



St John the Divine
Rastrick

Your
Parish
Magazine

May
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

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



I really enjoy the month of May with its generally warmer weather, blossom on the trees, spring flowers and lengthening days. The new life and the growth all around us at this time of year reminds me of the continued hope and joy of Easter.

As May progresses, we will come to the end of this Easter season as we celebrate first Ascension Day and then Pentecost. I encourage you to take the opportunities offered to celebrate with us. The Ascension Day communion service will be held on Thursday 14th May at 7pm at St John's and will include a song reminding us how we are called to share with joy the love, hope, faith and peace that the resurrected Jesus brings as he returns to his Father in heaven, and we become his hands and feet on earth.

Then on Sunday 24th May we celebrate Pentecost – the birthday of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. There will be two opportunities to worship and celebrate on that day, as we have our usual communion service at 11am and then join with other churches from the Rastrick and Brighthouse areas at 4pm outside St Matthew's for a 'Pentecost Praise' service and picnic. Posters advertising both these events can be found in the pages of this magazine.

There are two other important things to mention this month. Firstly, if you are fairly new to church, returning after a break or considering baptism or confirmation please see details of a START course which will begin in June, and have a word with me if you are interested. Secondly, don't forget our special Benefice service at St Matthew's on Sunday 31st May at 10.30am with Bishop Smitha to mark the ending of the LEP at St Matthew's and a new chapter in our life as a Benefice. Can I strongly encourage you to join us for that.

As we journey on through May and beyond together, I hope and pray that we can continue to encourage and strengthen one another to grow in confidence in our Easter faith.

With my prayers and every blessing.

Michelle

SERVICES AND CHURCH INFORMATION

SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - MAY

Sunday 3rd - 11:00 - 5th Sunday of Easter - All Age Holy Communion

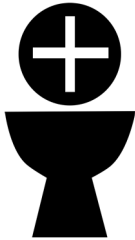
Sunday 10th - 11:00 - 6th Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion

1:00pm - BSL (British Sign Language) Service

Thursday 14th - 7:00 pm - Ascension Day (Benefice Service)

Sunday 17th - 11:00 - 7th Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion

Sunday 24th - 11:00 - Pentecost - Holy Communion



MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - MAY

Wednesday 6th - 10:30 - St Matthew's

Wednesday 13th - 10:30 - St John's

Wednesday 20th - 10:30 - No service this week

Wednesday 27th - 10:30 - St John's

UPCOMING UNITED BENEFICE SERVICES

- ◇ Thursday May 14th - 7:00 - Ascension Day (St. J's)
- ◇ Sunday May 24th - 4:00 pm - Pentecost Praise (St. M's)
- ◇ Sunday May 31st - 10:30 - Joint Benefice Service (St M's)

NEXT SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S WITH PRAYER MINISTRY

- * Sunday 17th May (11:00)

NEXT HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE

- * Sunday 28th June (4:00)



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



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

PRAYER PAGE

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

This month's prayer by St. Ignatius
helps us to put ourselves in God's hands
when we prepare for a time of prayer.

Lord, I so wish to prepare well for this time.

I so want to make all of me ready and attentive
and available to you.

Please help me to clarify and purify my intentions.

I have so many contradictory desires.

I get preoccupied with things that don't really matter or last.

I know that if I give you my heart,
whatever I do will follow my new heart.

In all that I am today, all that I try to do,
all my encounters, reflections - even the frustrations
and failings

and especially in this time of prayer,

in all of this may I place my life in your hands.

Lord, I am yours.

Make of me what you will.

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.

- ◆ 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 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 May 26

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>27-Apr</u> Psalm 103 (or) 44 Exodus 32.1-14 Luke 2.41-end	<u>28-Apr</u> Psalm 139 (or) 48 Exodus 32.15-34 Luke 3.1-14	<u>29-Apr</u> Psalm 135 Exodus 33 Luke 3.15-22	<u>30-Apr</u> Psalm 118 (or) 56 Exodus 34.1-10 Luke 4.1-13	<u>01-May</u> Philip & James Ephesians 1.3-10 John 14.1-14	<u>02-May</u> Psalm 34 (or) 68 Exodus 40.17-end Luke 4.31-37
<u>04-May</u> Psalm 145 (or) 71 Numbers 9.15-end; 10.33-end Luke 4.38-end	<u>05-May</u> Psalms 19 Numbers 11.1-33 Luke 5.1-11	<u>06-May</u> Psalms 30 Numbers 12 Luke 5.12-26	<u>07-May</u> Psalms 57 Numbers 13.1-3 Luke 5.27-end	<u>08-May</u> Psalms 138 Numbers 14.1-25 Luke 6.1-11	<u>09-May</u> Psalms 146 Numbers 14.26-end Luke 6.12-26
<u>11-May</u> Psalms 65 Numbers 16.1-35 Luke 6.27-38	<u>12-May</u> Psalms 124 Numbers 16.36-end Luke 6.39-end	<u>13-May</u> Psalms 132 Numbers 17.1-11 Luke 7.1-10	<u>14-May</u> Ascension Day Acts 1.1-11 Luke 24.44-end	<u>15-May</u> Matthias the Apostle Acts 1.15-end John 15.9-17	<u>16-May</u> Psalms 21 Numbers 21.4-9 Luke 7.18-35
<u>18-May</u> Psalms 93 Numbers 22.1-35 Luke 7.36-end	<u>19-May</u> Psalms 98 Numbers 22.36 – 23.12 Luke 8.1-15	<u>20-May</u> Psalms 2 Numbers 23.13-end Luke 8.16-25	<u>21-May</u> Psalms 24 Numbers 24 Luke 8.26-39	<u>22-May</u> Psalms 28 Numbers 27.12-end Luke 8.40-end	<u>23-May</u> Psalms 42 Numbers 32.1-27 Luke 9.1-17
<u>25-May</u> Psalms 123 Joshua 1 Luke 9.18-27	<u>26-May</u> Psalms 132 Joshua 2 Luke 9.28-36	<u>27-May</u> Psalm 119.153-end Joshua 3 Luke 9.37-50	<u>28-May</u> Psalms 143 Joshua 4.1 – 5.1 Luke 9.51-end	<u>29-May</u> Psalms 142 Joshua 5.2-end Luke 10.1-16	<u>30-May</u> Psalm 147 Joshua 6.1-20 Luke 10.17-24

Join Michelle on line Tuesday - Saturday:

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

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

Everyday Faith

Daily Prayer

Monday Meet 2 pm – 4 pm

All Welcome

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)

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



12.15pm = Coffee
1pm Service start.

Email: deafminister@leeds.anglican.org

The United Benefice of Rastrick

Ascension Day Communion Service

**Thursday
14th May
7:00 pm**

**St John the Divine, Rastrick
HD6 1HN**

The United Benefice of Rastrick

Pentecost Praise!



*A glorious celebration
of the
Birthday of the Church
with lots of singing!*

Sunday 24th May

4:00 P.m.

**Please
join us!**

*On the lawn outside
**St Matthews, Rastrick,
HD6 3NF***

**Bring your own chairs
and a picnic**

*Let's fill the Church garden with the colours of the flames!
Wear red, yellow, orange....*

Inside if wet!



Hand to Mouth Ministries

As the signs of spring start to pop up, we look back on another exciting term for Hand to Mouth. We are very thankful that the snow has not hindered our work this year! Alongside our sessions within our regular schools, we have enjoyed visiting three new schools this term within Kirklees; Hade Edge Junior, Infants and Nursery School, New Mill Junior School and Holmfirth Junior, Infants and Nursery School. We have also been excited to be back in Roberttown CE Primary School.

As well as working with 1000s of children within the schools we visit, we also offer experiences for **staff** to pause, reflect and take stock of their life.



Last Term we have:

- * Visited **39** primary schools (some multiple times)
- * Delivered **4** staff journeys and **29** RE days with children
- * Taken **67** classes around our Amazing Journeys

Prayer points:

- * Pray for us as we seek God's wisdom in developing new themes around mental health and wellbeing within schools.
- * Pray for new volunteers to help us support the children within schools across our area.
- * Pray for rest for our staff and volunteers over the Easter break after a busy term.

The Hand to Mouth team would like to thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Hand to Mouth continue to work in over 60 schools throughout Kirklees, Calderdale, Bradford, Wakefield, Oldham, Sheffield and the Diocese of Leeds. Our aim is to share the love of Jesus, helping children to understand the Christian faith as well as grapple with social and ethical issues.

Your invitation to...

Start!

Are you fairly new to Church, or perhaps you are returning after a break?

Are you wanting to find out more about the basics of the Christian faith?

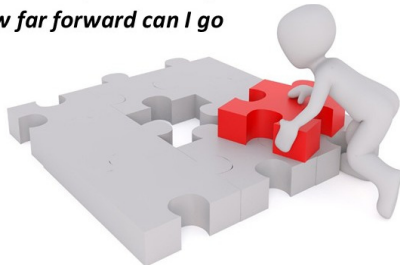
Maybe you are considering baptism or confirmation?

The START Course

Six one and a half hour sessions
with films, time to talk, listen and ask questions.

Including Breakfast!

- *What's Life all about and where are we going?*
- *Is there a God and what is he like?*
- *Why is life so messy?*
- *Who is Jesus?*
- *Why the Cross, and what does it mean for me today?*
- *Where do I get started and how far forward can I go with God in my life?*



Please speak to Rev'd Michelle if you are interested,
or would simply like to know more about this 6 week course, starting in June.

01484 710538 - vicar@rastrickbenefice.org.uk



MU MATTERS

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



Mary Sumner

2026 is the 150th anniversary of the Mothers Union. 150 years since the lovely inspirational lady Mary Sumner came up with the idea of forming a group to support mothers from all backgrounds in bringing up their children. Driven by a passion for the role of women in bringing about a better society, the groups proved very popular. How pleased and thankful she would be if she could see how these groups have grown over the last 150 years.

The motto of the Mothers Union is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

We now have a new patron taking over from Queen Elizabeth II who had been our patron for many years. This is The Duchess of Edinburgh who is very committed to this role.

The Mothers' Union are inviting every Diocese to welcome 150 brand new members in 2026 a time to reach out to new people and invite them to join us and join in, welcome them to meetings, events or volunteer in Mothers Union projects and programmes. When they know what varied and interesting things we do. hopefully they will join. 150 members is an inspirational target not a requirement. Do any of you or your family or friends feel it is something for you? We have lots of fun and friendship here at our branch at St Johns and support for each other when needed. We are also lucky to have the Episcopal area Chaplain, Michelle, who is a great support taking the Eucharist before the actual meeting. We have varied speakers on different subjects. All very interesting and informative! Please give this some thought and see Ann J or Hilary if you are interested. If we manage one new member, that is one towards our Diocese target of 150.

Why is the 150 years challenge so important? For 150 years the Mothers' Union has stood beside Women and families facing poverty violence and injustice. Today many communities are still hurting. Growing our movement ensures we can continue to be a source of hope, strength and change where it is needed in 2026 and beyond.

There is a worldwide 150 years gathering in Durban South Africa from the 30th September to the 3rd October when members across the world will gather and explore what it means to be the next generation Mothers Union and a celebration of who we are, what we stand for and hopefully light the ways for generations to come.



Some of you may remember Kathleen Fletcher R.I.P, a long-standing member of our Mothers' Union. How grateful am I to her that she persuaded me years ago to be a member. I have enjoyed, and am still enjoying my time, especially the spiritual part. The Mary Sumner personal prayer is one of my favourite prayers which she personally prayed every single day of her life. There's a thought for us all?

"All this day oh Lord let me touch as many lives as possible for thee and every life I touch, do thou by my spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live" AMEN

There are two interesting events in our own branch coming up in May and June details of which are elsewhere in the magazine. Many thanks to Pam for the fantastic artwork. Hopefully see you all at least one of these events.

God Bless

Ann J



Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions - so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way. It is our hope & prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. Specifically, you are invited to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people whom you can identify – family, friends or acquaintances.

The ten days of prayer start on Ascension Day, with a service at 7 pm, and run until Pentecost Sunday. Available in church will be two booklets to help lead us in prayer (they can, of course, be used at any time!).

There will also be a time of reflection and prayer in church on Thursday, 21st May, to which all are encouraged to attend.

There is lots to pray for in our world today, and **Thy Kingdom Come** is there to help us focus on the need for faith, hope and trust in our world today



Missions & Charities



It costs £19.15 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year! Mary's Meals is a registered charity serving a nutritious daily meal to some of the world's poorest children to attract them into the

classroom where they can gain an education and a brighter future.

There are 78 million primary school-age children out of school around the world; they have to work or beg to survive. When they do make it into the classroom, hunger affects their ability to learn. Mary's Meals gives children the energy to learn so they can become the men and women who will lift their communities out of poverty in later life.

Mary's meals already reach three million children every school day.

As a result of our coffee morning in March and generous donations we have collected £475.75 and after gift aid this amounts to £590.75.

This will be sent to Mary's Meals.

Our collection throughout Lent of foreign and British coins and notes no longer in use has been sent to a collection point for processing which is used by Mary's Meals. This amounted to two cardboard boxes totalling 15kgs. When we know the amount realised, we'll inform you of the total.

Many thanks for your generous support for a worthy charity.

Missions and Charities committee

BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL FOODBANK

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

- Men's shampoo.
- Custard - cans or cartons.
- Biscuits suitable for vegans (i.e. no dairy).

Thank you so much for your support.

Rosemary & Norman



What the Vicar has been doing

Just a selection...

Visit to Cygnet Lodge



Chrim Eucharist at Wakefield Cathedral



Easter Assembly at Carr Green School



At the Wednesday Nighters' Coffee Morning

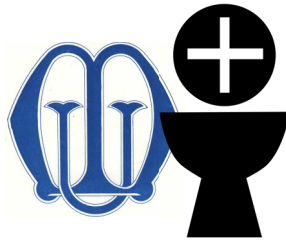
Good Friday Walk of Witness



Sunrise Service Easter Day



On the Prayer Walk Holy Saturday / Easter Eve



Led the MU Eucharist for the monthly meeting.

At the final Lent Group session: all together at Upper Edge



Spiritual Directors' resourcing day in Leeds



MU Lady Day lunch!

MU Lady Day Service



Rock Mass at Holy Nativity, Mixenden



Easter Day Singing, "Hallelujah" with the Voices.

St. John's Rucksack Club

HALF DAY WALK - Sunday 10th May 'Leisurely Lightcliffe'

Starting - from the car park of St Matthew's Church, Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe at 2.00pm.

Leaders - Ken and Jill Swallow – 07967 796404

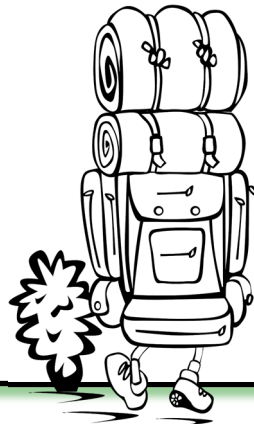
This half-day walk takes us from the 'new' church down past the tower of the original church in Lightcliffe and then round past the cricket club. From here we pass under the railway viaduct and over the golf course. After carefully crossing the A58 we follow paths skirting round Priestley Green, and after a break here we continue back down towards the outskirts of Hipperholme.

From here we head down past yet another church (now a dental practice) and once again cross the A58 – there's a safety island this time though! A mixture of paths and roads will take us back to the car park. Apart from a couple of stiles along the way, this is a gentle 2 hour walk at comfortably under three miles.

Meet at St John's Church - for a 1.40pm departure.

Directions:

From Brighthouse head towards Bailiff Bridge and turn left at the traffic lights. Follow the road up towards Lightcliffe, and as you pass the Sun Inn on your left the church comes into view ahead on the left-hand side - it's quite a tight turn into the car park though!



FULL DAY WALK - SATURDAY 23rd MAY 2026

Clayton West to Shepley : 6 miles

Catch 9.10am {363} bus which leaves Sainsburys or board at any stop along Huddersfield Road.

Catch 9.45am {D1} bus to Denby Dale from Huddersfield Bus Station.

REMEMBER BUS PASS

At the end of the walk bus from Shepley.

Leaders: Eric and Judith Ogden
07777 494 681 or 01484 716652

Ups and Downs on good paths with excellent Views.



MU Coffee Day

Tuesday the 26th May

Time: 10am until 3pm

At the home of Margaret France: **39 Bolehill Park, Hove Edge**

Entry £2 which includes tea and coffee.

Cake stall. Guess the weight of the fruit cake.
Guess how many sweets in a jar.

Refreshments at lunch time beef teacakes
and small supply of sandwiches if vegetarian.

Not forgetting the raffle for our lovely hamper.

Lots of fun and friendship





ECO Church 1

How to help garden birds by not feeding them!

To be precise, it's about not feeding them certain foods at certain times of the year. The RSPB has issued new advice on feeding garden birds as a result of the spread of a disease called trichomoniasis.

This is a highly contagious disease and can spread where birds gather in large numbers such as at bird feeders. The disease has caused serious declines in Greenfinch and Chaffinch populations and may now be causing a rapid decline amongst Bullfinches.



We can help stop the spread of disease among garden birds by making two changes to how we feed them.

1. Feed seasonally. During summer and autumn, there's a higher risk of the disease spreading. It's also when there are more natural foods available to birds, such as seeds and insects.

So, from 1 May to 31 October pause filling your bird feeders with seeds or peanuts. (You can continue to offer mealworms, fatballs or suet).

From 1 November to 30 April, you can offer a full range of bird foods, including seeds and peanuts.

2. Feed safely. The RSPB has a number of recommendations (go to the RSPB website for the full list) but here are a few to start with:

- Clean your bird feeders and water baths at least once a week,
- If you have more than one feeder, put them in different areas to reduce the number of birds in one place and the mixing of different species.
- Don't use any feeders with flat surfaces, e.g. bird tables, window feeders, feeders with trays. Research has shown a higher risk of the disease spreading on flat surfaces, where contaminated food can collect.
- Feed in moderation. Make sure all the food you put out is eaten within one to two days.

- You should change water in bird baths daily. Make sure it's tap water. Ideally, a pond is the best way to provide birds and other wildlife with water.

By following the RSPB's advice hopefully we can help reduce the spread of disease and continue to enjoy our garden birds.

Norman Lake



DAVID PRICE - CONCERT ORGANIST
SUMMER UK TOUR 2026

Accommodation needed.

David Price FRCO (CHM) is again including our wonderful Conacher organ at St John's in his 2026 UK Summer tour.

The recital is on Thursday 2nd July.
He will need B&B for two nights (1st. & 2nd.)

Can you help please? If so, please let Pam or Alan know. Thanks.





ECO Church 2

Eco group - **The People's Emergency Briefing** - by John

On our wedding anniversary early this month, Jane and I went to The Vue Cinema in Halifax to see The Magic Faraway Tree. We came away with a wonderful sense of feelgood, conscious of all the wonder and beauty in our world.

On Thursday 16th April, I went to Hebden Bridge Town Hall to watch the People's Emergency Briefing film, followed by a facilitated discussion. I was expecting the film to be sobering and I wasn't disappointed. Don't go to see it if you're expecting a romantic night out. It's very well produced; Chris Packham acts as its presenter, with various celebrities and audience members sharing their reactions. The film included clips from the expert briefings featured in the original event in Westminster Hall, to which all MP's and Lords were invited, plus comments specially for this film.



St John the Divine

The People's Emergency Briefing on Climate & Nature – Lower Calder Valley

St John the Divine Community Hall
Brighouse

BOOK NOW

Sat 6 Jun 2026, 7:00PM

50+ tickets available

So - here it is – we're showing the film on Saturday 6th June. We may have a preview for church members; meanwhile, please have a word with any of us if you'd like to help on the day. It's a free event but you need a ticket – more about this later.

You may ask: did I come out with any sense of feelgood? Well Yes, I did. Firstly, it was cheering to see our MP, Joshua Fenton-Glynn, at the showing (not the discussion). He's also invited to our entire event. Secondly, the film did provide hope that there is a way to avoid environmental disaster. And thirdly it was heartening to meet such highly committed people, motivated to make a difference.

John on behalf of Norman, Rosemary and Pat

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:	Turning Point
July 11th:	Hosted by the Brownies
August 8th:	Hosted by the Mothers' Union
September 12th:	Hosted by the Mara Group
October 10th:	Hosted by the Rucksack Club
November 14th:	Hosted by the ECO Group
December 12th:	Hosted by the Mothers' Union



Roger Davies

& HIS BAND IN CONCERT



SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026

ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HALL

St John Street, Gooder Lane, Rastrick, Brighouse, HD6 1HN

Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start

Tickets £10.78 each: Search for 'Roger Davies' on
www.ticketsource.co.uk to buy online.

WWW.ROGERDAVIESMUSIC.COM

Notes from a churchwarden 14 – A Tale of Two Worlds

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way. (A Tale of Two Cities – Charles Dickens)

As I write this it is April 7th, and by the time you read this the fate of many, maybe including ourselves, will have been determined.

The above quotation seems quite appropriate. On the one hand we have President Trump waging war on Iran and commenting ‘A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again’ We have the Vice President J D Vance interfering in the Hungarian elections in support of Victor Orban, the friend of Putin.

By contrast, we have the Artemis 2 rocket, going round the far side of the moon and sending back some wonderful pictures of the moon, earth and sun. As the crew went behind the moon, just prior to losing contact for 40 minutes, Victor Glover, the pilot, reminded humanity about ‘one of the most important mysteries on Earth’ he said ‘which is love’. He continued ‘ Christ said, in response to what was the greatest command, that it was to love God with all you are. And he also being a great teacher, said the second is equal to it. And that is love your neighbour as yourself.’

What a difference, between the two ‘missions’. On the one hand one is filled with destruction and hate, and the other with hope and love. I hope the astronauts made it back safely. I remember following the Apollo missions and staying up late to watch the first men land on the moon. I even rigged my camera up to take pictures of the television screen. I still have those, they are not very good, but they are my record.

I suppose by the time you read this whether ‘we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way’ may well have been determined. Let’s hope it’s the former.

David Marshall



Music News

I believe it was the same for a lot of people this year, but I found the services over Holy Week and Easter very powerful and moving! It's a privilege for the musicians among us - and in that I naturally include the singers - to feel that we contributed in our own small way to that.

Palm Sunday was the first service for the Music Group, and we enjoyed playing for the 'upbeat' hymn, composed by Rev'd Penny; *Wave your Palms'* - an echo from St John's past. Of course, The music and the mood changed as the events of Palm Sunday took a more sombre turn.



I found the Maundy Thursday service particularly moving. At the organ, Graham Kennedy provided the accompaniment for the hymns, but as very much part of the worship, the Rastrick Voices beautifully and reverently sang, *God so loved the world* from Stainer's *The Crucifixion*.

It was the turn of the Music Group again for the deeply moving Good Friday service at St Matthew's, and the Rastrick Voices again on Easter Day with the glorious, *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah*, for which Rev'd Michelle took her place in the sopranos!

If you feel you would like to hear either of those pieces again, the Rastrick Voices are singing them on 17th May in a joint concert with the Gerrard Sinfonia (strings) and the WAM choir. Please see the poster on page 29. We'll be singing other things as well, of course.

I'm just so grateful to be involved with such lovely people as the Music Group and the Rastrick Voices! They all gave so much time and effort into ensuring we had the right music to help us in our worship over Holy Week and Easter.

Penny

Gloria!

A glorious
miscellany
of music by
Vivaldi, Handel,
Warlock and
others

Gerrard Sinfonia
The WAM Choir
The Rastrick Voices

Conductors:
Barbara Bancroft & Pamela Dimpleby

St John the Divine, Rastrick, HD6 1HN
Sunday 17th May, 2026 4:00pm Entry £10

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 23rd May.

Thank you for all of your suggestions.

The winning caption
for last month's photo
was sent in by

Pam Dimbleby

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

**Not quite what I envisaged
when the Bishop said
she had a little job for me...**



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 9th May 10.00-12:00.**
To raise money for **Christian Aid**



COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch
will be on **Tuesday 5th May, 12:00**
Followed by the Reminiscent Cinema, 1:30



MU Sheeple Drive
Tuesday the 16th June
at St. John's



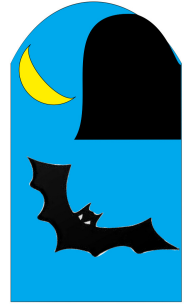
Tickets £2.50 including tea and biscuits.

There will also be a cake stall.

Time approx. 2.30 after the MU Eucharist in the Lady Chapel.

PUZZLE PAGE by the Bat in the Beltry

May, and Bank Holidays beckon. Here are a couple of puzzles to test the old grey matter.



26 – 09 Sum up

For this one, use the numbers 1 to 9, using each number once only, to make all of the horizontal and vertical equations correct. Ignore the BODMAS rule for this exercise.

	x		/		=	2
--	■	+	■	--	■	■
	+		--		=	2
x	■	/	■	+	■	■
	x		+		=	22
=	■	=	■	=	■	■
7	■	2	■	13	■	■

26 – 10 Mind Maze

Can you solve the following three brain teasers?

- 1) What five letter word does every Oxford graduate pronounce wrong?
- 2) What runs fore to aft on one side of a ship, and aft to fore on the other side? (Besides a drunken sailor)
- 3) There are two ships of equal size and strength. One is made of wood and the other of steel. Can you explain which one is heavier?

Last month's answers

26 – 07 April showers

- 1) Nineteen Eighty-Four (by George Orwell) 2) The Waste Land 3) Daisy 4) Emmerdale 5) VAT (Value Added Tax)

- 6) William Shakespeare 7) The fifth month 8) They pin a paper fish to each other's backs 9) John J Audubon
10) Yuri Gagarin

26 – 08 Natural World

- 1) A Snow Leopard 2) Oology 3) Yew, Scots Pine and Juniper 4) The Oak (Cork Oak) 5) A small African antelope 6) Nasturtium 7) Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals 8) Mauritius 9) A worm 10) A Mute Swan

MORE NEXT MONTH

SHIRLEY....

“April Showers bring May Flowers”

Above is a nursery rhyme which I fondly remember from childhood. It reminds me that things do improve. Hence, I have resolved to stop worrying about the downside of the governments' friction world-wide and our local Council's town planning and look on the bright side. In the Bible, Matthew says, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is

not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

All through history there have been difficult times but we have survived. Let us enjoy the day and the May flowers!



A number of us, I am sure, will have already planned a holiday. I am looking forward to five days in St Anne! It is an opportunity to breathe in the fresh sea air and walk along the flat promenade. Also to have meals prepared for me and no washing up! I have been extremely lucky in the past to have travelled all over the world for my holidays and now enjoy the memories. These days I am appreciating the British Isles again without the hassle of air travel!

I remember one Bank Holiday we were wondering where we should we go. Believing the roads and popular resorts would be busy, we decided on somewhere local. The Yorkshire Sculpture Park was our eventual choice. We set off at nine am. After an easy drive, we were parked and ready to explore by nine thirty. Everywhere was very quiet and peaceful except for the cacophony of numerous bird sounds. They were singing their little hearts out! We felt we should tread carefully and gently as all Nature seemed to be surrounding us and we were trespassing on their territory. We followed a wooded track speaking very little to each other, lost in our own thoughts and appreciating the solitude and fresh clean air.



As we strolled leisurely along, contrasting the shapes of leaves and trees and noticing the sun's rays on the water, it was not long before we were over-taken by more vigorous walkers. One of the nice things to see a bit later was the number of families with young children. The little ones don't miss anything, whether it is an unusual shaped branch on the floor or a worm crawling over a tree stump.

About noon, after a couple of hours walking and exploring the Park the atmosphere had dramatically changed. There was hustle and bustle around the café area. People everywhere. In spite of this, as soon as we left the café people seemed to disperse in the vast spaces and it became more tranquil. Under one large tree, sitting on the ground, surrounded by young children was a young man playing a guitar



and singing songs to them. It was lovely to listen to them as they joined in the choruses they knew.

After exploring the museum and art gallery, we wound our way back to the car park I felt really good inside. I had enjoyed the fresh air, the exercise in walking what seemed miles, the beautiful scenery and the sound of children laughing as they played. It was a fantastic day out in countryside so close to home we sometimes ignore or take it for granted. I highly recommend you pay a visit yourself.

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"

Psalm 118:24,

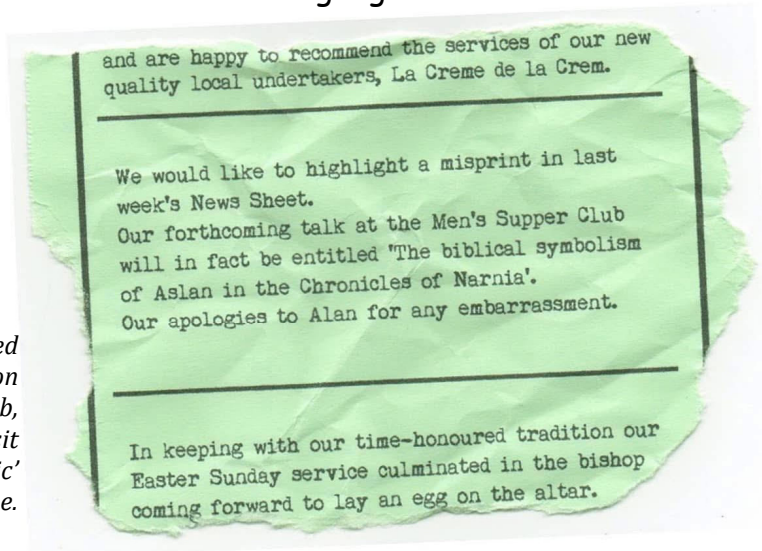
Shirley

AND FINALLY

One for
both of our
amazing
Lay Ministers
this month,
I think!

St Cliff's Weekly News Sheet

Highlights #6



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

©Andy Robb

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - MAY

Sunday 3rd

APCM - after the service
Sundown Swing Band - St M's, 2:30

Monday 4th *(and every Monday)*

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

Tuesday 5th

Community Lunch & Reminiscent Cinema 12:00

Saturday 9th

Coffee & Cake (Christian Aid) 10:00-12:00
ECO Church Swap Stall

Sunday 10th

ECO Church Swap Stall
Rucksack Club Half Day Walk, 2:00

Thursday 14th

Ascension Day Benefice Service (St. J's) 7:00

Saturday 16th

Roger Davies & His Band - Hall, 7:30

Sunday 17th

Prayer Ministry during the service
GLORIA Concert - Church, 4:00

Tuesday 19th - Thursday 21st

MU Retreat

Thursday 21st

Thy Kingdom Come - Reflection & Prayer 7:00

Sunday 24th

Pentecost Praise (St M's) 4:00

Tuesday 26th

MU Coffee Day, 39 Bolehill Park, 10:00-3:00

Wednesday 27th

MU - Prayer Capsule - Dewsbury Minster, 2:30

Sunday 31st

Benefice Service (St. M's) 10:30



All items for the April magazine to: stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com
by 9:00 a.m. Saturday 23rd May please.



Website : www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk

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

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Wi-Fi

Network : everywhere
Password : anywhere