St John the Divine Rastrick

Your Parish Magazine

March 2026

Mothering Sunday
15th March

£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)
1:00 p.m. BSL *(British Sign Language)* Service (2nd Sunday)

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

Fridays

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

Rev'd Michelle writes……

Welcome to the March magazine. This year we're in the season of Lent throughout the whole of this month.

I wonder how Lent is going for you. Maybe you have given something up or taken something extra on. Maybe you've joined a group for the Lent Course, *The 7 Ones of Christian Life,* as we come together as the churches of Rastrick to consider our oneness in Christ. If not, there is still time to join in. There are various groups meeting at different venues on different days and times of the week. Pick a leaflet up in church or contact Alan Hoggard for more information.

Whatever we are doing and however it is going, Lent gives us the opportunity to grow in faith in some way. To draw closer to God and to realise the extent of his great love for us, shown especially in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. As we journey through Lent we are challenged to go deeper into the mystery of Christ.

I am offering the opportunity again this Lent for a *Spiritual Spring Clean*. A one-hour conversation with me in confidence about anything that may be holding you back in your spiritual life. Do get in touch if you would find this helpful.

You will also find details of all our Holy Week and Easter services in the pages of this magazine. Please do come along and join the journey with us as much as you can. Please note that this year there is an addition to Maundy Thursday, with a vigil taking place after the service until midnight. For more details about this, and about what to expect during Holy Week and why it matters, please see the article *The Easter Triduum.*

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

Michelle

SERVICES AND CHURCH INFORMATION

SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - MARCH

Sunday 1st - 11:00 - Lent 2 - All Age Holy Communion
Sunday 8th - 11:00 - Lent 3 - Holy Communion
1:00pm - BSL (British Sign Language) Service
Sunday 15th - 11:00 - Mothering Sunday - Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd - 11:00 - Lent 5 – Holy Communion
Sunday 29th - 10:30 - Palm Sunday - Benefice Holy Communion

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - MARCH

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

- ◊ 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)
- ◊ Thursday May 14th - 7:00 - Ascension Day (St. J's)

NEXT SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S WITH PRAYER MINISTRY

* Sunday 15th March

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?

For March we have a simple, but powerful Lenten Prayer
from 'Healing Prayer'.

HealingPrayer

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." —
James 4:8 (NRSV)

Merciful Father, draw me closer to You
during this holy season.

Help me release distractions
and focus on Your truth.

Cleanse my heart and renew my spirit
so I may walk faithfully with You.

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 March

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 March 26

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
02-Mar	**03-Mar**	**04-Mar**	**05-Mar**	**06-Mar**	**07-Mar**
Psalms 26 Genesis 43.16-end Hebrews 1	Psalm 50 (or) 87 Genesis 44.1-17 Hebrews 2.1-9	Psalm 35 Genesis 44.18-end Hebrews 2.10-end	Psalm 34 (or) 90 Genesis 45.1-15 Hebrews 3.1-6	Psalms 40 Genesis 45.16-end Hebrews 3.7-end	Psalms 3 Genesis 46.1-7 Hebrews 4.1-13
09-Mar	**10-Mar**	**11-Mar**	**12-Mar**	**13-Mar**	**14-Mar**
Psalms 5 Genesis 47.1-27 Hebrews 4.14 – 5.10	Psalms 6 Genesis 47.28–end 48 Hebrews 5.11 – 6.12	Psalm 38 (or) 110 Genesis 49.1-32 Hebrews 6.13-end	Psalms 56 Genesis 49.33-end 50 Hebrews 7.1-10	Psalm 22 (or) 139 Exodus 1.1-14 Hebrews 7.11-end	Psalm 31 (or) 120 Exodus 1.22 – 2.10 Hebrews 8
16-Mar	**17-Mar**	**18-Mar**	**19-Mar**	**20-Mar**	**21-Mar**
Psalms 70 Exodus 2.11-22 Hebrews 9.1-14	Psalms 54 Exodus 2.23 – 3.20 Hebrews 9.15-end	Psalms 63 Exodus 4.1-23 Hebrews 10.1-18	Joseph of Nazareth Romans 4.13-18 Matthew 1.18-end	Psalm 102 (or) 142 Exodus 6.2-13 Hebrews 10.26-end	Psalm 32 (or) 147 Exodus 7.8-end Hebrews 11.1-16
23-Mar	**24-Mar**	**25-Mar**	**26-Mar**	**27-Mar**	**28-Mar**
Psalms 73 Exodus 8.1-19 Hebrews 11.17-31	Psalms 35 Exodus 8.20-end Hebrews 11.32 – 12.2	The Annunciation Hebrews 10.4-10 Luke 1.26-38	Psalms 40 Exodus 9.13-end Hebrews 12.14-end	Psalms 22 Exodus 10 Hebrews 13.1-16	Psalms 23 Exodus 11 Hebrews 13.17-end

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

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

Rastrick Group of Churches
Lent 2026

Seven Ones of our Faith

It's Easy to Book Your Place!

The Groups are inter-church and 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 have begun, but it's not too late to join.

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				

The Easter Triduum

A Guide to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day

The Latin word 'triduum', which simply means a period of three days, describes the time which begins with the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and ends with the proclamation of Easter. The services during this period take us deep into the heart of Christ, and deep into the mysteries of our faith. The effect of celebrating them one after another can be simply transformative. I hope that you will be able to share as fully as possible in our worship at this most holy time, and that doing so will bring you closer to the love of Christ poured out on the cross, and rising triumphantly from the grave.

Maundy Thursday – Eucharist of the Lord's Supper

Maundy Thursday takes its name from the Latin word 'mandatum', meaning 'commandment', because on this day, at his Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus gave his commandment that his followers should love one another. Setting an example for them, he took a towel and a bowl and washed their feet, an action which we imitate after the sermon. This loving spirit of service is at the heart of the story of Jesus' Passion and should be at the heart of everything we do as Christians. I do encourage you to join in with this and allow me to wash your feet.

Throughout Lent we have not sung the Gloria. Tonight, it returns as we celebrate the light of Jesus being with us for 'a little longer' (John 13.33) before the darkness of his arrest and death, and as we give thanks for the gift of his presence with us in Holy Communion.

After we have received communion, the tone changes from one of celebration to one of foreboding. We prepare to follow Jesus as he moves

from supper to the Garden of Gethsemane, the garden where he will be betrayed, arrested, and abandoned by his followers. In a new addition this year, we will be having a vigil until midnight. An 'altar of repose' will have been prepared in the Lady Chapel to represent this garden, and we carry some remaining consecrated bread and wine from Communion, representing Christ, round to the altar in the chapel where it will rest. The altar and the church are now stripped. This symbolises Christ laying aside his divine power in order to submit to earthly powers. We are left with a church that is bare and cold, with all its ornaments and colourful hangings removed. In this darkness, Jesus invites us to watch and pray with him.

The Watch will then begin and continues until midnight. If you decide to leave the church, please do so in silence. If you are able and willing, you are invited to enter the chapel to pray or reflect, concentrating thoughts on the love of Jesus, and remembering that often we are like the disciples on the first Maundy Thursday, who fell asleep when Jesus asked them, in his hour of need, to stay awake with him.

Please feel free to stay as long as you like, to go away and come back later, and to leave just when you are ready. The candles will be extinguished at midnight, after a short prayer.

Good Friday

We gather outside the church at 11.30am for a short liturgy reminding us of Jesus' journey to the cross and then begin the walk in silence to Central Methodist church following the cross. This is an ecumenical walk and people from different churches are invited to join us. It begins at St John's simply because as we all get older, several people have indicated that to begin at St Matthews or Upper Edge is simply too much. This walk is a powerful witness to the heart of our faith – the crucifixion of Jesus. The Ecumenical service at Central will include Bible readings of the passion and crucifixion, Good Friday hymns and prayers.

In the evening on Good Friday there will be a Meditation service.
A number of people have commented in the past how powerful and moving this is, as we hear from different characters in the Good Friday story and recognise the depth of our sin against the overwhelming love and power of Jesus on the cross.

The Easter Vigil

The Resurrection of Christ will be proclaimed with the rising of the sun on Easter morn in the Vicarage garden. We begin in darkness, hearing the story of Moses and the escape of the Israelites from Egypt, then we light the fire and from it the Paschal candle. To keep vigil means to keep watch, and in this service we watch in prayer as Christ passes over from death to life. The Paschal candle is the symbol of the new light of the risen Christ. It is inscribed with the sign of the cross, with the year, and with the Greek letters alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, to remind us that Christ is 'yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega'.

We proclaim with a loud voice, 'Alleluia, Christ is risen'.

We will then celebrate the resurrection with party poppers and blowers, Bucks Fizz, a bacon sandwich or croissants, and a hot drink.

At our Easter Sunday morning Eucharist service, we come together with great joy to celebrate, knowing that Jesus is risen. We sing the Gloria again and receive communion with great thankfulness and praise.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Rev'd Michelle

Snowdrops

Snowdrops

Carpets of snowdrops emerge in woodlands, meadows and borders
Signalling the end of winter, waking up from sweet dreams
Bowing pure white heads to the sun's glory
Elegant, drooping petals resembling teardrops.

Nature's humble strength, beauty and persistence
Spreading highly scented, delicious honey aromas
Symbols of the promise of spring, purity and religion
Beacons of positivity, hope and rebirth.

Margaret Ellis

...with photo taken in Fixby Crematorium grounds

Looking ahead to Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday (March 29th)

10.30am Benefice Service at St John's
Service will include a dramatised reading of the passion gospel.
7.00pm St John's Film: 'The Chosen, Part 1

Monday 7.00pm - St John's Film: 'The Chosen', Part 2
Tuesday 7.00pm - St John's Film: 'The Chosen', Part 3
Wednesday 10:30am - Holy Communion at St Matthew's
7.00pm - Joint Lent Group Reflection at Upper Edge Baptist Church

Maundy Thursday

7.00pm - Holy Communion including foot washing and stripping of the sanctuary at St John's
8.00pm Vigil till Midnight

Good Friday

11.30am - Walk of witness from St John's
12.30pm - Good Friday United Churches Service at Central Methodist Church
7pm - Meditation Service, St. Matthew's

Holy Saturday

2.00pm Prayer Walk - starting from St Matthew's

Easter Day (April 5th)

6.00am - Sunrise Service in the Vicarage Garden, followed by breakfast (bacon butties and croissants) Join us in person or live on Facebook.
9.15am All-age communion at St Matthew's
10.30am Morning Worship at Upper Edge
11am All-age communion at St John's

Healing when you've been hurt

16 FEBRUARY 2026

''He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.'' Psalm 147:3 NKJV

There are times when we all experience rejection, betrayal, and disappointment. But if we hold on to those experiences, we can remain in a state of perpetual hurt. Indeed, when we refuse to forgive and move on, we place a weapon into Satan's hands that he will use against us at every opportunity. It's not what has happened to us, but how we respond that matters. If we let the hurt take control of our thoughts, it can undermine our emotional well-being. Jesus doesn't want us to go through life carrying old wounds; He wants to heal us. This is why He gave us the precious promises in His Word. Regardless of how badly we've been hurt, God always has our complete restoration in mind. '"For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds," says the Lord' (Jeremiah 30:17 NKJV). If you have spent years wrestling with unresolved hurt, God has provided a way out. 'He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.' When He was on earth, Jesus was constantly healing people's pain and comforting them in their sorrow. And when He left earth, He didn't leave us high and dry. He sent the eternal source of comfort to live inside of each of us – the Holy Spirit, who is our comforter, helper, and friend (see John 14:16). The hurts you've experienced are real, but God doesn't want them to be your greatest reality. His Spirit is always with you and will never leave you (see Hebrews 13:5). And you can draw from His strength through every painful circumstance and find healing when you've been hurt.)

Copies of 'Word for Today' are available online or at the back of the church

MU MATTERS

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

Our corporate communion this year was on Sunday the 15th February.

- Reading Shirley Stow Galatians 3 : 23 - 29
- Gospel Margaret France Luke 8 : 40 - 56
- Prayers Hilary

We had a sketch in the sermon slot "The woman who touched the cloak "

- Martha's friend Anne Beaumont
- Martha Hilary
- Jesus Ann Johnson
- Disciple Rev Michelle

Hymns (chosen by MU members)

- Great is Thy Faithfulness
- Guide Me Oh Thy Great Redeemer
- Oh Jesus I Have Promised
- Oh God Our Help in Ages Past.

26th Feb we joined the Bible reflection meeting Matthew 11:28-30 in preparation for...

6th March - Service for the *World Day of Prayer to be held at 2.00pm in the Salvation Army Citadel Brighouse.*

Saturday 14th March - Visit to Manchester Cathedral for the 150th Anniversary Provincial Service.

17th March 2.00pm at St John's - Eucharist followed by branch meeting when Hilary Pollard will present a talk on the Life and Vison of our founder Mary Sumner.

Shirley

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

Everyone is very welcome

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

What the Vicar has been doing

Just a selection...

Visit to Cygnet Lodge

At the Church Musicians' Coffee Morning

Carr Green School KS2 talk on The Bible

Woodhouse School Lent Assemblies

Wedding of Robert and Sasha at St Matthew's.

Went to St Matthew's Wednesday morning Coffee & Chat

Chaired the Wednesday Nighters' AGM

Gatecrashing 'Open the Book' at Carr Green School

Carr Green KS1 Workshops - God's wonderful world

Took part in the Healing and Wholeness service

Two Ash Wednesday services

At the Bible Reflection for the World Day of Prayer

At The Bishop's Retreat for Lent

At the 1st session of the Lent Group

St. John's Rucksack Club

ST JOHNS RUCKSACK CLUB WALK

Saturday 21st March 2026

Leaders: Judith and Eric Ogden
Tel: 01484 716652

UPPER RYBURN 6 miles

Start from Church 9.30 am

Park at Royd Lane Car Park
An intimate look of the upper Ryburn Valley

BSL Service at St John's, Rastrick,

Second Sunday each month:

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

12.15pm = Coffee
1pm Service start.

Email: deafminister@leeds.anglican.org

Missions and Charities

Lent Appeal 2026

We are collecting any foreign or obsolete UK currency (notes and coins) throughout Lent - see display in church. The proceeds ultimately go to Mary's Meals, a charity which feeds hungry children in their schools across the globe.

On March 14th, the Coffee and Cake morning will be hosted by the Missions and Charities group to support Mary's Meals.

Missions and Charities Group

BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL FOODBANK

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

- Anti-bacterial sprays
- Anti-perspirants
- Rice Pudding
- Anything dairy free

Thank you so much for your support.

Rosemary & Norman

Eco group - **The Big Plastic Count 2026** by John

"Eh, it's great to be doin' me bit for the planet again!" say I, separating out the plastics and tins into my square white bag. An hour later comes that familiar rattle of bottles, the low rumble of drinks cans and bean tins rolling into the recycling lorry. Off goes my plastic waste, to be refabricated into new bottles or perhaps seats for a local park…

…only, that's unlikely. In the UK, 58% of plastic waste is burnt in an incinerator. Of the remainder, some is shipped abroad, some goes to landfill, with only 17% being recycled.

The Big Plastic Count is a citizen-science initiative created by Greenpeace UK and the charity, 'Everyday Plastic'. It's very simple; during the week 9-15th March you mark on a simple check sheet each plastic item you discard. This will highlight the enormous volume of plastic that we waste, to urge the government to introduce legislation to limit its use and manufacturers to change the way they package our goods. [My experience is that change *is* happening, even if rather too slowly].

We, the Eco group, are taking part as individuals through the website https://thebigplasticcount.com/ which contains information and a short video. Otherwise, there'll be a box containing count sheets at the back of church, so we can submit a combined total.

Thank you for supporting the initiative.

FLOWERS
FOR A SPECIAL MEMORY

Thank you to

Sheila Richmond

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

EASTER LILLIES

If you wish to donate an Easter Lily
in remembrance of a loved one,
please put £5 in an envelope,
write the names of those to be remembered
on front of envelope and place in basket
at back of church, by the pillar.

PALM SUNDAY, 29TH MARCH
IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUCH REQUESTS

Barbara Rukin

Notes from a churchwarden 13 – Great Scott!!!

At a recent service, the preacher was heard to declare 'and God sent us David Attenborough'. I won't say what went through my mind, especially as I believe said gentleman is an agnostic, but that probably doesn't matter. It did make me think, however, as to who might have inspired Sir David Attenborough, that is, other than divine intervention. Well, there was a gentleman, who some of us I am sure will remember, and his name was Sir Peter Scott.

Sir Peter Scott was the only son of Robert Falcon Scott, the Antarctic explorer, and was only two when his father died. His father had sent a message to his mother on that last fateful Antarctic journey which read 'Make the boy interested in Natural History. It is better than games. They encourage it at some schools…'

Peter Scott had many accomplishments throughout his life. He was a writer, artist, and broadcaster. He was also a bronze medalist in sailing at 1936 Olympics, amongst other sailing achievements; saw distinguished war service in the Navy, and later in life became a glider pilot. His first love, however, was conservation, starting with wildfowl, which he sustained throughout his life. Both pre and post war he undertook trips to Greenland, Iceland and Canada following migration patterns of geese and studying those damaged by shot from wildfowling. He discovered a new race of Greenland geese. He was instrumental in saving the Hawaiian Goose. After the war there were only 32 geese in Hawaii and less than 50 worldwide. Three were sent to Scott's wildfowl centre at Slimbridge and by 1960 there were 126 at Slimbridge, a similar number in Hawaii (some having been sent back from Slimbridge). By 2020 the population was in excess of 2000 and its classification has been reduced from 'endangered' to 'threatened'

Hawaiian Goose

He set up the Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and was a co-founder of the World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly the World Wildlife Fund) as well as designing its familiar Panda logo. He was vice president of the organisation, as well as chairman of the British appeal.

Some of us will no doubt remember the TV series 'Look' which he created and ran from 1955 to 1969. This was followed by 'Survival' which ran from 1961 to 2001. One should also remember that his achievements were mainly in an era when television was still relatively new, with a maximum of two channels and in black and white. Many of his early expeditions were written down and published in book form or broadcast on the radio. He recognised, however, the importance of television for Natural History and conservation, and the very first of this type of programme was broadcast from his home at Slimbridge in 1953.

Slimbridge Wetlands Centre

His travels in the interests of conservation continued throughout his life with expeditions to Europe, Africa, the Galapagos, and the Antarctic. He was very much a 'hands on' conservationist and his achievements, of which there are many may not always be obvious. He influenced the change in policy of the International Whaling Commission, who introduced a moratorium on whaling. He was, also, central to the signing of the 'Antarctic Treaty' to prevent exploitation of that area.

He served as chairman of the Species Survival Commission (1962-1978) (Part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature) and produced a set of red data books containing details of threatened species. That became the 'red list' and is still used today.

In conclusion, to quote Martin Spray CBE, DSc ; 'Peter Scott was among a group of far sighted individuals who saw what was happening to the natural world and were determined to do something about it. But he was also far ahead of his time in recognising, more than seven decades ago, a fact that now, in this world increasingly disconnected from nature, so vital to our future on this wonderful planet. To quote him, "The most effective way to save the threatened and decimated natural world is to cause people to fall in love with it again with its beauty and its reality." Surely, Peter was the architect of modern conservation. He reflected then on our great challenge now in our digitally dominated and environmentally challenged world.'

Sir David Attenborough sites Sir Peter's pioneering TV career as his inspiration and calls him his 'hero' and the 'patron saint of conservation'.

I don't know if God 'sent us' Sir David Attenborough, in that sense, but if he did, Sir Peter Scott was the guide.

David Marshall

Revision of Church Electoral Roll

This is to give notice that on 22 March the process of revising the existing Church Electoral Roll will begin. At this point a notice detailing the Church Representation Rules will be displayed in Church. If you want to stay on the Electoral Roll and nothing has changed no action is required. If you're not currently on the Electoral Roll and wish to be or if something has changed e.g. your address, forms will be available at the back of Church from this date.
Rosemary Lake

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 the Church Musicians** ✓
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

First of all, a very BIG 'Thank you' to everyone who helped, baked, or simply came along to the February Coffee Morning, hosted by the Church Musicians. You raised an amazing £180, which is more than enough to buy one of these hymn books for the organ loft and one for the Bechstein, with still a very decent amount to go to general Church funds. It's the latest version of 'Ancient and Modern' and now includes some favourite hymn writers such as Bernadette Farrell *('Christ be our Light').* There may also be ideas inside for the Rastrick Voices.

Exciting news...

At the moment the Voices are 'rehearsing their socks off' to be ready for Holy Week and Easter. Hopefully we'll be singing, 'God so loved the World' on Maundy Thursday, but we'll definitely be singing on Easter Sunday! Rev'd Michelle is hoping that we can start a new tradition *(is that actually a thing - a **new** tradition?)* of singing Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus' on Easter Sunday, with the opportunity for the congregation to join in! Oh, but it's so difficult to learn! ...**thankfully, the Voices are all stars!**

The Music Group too, will be busy over Holy Week, but there'll be more about that in April's magazine. Before then, you can sing with them as they provide the music for the World Day of Prayer service at the Salvation Army Citadel on Friday 6th March. *See page 17* Do come along!

Pam

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

Paddock Orchestra

7.30pm Saturday March 14, 2026

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

Programme

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

*Student ID required

...with Anne Beaumont, John Hearson, Graham Kennedy and Pam!

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 21st March.

The winning caption for last month's photo of the Vicar with her plastic duck bishop was suggested by

Margaret Ellis

and was chosen by Rev'd Michelle from all of your *(anonymous)* replies:

It's not every day you have an opportunity to squeeze a bishop.

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 March** 10.00-12:00.
Hosted by the Missions & Charities

COMMUNITY LUNCH

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

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

PUZZLE PAGE by the Bat in the Belfry

March, and hopefully Spring isn't far away. Might need to start dusting off the gardening tools. Try these two when you've finished the weeding

26 – 03 Sudoku

Can you solve the following. The rules to play Sudoku are quite simple. Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain ONE instance of each of the numbers 1 to 9

8	9	2			3		1	4
				6	8		7	
4	5			8				1
		8				2		
1		3	7			5		
	7	1			6		5	
5		9	2				8	
6					7			9

26 – 04 To be or not to be

Below are anagrams of ten of Shakespeare's plays. Can you unscramble them.

1) **INDIA COUNTS RUST**
2) **DART DOCILE RUSSIANS**
3) **SOOTS VELOUR BALLS**
4) **HEM REFECTORY DOORS**
5) **THEN WOMEN OF NOTE GREET VAL**
6) **HEM FEATHER TONIGHT S.W.**
7) **FRIENDS WORRY MOVE WHIST E.**
8) **RESUME FRAME AROUSE**
9) **TEN HOVER FACE MET CHIN**
10) **TENT LAWLESS DWELL HALL**

Last month's answers

26 – 03 Candlemas questions

1) It's the festival (Mass) for candles, when all church candles for the year are brought in and blessed, symbolizing Christ as the light **2)** Snowdrops **3)** Goblins would come **4)** Pancakes (or crepes**)** **5)** The Meeting (or Hyperpante) **6)** February 2nd **7)** James Tissot **8)** Sword (Luke 2:35 NIV) **9)** T S Eliot **10)** 'There'll be two winters in the year'

26 – 04 Nothing to be afraid of here

Fear of 1) Chickens **2)** Being close to tall buildings **3)** Time **4)** Bicycles **5)** Teenagers **6)** Sleep **7)** The Pope **8)** The Mother-in-Law **9)** Beards **10)** The Moon

MORE NEXT MONTH

SHIRLEY…

Marching Towards Spring

Last month I was surprised to read in the Saturday Mail, quotes from the Good Samaritan by Boris Johnson. He told how a London bus driver had been sacked for behaving as a Good Samaritan. A passenger on his bus had dragged a necklace from a female passenger's neck and jumped off the bus. Without considering what he was doing, the sixty-year-old bus driver jumped from his driving seat and chased the thief down the road. He retrieved the necklace and gave it back to the girl. The thief followed and punched the driver. In defence the driver turned and punched the thief and knocked him out. He held the thief until the police arrived then reported the incident to his boss. He has since been sacked from his job! Boris Johnson commented that the other passengers did not offer support. He compared them to the priest and the Levite who passed by and also to people today who do nothing when they see a mobile phone being snatched from someone close to them in the street. The bus company said the driver should not have left his bus or punched a passenger. Boris Johnson thought that the driver should have had a medal not the sack for his selfless bravery – the thief could have been armed. Would you have been a good Samaritan?

Mothering Sunday is celebrated this month. As children we sometimes take for granted what our mother does or has done for us. We each have a unique personality and when we are born our mother has to learn from scratch how to deal with this, we do not come with instructions!

As a mother and now looking back on my daughters' childhood, I wonder could I have handled their upbringing better. However, when I see them now, I am proud of them both so I must have done something right!

Blessings on all mothers and their children!

There is nothing more enriching for our Faith than a Home Group. During the year many small groups of people meet together to discuss varied aspects of what being a Christian means. Some groups have a specific topic i.e. Lent and Advent groups, whilst others follow different courses of varied content. Because we are all individuals with different opinions and ideas, the discussions are enriching. We learn more about each other too. Everything of a personal nature said at these groups is confidential and stays within the walls of wherever they take place. If you feel a bit cautious about coming for the first time, contact the host who will ensure you feel comfortable with everything. Do it now and you will be surprised at how fulfilling and enjoyable it will be for you." I wrote this in the magazine years ago! It still applies today. Lent is upon us but it is never too late to give them a try and judge for yourself. Be ready for Easter celebrations

Shirley

AND FINALLY....

Please see page 26

Dave Walker - Used with permission

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - MARCH

save the date

Monday 2nd
Lent Group - 50 Archbell Ave. - 2:00 *(& every Monday in March)*

Tuesday 3rd
Community Lunch 12:00
Reminiscent Cinema 1:30
Lent Group - 120 Clough Lane 7:00pm *(& every Tues. in March)*

Wednesday 4th
Lent Group - Upper Edge Baptist 10:00 *(& every Wed. in March)*

Thursday 5th
Lent Group - 13 Bell Row 2:00 *(& every Thurs in March)*
Lent Group - 33 Carr Green Ave 7:00pm *(& every Thurs in March)*

Friday 6th
World Day of Prayer service - Salvation Army Citadel 2:00

Sunday 8th
BSL Service, St John's, 1:00

Saturday 14th
MU Visit to Manchester Cathedral
Coffee & Cake, 10:00-12:00 (Missions & Charities)
Paddock Orchestra Spring Concert 7:30

Sunday 15th
Prayer ministry during the morning service 11:00

Tuesday 17th
MU Eucharist and presentation on Mary Sumner 2:00

Saturday 21st
Rucksack Club Walk Leaving at 9:30

Sunday 22nd
Orchestra of the Square Chapel Concert 3:00

Monday 23rd
Beer & Banter *(at The Four Sons)* 7:00

Sunday 29th
Palm Sunday Service (Benefice) 10:30
Film: 'The Chosen' Part 1 7:00pm

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

Website : www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk
Parish Calendar : http://tinyurl.com/jcjrehp
Facebook : www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivine

Wi-Fi
Network : everywhere
Password : anywhere