

CLERGY

Vicar Rev'd Paul Mellars
6 Jacobs Hall Court
Darton
Email: Paul.mellars@leeds.anglican.org (in the 1st instance)
Tel: 07505548691 (Text and urgent calls)

Hon. Asst. Priest Reverend Jean Daykin
29 Bamsley Road
Cawthorne
Tel: 07891934920
Email: revdaykin@gmail.com

WHO'S WHO AT DARTON

Churchwardens	Roger Birkett	07885522009 01226 382936 poneill1943@gmail.com
	Janet Rodgerson	07807341666 janet.rodgerson@yahoo.co.uk
PCC Secretary	Annette Taylor	
PCC Treasurer	Linda Rayner	allsaintsdarton_PCC@hotmail.com
Organist & Choir	Judith Hollingsworth	01226 383082

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm
New members are always welcome, please contact Judith for details

Mothers' Union	Mollie Hall	07771658546 molliehall50@gmail.com
Ladies Group	Celia Nixon	01226 386477
Parish Hall Bookings and Caretaker	Ann Carroll	07592 379025
Magazine for both churches	Christine Miller	07922634618 christine_miller2@sky.com

WHO'S WHO AT STAINCROSS

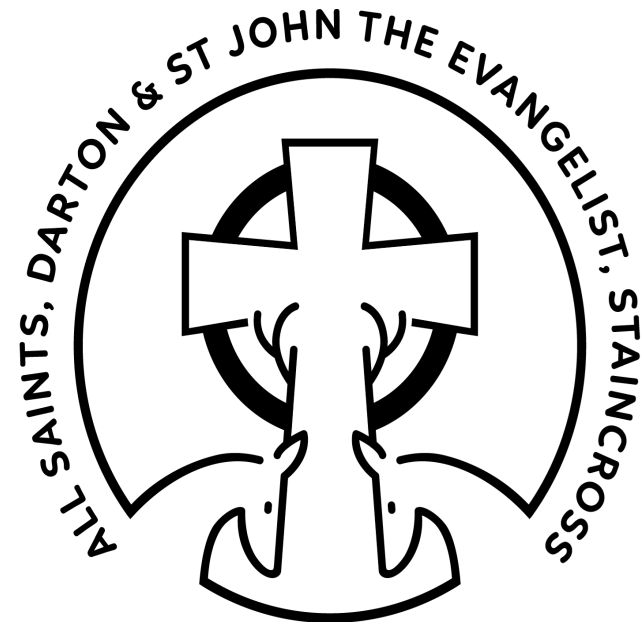
Churchwardens	Bob Hawes	01226 387881
	Sue Dunhill	01226 382501
PCC Secretary	Bob Hawes	01226 387881
PCC Treasurer	Amy Roe	01226 958767 amyroe@aol.com
Music	Bob Hawes	01226 387881

The choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 7 pm to 7.45 pm
New members are welcome, please contact Bob for details

Church Hall bookings	Bob Hawes	01226 387881
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THE PARISH CHURCHES OF ALL SAINTS', DARTON WITH ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, STAINCROSS

*Serving the communities of
Darton, Kexborough, Barugh, Woolley Colliery, Woolley Grange,
Mapplewell & Staincross*



BENEFICE MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 2025 £1

BENEFICE INFORMATION

Vicar Rev'd Paul Mellars
Paul.mellars@leeds.anglican.org (Use email in the 1st instance)
Tel: 07505548691 (Text or Urgent Calls)
(Usual day off FRIDAY)

Hon. Asst. Priest Rev'd Jean Daykin
revdaykin@gmail.com (Usual day off MONDAY)

Find us on the Web at www.dartonandstaincrosschurch.co.uk

Facebook: All Saints, Darton with St John's, Staincross

Twitter: @DandSChurch and YouTube: the church in Darton and Staincross

Arrangements for baptism and marriage may be made most Tuesday evenings between 7.30pm and 8 pm at Darton. If you live in the parishes of Darton or Staincross, you are entitled to have your children baptised or to be married in your parish church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9.00 am THE PARISH EUCHARIST at St John the Evangelist, Staincross

10.30 am THE PARISH MASS at All Saints', Darton
A celebration with Holy Communion lasting an hour or so, with music, light and colour

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Morning Prayer is said on Thursday morning at 9.00 am at Darton

Tuesday	7 pm	REFLECTIVE HOLY COMMUNION AT DARTON
Wednesday	10.30 am	REFLECTIVE HOLY COMMUNION AT STAINCROSS Followed by coffee and cake
Thursday	9.30 am	MASS AT DARTON

The Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday is a quiet celebration without music, lasting just half an hour, with plenty of space for silence and reflection

Rob Firth MSWW



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I work through referrals. If you have any colleagues, family or friends who would benefit from talking to me about their Wills, Trusts or LPAs then please feel free to give them my details. Thank you

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Ballroom Dancing
£3:00 per person
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TUESDAY

9:30am - 11:30am

Toddler Group

£1:50 per Child

Toast and Drink Included



FRIDAY

2:00pm - 4:00pm
Pop-In Social Club
£3:00 per person
Refreshments Included

**PRIVATE BOOKINGS
AVAILABLE**

Mapplewell & Staincross
The Village Hall

Mapplewell & Staincross Village Hall, Darton Lane, Mapplewell S75 6AL
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DARTON PARISH HALL

Located in Church Street, next to the Post Office, this is a substantial facility comprising a large hall, smaller meeting rooms and a fully-equipped kitchen. It is available for hire by groups for educational and leisure activities. If you are interested in hiring the Parish Hall, telephone ANN CARROLL on 07592 379025 to discuss our competitive rates.

STAINCROSS CHURCH HALL

The church hall can be found behind the church on Greenside, Staincross and is available for hire either on a regular basis or for one off events. The hall is a good size, has heating, seating, a large well equipped kitchen and a stage. For more details please contact our Church Warden, MR ROBERT HAWES on 01226 387881 or email bob.hawes@lineone.net



DARTON LADIES GROUP COFFEE MORNING AND CRAFT FAYRE

We hold a Coffee & Crafts event every third Saturday of the month and it allows stall holders to have a shop window, tables are available to book for £5.

Our friendly cafe style events provide an assortment of goodies - Do not miss our delicious bacon sandwiches!

Every one welcome sharing community spirit.

Telephone Debbie 07915137206



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Dear friends in Christ,

Finding Light and Warmth This Autumn.



Autumn has a way of speaking to us. The days shorten, evenings draw in, and there's a new chill in the air. We notice the glow of lamps through windows as we walk home, and there's comfort in the thought of a warm house, a hot cuppa, and the company of those we love. Light and warmth matter more when the dark and cold creep closer.

Here in Barnsley, we know better than most the importance of warmth and shelter. For generations, coal was the lifeblood of this town. Families would gather round the fire after a shift down the pit, the glow of the coal spreading through the room. It wasn't just heat—it was home. The fire was a place of stories, laughter, and sometimes tears. It was where people felt safe. Today, though the pits have gone, the longing for that same warmth remains. Our families, friends, and church communities are still the fire around which we gather.

But life has sped up. These days we rush from one thing to the next—work, school runs, shopping, endless notifications on our phones. Being “busy” feels like a badge of honour. And yet, deep down, we know it drains us. Over busyness robs us of peace and weighs heavy on our minds.

Jesus lived with a different pace. He took his time. He noticed people. He prayed. He ate slowly with friends. When Martha bustled about in a frenzy, trying to do everything, Jesus reminded her gently that Mary—who simply sat with him—had chosen the better part. His words still speak: slow down, be still, and know that you are loved.

This autumn invites us to do just that. To light a candle, to share a meal, to be present with those who matter. To rest in God's sheltering love and tend to our own mental wellbeing. To remember that God does not measure us by our rushing, but by our love.

And so, as the leaves fall and nights draw near, may we gather again around the fire—whether in our homes, our families, or our faith—and find in Christ the light and warmth that will never go out.

Luv & blessings
Paul

A PRAYER FOR AUTUMN

Loving God,
As the days shorten and the nights grow long,
be our light in the darkness and our warmth in the cold.
Shelter us in your love, as families once gathered round the
coal fires,
and teach us to slow down, to rest, and to trust in you.
Bless our homes, our community, and all who struggle with the
weight of life.
May we find in Jesus the stillness, the peace, and the hope we
need.

Amen.



Dear all,

It's struck me (& Rev'd Jean) that a number of folks are receiving a blessing at our services. It's got the old grey matter wondering about the possibility of a confirmation service sometime in 2026. Depending on numbers, this could be a United Benefice event or (as happens in lots of Diocese nowadays) it might be good to have a deanery wide celebration with many people being confirmed as a wonderful witness of our faith to our community.

It would be good to hear from anyone who would like to consider confirmation.

Come, Holy Spirit,
seal us with Your gift of strength and wisdom.
Fill our hearts with wonder at the mystery of Your presence.
As we are confirmed in faith,
draw us ever closer to the table of the Eucharist,
where heaven touches earth
and Christ Himself becomes our food and life.
May this holy communion of love
guide us, sustain us, and send us forth
as witnesses of Your truth.
Amen.

A windy toy...

When Evelyn came to visit, I thought I'd treat her to something new for the toy shelf. What did I choose? Well... let's just say you'll either love it or hate it. This little creature has the kind of face only a mother could love, big green eyes, wide mouth, rainbow fur, and a smile that's more "dentist's waiting room" than Disney princess.



And if that wasn't enough, it has a rather unholy party trick: walk past it, and it lets out a noise that could empty a bus queue. Yes, the toy breaks wind. Loudly. Regularly. And, much to Evelyn's delight, predictably.

Now, while my son and his partner shake their heads in despair, Evelyn and I think it's brilliant. We laugh every time. And in a funny way, it reminds me of one of the fruits of the Spirit, joy (Galatians 5:22). Joy doesn't always come in the neat, polished package we expect. Sometimes it comes in a rainbow-coloured toy with questionable manners. Sometimes it comes in a child's laughter that fills a room with life.

God's gifts often surprise us, and perhaps even embarrass us a little, but they remind us not to take life too seriously. If He can use a donkey to speak in the Old Testament, why not use a squeaky, windy toy to remind us to lighten up?

So yes, this odd little thing will stay in our house, proudly (and noisily) announcing Evelyn's next visit. Because sometimes, the holiest sound is the sound of laughter breaking through an otherwise ordinary day!

Fr John

WELCOME



REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS IN THE UNITED BENEFICE

Monday:	Mothers' Union Meeting, everyone welcome, at 7 pm in All Saints (3rd Monday in the month)
Tuesday:	Choir Practice at St John's at 7 pm, new members welcome Holy Communion Service in All Saints at 7 pm Office half-hour at 7.30 pm for enquiries regarding weddings and baptism for both churches at All Saints
Wednesday:	Holy Communion Service in St John's at 10.30 am
Thursday:	Morning Prayer at 9 am in All Saints Said Mass at 9.30 am in All Saints Choir Practice at All Saints at 6.30 pm, new members welcome
Saturday:	Church open 10 am until 12 noon for coffee, prayer and visitors Mothers' Union Coffee Mornings at 10 am (1st Saturday in the month in the Parish Hall) Baptism Preparation Class at 11 am (2nd Saturday in the month) Ladies Group Coffee and Crafts at 10 am (3rd Saturday in the month in the Parish Hall) St John's Coffee Morning at 10 am (4th Saturday in the month in the Church Hall)
Sunday:	Parish Eucharist at 9 am in St John's Parish Mass in All Saints' at 10.30 am

If you would like any further information, please visit the website
(www.dartonandstaincrosschurch.co.uk)

THE 100 CLUB

SEPTEMBER DRAW

1ST	NO 56	Annette Taylor
2ND	NO 21	Chris Beaumont
3RD	NO 60	Lesley Warden

Spare numbers can be bought on the day of the draw or for the rest of the year. Subscriptions can be made for 2026 from this month, please see me at the coffee mornings or in church

Mollie



Do you enjoy singing or do you have a child who does? Darton Church choir has vacancies for adults and children aged 7 or over.

We rehearse on Thursdays at 6.30 pm in church. There is a sung service every Sunday at 10.30 am. There are also opportunities to sing at weddings and other special occasions.

If you are, interested, come along any Thursday and you will be welcome.

We, will be having a community carol service in December so perhaps you would like to try us out then. Watch out for further information in the magazine and Facebook or 07771782741, call or text.

Judith Hollingsworth

Thank you

to everyone from The Voice of Darton and Church who helped and supported us at the Summer Fayre on the 13th September, whether it was transporting tables, running a stall, setting up/clearing up, or by sending donations, and particularly to Paul Beaumont and his team who led the event.

The weather was kind to us; we didn't get any rain until almost everything was cleared away. The ducks got stuck in the river and had to be rescued, but all ended well, and the winner was the duck from Les Cadeaux.



**As a Church we are called to pray for those around us.
Below you will find details of the worldwide Anglican Cycle of Prayer,
the Diocese of Leeds Cycle of Prayer, and our own United Benefice Cycle of
Prayer. The idea is that every church and community in the world is prayed for
in turn.**

Oct 1: The Diocese of Owo Blubberhouses, St Helen, Denton, All Saints Farnley St Michael and St Lawrence, Fewston, St Oswald, Leathley and All Saints, Weston Those who live and work on Richmond Avenue	The Parishes of St Andrew,
Oct 2: The Diocese of Oxford Darrington, St Peter, Kirk Smeaton and St John, Wentbridge Those who live and work on River View	The Parishes of St Luke and All Saints,
Oct 3: The Diocese of Oyo St John the Evangelist, Dodworth, St John the Evangelist, Hoylandswaine and All Saints, Silkstone Those who live and work on Rockwood Close	The Parishes of All Saints Cawthorne,
Oct 4: The Diocese of Pacong Those who live and work on Roeburn Close	The Parish of St James, Wetherby
Oct 5: The Anglican Church of Tanzania peace, love, pardon, faith, hope, light and joy Those who live and work on Roman Road	Lord, make us instruments of your
Oct 6: The Diocese of Panama Those who live and work on Rosefield Avenue	The Parish of St Mary, Whitkirk
Oct 7: The Diocese of Pankshin Those who live and work on Round Hill	The Parish of St Paul, Wibsey
Oct 8: The Diocese of Panrieng Those who live and work on Royd Avenue	The Parish of Christ Church, Windhill
Oct 9: The Diocese of Panyana Those who live and work on Rushworth Close	The Parish of St Mary, Woodkirk
Oct 10: The Diocese of Paraguay Those who live and work on Sackup Lane, Darton	The Parish of St James, Woodside
Oct 11: The Diocese of Parana Wortley Those who live and work on Sackup Lane, Staincross	The Parish of St John the Evangelist,
Oct 12: The Church of the Province of Uganda and reduce transport emissions in our towns and cities Those who live and work on Salcombe Close	Strengthen us as we combat pollution
Oct 13: The Diocese of Pathein Those who live and work on School Street	The Parish of St Cuthbert, Wrose
Oct 14: The Diocese of Patna Those who live and work on School Street	The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Wyke
Oct 15: The Diocese of Pelotas Yeadon, Those who live and work on Selbourne Close	The Parish of St John the Evangelist,
Oct 16: The Diocese of Pennsylvania Mary, Masham, St Mary, North Stainley, St Mary, Snape and St Michael, Well Those who live and work on Shaw Lane	The Parishes of St Paul, Healey, St

Oct 17: The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania Wood, St Andrew, Moor Grange, St Margaret, Horsforth, St Stephen, Kirkstall and Abbey Grange CE Academy Those who live and work on Sike Close	The Parishes of St Mary, Hawksworth
Oct 18: The Diocese of North Western Pennsylvania Cuthbert, both of Ackworth and St Mary, Badsworth Those who live and work on Silverwood Road	The Parishes of All Saints, and St
Oct 19: The Episcopal Church Those who live and work on Skelton Avenue	We pray for our nation and our leaders, for the spirit of wisdom, peace and justice to dwell amongst them and us.
Oct 20: The Diocese of Perth Those who live and work on Snailsden Way	The Parish of St Peter, Addingham
Oct 21: The Diocese of Peru Those who live and work on Spark Lane	The Parish of St John the Baptist, Adel
Oct 22: The Diocese of Peshawar Those who live and work on Sparkfields	The Parish of Holy Cross, Airedale
Oct 23: The Diocese of Peterborough Aldborough, St James, Boroughbridge, St Mary, Dunsforth, Minskip Mission Room and Roecliffe Church School Those who live and work on Spey Close	The Parishes of St Andrew,
Oct 24: The Diocese of Central Philippines Francis Villar Hall, Allerton Those who live and work on Spring Hill	The Parish of St Peter, Allerton and St
Oct 25: The Diocese of North Central Philippines Allerton Bywater, St Mary, Kippax and St Mary, Swillington Those who live and work on St Andrews Drive, Darton	The Parishes of St Mary the Less,
Oct 26: The Church in Wales Those who live and work on St Andrews Drive, Mapplewell	Give thanks for retired clergy and those with Permission to Officiate, for the support they give to parishes across the Diocese of Leeds
Oct 27: The Diocese of Northern Philippines and St Helen, both of Almondbury, St Lucius, Farnley Tyas, All Hallows C of E Infant & Nursery Schook, Farnley Tyas CE First School, Lowerhouses CE Junior Infant and Early Years Those who live and work on Staincross Common	The Parishes of All Hallows, St Micael
Oct 28: The Diocese of Southern Philippines Altofts Those who live and work on Staith Lane	The Parish of St Mary Magdalene,
Oct 29: The Diocese of Phulbani Those who live and work on Stamford Way	The Parish of St Bartholomew, Armley
Oct 30: The Diocese of Pittsburgh and St John the Evangelist, Carlton Those who live and work on Station Road	The Parishes of St Helen, Athersley
Oct 31: The Diocese of Polynesia both of Baildon Those who live and work on Stockwell Court	The Parishes of St Hugh and St James,

October rota for St John's

Date	Sunday 05 October 2025	Sunday 12 October	Sunday 19 October	Sunday 26 October	Sunday 02 November 2025
Day	Trinity 16	Trinity 17	Trinity 18	Last Sunday after Trinity	All Saints' Day
Time	09:00	09:00	09:00	09:00	09:00
Welcome & Offertory	Sue Green	Amy Roe	Cynthia/Gavin Sturgess	Doreen Piper	Pam Seaman
Reader	Amy Roe	Angela Gomersall	Diane Cooper- Ramsden	Cynthia Sturgess	Pam Seaman
Reading	Lamentations 1: 1-6	Jeremiah 20:1, 4-7	Jeremiah 31: 27-34	Joel 2:23-32	Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18
Gospel	Luke 17:5-10	Luke 17:11-19	Luke 18:1-8	Luke 18:9-14	Luke 6:20-31
Intercessions	Amy Roe	Louise Smith	Gavin Sturgess	Amy Roe	Louise Smith
Chalice	Louise Smith	Pam Seaman	Margaret Foster	Louise Smith	Pam Seaman
Coffee	Amy Roe Pam Seaman	Doreen Piper Louise Smith	Sue Dunhill Bob Hawes	Amy Roe Pam Seaman	Doreen Piper Louise Smith
Servers	Diane Cooper- Ramsden	Diane Cooper- Ramsden	Diane Cooper- Ramsden	Diane Cooper- Ramsden	Diane Cooper- Ramsden
Altar Guild				Sue Dunhill	

Please make any changes necessary on the sheet in the vestry and on the sheet at the back of church

October rota for All Saints'

DATE	OCT 5	OCT 12	OCT 19	OCT 26
MINISTER OF WELCOME	Susan Elliott	Linda Rayner	Hilary Riggs	Susan Elliott
READER	Linda Rayner	Hilary Riggs	Lizzie Jones	Rev'd Jean
INTERCESSIONS	Hilary Riggs	Judith Hollingsworth	Rev'd Jean	Hilary Riggs
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	Ursula Senior	Janet Rodgeron	Marjorie Crossland	Stuart Holling

Readings as St John's

If you have any amendments to the rota please make alternative cover



RAISING THE ROOF AT ST JOHN'S

Join us for

Afternoon Tea

St John The Evangelist, Staincross

Friday 3rd October

2.30 - 4.30pm



Tickets

£8.00

For tickets call Sue on 01226 382501



MOTHERS' UNION

MEETINGS

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm in church and anyone is welcome to join us.

Mollie (07771658546)

DARTON PARISH CHURCH IS OPEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ON SATURDAY MORNINGS

The Parish Church, and its surrounding churchyard is an oasis of calm in the midst of a busy world. It is always open at service times (see inside front cover) and on Saturday mornings 10 am to 12 noon, when refreshments are served. You are very welcome to pop in and enjoy its peace, its history, or to find space to reflect and pray. The Lady Chapel is reserved as a place of prayer, and you may light candles or leave us a request for prayer.

This is your church - and you are always welcome.

CHURCH OPENING ROTA 10 am—12 noon

October 4:	Bridget Mellor-Frith & Tony Warden
11:	Brenda Hepworth & Mollie Hall
18:	Janet Rodgerson & Ursula Senior
25:	VACANCY

If you would like to help on the rota occasionally, it would be good to have someone for us to call upon to cover holidays, sickness etc., please call in and see what is involved one Saturday morning?

Gerrard Sinfonia to play Darton Church as part of their Sunday@4 series



Gerrard Sinfonia is a string orchestra of 24 players with a conductor, Barbara Bancroft, founded in around 2008 by Roy Gerrard. Roy was a peripatetic violin teacher who also had private students, including a few adults. As there was no Barnsley string orchestra the adults could join, Roy, along with friend and colleague Paul Bryant, created one.

Hope House Church, Barnsley, served as the original rehearsal space, with the group initially playing for enjoyment rather than performance. In more recent years it has gone from strength to strength and the group now gives 3 concerts per year. Venues include Penistone, Cawthorne Church, Darton Church and Upper

Denby Church.

Gerrard Sinfonia is part of the Hoylandswaine Arts Group but is run autonomously. Players come from Barnsley, Huddersfield, and West of Huddersfield and the group is always pleased to welcome new players.

Repertoire includes classical music e.g. Bach's double violin concerto, and lighter music e.g. Libertango. After the last concert in March, a member of the audience wrote in to say how the orchestra had gone from strength to strength, and how impressed he was with the standard.

The group is very much looking forward to returning to Darton Church for their next concert on Sunday 12th October at 4-00pm. The first half includes some serious music by composers Corelli, Boyce and Bach. The second half has some fascinating unknowns yet to be finalised. Please come and support us.



Reflecting Faith: Coloured Window Glass



Why do we have so much coloured glass of all shapes and sizes in church buildings?

Stained glass in churches is similar to wall paintings. It adds colour as well as traditionally teaching non literate people about the great events and characters of their religion.

But glass is so much more than that.

The techniques used to create these windows have been refined over the centuries, and their intricate beauty has inspired countless artists and designers.

The way the light shines through the glass creates a unique atmosphere that is often described as ethereal or heavenly. In this way, the use of stained-glass windows helps to

create a sacred space that is set apart from the secular world.

The light shining through the glass throws the colours onto the adjacent brickwork or stonework. Depending on the original colours, the intensity of the light, the angle of the sun's rays, as well as the height and angle away from the watcher, these colours can range from vibrantly strong to softly muted.

Hundreds of years ago people saw the changes in light in this way as being very significant. It was thought that the light passing through was transformed or transmuted and therefore had a healing and revivifying effect on people who placed themselves within its light.

When you visit a church on a sunny day, just enjoy the play of light being put on for you. What does it say about God's love for you?

The Rev'd Dr Jo White

WORLD SMILE DAY ON OCTOBER 3RD SO HERE ARE SOME AUTUMN JOKES TO MAKE YOU SMILE

**How did the tree get a new job?
She had the right qua-leaf-ications**

What should you do when you witness a crime in the forest?
Report it to the leaf of police



**Why did the apple pie go to the dentist?
Because it needed a filling**

Why did the apple pie cross the road?
It saw a fork up ahead



**Why did the apple pie cry?
Its peelings were hurt!**

Why did the apple stop in the middle of the road?
It ran out of juice

**Why did the scarecrow win a Nobel Prize?
He was outstanding in his field**

Why shouldn't you tell a secret in a cornfield?
Because the corn has ears





FROM THE REGISTERS

On September 14th Rev'd Jean baptised Arthur James and Olivia Rose Butterworth at All Saints, we welcome them both into the church family



Cassandra Ruby Akinyi Davies baptised at All Saints today by Fr Paul, it was a pleasure to welcome family and friends to share in her special day



Save the date ...

This year's Autumn Fayre at All Saints' will be held on November 8th in the Parish Hall from 10—12.30 pm. Raffle, Tombola, Stalls of all sorts to get your Christmas shopping started and of course the usual refreshments.

All are welcome to come along and join in the fun

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER

10:00 – 11:30

Cuppa + 2 cakes for £2.50



COFFEE MORNING

ST JOHN'S PARISH HALL, GREENSIDE, STAINCROSS, S75 6GU

Share a little light

Some parents aren't sure quite what to feel about Hallowe'en—is it just harmless fun, or are there aspects of it that don't fit in with how we want to see the world? The christening service is very honest about the reality of good and evil and Hallowe'en can be a good time to talk about those things and how the love of Jesus can be a light in the darkness for everyone.



The word "Hallowe'en" actually means "the eve of all hallows' day" - in other words, the night before the church's festival celebrating All Saints. A Saint is sometimes thought to be an exceptionally holy person - someone really special, who did extraordinary things because of their faith in God.

The famous saints are all amazing examples of what it's like to live God's way. But in the Bible, St Paul calls all Christians, saints - a saint is simply a friend of God, who seeks to live their life according to God's purposes. When someone is christened, they truly become a Saint, so All Saints' day is a celebration of the whole family of God.

If you'd like to mark Hallowe'en, these are some ideas that will bless others as well as being fun too.

What's happening in church?

Some churches hold special events around this time of year. Some churches also have a special service for All Souls day - a time when we remember our loved ones who have died. There might be an opportunity to go and light a candle to remember someone - even small children grieve in their own way, and may find comfort in this simple action. All Saints will take place at both churches in the morning services on November 2nd and there will be a memorial service on the same day for All Souls at 3.30 pm at St John's and 5 pm at All Saints

Carve a pumpkin

Did you know that gargoyles (the scary looking faces carved in stone on churches) were originally made in medieval times to scare away evil spirits? The pumpkins with scary faces carved into them at Hallowe'en are a bit like that. But nowadays most

people believe that you can't fight evil with evil - you can only fight evil by doing good, and that good will always win in the end. So why not see if you can carve a friendly looking pumpkin this Hallowe'en, as a sign that you and your family are going to be a force for good this Hallowe'en? (And you can always use the offcuts from your pumpkin to make delicious soup!)

Say a goodnight prayer

Even if you've steered clear of scary costumes, and even if your child has loved the evening, it can be reassuring to have a goodnight prayer that reminds them that love, and light, and good, are always going to be stronger than fear and evil. The ancient service of Compline (Night Prayer) has been used as this reminder for centuries, and many of its prayers are still well known today:

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray
and drive far from it all snares of the enemy;
let your holy angels dwell with us
to preserve us in peace;
and let your blessing be upon us always
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Or, in a simpler children's version:
Be with us, Lord,
and take away all fear,
may your angels protect us
and give us peace.
And bless us always. AMEN

Thank you to all who attended our Mothers' Union Coffee Morning, on the 6th September, your regular support and encouragement is much appreciated.



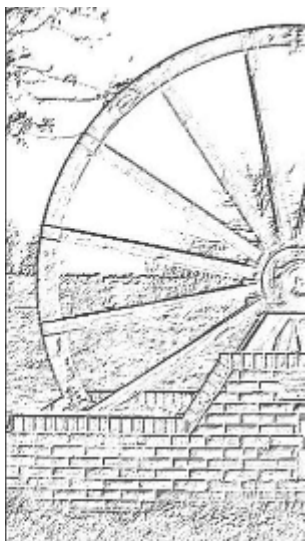
At our September Meeting we were pleased to welcome our speaker Rev'd Canon Dr Philip Hobday. Canon Philip gave us an interesting talk about his role at Wakefield Cathedral. The cathedral has over 900 years of history, it opens 7 days a week, and there are regular services to attend, or if you just want to have a wander round, light a candle, say a prayer or just enjoy a moment of

quietness you will be made welcome.

We tend not to appreciate what is on our doorstep - but if you haven't been for a while, treat yourself to a visit, you won't be disappointed.

Our next meeting will be held in church on Monday 20th October at 7pm - you are welcome to join us..

REMEMBER THE COAL



Talk to anyone who was there and you will learn that you missed a real treat. The narrated history of mining coal was delivered by John Snook and supplemented by recordings of the thoughts of former miners (spoken by actors), children, women and men, all supported by guitar playing and vocals from Alan Wood. Various pit disasters were mentioned and the Aberfan disaster related via the notes of a police officer who witnessed the event. The performance was interesting historically, educational and emotional. Do you know the difference between a mining accident and a disaster? There was a disaster only when 10 or more people were killed.

Working with the History Group of Friends of Mapplewell and Staincross, Bob Hawes arranged the performance to be on the 90th anniversary of the North Gawber (Lidgett) Colliery disaster of 12th September 1935. His work on the background of the 19 men who lost their lives was made available along with photographs provided by descendants of the men's families. This United Benefice holds the graves of ten of the deceased men, three at Staincross and seven at Darton.

We are grateful for the assistance given by Jill Clapham, librarian at the National Coal Mining Museum for England; by Steve Wyatt for clarification of mining vocabulary; and by Chris Skidmore, Yorkshire Area Chairman, N.U.M. who provided a copy of the Report into the disaster, a map of the pit showing where the deceased men were found and other documents. We express special thanks to Chris for arranging for the North Gawber banner to be on stage as the background to the performance.

Anyone who wishes to see a performance has an opportunity to do so at the National Mining Museum on Friday, 5th December 2025. Doors open at 7pm, with the performance at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £15.00 and can only be booked online at <https://www.ncm.org.uk>

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Thurs	11.30-1.30	4.30-7.30
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