

# St John the Divine Rastrick

## Your Parish Magazine



April  
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 - janehearsen83@gmail.com

**Safeguarding**

Jane Hearson - 07503 931444 - janehearsen83@gmail.com

**Health & Safety**

Please contact the Vicar or a Churchwarden.

**Hall Bookings**

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

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**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 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.....*



It was quite difficult to know where to pitch this month's letter as this magazine is being published on Palm Sunday just as we begin Holy Week. This is a solemn time of repentance and reflection as we make the journey with Jesus to the cross. But then within a week we will be celebrating Easter, and the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I wonder how your plans to keep a holy Lent have gone this year. Have you managed to join a Lent course or take extra time for God or to serve others? However it has worked out for you, as Holy Week begins can I encourage you to join in as much as you can with the various services and events on offer. It is so important to make that journey with Jesus to the cross before entering the celebration of his resurrection. The joy is all the sweeter when you have first accompanied Jesus to the depths of pain and despair, and you realize something of his great love for you in the agony of his death on the cross.

You will find details of all our Holy Week and Easter services within the pages of this magazine. A particular highlight will be the Maundy Thursday service when our own Rastrick Voices will be singing *God So Loved The World* from Stainer's *The Crucifixion*. As I mentioned last month there will also be a vigil in the Lady Chapel after this service. It promises to be a very special and moving service. Can I also recommend the Good Friday services – the Walk of Witness, ecumenical service at Central Methodist at 12.30pm and evening Mediation service at St Matthew's where we will hear from different characters in the Good Friday story and their part in the events that unfolded on that most solemn and important day.

There will be a wonderful new addition to our Easter Day service too. Come along and join the celebration to find out more.

With my prayers and every blessing for a joyous Easter when it comes.

*Michelle*

## SERVICES AND CHURCH INFORMATION

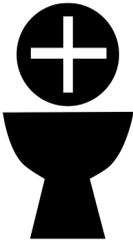
### SUNDAY SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - APRIL

Sunday 5th - 11:00 - Easter Day - Holy Communion

Sunday 12th - 11:00 - 2nd Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion  
1:00pm - BSL (British Sign Language) Service

Sunday 19th - 11:00 - 3rd Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion

Sunday 26th - 11:00 - 4th Sunday of Easter - Morning Worship



### MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - APRIL

Wednesday 1st - 10:30 - St Matthew's

Wednesday 8th - 10:30 - St John's

Wednesday 15th - 10:30 - St Matthew's

Wednesday 22nd - 10:30 - St John's

Wednesday 29th - No service on the 5th Sunday

### 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)
- ◇ Sunday May 31st - 10:30 - Joint Benefice Service (St M's)

### NEXT SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S WITH PRAYER MINISTRY

\* Sunday 17th May



Please join Rev'd Michelle live on St John's Facebook page for Morning Prayer at 8.30am every morning Tuesday to Saturday,



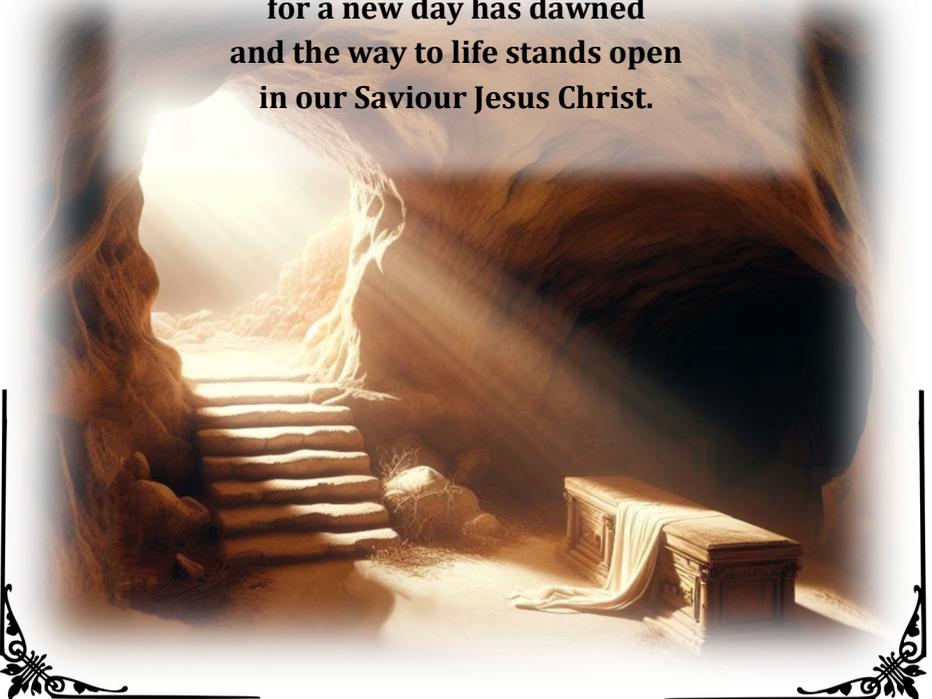
or you can catch up later in the day on Facebook or via the link on the home page of our Website.

## PRAYER PAGE

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

Here is the alternative collect  
for Easter Day.

**God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.**



## 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.

- ◆ No Prayer Ministry in April
- ◆ 17th May
- ◆ 21st June
- ◆ 19th July
- ◆ 16th August



*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 15<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup>, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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 April 26

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<b><u>30-Mar</u></b> Psalms 111 Exodus 12.1-14 1 Corinthians 15.1-11	<b><u>31-Mar</u></b> Psalms 112 Exodus 12.14-36 1 Corinthians 15.12-19	<b><u>01-Apr</u></b> Psalms 113 Exodus 12.37-end 1 Corinthians 15.20-28	<b><u>02-Apr</u></b> Psalms 114 Exodus 13.1-16 1 Corinthians 15.29-34	<b><u>03-Apr</u></b> Psalms 115 Exodus 13.17 – 14.14 1 Corinthians 15.35-50	<b><u>04-Apr</u></b> Psalms 116 Exodus 14.15-end 1 Corinthians 15.51-end
<b><u>13-Apr</u></b> Psalms 2 Exodus 15.1-21 Colossians 1.1-14	<b><u>14-Apr</u></b> Psalms 8 Exodus 15.22 – 16.10 Colossians 1.15-end	<b><u>15-Apr</u></b> Psalms 16 Exodus 16.11-end Colossians 2.1-15	<b><u>16-Apr</u></b> Psalms 28 Exodus 17 Colossians 2.16 – 3.11	<b><u>17-Apr</u></b> Psalms 57 Exodus 18.1-12 Colossians 3.12 – 4.1	<b><u>18-Apr</u></b> Psalms 63 Exodus 18.13-end Colossians 4.2-end
<b><u>20-Apr</u></b> Psalms 96 Exodus 19 Luke 1.1-25	<b><u>21-Apr</u></b> Psalms 98 Exodus 20.1-21 Luke 1.26-38	<b><u>22-Apr</u></b> Psalm 105 (or) 34 Exodus 24 Luke 1.39-56	<b><u>23-Apr</u></b> St George 2 Timothy 2.3-13 John 15.18-21	<b><u>24-Apr</u></b> Psalm 107 (or) 31 Exodus 28.1-4a, 29-38 Luke 2.1-20	<b><u>25-Apr</u></b> Mark the Evangelist Ephesians 4.7-16 Mark 13.5-13
<b><u>27-Apr</u></b> Psalm 103 (or) 44 Exodus 32.1-14 Luke 2.41-end	<b><u>28-Apr</u></b> Psalm 139 (or) 48 Exodus 32.15-34 Luke 3.1-14	<b><u>29-Apr</u></b> Psalm 135 Exodus 33 Luke 3.15-22	<b><u>30-Apr</u></b> Psalm 118 (or) 56 Exodus 34.1-10 Luke 4.1-13	<b><u>01-May</u></b> Philip & James Ephesians 1.3-10 John 14.1-14	<b><u>02-May</u></b> Psalm 34 (or) 68 Exodus 40.17-end Luke 4.31-37

Join Michelle on line Tuesday - Saturday:

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

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

**Everyday Faith**

**Daily Prayer**

## Holy Week and 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

**Easter**  
SUNDAY

BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK UNITED CHURCHES

# Good Friday

Friday  
3rd April

11:30 am.

## Walk of Witness

starting at

St John the Divine, Rastrick

HD6 1HN

12:30 pm.

## Good Friday Service

at

Brighouse Central Methodist

HD6 1AQ

Join us  
for either  
or both

*Join us...*

*Walk of  
Witness.*

*St. John's to  
Central  
Methodist  
for the  
Good Friday  
service.*

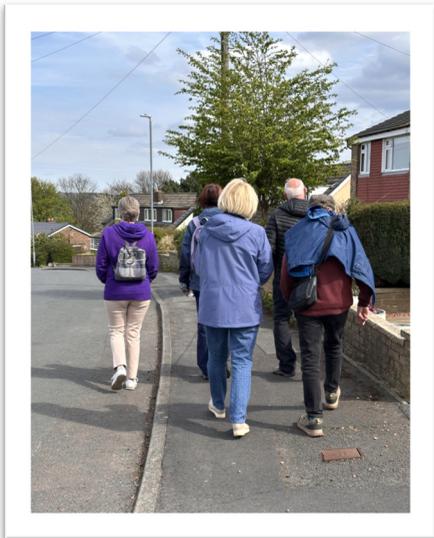


## Prayer Walk – Holy Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2pm

This year, on that Saturday sandwiched between Good Friday and Easter Day that we call Holy Saturday, we will again walk from St Matthew's down to St Johns, taking a 'round the houses' route and stopping to pray at regular intervals for our neighbourhood. It is a lovely afternoon and always well received.

We start at 2:00 from St Matthews and we will again finish at St Johns with refreshments & hot cross buns!

Prayer walks are a wonderful opportunity to get out into our neighbourhood and community. It is a chance to see what needs the area has, and to pray over those needs. It is a chance to pray for the people and organisations in Rastrick. All Welcome



*Some of last year's prayer walkers*

*Sunrise Service 2024*





## MU MATTERS

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

**5<sup>th</sup> March** we joined with Railway Bridge Apartments in a Table Top Sale raising £50 for our funds.

**6<sup>th</sup> March** we celebrated the World Day of Prayer at the Salvation Army Citadel where the service had been written for us by Christian women in Nigeria.

**14<sup>th</sup> March** several members travelled to Manchester Cathedral for the Provincial celebration of the MU 150th anniversary.

**17<sup>th</sup> March** Hillary Pollard asked to rearrange her meeting with us until later in the year. Instead, we had a fun Quiz organized by Anne which was great fun.



**25<sup>th</sup> March** Lady Day was celebrated again.

The Mothers' Union celebrate Lady Day (the Feast of the Annunciation) annually on or around March 25th. It is a significant day of prayer, thanksgiving, and reflection on the Virgin Mary, observed by members worldwide since 1897 and even included as a recommendation in their constitution. Many branches hold Eucharist services, often including the enrolment of new members.

**21<sup>st</sup> April** We have a talk on the Jewish Faith given by Yvonne

**19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May** Retreat at The Brierley, Ilkley,  
led by Rev'd Michelle Petch

**26<sup>th</sup> May** 10am-3pm Coffee and Goodies Day at Margaret France's home. Details later.

*Shirley*

## Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies were given this year in memory of:

David and Julia Pitts

Jonathan McCarthy; Andrea Elliot .

Kay & Ray Tyson

Shelley Marshall and Danielle Parkin

Nora Barton; Elsie Green; Lilian Dimbleby

Gwen Hopkins & Tony Hopkins

George & Sybil Noicely

Eva & Wilfred Moorhouse; Dorothy & Stanely James

Harry & Blodwen Humphreys.

Leonard & Freda Davis

William Bennett Storey & Alice Storey; Peter Storey

John Ewington; Stuart Greenbank; Jenny Dagnall

Margaret & Raymond Raine

Ann Mayall; Peter Trudgill; Trevor Jagger

Elsie & Harold Pawson.

Winnie & Maurice Rukin; Brian Rukin

Roger Broadbent

Michael Drury

Juliet Lake

Robert Beaumont

Stephen Guy; Jill Huges; Jean Sproston; Denise Greenway



## St. John's Rucksack Club

**Saturday 25th April 2026**

### Walk Details:

Pecket Well Clough, Akroyd Lane & Nutclough  
from Hebden Bridge station: 5 miles +

A leisurely climb out of Hebden Bridge to Pecket Well which is rewarded with outstanding views returning via Nut Clough.

**Meet:** Brighthouse Station 9:45 to buy ticket.

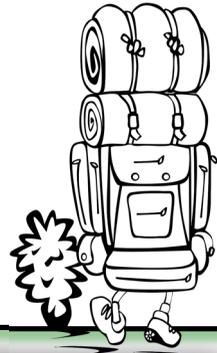
**Train leaves:** 10:06 - Return at 15:29

**Ticket price:** in the region of £5

*(with bus pass or railcard)*

**Leaders :** Jennifer Guy & Sarah Weller

**Contact :** 07807946396



## 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](mailto:deafminister@leeds.anglican.org)

# 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.

Missions and Charities Group



## Monday Meet 2 pm – 4 pm

**All Welcome**

**Resumes 13th April**  
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 (07756 035591)

## BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL FOODBANK

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

- Cans of meat (chicken, ham, pork, mince etc.)
- Cans of tuna
- Packets of instant mashed potato

Thank you so much for your support.

*Rosemary & Norman*



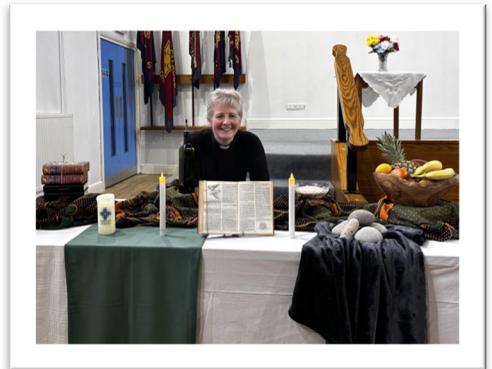
## What the Vicar has been doing

Just a selection...

Visit to Cygnet Lodge



At the Missions & Charities' Coffee Morning



World Day of Prayer Service  
Salvation Army Citadel



Table Top Sale  
Railway Bridge View

Joined the Lent Group sessions





Visited Highbury School pupils to talk about my job as a Vicar, and to take part in their celebration assembly.



Went to St Matthew's Coffee Morning in support of Tree Aid

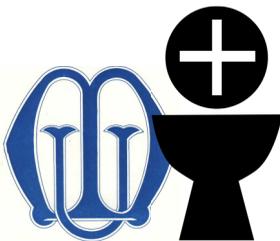


Lunch at The Space@ Field Lane with Canon Michael Storey



Provincial MU 150th Anniversary Service Manchester Cathedral

Rock Mass at Holy Nativity Mixenden



MU Eucharist (and stayed for the quiz!)





## World Day of Prayer 2026

**“I will give you rest, come.”** (taken from Matthew 11: 28) was the theme of this year’s World Day of prayer.

Introduced in 1927, this service uniting Christians across the globe is now celebrated in 146 countries, everyone holding the same service on the same day, and written this year by a group of Nigerian women.

For some of us, the journey began with the ecumenical Bible Reflection, held at St John’s, where we considered the verse from Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” We were introduced to the four Nigerian women who we would also meet in the forthcoming service, and who each had their own particular burden which they needed to - and were able to - give to Jesus.

As part of the Reflection, we acknowledged our own burdens which we were carrying, and which were represented by some fairly heavy stones. After holding our ‘burdens’ and feeling their weight, we laid them at the foot of the cross and left them there.



During the service on 6th March, our very personal stones were carried to the table at the start of the service, to join Jennifer and Judith’s lovely display of specific items, suggested by the writers of the service.

We heard again the stories of the Nigerian women who also trusted Jesus with their burdens.



The Salvation Army hosted the service at the Brighthouse Citadel, where representatives from various churches around Brighthouse and Rastrick took part, and our own Julia had organised the event.



The St John's Music Group provided the music for the hymns, which included one especially written for the service; "Come unto me". We also listened to some rather lively Christian Nigerian music during the Collection, but most people resisted the invitation to, 'dance our offerings forward' !..as

a reminder of God's provision and that; "Giving is not a burden, but a joyful response to God's grace."

As different people read the stories of the four very different Nigerian women, we heard how by giving their own particular burdens to Jesus and trusting in God's faithfulness these women found rest.

The final hymn for this World Day of Prayer service 'The Day thou gavest' reminded us that as we are one world, someone, somewhere will always be praying and worshipping....

"As o'er each continent  
and island  
The dawn leads on  
another day,  
The voice of prayer  
is never silent,  
Nor dies the strain of  
praise away."

*Pam*





## “Father Forgive”



Cross of nails - Worcester Cathedral.

When Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by fire in 1940, these 14th Century hand-forged nails from its roof were formed into a cross which became a symbol of reconciliation in a divided world. When the Diocese of Worcester celebrated it's 1300th anniversary in 1980, this cross of nails was given to it by the Bishop and people of Coventry.

### **Revision of Church Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll review process has now begun.

A notice detailing the Church Representation Rules is 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 are now available at the back of Church.

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.

<b>January 10th:</b>	<b>Hosted by the Wednesday Nighters</b> ✓
<b>February 14th:</b>	<b>Hosted by the Church Musicians</b> ✓
<b>March 14th:</b>	<b>Hosted by Missions &amp; Charities</b> ✓
<b>April 11th:</b>	<b>Hosted by Wednesday Nighters</b>
<b>May 9th:</b>	<b>Hosted by Christian Aid</b>
<b>June 13th:</b>	<b>Turning Point</b>
<b>July 11th:</b>	<b>Hosted by the Brownies</b>
<b>August 8th:</b>	<b>Hosted by the Mothers' Union</b>
<b>September 12th:</b>	<b>Hosted by the Wednesday Nighters</b>
<b>October 10th:</b>	<b>Hosted by the Rucksack Club</b>
<b>November 14th:</b>	<b>Hosted by the ECO Group</b>
<b>December 12th:</b>	<b>Hosted by the Mothers' Union</b>





## ECO Church

### Reasons to be cheerful

I won't be alone in taking delight in the joys of spring after all the dreary, wet weather of this winter. Our hellebore is flowering, attracting huge bumble bees, the frogs are croaking their mating calls from our tiny (half-barrel) pond, we have had a thrush singing in our garden (first time ever!) and he can still be heard in the distance on and off, ladybirds are coming out of corners in our house and porch, and yesterday I saw two red admiral butterflies. Here are some nature success stories:



Pine marten kits have been born in Devon for the first time in 150 years.

Otters have returned to urban waterways in Manchester.

The Woodland Trust has acquired land in Devon which they intend to restore to temperate rainforest. (Closer to home, Borrowdale in the Lake District is home to a temperate rainforest - one of the rarest environments in the world.)

The RSPB reports that Capercaillie numbers have increased by 50% at their Abernethy reserve.

Scotland has become the first UK country to mandate that all new-build houses have swift bricks installed.

New schemes in Wales are supporting farmers to adopt sustainable practices to boost biodiversity.

Little Tern numbers are recovering at some sites in Norfolk.

So let's celebrate the good news this Easter and resolve to do more in our lives to support wildlife in our own gardens and through our giving.

*Rosemary*

## Eco Group - **The National Emergency Briefing** (NEB) - by John

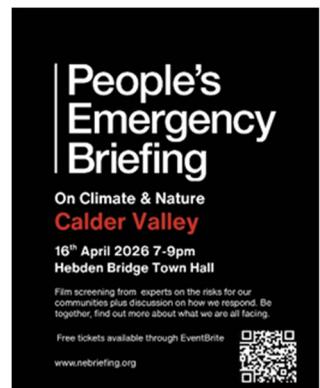
What would you do if, as a scientist, your data told you there was an emergency ahead, one that threatened the entire way of life and future well-being of your country? And, if a huge consensus of other scientists, economists and professional communicators agreed with the evidence? You'd warn whoever was in charge, and anyone else (such as businesses) who could help avert the emergency.

This was the situation facing a large consensus of climate and nature experts. They organised a half-day National Emergency Briefing on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, inviting all members of both houses of Parliament, to listen to about 10 short talks. 150 parliamentarians attended.

There was a keynote talk on Nature by Nathalie Seddon, Professor of Biodiversity and founding director of the Nature-Based Solutions Initiative at Oxford University. After laying out her scientific case in detail, she concluded, her voice laden with emotion:

“This isn't about choosing between the economy and the environment. It's about recognising that the economy is embedded within the environment, and that the health of the nation depends on the living systems that we are part of. Protecting nature is sound fiscal and security policy, and it's actually what the public are asking you (MP's) to do. Failure to act would be a betrayal of our children and of the future generations who will live with the consequences of the choices we make now.”

The organisers have condensed the briefings into a 45-minute documentary to be shown in every constituency, with MP's and councillors invited. It's being shown in Hebden Bridge (see poster), but – with encouragement from Revd Debby Plummer, who preached last month - I hope to also arrange a public showing here at St John's. Watch this space...





## Music News

Music will play an important part in our worship during Holy Week and Easter, so simply from a music perspective:

On Palm Sunday, we have our Benefice service (at St John's) for which the Music Group will be providing the music. Some of you who have been a member of St John's for quite a while may recognise something familiar about the first hymn.



I do hope you will be able to come to our Maundy Thursday Benefice service, also at St John's - 7:00 on Thursday 2nd. The Rastrick Voices will be singing during this very moving service when we remember the events of the evening when Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples.

Another very moving, but very different service will be the Good Friday Meditation at St Matthew's, 7:00 on Friday 3rd when the Music Group will be playing.

For me, I find that I need to experience the emotions of Good Friday, in order to fully celebrate the joy of Easter Sunday.



...and regarding Easter Sunday! Well, the Vicar's not given the game away in her letter, so I won't spoil the surprise here - although I reckon that anyone who has listened in to the Rastrick Voices' rehearsals, just may have an inkling!

The Voices are having a very busy time of rehearsals at the moment. We've a BIG concert coming up on the afternoon of 17th May, which also involves another choir and a string orchestra! ...and it's at St John's! Please put the date in your diaries now!

*Pam*

## Looked at a flat....

### Looked at a flat. Came home rather flat.

Went to look at a flat  
With Linda the other day.  
Outside they looked pretty  
In a lonely kind of way.

Elderly people go there  
When they're finding it hard to cope.  
I suppose you kind of go there  
When there aint a lot of hope.

Inside was rather grotty  
And seemed so cold and bare.  
I really couldn't see us  
Ever being happy there.

God will always lead us,  
Where he knows that we should be.  
So we'll leave things as they are for now.  
God wants what's best for me.

Olive Rhodes 2017

Olive is now living happily as a resident at St Winifred's Care Home, which bears no resemblance whatsoever to the flat mentioned above.

She is a regular at the popular Communion Service which we hold at St Winifred's every month.

## 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](mailto:stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com) with the heading, 'Caption'. Deadline: Saturday 25th April.

Thank you for all of your suggestions.

The winning caption for last month's photo was sent in by **Rod Dimbleby** ! and was chosen by John Hearson from all of your (*anonymous*) replies:

**Who's a clever boy then!**



# Eco Church - Swap Stall

The next  
Eco Church  
Swap Stall  
is on:

**Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th May**



## COFFEE & CAKE

The next Coffee & Cake in Church  
will be on **Saturday 11th April** 10.00-12:00.  
Hosted by the Missions & Charities



## COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch  
will be on **Tuesday 7th April**, 12:00  
Followed by the Reminiscent Cinema, 1:30

*Tbc.*



The Men of the Churches of Rastrick  
Host

## Beer and Banter 2026

Mondays at  
The Four Sons, Rastrick 7 pm



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



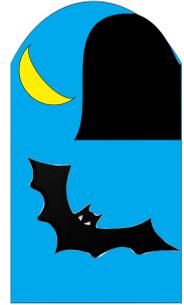
All Men Welcome

Further details, call Alan 07756035591

*Big  
and  
posh!*

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

April, and the year seems to be rattling by. Try these two in a quiet moment.



### **26 – 07 April showers**

Can you answer the following questions regarding April?

- 1) 'It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.', is a quote from which book?
- 2) 'April is the cruellest month' is the first line of which T.S. Eliot poem?
- 3) April's birth flower is often listed as 'Bellis Perennis' – this is the Latin name of which flower?
- 4) April Windsor, played by Amelia Flanagan, is a character in which soap?
- 5) What was first introduced into Britain on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1973?
- 6) Which famous Englishman's birth remains unknown, but is traditionally observed on the same day as St. George's Day?
- 7) April may be the 4th month of the year now, but what month was it in the early Julian calendar?



8) In France, April 1 is called *Poisson d'Avril*. What trick do people play on each other?

9) Which famous bird illustrator was born in Haiti on April 26, 1785?

10) The first man went into space on April 12, 1961. What was his name?

### **26 – 08 Natural World**

1. What is another name for an Ounce?
2. What is the study of Bird's Eggs called?
3. Which THREE coniferous trees are native to Britain?
4. From which tree is cork obtained?
5. What type of animal is a Dik-dik?

6. Capers are the pickled flower buds of the Caper bush [Capparis spinosa], but what flowers can be pickled to make "Poor-man's Capers"?
7. Vertebrates are split into FIVE main classes, what are they?
8. Where did the DODO live until they became extinct?
9. What kind of creature is a Sand Mason?
10. What is the largest native British bird?



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

#### **26 - 05 Sudoku**

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

#### **26 – 06 To be or not to be**

- 1) Titus Andronicus
- 2) Troilus and Cressida
- 3) Love's Labour's Lost
- 4) The Comedy of Errors
- 5) The Two Gentlemen of Verona
- 6) The Taming of the Shrew
- 7) The Merry Wives of Windsor
- 8) Measure for Measure
- 9) The Merchant of Venice
- 10) All's Well That Ends Well

**MORE NEXT MONTH**

**SHIRLEY...**

The weather at the beginning of the year was full of ups and downs but we were very lucky having some lovely hot sunshine during the last week couple of weeks. Let's hope it will be more settled and better now that Spring has arrived! The gardens are looking lovely now that the plants are 'springing' to life, displaying their beautiful, bright colours.

Just lately, my mind has been on TV niggles. Firstly, the subject matter. Showing criminals how crimes are detected, discloses their weaknesses and illustrates how to avoid capture! Also, lots of dramas seem to be fixed on sex and violence. I understand that to be true to their story lines they should be included. However, I think they are shown in *too* much detail. The lead up to lovemaking, or worse rape, sets the scene but I think it should leave intimate detail to our own imagination. Years ago, Mary Whitehouse devoted her life to predicting the adverse effect that the subjects mentioned were gradually overstepping the mark of propriety.

**The Christian decency campaigner's name Mary Whitehouse, became 'shorthand' for anti-liberal prudery and censorship. More than 20 years after her death, "Do her diaries reveal a woman who was ahead of her time in warning about the corrosive impact of internet pornography on society?", asks Samira Ahmed.**

Few people under 40 will remember her at all. However, 30 years of Mary Whitehouse's diaries and letters in the Bodleian library reveal interesting lessons for modern Britain. Mary's biggest campaign was against obscenity - mainly pornography. Her eldest son Paul, who inherited her diaries, says of the ongoing political debate about online harms, "I hear the stone rumbling in my mother's grave as she turns over". Mary persistently lobbied MPs and ministers to draft legislation. Her successes include the 1978 Protection of Children Act, which criminalised for the first time the making of indecent images of children, the 1981 Indecent Displays (Control) Act which controlled sex shops and the displays of pornographic material in newsagents, and the 1984 Video Recordings Act, to regulate the explosion in the sale of extreme content (so-called "video nasties") in the new Wild West of home VCRs. (given on line)

The second area which could be questioned I think, is the problem of gambling addiction. Between a lot of programmes, we are tempted to join

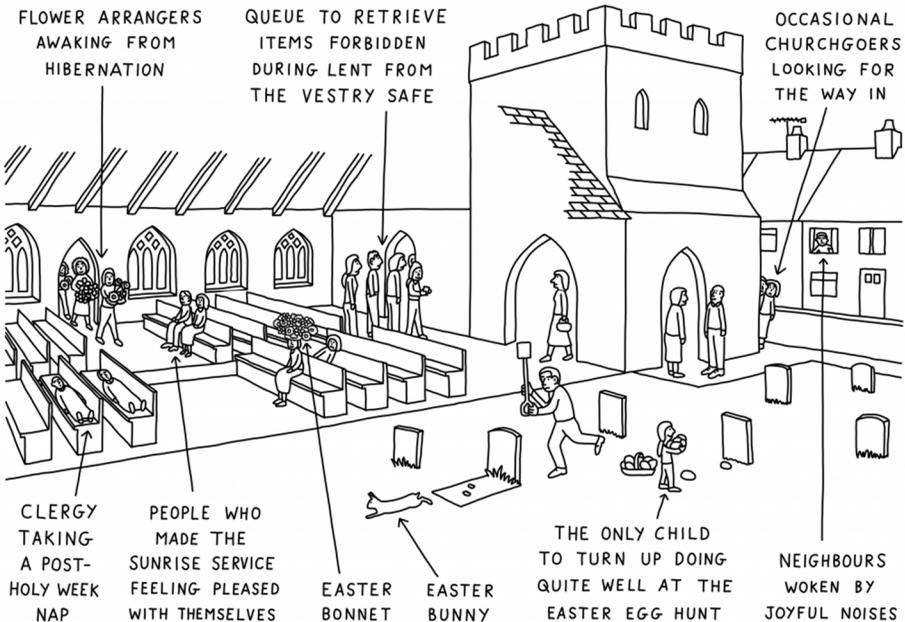
in the competitions, in order to win vast amounts of money and expensive prizes. As I see them, I wonder if I should have a go! Then I reason, to be able to offer such expensive prizes, vast numbers of people need to be joining in, making the odds against winning enormous! The price to take part has been increased by another 50p too!

On a lighter note, the Songs of Praise programme in March featuring the Mothers Union was both emotional and joyful. It is amazing that people through faith, can be prompted to overcome great sadness and pain and still think of others. They instigate new policies and laws so others do not suffer in the same way. Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers Union, and Mary Whitehouse also followed their faith. Is it a co-incidence that both ladies are named Mary? And there is also another Mary, the mother of Jesus! Something else's faith to ponder on!

*Shirley*

**AND FINALLY ....**

## THE EASTER SERVICE



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - APRIL

For full list of **Holy Week and Easter Services**, please see **Page 9**

## Wednesday 1st

Joint Lent Group Reflection - Upper Edge Baptist 7:00

## Thursday 2nd

Maundy Thursday Service & Vigil (St. J's) 7:00

## Friday 3rd

Walk of Witness, from St J's 11:30

United Churches Good Friday Service (Central) 12:30

Meditation Service (St, Matthew's) 7:00

## Saturday 4th

Holy Saturday Prayer Walk, (from St M's) 2:00

## Sunday 5th - Easter Day

Sunrise Service in the Vicarage garden 6:00

All Age Communion (St J's) 11:00

## Tuesday 7th

Community Lunch 12:00 & Reminiscent Cinema 1:30

## Saturday 11th

Coffee & Cake (Hosted by Wednesday Nighters') 10:00-12:00

## Sunday 12th

BSL Service, St John's, 1:00

## Monday 13th April

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

## Tuesday 21st

MU talk on the Jewish Faith 2:00

## Wednesday 22nd

Halifax Winter Choir Concert 7:00

## Saturday 25th

Rucksack Club Walk - 10:00

## Sunday 26th

Service of Healing and Wholeness 4:00

## Monday 27th

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



All items for the April magazine to: [stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com)  
by 9:00 a.m. Saturday 25th April please.



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



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



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

### Wi-Fi

Network : everywhere

Password : anywhere