leaving 9:30

Coffee & Cake, 10:00-12:00

Sunday 15th

Prayer ministry during the morning service

Healing and Wholeness Service 4:00 pm

Wednesday 18th

Ash Wednesday - service at St John's 7:00 pm

Monday 23rd

Lent Groups start (*see page 10*)

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

Thursday 26th

World Day of Prayer - Reflection, Conf. Suite, 2:00

Friday 27th

Coffee & Conversation, Railway Bridge View 12:30

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



Website : www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk



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



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Wi-Fi

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