

CLERGY

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WHO'S WHO AT DARTON

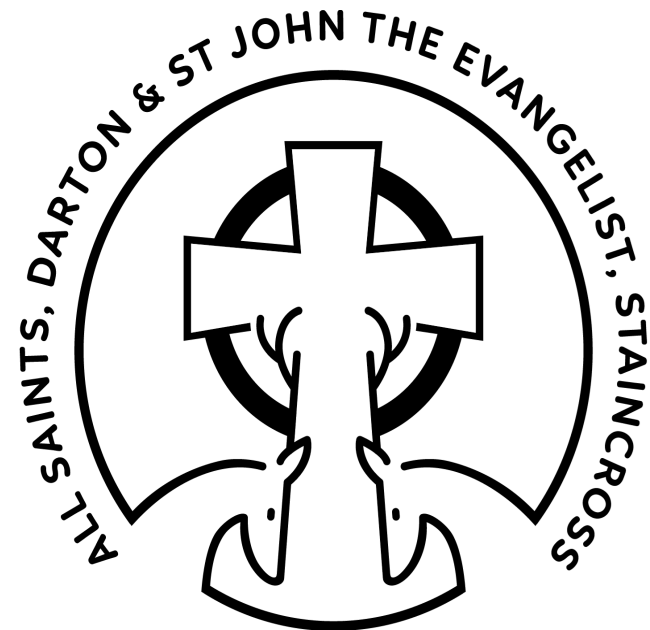
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PCC Secretary	Annette Taylor	
PCC Treasurer	Linda Rayner allsaintsdarton_PCC@hotmail.com	
Organist & Choir	Judith Hollingsworth	01226 383082
	The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm New members are always welcome, please contact Judith for details	
Mothers' Union	Mollie Hall molliehall50@gmail.com	07771658546
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	The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7 pm to 7.45 pm New members are welcome, please contact Bob for details	
Church Hall bookings	Bob Hawes	01226 387881

**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
 FEBRUARY 2024 £1**

BENEFICE INFORMATION

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

Facebook: united benefice of Darton and Staincross

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

Arrangements for baptism and marriage may be made most Tuesday evenings between 7.30 pm 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.
Afterwards there's a cuppa and a chance to make new friendships and renew old ones.

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Morning Prayer is said daily at 9.00, at Darton on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and at Staincross on Wednesday and Friday.

Tuesday 7 pm MASS AT DARTON
Wednesday 10.30 am EUCHARIST AT STAINCROSS
followed by coffee and cake
Thursday 9.30 am MASS AT DARTON
Friday 10.30 am INFORMAL CAFÉ-MASS in the church hall followed by tea and toast

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

Fr Tim writes

Every month, I come to write something for the magazine, and every month there is a certain feeling that I've done this before. I've commented for nearly five years now on the fact that January moves into February, that the days are getting longer and the nights shorter, and on the fact that Christmas is well and truly over, and with the feast of Candlemas, we look to Lent and all that a new season will bring.

This February does feel a little unique though. I don't think I can ever remember a winter quite like this one. The number of storms, the strength of the winds, and the challenge these have presented to our congregations, our communities and our churches has been quite something.

But we are the Church, and as I was reminded by somebody recently, if the church can't be hopeful, then it's in a pretty sorry state. But how do we be hopeful in the world of today? How do we keep hope for the people of the Middle East and Ukraine? How do we be hopeful for those who have suffered flooding and destruction in the last month?

This month we will be drawn into the season of Lent, and that also can help us to look for hope. It's true, the fact that Lent begins doesn't actually make anything better in the world. But the fact that Lent begins does bring hope as we join in the story of Jesus, his temptations, his trials, his loneliness, his suffering and his death.

If you're thinking that this doesn't sound very hopeful, then you're not wrong. However, this brings me back to the image of our faith as being a journey. A journey has a beginning and a journey has an end. When you set out on a journey you might not always know where the end will be, but until the journey ends, perhaps obviously, it is not over. Even Jesus' closest friends didn't see his Crucifixion as the end. Mary Magdalene and others were ready as soon as the Sabbath was over, to anoint his body, to prepare him for burial. At the same time, the eleven were in the upper room, presumably considering their future, what would come next. Were they remembering all that Jesus had taught, or were they just giving up and preparing to go back to fishing, collecting taxes, and all the other careers they had had before?

I like to hope that they were, even then, working out how to carry on



the work of Jesus, that Peter was determined not to let his disappointment that he had denied his Lord prevent him from carrying on, that Thomas was asking real questions, as he always did, about how to make mission happen, that James and John had put aside their arrogance and their claim to a place at the side of Jesus in the Kingdom, and looked to the work they had to do on earth.

Whether this is the case or not, I really don't know, but it isn't human nature to give up when there is work to be done, and so I hope that they were looking forward and trying to work out their future.

But, three days on, on Sunday morning, all that they could have wished for, hoped for, but probably which hadn't been in their consciousness at all, happened. Jesus was raised from the dead, and among them once again. You can just imagine their feelings now. Now there is hope, Jesus is still here. Now we will know what to do, because Jesus will tell us, as he has so many times before. Now everything will be alright, because Jesus is alive.

Well, nothing has changed. We may be two thousand years on, but Jesus is still alive. We don't have to go through those three days without knowing what will come next. We don't have to go through Lent without knowing what it means. We don't have to live our lives from day to day without knowing that Jesus is the way to the Kingdom of Heaven, and that he is ready with open arms to welcome all who come to him.

Our world is a difficult, and a painful place, but in Jesus Christ we have hope, and if we join ourselves with the first disciples and feel that Easter joy, then we unite ourselves with Jesus in his risen life, and this gives us confidence that we are still on the journey to find him when he comes again.

So, as Lent begins this month, I will be praying for new hope, new light, and new joy, and that through suffering, this hope, light and joy will be even more real when it comes. Please join with me, pray with me, talk with me, journey with me, as we travel Lent this year, and come to the great Easter Feast as we share in the joy of the Risen Lord.

**With love in Christ,
Fr Tim**

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:	Morning Prayer at 9 am on Zoom BCP Communion 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:	Morning Prayer at 9 am and NOT on Zoom in St John's Midweek Eucharist in St John's at 10.30 am and on Zoom Choir practice at All Saints' at 6.30 pm, new members welcome Choir practice at St John's at 7 pm, new members welcome
Thursday:	Morning Prayer at 9 am and NOT on Zoom in All Saints Mass at 9.30 am in All Saints NOT on Zoom
Friday	Morning Prayer at 9 am on Zoom Café Mass in Darton Parish Hall at 10.30 am (in church at the moment)
Saturday:	Morning Prayer at 9 am on Zoom 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 and on Zoom Choral Evensong in All Saints' at 5.30 pm (1st Sunday in the month) Reflective Service in St John's at 5.30 pm (Last Sunday in the month)

If you would like any further information or to link in to zoom, please visit the website
(www.dartonandstaincrosschurch.co.uk)

Heavenly Father, during this time of reflection we remember how you lived the life we ought to have lived. You showed us how to resist temptation during your time in the desert, and through the life you led here on earth. As this Lent season begins, remind us that we are but dust. We can do nothing without you. Help us to see the world through the eyes of those in the first Lent season, who awaited a Saviour and awaited new life through you.

Prayer of Repentance

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we,
worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our
wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect
remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord



Amen.

COME FOLLOW ME

On Thursday evening 25th January a small number of us from All Saints, Darton, were at Wakefield Cathedral at one of Bishop Tony's 'Come Follow Me' sessions. We were privileged to hear The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York speaking about Discipleship and Ministry and Vocation in the Wakefield Episcopal Area.



Through the day he met with many different people, and included two prison visits, Wakefield and New Hall, meeting staff and inmates. He recalled his time in Wakefield as the Missioner.

For me this was a joyous reunion with Bp Stephen, bringing back very fond and precious memories of my time working with him and the Diocese Mission Team, and the time we spent 10 days on a Mission to Chester.

It was a most inspiring and encouraging talk by Bp Stephen he was so full of enthusiasm reminding us all of our call to discipleship to bring Jesus Christ to all.

He recalled the account of Jesus carrying his cross on the way to his crucifixion and after falling under the weight, how Simon of Cyrene was pressed to help to carry this cross, he reminded us that this is a task for each one of us, Lay and ordained equally.

In Bishop Tony's words he said "It has been a GREAT DAY"

Perhaps as we approach the season of LENT we might think together in our United Benefice how we might find opportunities to help many who are struggling to carry their cross, but importantly to Bring the Good News of Jesus to the attention of all.

Thank you for the wonderful inspiration of the Archbishop of York

Rev'd Jean

THE DAY THAT THE RAINS CAME DOWN

The River Dearne came very close to flowing down Darton High street that night in October, the evening of our planned concert in the church. It was not a night to be venturing out so no surprise that there were only a few to hear our 'Songs of Home'. We did the concert anyway but promised to repeat it in better weather. Let's hope for a drier afternoon for Sunday@4 on 11 February.

The starting point of our 'Songs of Home' is a handful of songs by Schumann, starting with 'In a foreign land' and through five short songs taking a trip down the Rhine to meet the Lorelei and bathing in moonlight, all with Schumann's wistful melodies.

Jonathan and I have spent a happy year exploring the songs of Arnold Bax. His Irish heritage comes through in the shape of the melodies and his choice of poetry, He was drawn particularly to James Joyce, Padraig Colum and Thomas Hardy, all of whom are represented in our programme. Bax was active in the first half of the twentieth century and if you close your eyes you could almost be in a dimly-lit smoky cocktail bar as you hear sounds of early jazz harmonies.

Contemporary with Bax is Ivor Gurney, whose creative life was almost finished after being gassed in the trenches in 1917. A poet as well as a musician amazingly he was able to create the most beautiful words and music from within the horror of war. He hailed from the west of England and in his portrayal of his beloved Malvern hills and River Severn you can hear their shapes created in sound.

Finally we go to Italy – the Italians can do heart-rending nostalgia like no-one else. We have songs by Puccini and Ernesto de Curtis, best known for 'Come Back to Sorrento'.

I can promise that you will go away humming catchy tunes

SONGS OF HOME
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH DARTON
SUNDAY@4 on 11 FEBRUARY
With Elizabeth Charlesworth, Soprano and
Jonathan Bickley, Piano



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.

February 1: The Diocese of Calgary Warmfield Those who live and work on Moorland Avenue	The Parish of St Peter,
Feb 2: The Diocese of California Blubberhouses, St Helen, Denton, All Saints, Farnley, Fewston, St Oswald, Leathley and All Saints, Weston Those who live and work on Moorland Crescent	The Parishes of St Andrew, St Michael and St Lawrence
Feb 3: The Diocese of Northern California All Saints, Darrington, St Peter, Kirk Smeaton and St. John Wentbridge Those who live and work on Moorside Close	The Parishes of St Luke and St John
Feb 4: The Anglican Church of South America for the whole of Creation Those who live and work on Nethercroft	Help us to share in your love
Feb 5: The Diocese of Cameroon Cawthorne, St John the Baptist, Dodworth, St John the Evangelist, Hoylandswaine and All Saints, Silkstone Those who live and work on New Road	The Parishes of All Saints,
Feb 6: The Diocese of El Camino Real Stanley, St Mary, Snape, St Michael, Well and St Nicholas, West Tanfield Those who live and work on New Street	The Parishes of St Mary, North
Feb 7: The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn Wetherby Those who live and work on Newark Close	The Parish of St James,
Feb 8: The Diocese of Canterbury Those who live and work on Norwood Drive	The Parish of St Mary, Whitkirk
Feb 9: The Diocese of Cape Coast Those who live and work on Oak Tree Close	The Parish of St Paul, Wibsey
Feb 10: The Diocese of Cape Town Windhill Those who live and work on Oaklea Close	The Parish of Christ Church,
Feb 11: Province of the Episcopal church of South Sudan of the past and seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son Those who live and work on Oaks Farm Close	Repent of the wrongs
Feb 12: The Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba Martin, Womersley Those who live and work on Oaks Farm Drive	The Parish of St
Feb 13: The Diocese of Carlisle Woodkirk Those who live and work on Oaks Wood Drive Darton	The Parish of St Mary,
Feb 14: The Diocese of East Carolina Woodside Those who live and work on Oaks Wood Drive. Stalncross	The Parish of St James,

Feb 15: The Diocese of North Carolina Evangelist, Wortley Those who live and work on Oakwood Square	The Parish of St John the
Feb 16: The Diocese of South Carolina Wrose Those who live and work on Old School Court	The Parish of St Cuthbert,
Feb 17: The Diocese of Upper South Carolina Virgin, Wyke Those who live and work on Orchard Close	The Parish of St Mary the
Feb 18: Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan and commend to you lives lost in conflict Those who live and work on Orchard Croft	Work for a better tomorrow
Feb 19: The Diocese of Western North Carolina Evangelist, Yeadon Those who live and work on Paddock Close	The Parish of St John the
Feb 20: the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns ad Ossory Hawksworth Wood, St Margaret, Horsforth, St Stephen, Kirkstall and St Andrew, Moor Grange Those who live and work on Paddock Road	The Parishes f St Mary,
Feb 21: The Diocese of Chandigarh St Cuthbert, both of Ackworth and St Mary, Badsworth Those who live and work on Park Close	The Parishes of All Saints and
Feb 22: The Diocese of Chelmsford Those who live and work on Park View Road	The Parish of St Peter, Addingham
Feb 23: The Diocese of Chester Baptist, Adel Those who live and work on Pennine Close	The Parish of St John the
Feb 24: The Diocese of Chhattisgarh Airedale Those who live and work on Pennine View	The Parish of Holy Cross,
Feb 25: The Anglian church of Tanzania Permission too Officiate Those who live and work on Pike Lowe Grove	Retired Clergy and those with
Feb 26: The Diocese of Chicago Aldborough, St James, Boroughbridge, St Mary, Dunsforth, Mission Rom, Minskip and Roecliffe Church School Those who live and work on Priest Royd	Th Parishes of St Andrew,
Feb 27: The Diocese of Chichester Allerton and Allerton St Francis Village Hall Those who live and work on Priestley Avenue	The Parishes of St Peter,
Feb 28: The Diocese of Chotanagour Less, Allerton Bywater, St Mary, Kippax and St Mary, Swillington Those who live and work on Princess Street	The Parishes of St Mary the
Feb 29: The Diocese of Christ the King and St Michael and St Helen, both of Almondbury and St Lucius, Farnley Tyas Those who live and work on Pye Avenue	The Parishes of All Hallows



MOTHERS' UNION

I want to share with you a letter received from Mary Sumner House

We wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution of £120 to our Christmas Campaign. Your support takes us one step closer to enhancing the lives of countless women and girls in Tanzania.

With your support, we can continue implementing Savings and Skills training in Tanzania, directly reaching some of the most vulnerable communities.

With your gift, we can make a real and lasting difference for more women like Devota, a mother of two and an active participant in her local Mothers' Union savings group for the past five years. As a result of the group, she bought a piece of land where she grows cabbage, onions and tomatoes.

'the farm supports a lot of changes to my life. I am now constructing a house, my children are being educated and I can provide basic needs for my family. My children are happy and even join me in my farming work sometimes. In the future, I want to be a businesswoman. I want to expand my farm. I hope that my group continues to grow and that we increase our solidarity.'

Thanks to your donation, we can support more women like Devota, a proven way to leave a lasting impact, transforming communities and relieving families from poverty and social injustice

Thank you for making this Christmas a special one for women in Tanzania by following in the footsteps of Christ, your generosity is helping so many choose their own futures away from the binds of poverty and injustice,

Yours in Christ this Christmas

Adam Sach
Director of Fundraising, Communications and Retail

ALL SAINTS' MOTHERS' UNION, DARTON

RISE UP AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE!

We invite you to our Mothers' Union Open Meeting on
Monday 19th February 2024 at 7pm in church

when our guest speaker will be Heather Brennan from our local Women's Refuge.

Many of you will know, Mothers Union worldwide launched a campaign in the Autumn RISE UP AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE, throughout Britain and Ireland. The aim is to make sure that activism against Domestic Abuse and gender-based violence happens 365 days a year, not just during the campaign in November/ December.

At the meeting Heather will be able to tell us all how we can support them locally.

And on a lighter note, I
couldn't resist this



Nick Shields celebrates Candlemas, so have your candles ready!

Soon we will be in the month of February when hopefully we can think of putting winter behind us – although it will not be done with us yet! Some special feast days during the churches year often also mark seasonal changes or changes with harvest or crops. They end in "Mas"- Christmas of course, then Michaelmas (remember daisies) Martinmas and of course in midwinter, Candlemas.



At the beginning of February we can find Candlemas which is marked by various events – the Presentation, when Jesus was brought to the temple as all Jewish boys were: it is also known as the Purification – the feast of the purification of Mary when Jewish mothers had a ritual purification following childbirth –



The Presentation of Jesus in the temple

now possibly connected to the old custom of churching mothers who were admitted to church again after childbirth (held in the old days to be unclean). When Jesus was brought to the temple a lamb or for poorer people a young pigeon or turtle doves were sacrificed. Candlemas today is taken as the conclusion of the season of Christmas – including Epiphany. The time for people to remove Christmas decorations varies from the excessively tidy who take theirs down on Boxing Day to the many who take theirs down on 12th night – the twelfth day of Christmas - just before Epiphany: and finally those who take their decorations down at this time – Candlemas.

Why is it called Candlemas? Because in some churches at this time you may well see neat parcels of new candles on the altar – unused so far –which have been brought to be blessed. Candles have a great symbolism as a sign of Jesus, the light of the world which is why we so often see them glimmering in the congregation at other special times. We can remember the Bible story of the presentation of Jesus in the temple and the people that were found there. There was Simeon, who prayed that the Lord could now dismiss him from earthly life as he had seen the promised Messiah (the well known "Nuns Dimittis"prayer*) and there was also the elderly widow Anna the prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel who spent her days in prayer in the temple.

Simeon's prayer:

*Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: •
your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen
the salvation • which you have prepared in the sight of
every people;
light to reveal you to the nations •
and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2)



Much later, around 1400, an image of Mary was found on the seashore by shepherds from the island of Tenerife and so the festival began to be celebrated with Mary too in the years around the end of that century, when the first Candlemas dedicated to the Virgin Mary, combined with her Feast of Purification was remembered.

The church's custom of blessing candles found its way to Germany. The Germans thought that if the sun appeared on Candlemas, a hedgehog would cast a shadow, making a "second winter" It was the unusual origin for the modern festival of Groundhog Day!

Some churches in France, Belgium, and Switzerland also celebrate Candlemas on 2nd February. Tradition there says that our nativity scenes (cribs) should not be put away until Candlemas: it is a time for eating crêpes (pancakes). The pancakes were distributed to pilgrims arriving in Rome and their shape and colour refer to the appearance of the sun, the solar disc- and the return of spring after the dark and cold of winter. One tradition is to flip the crepes in the air with the right hand while holding a gold coin in the left hand, to have prosperity throughout the year. One also has to ensure that the pancake lands properly back in the pan!. It is also believed in Belgium that a clear sky on Candlemas foretells a beneficial year for beekeepers.



Traditional pancakes

Candlemas can also connect with Shrove Tuesday when we can clear the slate- be "shriven" of our sins or confess them- and prepare for Lent, eating (again!) pancakes to use up rich ingredients which we are to forego in Lent! So- celebrate Candlemas by lighting a candle or two and brighten up the dark Winter days with the light of Christ and then prepare for Lent which will be with us soon!

***Me and my size nines! – Walking at all
When I was a child, I spoke like a child,
I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child;
when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.
I Corinthians 13: 11***

Last month I described walking in the words of paleoanthropologist John Napier, to be “a unique activity during which the body, step by step, teeters on the edge of catastrophe”. The catastrophe comes from the fact that standing on one leg is insecure and unstable, but the motion of travelling forwards on one leg after the other, gives us balance and keeps us upright (at least most of the time!).

Motion is such a part of our lives that the language of our existence is built around it. In life in general, and with nothing to do with walking, how often have you plotted a course for something, set out in the right direction or kept to the straight and narrow? How often have you gone round the bend or had something put in your way? When have you needed a head start, or how is it to be in your stride?

These are all to do with life rather than walking, but although they may be metaphors, they do draw us to think about motion. Perhaps it is quite straight forward, and the truth is that metaphors about walking reflect life because walking is an almost universal skill, even if different people use it in different ways and at different times of life.

St Paul in the thirteenth chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians notices that as we grow, things change. “When I was a child, I spoke like a child”. This is equally true of our walking. When I was a baby, I couldn’t walk at all! As I grew up, regardless of how unbalanced and foolish I may have looked, I learnt to walk (even if occasionally landing on one or other soft and bouncy part of my body).

Of course, almost all of us have had to learn to walk, and Erling Kagge in his book “Walking one step at a time” says of this process that “it feels as if the joy of exploration and mastery is the most powerful thing in the world. Placing one foot in front of the other, investigating and overcoming are intrinsic to our nature”.

What we all do with this ability is very different. Some climb Mount Everest, while others thoroughly enjoy the ascent of Mam Tor. Some trek to the North Pole, while for others, completing our Benefice Boundary Walk was, quite rightly, an achievement to be very proud of.

Some people are all about achieving remarkable things, while for others the remarkable things are part of the every day. Learning to walk is remarkable in itself, and if you imagine what life would be like if we couldn’t walk, or for those who cannot, then we begin to see the value in the gift of walking. However, even the things which are remarkable are remarkable in different ways. When I walk long distances with my family, nobody ever tells me how impressed

they are that I am walking the route, but I’m told all the time how amazing the children are to be doing it at their tender age.

The truth is that things are only remarkable in the eye of the beholder. St Paul tells the Corinthians that when he grew up, he put an end to childish ways. He lived a different life. For St Paul, this had to do with his eyes being open and recognising his call to a new and Christian ministry, but all of us develop as we grow, and perhaps like St Paul we may learn something about God’s call to us as we continue to explore walking.



**Crossing Eller Beck, a
tributary of the River Ure at
Wensleydale**

I hinted at this last month, but when I look at my walking, the journey is one of growing up and changing with the times. In my twenties, I used to get up early in the morning, drive to the Lake District, spend a day climbing the heights of the fells, and after a good meal in a pub, drive home again. As I entered my thirties something changed and I realised that spending so much time in the car to enjoy a day out was fairly unnecessary.

In my thirties, I became obsessed with distance and completed any number of 25-mile challenge routes. I wasn’t in competition with anyone, but I pushed myself to achieve greater distances while continuing to enjoy putting one foot in front of another.

Now, things have changed again. I walk more than I ever have. I take myself out. I take my children out, or we go as a whole family. A few miles here or there a couple of times a week keeps me ticking over without too much challenge, but with fresh air, exercise, head space, and peace in the landscape.

I also look forward to the “real” walks. This year I hope to complete the 70-mile Wakefield Way, the 63-mile Kendal Limestone Way, the 130-mile Beara Way (in the South West of Ireland), and the 40-mile St Hilda’s Way. I still long to walk the Pennine Way and to travel the Camino Road on foot from St Jean Pied de Port in Southern France to Santiago de Compostela.

Some of these things will happen, and some may not. But if we’ve seen already that walking reflects the life we live, then just like my walking, my own life has been through different stages, been given different opportunities, had different possibilities withheld, and brought me to places I never thought I would go.

As we continue to explore my walking through the rest of the year, I hope to continue this theme, to share with you the things which affect me in my journey, and to explore what makes us continue to move forward, in life, in growth, in faith, in ministry, and in my size nines!

Fr Tim

The Pantaloons Theatre Company hosted by St John's

Whilst the Pantaloons have keen followers at St John's they have not offered any performances here in 2024 and this is due only to poor attendance. The arrangement is quite simple: St John's retains 30% of the money produced from ticket sales. However, audience numbers at each of the three plays they put on here in 2023 meant that the company was out of pocket. Transport costs, hotel bills and pay for the four actors were not fully covered. The company is running a business and at worst must break even.

Their performances are always first class and professional. The company puts its own stamp on each piece of literature that they perform making use of a variety of theatrical genres. There is always humour, good natured banter, audience participation and music. They offer versions of novels, plays by William Shakespeare (and they are not stuffy and boring) and literary works that may be considered to be targeted at younger audiences. There really is something for everybody at each performance. Nevertheless people have not attended and so for this year at least the Barnsley area is deprived of such entertainment.

It is still possible to see each of the three items they are offering for spring and summer 2024 though you will have to travel:

The Importance of being Earnest (A Trivial Comedy for Serious people) by Oscar Wilde (1895)

09 May 2024 at The Winding Wheel, Chesterfield (indoor performance)

18 July 2024 at Sheffield Botanical Gardens (outdoor performance)

Robin Hood from English folklore

14 August 2024 at Sheffield Botanical Gardens (outdoor performance)

The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare (a comedy first published in 1602, possibly written around 1597)

07 August 2024 at Sheffield Botanical Gardens (outdoor performance)
28 August 2024 at Oakwell Hall, Birstall, Batley (outdoor performance)

05 October 2024 at The Pavilion Arts Centre, Buxton (indoor performance)

Criticism has been made of ticket prices - we are always among the cheapest on their national tours. Compare the price you have to pay to see a play in Sheffield or Leeds theatres (and the Pantaloons play in theatres in some towns) and at the venues mentioned above. You will see what value has been offered here. I am disappointed to feel that I live in something of a cultural desert.

Bob Hawes



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where you
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ST JOHN'S ON STAGE PRESENTS TREASURE ISLAND



Dates:

10th Feb 2024 2:30 pm & 7:00 pm

16th Feb 2024 7:00 pm

17th Feb 2024 2:30pm & 7:00pm

Location:

Rear of St. John's, Greenside,
Staincross, Barnsley
S75 6GU

Tickets:

Online:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/w-hats-on/barnsley/st-johns-parish-hall>

Email:

staincrosspantomime@gmail.com

Phone: 07896 169576



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and much more besides!!!

Tuesday 13th February

in the graveyard at All Saints' Church, Darton

at 4.30 p.m.



All Saints' Darton
Mothers' Union



Coffee Morning



Welcome



Saturday 3rd February

10.00 - 12.00 noon



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Darton Parish Hall
Every Wednesday

THE 100 CLUB

JANUARY DRAW

- 1st - 65 (Chris Beaaumont)
- 2nd - 14 (Judith Hollingsworth)
- 3rd - 62 (John Hodgson)

Spare numbers can also be bought on the day of the draw

If you would like to keep your number for 2024 please let Lynda Charlesworth have your £12, the annual subscription, as soon as possible please. If you would like to buy a number please also see Lynda

CHURCH OPENING ROTA 10 am—12 noon

- February 3: Bridget Mellor-Frith and Tony Warden
- 10: Brenda Hepworth and Mollie Hall
- 17: Janet Rodgerson and Ursula Senior
- 24: Ann and Alistair Burns

Many thanks to those who keep the Rota going each week.

February rota for St John's

Date	Sunday 04 February	Sunday 11 February	Wednesday 14 February	Sunday 18 February	Sunday 25 February
Day	2 before Lent	Sunday next before Lent	Ash Wednesday	Lent 1	Lent 2
Time	09:00	09:00	10.30 St John's	09:00	09:00
			Volunteers needed		
Welcome & Offertory	Sue Green	Amy Roe		Cynthia/Gavin Sturgess	Doreen Piper
Reader	Amy Roe	Louise Smith		Angela Gomersall	Diane Cooper -Ramsden
Reading	Colossians 1: 15-20	2 Corinthians 4: 3-6	2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6: 10	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Romans 4: 13-15
Gospel	John 1: 1-14	Mark 9: 2-9	John 8: 1-11	Mark 1: 9-15	Mark 8:31-38
Intercessions	Amy Roe	Nick Shields		Louise Smith	Rev'd Jean Sykes
Chalice	Pam Seaman	Margaret Foster		Louise Smith	Pam Seaman
Coffee	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

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

February rota for All Saints'

Date	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Ministers of Welcome	Susan Elliott Anthea Herbert	Anne & Alistair Burns	Irene Glover Tricia Doran	Jean Parker Linda Rayner
Reader	Christine Miller	Hilary Riggs	Ian Townend	Lynda Charlesworth
Intercessions	Fr Tim	Rev'd Jean Daykin	Hilary Riggs	Judith Hollingsworth
Eucharistic Minister	Ursula Senior	Janet Rodgerson	Marjorie Crossland	Stuart Holling

Readings as St John's
If you have any amendments to the rota please make alternative cover

Welcome to Eco Church

A change from the usual format for our ecochurch pages this month... Why?

HOORAY! What great news- All Saints' Church, Darton, has achieved the Eco Church Bronze award! A very big thank you to everyone for the efforts you have made to make this possible.

Our beautiful old building was designed and built long before the word "Eco" was in our vocabulary, so achieving the targets hasn't been easy and we realise that many - for example types of insulation - are just not possible. However, by taking small practical steps we have made good progress-changing light bulbs to more efficient ones, asking people to be aware by putting up notices to encourage energy savings in small but important ways.

Best of all, by the financial help from our congregation and community, we have managed to 'twin' all of the toilets in our Church and Parish Hall! Have you noticed the lovely photos and certificates in the toilets? This could not have been done without support from members of the congregation, parents and students at Darton Primary School, and local businesses.

We've made strides too in encouraging people to use our Church grounds. The pathway from the park is really well used- the Heritage Trail has encouraged people to learn more about various areas of the grounds, especially the school children and parents who came to the opening (where because of the torrential rain, many learned more about the Church's interior!)

The Teddy Bears' Picnic saw families bringing their own and realising what a lovely place it was to be when the sun is shining.

Plans are in progress for Darton Primary school children to help us setup a 'Wild area' and make habitats for birds and bats, a wildflower garden to help bees, and to increase the variety of insects and small mammals in the grounds. However, thanks largely to Janet, birds and squirrels are already well catered for.

So, many, many goals achieved but still a good way to go. Onwards and upwards to achieve our Silver Award!

We are all cheering on our friends at St John's, who we know are also very close to achieving their Bronze Award: what a great example to other Churches in the Deanery.

Again, a very big thank you for everyone's efforts.

Targets for the year ahead will probably include:

- Strengthening links with Darton Primary and their eco-council
- Conducting bird / butterfly watches in the churchyard to increase our understanding of our eco-diversity
- Having local environmentalists to speak to us and share their ideas
- Creating links to other environmental organisations





FROM THE REGISTERS

Rev'd Emily welcomed Freya Wood and her family into All Saints on January 14th, for her baptism



Phoebe Skye Clay was baptised into the church family by Fr Tim at All Saints on January 21st



On January 28th, Rev'd Jean baptised Ettie Davis in St John's, this photo will be in the next magazine

FUNERALS

Please remember in your prayers those who have experienced moments of sadness or grief in the last few weeks especially the families of



Jean Sanderson
Mark Younger
Barrie Leeson

and also the family of Denise Harrod who ashes were interred at Staincross in January

We remember also all whose anniversaries are at this time

REST ETERNAL GRANT TO THEM O LORD

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**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.

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, call ADAM PRICE on 07888012339 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!

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Thurs	11.30-1.30	4.30-7.30
Fri	11.30-1.30	4.30-7.30
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Sun	11.30-2.00	CLOSED

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