St John the Divine, Rastrick

Your Parish Magazine

£1.50



November 2026

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

Fridays

8:00 a.m. Prayers for our parish & people (by Zoom).
Alan: 07756 035591

Rev'd Michelle writes……



November each year always brings a poignant time of remembering.

It all begins on Sunday 1st November with our All- Saints service in the morning, remembering those special people from the past whose great faith can give us such inspiration for our own walk with God. At 4pm that same day we gather for Loved Not Lost, remembering those people who have been special to us but are no longer with us. As usual I have invited families of those whose funerals have taken place during the past year, but everyone is welcome, whether you lost a loved one recently or a number of years ago. Please come along and invite others to come with you.

Then Sunday 8th November is our annual Remembrance service. We gather at 10am at St Matthew's for a united service to give thanks for all those who have given their lives in the service of our country, including a solemn walk to the war memorial in Rastrick Library grounds for 11am to lay wreaths and observe a two-minute silence. In the evening that same day is our Eucharist for Peace. For as we remember the fallen, we must also take care to pray for peace in our world and among its people.

The following week is our annual service with the St John's Pantomime Society. This one isn't of course about remembering, but we do look forward to hearing from the chorus a song or two from their upcoming pantomime Aladdin and Jasmine's Genie-us Adventure.

The following week I will be heading off to Wales for an extended Ignatian retreat based on the life on Jesus. Please remember me in your prayers in my absence, and I look forward to sharing my experience on my return.

In all the busying and the remembering of this time of year, we must also make time to remember and give thanks to God for all his mercies and great love.

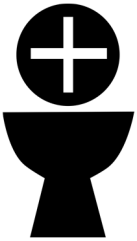
With my prayers and every blessing

Michelle

SERVICES AND CHURCH INFORMATION

SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st - 11:00 - All Saints - All Age Holy Communion
4:00pm - Loved, not lost
Sunday 8th - **10:00** - Remembrance Sunday - **St. Matthew's**
1:00pm - BSL (British Sign Language) Service
7.00pm - Eucharist for Peace (Benefice)
Sunday 15th - 11:00 - 2nd before Advent (Panto Soc.) -
All Age Morning Worship
Sunday 22nd - 11:00 - Christ the King - Morning Worship
4:00pn - Healing and Wholeness Service
Sunday 29th - **10:30** - Advent Sunday (Benefice) - **St Matthew's**



MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - NOVEMBER

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

NEXT UNITED BENEFICE SERVICES

- ◊ Sunday November 8th - Eucharist for Peace - 19:00, St J's
- ◊ Sunday November 29th - Advent Sunday - 10:30, St M's

NEXT SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S WITH PRAYER MINISTRY

- ◊ Sunday 20th December

NEXT HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE

- ◊ Sunday 22nd November - 4:00pm



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 a prayer written by St Teresa of Avila 1515-1582
and Sent in by Shirley

St. Theresa of Avila's Memorial Day
was last month on October 15th

Lord grant that I may always allow myself
to be guided by You,
always follow Your plans
and perfectly accomplish Your holy Will.

Help me respond
to the slightest prompting of Your Grace,
so that I may be Your trustworthy instrument
for your honour.

May Your Will be done in time and in eternity
by me, in me, and through me.

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.

Next service with Prayer Ministry

- Sunday 20th December



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, November 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 November 26

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
02-Nov	**03-Nov**	**04-Nov**	**05-Nov**	**06-Nov**	**07-Nov**
Psalms 2 Daniel 1 Revelation 1	Psalms 5 Daniel 2.1-24 Revelation 2.1-11	Psalms 9 Daniel 2.25-end Revelation 2.12-end	Psalms 11 Daniel 3.1-18 Revelation 3.1-13	Psalms 16 Daniel 3.19-end Revelation 3.14-end	Psalms 18.31-end Daniel 4.1-18 Revelation 4
09-Nov	**10-Nov**	**11-Nov**	**12-Nov**	**13-Nov**	**14-Nov**
Psalms 19 Daniel 4.19-end Revelation 5	Psalms 21 Daniel 5.1-12 Revelation 6	Psalms 23 Daniel 5.13-end Revelation 7.1-4	Psalms 26 Daniel 6 Revelation 8	Psalms 28 Daniel 7.1-14 Revelation 9.1-12	Psalm 33 (or) 68 Daniel 7.15-end Revelation 9.13-end
16-Nov	**17-Nov**	**18-Nov**	**19-Nov**	**20-Nov**	**21-Nov**
Psalms 46 Daniel 8.1-14 Revelation 10	Psalms 48 Daniel 8.15-end Revelation 11.1-14	Psalms 56 Daniel 9.1-19 Revelation 11.15-end	Psalms 61 Daniel 9.20-end Revelation 12	Psalms 63 Daniel 10.1 – 11.1 Revelation 13.1-10	Psalms 79 Daniel 12 Revelation 13.11-end
23-Nov	**24-Nov**	**25-Nov**	**26-Nov**	**27-Nov**	**28-Nov**
Psalms 92 Isaiah 40.1-11 Revelation 14.1-13	Psalms 97 Isaiah 40.12-26 Rev. 14.14 – end 15	Psalms 110 Isaiah 40.27 – 41.7 Revelation 16.1-11	Psalms 125 Isaiah 41.8-20 Revelation 16.12-end	Psalm 139 Isaiah 41.21 – 42.9 Revelation 17	Psalm 145 Isaiah 42.10-17 Revelation 18

Other Apps and websites that are worth exploring: 'Everyday Faith' , 'Our Daily Bread' *'Lectio 365' , 'Daily Prayer', 'Word for Today'* Google search or find them on play store.

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)

The Men of the Churches of Rastrick
Host

Beer and Banter 2026



Mondays at
The Four Sons, Rastrick 7 pm

19th Oct - Good News for Everyone – Mark Stevenson
16th Nov – CICS – Robert Fox
16th Dec (Wednesday) – Annual Dinner @ The 4 Sons
18th Jan – Canada coast to coast – Alan



All Men Welcome

For further details, call Alan on 07756035591



United Benefice of
St John the Divine
and St Matthews, Rastrick



All are welcome to:

- a service to remember our loved ones and God's love for us.
- light a candle, celebrate their lives with favourite hymns and
- after the service, share memories over a cup of tea or coffee.

Loved, not lost

Sundays 25th October
at St Matthew's
and 1st November
at St John's.
Both at 4.00 pm

Further details please contact Rev'd Michelle Petch
(01484) 710538, vicar@rastrickbenefice.org.uk

The United Benefice of Rastrick

St Matthew's & St John the Divine



Eucharist For Peace

Sunday 8th Nov. - 19:00

St. John the Divine, Rastrick, HD6 1HN

Women of the Bible

Different women. Different stories. The same faithful God.

REAL LIVES • TIMELESS FAITH • ONE GOD

A 6-week Bible study exploring the lives of 12 remarkable women and what their stories mean for us today.



All are welcome!

THE SIX SESSIONS

WEEK 1
Eve & Sarah
Faith, failure and God's promises



WEEK 2
Naomi & Ruth
Loss, loyalty and new beginnings



WEEK 3
Hannah & Deborah
Prayer, leadership and courage



WEEK 4
Rahab & Esther
Courage, risk and God's purpose



WEEK 5
Martha & Mary Magdalene
Discipleship, service and encountering Jesus



WEEK 6
Mary & Lydia
Saying yes and sharing the gospel



Starts week commencing 19th October 2026

Mondays
2 pm
Host: Shirley Stows
50 Archbell Avenue
Tel: 01484 714209

Wednesdays
7 pm
Host: Oriel Kelly
8 Healey Wood Gardens
Tel: 01484 719352

Thursdays
10:30 am
Host: Cherry Fancourt
7 Oaks Green Mount
Tel: 01484 385080

Explore the Bible | Share together | Grow in faith | Be encouraged

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."
HEBREWS 12:1

St. John's Rucksack Club

Full Day Walk

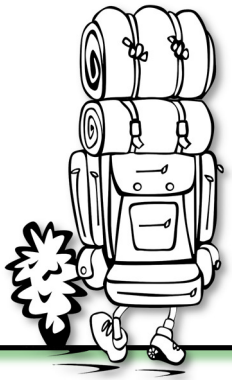
Date: Saturday 14th November 2026

Area: Hollingworth Lake 5 miles

Leaders: Judith and Eric Ogden Mobiles:
07777 494 681 & 07500 367 156

Depart Church : 9.00 am

A easy walk along the canal and finishing around Hollingworth Lake
Start from Church 9.00 am
Hopefully good views.



FLOWERS FOR A SPECIAL MEMORY

Thank you to

Barbara Rukin

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

MU MATTERS

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

The power of prayer is the foundation of the Mothers Union.

Everyone is welcome to join our branch meetings, which are spiritual and also fun.

Once again we have had busy and fun times with our Mothers Union Branch here at St Johns.

September a few of us travelled to Hepworth to join in their 150 year of Mothers Union celebration service. This was a lovely service with a comical sketch (to be repeated at St Johns in 2027 do not miss it !!!) the service concluded with the most delicious home baked cakes.
A good time had by all.

We visited Heckmondwike for their service in July which included various members from other branches informing us of their future celebrations plus we had a good old singalong of the Mary Sumner hymn.



Three of our members have been busy knitting angels and snowmen to hang on the tree at the Christmas goodies stall and also for toy box nursery. Hilary and Christine have been " clicking " away and our Cherry has joined in with this – how lovely is that photo of Cherry in this article.

On the 15th September we had a very special and heart wrenching talk by two lovely ladies Debbie and Nina (Nina is the lady from Clifton who collects the donations) They spoke regarding the conflict in Ukraine and how vital donations of clothing blankets medical supplies etc are and how grateful the soldiers in the trenches are for the candles made from wax and tins.

A video was shown of the destruction – this video was not one made by the media it was taken by the volunteers from The Huddersfield Ukrainian Aid Charity, Debbie being one of them. Nina and Debbie say thank you to all of you who joined in our branch meeting and gave a donation. They were overwhelmed by your generosity. Please if you go into the supermarket etc if you are able and can pick up a pack of paracetamol or ibuprofen please do so and I will pass these on to Nina,



As you are now most probably aware this year is 150 years celebration of Mothers Union. To mark this there was a worldwide gathering in Durban South Africa which was attended by Mothers Union members across the world. Kathleen Snow, the worldwide president, delivered the keynote address titled The future Belongs to the Faithful – Hope - Courage and Mothers Union next 150 years. Amen to that !! There may be thousands of miles between members but in Durban everyone was united by a shared faith, a shared calling and a shared sense of belonging and after 150 years there was plenty to celebrate.

CLOSING PRAYER FROM KATHLEEN SNOW

Loving and faithful God we give you thanks for Mothers Union for 150 years of faithfulness for the women and families whose lives have been touched and for all who have served with love and dedication. Thank you for carrying us through every season and for the strength you have given us to continue putting our faith in action. As we look to the future fill us with hope and courage. Give us wisdom to discern your way, faith to trust your leading and hearts to embrace all that lies ahead. May we remain united in your love, faithful to our calling and confident that you are with us every step of the way. In Jesus name Amen

God Bless Ann

Four Score Years and Ten



I was delighted to maintain the St John's tradition of celebrating 90th Birthdays, by celebrating mine on 4th October, with 'drinks and cake' after the 11.00am service. So thank you vicar for allowing this; thank you Ann Johnson and Anne Beaumont for taking me shopping to Tesco on a Friday morning, and thank you Pam Dimbleby for all the super artwork!



I also had other 'gatherings' of friends from 'the past': St Peter's Boys Club, 1957 - 73, Midland Bank friends; I left the bank 1966, Staff and ex pupils from Birkenshaw County Secondary School, 1969-73 and Huddersfield Police from 1987 to now!

The donations to maintain paths in the Yorkshire Dales National Park amounted to £700 which will pay for 20 metres at £35 a metre. (£20 a yard in 2016) i.e. 'maintain' not 'repair' is wording from YDNP.



Cutting the cake

Thank you, everyone.
Long way to Five Score Years!!

Michael



Believe God for 'Good Things'

"You have promised these good things to your servant."

2 Samuel 7:28 NIV

We strive each day to 'walk by faith, not by sight' (2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV). But it doesn't come easily. It takes a mind saturated in scripture to make a faith choice when you're staring down the barrel of a situation that seems impossible. So how do you develop that kind of faith? For a relationship to thrive, both parties must invest time and energy into getting to know one other. Lasting connections are based on trust, and an intimate knowledge of the other person's habits and character. And it's the same with God. Over time, as you prove His faithfulness it becomes easier to let go of your fear and replace it with trust. One author writes: 'Getting to know God means walking with Him, spending time in His Word, getting to know His spotless character and the countless examples of His unfailing love illustrated in His ironclad promises. It means praying, talking, sharing all the details of your life and the inner workings of your heart. He knows it all already, but He enjoys the intimacy of the conversation. And like any balanced relationship, we can't always be the one talking. We have to make time to listen, to come before the Lord and get quiet, by silencing the noise of our thoughts and the rush of our emotions.' Remember, the only place fear has to work is in the empty space where your faith should be. Fear is based on what you see and hear. Faith is based on knowing that God's Word is reliable, and that He has promised 'good things' to those who believe Him for them!

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

Missions & Charities

BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL FOODBANK

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

- Peanut butter
- Jam
- Rice Pudding

On behalf of the Foodbank I'd like to thank everybody for their incredible generosity in their gifts at St John's Harvest Festival. We have been lucky enough to be the recipients of the harvest collection of several local schools and churches this year and we are well-stocked for the coming months (though there's always something we're short of!)
Thanks

Rosemary & Norman



Samaritan's Purse - Shoeboxes

As a church, we are once again supporting the work of the Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Christmas appeal. Leaflets are in church, and as usual, for those who would like to buy a box already made up, a limited number will be available again this year, at a cost of £17 per box including shipping.

Deadline: Sunday 8th November. Many thanks, Gill Mills.

Rastrick Christmas Cards



At the last meeting of the Rastrick Group of Churches (known as Growing Together in Rastrick) held on 30th September, we discussed what to do about delivery of the Christmas Card to each house in Rastrick. The card has a Christmas message, and also details of all services and events at each of the three churches in Rastrick. The three churches represented, St John's, St Matthew's and Upper Edge Baptist, at the meeting, and a message from the closed New Road, who still work along side us ALL VOTED TO CARRY ON DELIVERY TO EACH HOUSE.

John Mothersdale will order for the last time, shadowed by Alan Hoggard. John is now retiring from the group. Upper Edge have agreed to take on the new houses that have, and still are being built at the top of Rastrick. I have said I will still sort cards into piles but I am not able to deliver as my side of parish is on a hill with slippery paths etc. I have had an offer of help but would appreciate that all the people who voted to still deliver to each house, will take a pile.

Barbara Rukin

Fresh Christmas Door Wreaths made to order.

Fully compostable on handwoven willow base to include evergreen foliage, berries, larch cones and raffia ribbon.

£18 (or £15 small grave wreath).
Ready for the beginning of December.

Moneys raised to go to
Brighouse Food Bank and Kirkwood Hospice
Contact Gill Mills for details
(01484 544749)

Deadline: 20th Nov.

What the Vicar has been doing

Just a selection...



McMillan coffee morning at St M's



Harvest Assembly at Carr Green School



Celebrating Michael Storey's 90th birthday



Home Communion with Cherry



Harvest St John's



Rucksack Club Coffee Morning

Hosted Deanery Synod at St John's



MU Area Gathering at St John's



Leading the Quiet Day at Mirfield



St John's
Parish Lunch



2x St Matthew's Coffee Mornings

St Matthew's
Harvest Supper





Home Group
at Cherry's



Leading the MU Eucharist
for the monthly meeting

Celebrating All Souls at 'Rock Mass'



Including Anne B, John H, Graham K, and Pam.

Rastrick Voices Rehearsals

Nov-15	12:00-1:00
Nov-22	12:00-1:00
Monday Nov 30	7:30-9:00
Dec-06	12:00-1:00
Friday Dec 18	7:30-9:00



All rehearsals in church.



Music News

Feeling grateful this month… *(Lots of thanks)*

On Sunday 11th October we welcomed Nicholas Hicks back on the organ for the Rucksack Club's special service. It's always lovely to have Nicholas with us but it's a rare treat, as Nick works for the Navy and is often away from home. When he does come to St John's, his own church has to use CDs, for which we're very grateful!

We are blessed at St John's in having a group of organist friends who regularly play for us. Each of them has their own style which they bring to our worship, and I often wonder whether I would recognise the organist if I had my eyes shut. I think I probably could.

We're now approaching the busiest time for our Music Group, with 9 out of 15 services between the start of November and Christmas Morning. (10, if you include 25th October). These are as varied as the poignant, *Loved not Lost,* the thoughtful *Eucharist for Peace* and the exuberant *Christingles,* as well as our usual Music Group Sundays. ...and everything requires practice. I never underestimate the huge contribution these dedicated musicians make to our worship, and the time they freely give. Thank you Group, for your commitment!

By the time you read this, the Rastrick Voices will have begun rehearsals for our Carol Service (Nine Lessons & Carols this year) on the evening of Sunday December 20th. Here's another group of dedicated musicians! The music you hear doesn't just happen, and the Voices give up their time to rehearse so that our offering is the best we can give.

Lastly, I'm very grateful to Jane. Not only is she a member of the Music Group, holding us all together, but she also plays for the occasional 'Bechstein Sunday' and in addition also accompanies the Rastrick Voices. You may even hear her on Remembrance Sunday at the library!

Pam

ECO Church

The next Re-use stall is on Sat.14th and Sun 15th November.
A chance to sort out your clutter.



St. John's Pantomime Society



The annual parish lunch run by the Pantomime Society took place on September 27th. Events started with a complimentary glass of sherry, followed by a game of bingo, just to get everyone relaxed. Elliott Austin chaired the game from the stage, complete with crib sheet, to help with the descriptions. "Sunset Strip, number 77 – I don't really get that" he declared. I suspect, however, there were a few dinosaurs, like myself, in the hall who will remember the 50's/60's television programme '77 Sunset Strip' with its finger clicking theme. This was followed by the Reverend Michelle saying Grace, prior to the three course meal being served.

In total, ten members of the pantomime were on hand to prepare and serve the meals to the 56 guests, which was done with their usual efficiency and aplomb.



As ever there was a selection of home made sweets, provided by members of the congregation, which rounded off the meal nicely and is always much appreciated. I think it fair to say that a good time was had by all.

Once the guests had finished and left the hall, the society members cleared up and then late afternoon, about 4pm-5pm, they were able to sit down to their own lunch, which they then had to clear up again.

The lunch is always good value, and anyone can come, providing they have a ticket. My thanks go to the members of the Panto Society, some of whom were there at 9.30am to start preparations and didn't leave till 7pm, making sure everything was cleared away.

David Marshall

Some Parish Lunch Photos

Can you find yourself?



Cranberry sauce?



Sherry anyone?





Who's driving?



Four waiters waiting!







In the kitchen



Two more waiters



More tea Vicar?



On the bar



Pudding!









AS HEARD ON BBC RADIO

A CELEBRATION OF

SIMON & GARFUNKEL

PERFORMED LIVE BY
TIM CHU & IAN BAILEY
The UK's NUMBER 1 NON TRIBUTE SHOW



★★★★★

"Tim and Ian moved between harmonies and shared vocals like a gestalt entity, with all the vocal nuances, dynamics and phrasing that make S&G so unique while finding their own take on the material. Absolutely first class."

★★★★★

"A stunning blend of observation, interpretation, and perfect vocal synergy."

SATURDAY 14th November 2026

ST JOHN THE DIVINE RASTRICK HD6 1HT

Doors 6.45pm / starts 7.30pm **Refreshments AVailable**

Tickets £15 email bookings@stjohnrastrick.org.uk
or local rate box office on 0333 666 3366
https://www.ticketsource.com/timtone-productions
www.classicsingersongwriters.co.uk/sandg

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:	**Christian Aid**	✓
June 13th:	**Turning Point**	✓
July 11th:	**Cancelled**	
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**	



RNLI

One of my guilty TV pleasures is watching 'Saving Lives at Sea'. From the comfort of our sofa, I criticize those who do ridiculous things in the sea (who goes out into the sea in worsening conditions?) and watch in awe at the willingness (bravery and selflessness) of (the) RNLI personnel (volunteers) who, regardless of the risk to their own lives, go out to rescue them.

For over 200 years, the RNLI has operated under a single, unbreakable ethos: anyone can drown, **no one should**. Yet, when 120 people were brought safely to shore at Portsmouth, the RNLI found itself the target of a vicious, coordinated campaign of harassment - from physical intimidation at lifeboat stations to revealing online the names and addresses of RNLI personnel and labelling them as "traitors". The supreme irony of the Portsmouth protests was that, while demonstrators blocked the edge of the harbour quay to vent their anger, four RNLI lifeboats were deployed to stand by in the water simply to ensure the safety of the protesters themselves. The charity protected the very people who were shouting abuse at them!

The anger directed at the RNLI is based on misinformation and ignorance of how the RNLI works and a belief that they are acting as a 'taxi service' when rescuing migrants in small boats. This claim is completely wrong. In 2025, the RNLI launched 9,058 times, with only 109 launches (about 1.2%) assisting small boat incidents in the Channel. Of all the individuals crossing the Channel, only 5.7% were rescued by the RNLI. The remaining 94.3% were handled by the Border Force and other state agencies. Every person brought ashore by the RNLI is handed over to the UK Border Force and immigration authorities in order for them to have their claim for asylum to be assessed.

These facts aside, those who criticise the RNLI have forgotten what the RNLI is about. It is a humanitarian charity which refuses to just let people drown. It does not judge. Its crews are mechanics, teachers, shopkeepers, fishermen – ordinary people - who drop everything, day or night, to risk their own lives in freezing waters. The volunteers of the RNLI represent the absolute best of us and deserve our support. 'Greater love hath no man than this…..'

Norman

Autumn Events at St John's

There is a lot happening during the final quarter of the year at St John's. I'm sure you can fine something here to tempt you….

Learn to Rock 'n' Roll
9th, 16th and 23rd November
Complete beginner classes *(see poster on p.24)*

A Celebration of Simon & Garfunkel
14th November
Enjoy the timeless songs and harmonies of one of the world's best-loved musical partnerships. *(see poster on p.28)*

Paddock Orchestra
21st November
Enjoy another opportunity to hear live orchestral music at St John's, including orchestra members Anne B, John H, Pam D and Graham K. *(see poster on p.22)*

Pantomime – Aladdin
8th–12th December
A wonderful festive treat for all the family. *(see poster on p.34)*

Looking ahead
Christmas Carol Service
20th December
Nine Lessons & Carols with the Rastrick Voices.

Our 'legendary' Christingles
Christmas Eve at 3:00 and 5:00



A note about copyright

I'm very careful that all the images *(photos and graphics)* which I use myself in the magazine are with permission or copyright free. If you send me items with images, please make sure that they are your own or that you are using them with permission. 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 November

Thank you for all of your suggestions.

The winning caption
for last month's photo
was suggested by

Soo Sykes

and was chosen by **Anne A**, who adds:

Yes, it's by Jenny Joseph (1932-2018)
titled, "Warning".
"So people who know me are not too
shocked and surprised
when suddenly I am old and start to
wear purple."



Wasn't there a poem
about wearing purple?

Eco Church - Re-use Stall



The next
Eco Church Re-use Stall
is on:

Saturday 14th &
Sunday 15th November

COFFEE & CAKE

The next Coffee & Cake in Church
will be on **Saturday 14th November** 10.00-12:00.
Hosted by **The ECO Group**



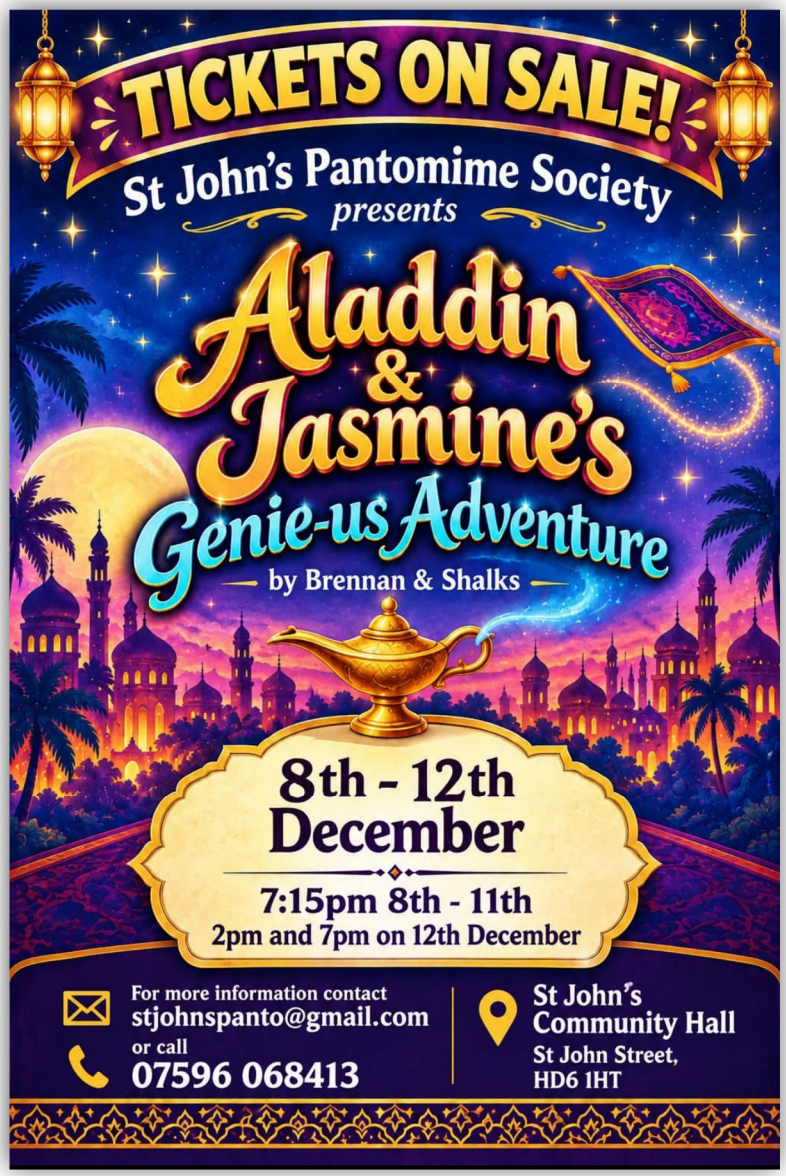
COMMUNITY LUNCH

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

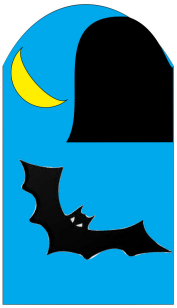


The rest of the 'caption that' entries for October's photo:

- I'm ready to boogie the night away! Who's joining me?
- Let's get this party started, this Dancing Queen is ready to party.
- I always dress for the occasion!
- If you've got it - flaunt it!
- I always believe in making an impression!


TICKETS ON SALE!
St John's Pantomime Society
presents
Aladdin & Jasmine's
Genie-us Adventure
by Brennan & Shalks
8th - 12th December
7:15pm 8th - 11th
2pm and 7pm on 12th December
For more information contact
stjohnspanto@gmail.com
or call
07596 068413
St John's Community Hall
St John Street,
HD6 1HT

PUZZLE PAGE by the Bat in the Belfry



November, and the month of fireworks, All Saints Day, and also remembrance. If you have a bit of spare time try these two in-between the poppies and the parkin pigs

26 – 21 Now you seed me ……..

Can you identify the following trees to be found in Britain from their seeds?

1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

6 

7 

8 

9 

10 

11 

12 

26 – 22 Be Brief

Can you answer the following questions regarding abbreviations?

1. Which Sports organisation is represented by the acronym WIBF?

2. Who might use BSL?

3. Which group of workers are represented by the trade association BALPA?

4. In which field do OFSTED operate?

5. What is the difference between OPEC and OAPEC?

6. In mathematics what are HCF and LCM?.

7. In the UK at which weight does a LGV become an HGV?

8. The police computer system is sometimes referred to as HOLMES. What does this acronym mean?

9. Invented by Jacques Cousteau, what is SCUBA equipment?

10. In which year were CSEs replaced by GCSEs?

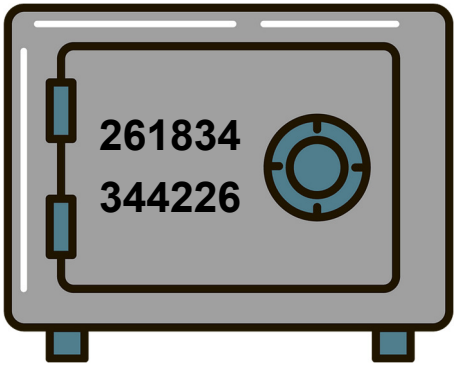
Last month's answers

26 – 19 Chuff Chuff

1) Tornado(2008) First new mainline steam engine in Britain for 50 years **2) Mallard**(1938) Holds the official world speed record for a steam locomotive at 126mph **3) Puffing Billy**(1813-14) Worlds oldest surviving steam locomotive – built for hauling coal wagons **4) PenyDarren**(1804) First rail engine to haul a load – Richard Trevithick **5) City of Truro**(1903) Widely claimed to be the first train to reach 100mph, but unconfirmed. **6) Evening Star**(1960) Last steam engine built by British Rail before diesel and electric took over **7) The Rocket**(1829) Won the Rainhill Trials. Set the design template for modern engines – Robert Stephenson

8) Coronation Scot(1937) Inaugurated for the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth **9) Sir Nigel Gresley** (1937) Set a new post war speed record of 112mph, named after 'The Flying Scotsman' designer **10) The Flying Scotsman** (1923) First steam engine officially recorded at 100mph.

26 – 20 Quite Safe



To work this one out, it helps to remember that rows of numbers aren't always a sequence in their own right. They can also be groups of numbers written together. That's what's happening here: this safe has three vertical pairs of two-digit numbers: 26 and 34, 18 and 42, and thirty-something and 26.

So what's the pattern? For each vertical pair, the number on the top left is multiplied by 2 to get the number on the bottom right, and the number on the bottom left is multiplied by 2 to get the number on the top right. For example, if we look at the first vertical pair, 2 times 2 is 4 and 3 times 2 is 6. So to get the missing number in the last pair, multiply 2 times 2, which gives us 4 as the answer.

MORE NEXT MONTH

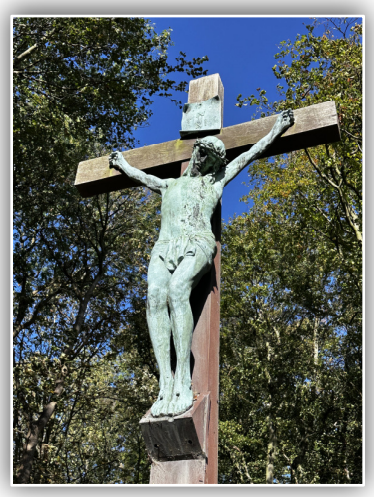
SHIRLEY….

Quiet Day

We all lead such busy, noisy lives. What a treat to get away and unwind in lovely surroundings. That is what I did last month with church members, at the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield. On arrival we had refreshments before settling down with a short opening service in our quiet room. The Bible reading was Matthew 5: 14-16 "You are the Light of the World…" We were then offered different words each beginning with RE and asked in turn to introduce ourselves and suggest what the word meant to us. My word was REPLENISH. I think I said I was looking forward to returning home with my mind relaxed and my energy replenished! We then had a game of identifying fruit, vegetables and various landmarks in silhouette. This tested how we interpret what we see. Then followed Bible Study from the passage in Matthew, and we were given questions on this to discuss in little groups. At noon we shared the Eucharist with other visitors and members of the Community in the vast airy church.



On our return to our quiet room, we ate our packed lunch. We then had free time to explore the libraries and small shop or relax quietly and chat with friends or put on coats and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. I decided to go outside and wandered slowly up and down little paths, against quite a strong blustery wind. As I wandered through a lovely wooded area I came across a hedge with a small opening. I stood at the top of two stone steps and saw a large wooden Cross in the centre of a paved seating area. I saw Pam sitting there and hesitated wondering whether I could manage the steps. She stood up and raised her arm as she approached me. "Take my hand, I will help you down," she said. I was thinking of taking a seat but she said "Come and look round here."



It was then I saw what appeared to be a life size figure of Christ hanging there. What an emotional moment. We tried to imagine how Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene might have felt looking upwards towards his limp body. We slowly lowered ourselves on to one of the steps of the plinth. Pam placed her hand on mine and we each said a prayer.

I retraced my steps, the wind still quite strong at times but this time I imagined it was the Holy Spirit filling the air and I knew I was REPLENISHED.

Shirley

AND FINALLY....



The Pantomime Society's special service is on Sunday November 15th

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st
Loved not Lost - 4:00

Monday 2nd *(and every Monday)*
Monday Meet/Home Group at Shirley's - Women of the Bible - 2:00- 4:00

Tuesday 3rd
Community Lunch & Reminiscent Cinema - 12:00

Wednesday 4th *(and following Wednesdays)*
Home Group at Oriel's - Women of the Bible - 7:00-8:30

Thursday 5th *(and following Thursdays)*
Home Group at Cherry's - Women of the Bible - 10:30-12:00

Sunday 8th
Remembrance Sunday Service - St Matthew's -10:00
British Sign Language Service - 1:00
Eucharist for Peace - St John's - 7:00

Monday 9th *(and following two Mondays)*
Beginners' Rock 'n' Roll - 10:30-11:30

Tuesday 10th
Remembrance Service at Railway Bridge View - 2:00 All Welcome

Saturday 14th
Coffee & Cake (Hosted by the ECO Group) + Re-use stall 10:00-12:00
Rucksack Club Full Day Walk 9:00
A Celebration of Simon & Garfunkel 7:30

Sunday 15th
Pantomime Society Special Service - 11:00

Monday 16th
Beer & Banter - The Four Sons - 7:00

Saturday 21st
Paddock Orchestra Concert - 7:30

Sunday 22nd
Healing & Wholeness Service - 4:00

Sunday 29th
Advent Sunday Benefice Service - St Matthew's - 10:30



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

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

Wi-Fi
Network : everywhere
Password : anywhere