

## CLERGY

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### *WHO'S WHO AT DARTON*

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	The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm New members are always welcome, please contact Judith for details	
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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  
JANUARY 2024 £1**

## BENEFACTICE INFORMATION

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Find us on the Web at [www.dartonandstaincrosschurch.co.uk](http://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 ....

I'd like to start this month by wishing all our readers, our congregations, and our community a very Happy New Year. So often, a new year seems to hold so much promise, so much which makes it feel like a new start, a new opportunity, a new chance to do something – perhaps different, perhaps changed, perhaps radical, or perhaps with a new intention. It's too easy not to recognise the things which remain the same. When we wake up on New Year's Day, it is in many ways no different to waking up on our own birthday. Something is different, but we are not. Apart from the fact that our age, or in this case the year, is represented by a different number, we still wake up each and every day very much the same people that we were when we went to bed the night before.

But time does change us, perhaps not overnight on New Year's Day or on our birthday, but as we travel through life we do see things differently, we do change our views, our practices, our likes and our dislikes. In reality, we rarely do anything the same way twice.

I can't believe that I've just celebrated Christmas for the fifth time as vicar of Darton and Staincross. Where the time has gone I can't believe, but this is a cause for reflection for me. As Christmas comes and goes every year, the central message is the same. It is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Messiah, in Bethlehem, some two thousand years ago, and it is a reminder that this same Jesus, the Son of God, is still with us, walking alongside us, loving us and teaching us every day of our lives.

But at the same time, isn't Christmas different every year. In the five years of my time here, we've had Christmas for my first time, trying to do all that the community expected, then we've had Christmas under Covid restrictions, then we've had Christmas under the nervous and hopeful signs of recovery, and then last year we had "Christmas as normal". So this year made two years running when we could do all that we longed to do, hold all the services we know we look forward to, be at the centre of our community, and invite that community in.

And we have. All four of our primary schools have been into our churches this Christmas. The Voice for Darton and Kexborough has enjoyed their traditional evening of entertainment. We've had Christingle services and Carol Services, and although as I write this article, I can't yet tell you how many people have come through our



doors, I can say that we have been at the centre of Christmas in our community. But this doesn't happen without some very hard work, and I'd like to take this chance to thank all those of you who have put the work in. Without naming names, if you are a churchwarden, if you are a musician, if you are a server, if you make tea and coffee, if you clean our churches, if you arrange flowers, if you edit magazines and other publicity, if you make concerts and plays run smoothly, if you make others welcome, or if you have taken the opportunity to use the flyers we had produced to invite others, then you are part of who we are, and your contribution is so very important. So I want to thank every one of you who read this, and many others who don't, for a wonderful Christmas.

And then, it is January. It is the New Year, and whether with new hopes and aspirations, or whether very much the same as before, we continue. We continue to be missional. We continue to follow the teaching and example of Jesus. We continue to love our communities, and we continue to be the Church in this place.

So, I started by wishing you all a Happy New Year, and I want to end by echoing that again, and perhaps by raising a metaphorical glass to 2024, and to all that we will be as we travel through it together and continue to grow in all that we are as the body of Christ in this United Benefice of Darton with Staincross and Mapplewell.

**With love in Christ,  
Fr Tim**

**IN THE WEEK FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, WE PRAY**

Lord, give us the grace to know you more deeply,  
in order to love you with all of our being.  
Grant us a pure heart, to love our neighbour as ourselves.  
May the gift of your Holy Spirit enable us to see your presence in our sisters and brothers,  
that we may love each other with the same unconditional love with which you love us.  
Through Christ our Lord.



**AMEN**

**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](http://www.dartonandstaincrosschurch.co.uk))



## Fit me in somewhere

Rachel Noël

So often our identities are formed by our roles, our relationships, others expectations on us, and our own desire to fit in. I've found this poem really helpful as I reflect on who God is calling each of us to be. How might things be different this year, if each of us were willing to live out of the energy, the gifts, the strengths that each of us has, noticing the way God's spirit works in us, through our breath and our life. How might we encourage each other, to live life in this abundance?

Fit me in somewhere in this giant jigsaw, God, somewhere in this work of art you're working, select a space my shape can fill and with a puzzle maker's skill let my contours find their fit without contortion.

Teach me which patch I am, God, in the cosmic quilt you're quilting. Show me where my square of selfhood is of use. Let the colourful complexities of the pattern that is me find their purpose in the placement that you choose.

Show me my position, God, in this group photograph. Stand me where you want me to stand. Put me next to whom you will. Make me stand, for good or ill, precisely in the place your plan demands. Tell me what I am, God, in this body you are building: a tongue to taste, a nerve to serve, an ear to hear.

Give me grace to not be, gracefully, the parts I am not

called to be and to play with elegance the roles I'm given.

Fit me in somewhere in this giant jigsaw, God, somewhere in this work of art you're working. Weave your wondrous tapestry until the twisted, tangled threads of me, surrendered to your artistry, form an image that is beautiful to see.

by Gerard Kelly

**"Create**  
in me a  
**clean heart,**  
**O God,**  
and put a  
new **and right**  
spirit  
within me."  
Psalm 51:10

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES



The church of All Saints was full to capacity for this year's Carol Service, what a joy it was to see so many people looking forward to joining in with the community choir, to make this service so special.

The service began in candlelight and the first carol, 'Once in Royal David's City', was started with a solo performance of the first verse from Bethany who sang with gusto, no

sign of nerves! The second verse was continued by the choir then everyone joined in, to finish the carol, a beautiful sound.

Carols, some sung by the choir others by the congregation were interspersed with readings telling of the Christmas Story and read by members of the community, a local councillor and members of the church.

It was a lovely evening, made special by those who attended and ended with wine, soft drinks and mince pies. Everyone I spoke to remarked how they had enjoyed the service and many stayed behind for refreshments.

Thank you to all who contributed, especially the community choir who had given up the last few Wednesday's to rehearse, culminating in this performance and to Judith who also works hard to bring this all to fruition.

Chris Miller

## BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS



Many congratulations to Rev'd Jean as she celebrated her special birthday, ending with an 0 in December.

She was presented with a cake made by Betty Dodd and wine flowed after the Sunday service.

It was very fitting this Sunday as the third Advent Candle to be lit was the pink one which signifies Joy, I would imagine the wine spread much joy!

**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.**

January 1: The Diocese of Bor Carlinghow and Christ Church, Staincliffe Those who live and work on Limes Close	The Parishes of St John the Evangelist,
Jan 2: The Diocese of Botswana and St Andrew, Stainland Those who live and work on Links View	The Parishes of St Mary Magdalene Outlane
Jan 3: The Diocese of Brandon Christ the Saviour, Swinnow Those who live and work on Long Croft	The Parishes of St Thomas Stanningley ad
Jan 4: The Diocese of Brechin Those who live and work on Long Pye Close	The Parish of St Andrew, Starbeck
Jan 5: The Diocese of Brisbane Those who live and work on Longfield Drive	The Parish of St Stephen, Steeton
Jan 6: The Diocese of Bristol Church, Lothersdale and St Thomas, Sutton Those who live and work on Longlands Drive	The Parishes of Holy Trinity, Cowling, Christ
Jan 7: The Scottish Episcopal Church Those who live and work on Longsight Road	May we recognise Jesus as our Lord and now ourselves to be your beloved children
Jan 8: The Diocese of British Columbia Andrew, Grinton, Holy Trinity, Melbecks and St Mary, Muker Those who live and work on Low Row	The Parishes of St Mary, Arkengarthdale, St
Jan 9: The Diocese of Central Buganda Grimethorpe, St James, Ryhill and All Saints, South Kirkby Those who live and work on Lower High Royds	The Parishes of St Paul, Brierley, St Luke,
Jan 10: The Diocese of West Buganda Those who live and work on Lynton Place	The Parishes of St Mary, Appleton Wiske, St Peter, Birkby, Danby Wiske Church, All Saints, East Cowton and St Eloy, Great Smeaton
Jan 11: The Diocese of Buhiga Those who live and work on Majestic Court	The Parishes of St Margaret, Thornbury and St James the Great, Woodhall
Jan 12: The Diocese of Bujumbura Those who live and work on Malincroft	The Parishes of St Michael and All Angels, Thornhill and St Mary and Michael, Whitley Lower
Jan 13: The Diocese of Bukavu Those who live and work on Maltby Avenue	The Parish of St James, Thornton
Jan 14: Church of the Province of South East Asia Those who live and work on Maple Road	Let your gentle peace be always with us and hep us to bring this same peace into the lives of others
Jan 15: The Diocese of Bukedi Those who live and work on Maydal Drive	The Parishes of St Michael and All Angels, St Mary, Todmorden and St Peter, Walsden

Jan 16: The Diocese of Bukuru Those who live and work on Maythorne Close	The Parish of St Chad, Toller Lane
Jan 17: The Diocese of Bunbury Those who live and work on Meadow Lane	The Parishes of St Christopher, Holme Wood, St Mary, Laisterdyke and St James, Tong
Jan 18: The Diocese of Bungoma Those who live and work on Medina Way	The Parishes of St Peter, Coniston Cold, St Andrew, Gargrave and St Michael the Archangel, Malhamdale
Jan 19: The Diocese of Bunyoro-Kitara Those who live and work on Medway Close	The Parish of Christ Church, Upper Armley
Jan 20: The Diocese of Busan Those who live and work on Melford Close	The Parishes of Holy Trinity, Hepworth, Mission Room, Choppards, St David, Holbridge, Holy Trinity, Holmfirth, All Saints, Netherthong, Christ Church, New Mill, St Thomas, Thurstonland and St John the Evangelist, Uppertong
Jan 21: The Church of South India (United) Those who live and work on Meyrick Drive	Help us to share in your love for the whole of Creation
Jan 22: The Diocese of Busoga Those who live and work on Middle Close	The Parishes of Grange Chapel Beverley, St Mary, Greenhow Hill, St Chad, Middlesmoor, St Cuthbert, Pateley Bridge, St Mary the Virgin, Ramsgill and St. Michael and All Angels, Wilsill
Jan 23: The Diocese of Central Busoga Those who live and work on Midhurst Grove	The Parishes of St Oswald, Askrigg, St Mary and St John, Hardraw, St. Margaret, Hawes and St Matthew, Stalling Busk
Jan 24: The Diocese of Butare Those who live and work on Mill Lane	The Parishes of St Oswald, Arncliffe, St Mary, Conistone, St Michael and All Angels, Hubberholme and St Mary, Kettlewell
Jan 25: The Diocese of Butere Those who live and work on Millers Green	The Parishes of St Mary, Chantry Bridge and All Saints, Wakefield
Jan 26: The Diocese of Buye Those who live and work on Millers Grove	The Parishes of St Catherine, Belle Vue and St Andrew and St Mary, Wakefield
Jan 27: The Diocese of Byumba Those who live and work on Millers View	The Parish of St John the Baptist, Wakefield
Jan 28: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa Those who live and work on Mission Court	Give thanks for Retired Clergy and those with Permission to Officiate, for the invaluable
Jan 29: The Diocese of Calabar Those who live and work on Mowbray Drive	The Parish of St Michael, Wakefield
Jan 30: The Diocese of Calcutta Those who live and work on Montrose Avenue	The Parishes of St Bartholomew, Arkendale, St Michael, Copgrove, St Oswald, Farnham, St Thomas, Scotto and All Saints, Staveley
Jan 31: The Diocese of Caledonia Those who live and work on Moorcrest Rise	The Parishes of St Hilda, Halifax and St John the Evangelist, Warley



## ALL SAINTS' DARTON MOTHERS' UNION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Throughout the year we contributed and supported Mothers' Union projects.

**Judith House Women's' Refuge** Provided toiletries monthly. Easter Eggs, delivered around 20 Sacks of clothing and around 16 sacks of bedding, 6 boxes of homeware for 'move on' ladies, 4 boxes of toys, Advent calendars for 13 children.

**Teenage Mother and Baby Unit** 12 bags of baby clothes and blankets

**AFIA (Away from it all Holidays)** £200 was sent to AFIA towards providing caravan holidays for families in need who wouldn't otherwise have a break.

**Christmas Appeal** £120 was sent to Mary Sumner House supporting the Mothers Union Central appeal.

**Food Bank** Hilary continued to organize regular collections and deliveries.

**Pinderfields Hospital** Premature baby hats/blankets/ Twiddle Muffs

**All Saints Church** Throughout the year, together with supporters from church, we raised £767.10 at the Spring Fayre, £511.34 Teddy Bears Picnic, £750 at the Strawberry Tea and £800 at the Autumn Fayre, and £1,569.40 at the monthly coffee mornings.

In addition to the amazing teamwork, individual members have given a huge commitment in both prayers and actions. We supported Diocesan events and meetings and celebrated 120 years of our Mothers' Union Darton Branch.

Membership Current membership stands at 17. Our Secretary Annette Taylor and Treasurer, Lynda Charlesworth continue to provide us with excellent support.

Thank you to Rev Jean for her readiness to support us by providing our special services and to Fr Tim, our MU Chaplain for his support, guidance, and encouragement.

A very special thank you to our congregation and community for their regular support of our work.

**Mollie Hall Branch Leader 07771658546**



All Saints' Darton  
Mothers' Union



# Coffee Morning



Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January

10.00 - 12.00 noon



Coffee, tea, cakes and stalls  
fellowship + friendship !

Come and join us  
in Darton Parish Hall

Admission free



## "Good King Wenceslas" Nick Shields considers a Christmas Carol based on an historical figure

Just before Christmas, Czechia, once known as the Czech Republic and before that, when joined to Slovakia, Czechoslovakia, suffered multiple deaths when a gunman rampaged around a local University college killing fourteen people. This was a huge and unwelcome shock for what has always been a peaceful country in central Europe.

It all took place in the capital, Prague or locally "Praha". This is a beautiful city with many attractions for tourists and historians. The college where this atrocity took place is near the magnificent 14th century Charles Bridge over the River Vltava. There is so much to see in Prague alone that it would be hard to list it all here. The country has nevertheless suffered in the past from invaders, especially the Nazis in the 1940's. They were followed post-war by the Soviet empire which had taken over so much of central Europe.



The Charles Bridge in Prague

As the Soviet system crumbled, there followed the remarkable non-violent "Velvet Revolution" in late 1989. Popular demonstrations against the one-party government of the Communist party of Czechoslovakia included students and older people tired of unbending state control and suppression of so many activities including religion.. The result was the end of 41 years of one-party rule.

On 17 November 1989 (International Students' Day), riot police suppressed a student demonstration in Prague. It marked the 50th anniversary of a violently suppressed demonstration against the Nazi storming of Prague University in 1939. In November 1989 people again gathered in the streets of Prague. By 20th November 200,000 people had grown to half a million. Governments in the Warsaw pact soviet countries were collapsing and in Czechoslovakia were replaced by a democracy with free elections following. Vaclav Havel became President.

So where can we start in this new beginning? In this Christmas season, with one of our best known carols which tells a story of a country whose rule was based on charity and care for the poor. "Good King Wenceslas" takes the title given to the saintly duke Wenceslas- later revered as "King" .

The English carol was written by J M Neale in 1853 and was based on the true story of Saint Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia -then

part of what we now call Czechia (c. 907-935 AD) who was murdered by his brother and was almost immediately venerated as a saint. His journey took place on the Feast of Stephen - Boxing Day.

Wenceslas is known locally as Vaclav and he gives his name to a main square in Prague, not so much a square now as the Communists cut a ring road through it for better control of the subjugated citizens: but the name remains and Vaclav is still their patron saint.

Wenceslas or Vaclav was raised a Christian by his grandmother Ludmila, a saint in her own right for her efforts to convert Bohemia. His pagan mother Drahomira, however, grew jealous of this Christian influence and, in AD 921, conspired to have Ludmila murdered. For that, Wenceslas banished her when he came of age and took over governance himself.



Statue of Wenceslas or Vaclav in central

"Good King Wenceslas looked out / On the Feast of Stephen / When the snow lay round about / Deep and crisp and even." So begins this Christmas carol, based on an older story but first published as a carol in 1853 by English hymn writer John Mason Neale. As many know, it tells of a king, Wenceslas, and his Page who braved the cold winter weather to come to the aid of a poor peasant on the Feast of Stephen (better known now as Boxing Day). Such was his reputation that he soon became known as "Vaclav the good."

**The Words.....** Good King Wenceslas looked out, on the Feast of Stephen, When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even; Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel, When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou know'st it, telling, Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?" "Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain; Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither: Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither." Page and monarch, forth they went, forth

they went together; Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger; Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer." "Mark my footsteps, good my page. Tread thou in them boldly Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted; Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed. Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing, Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing

Over recent years I've found myself valuing the outdoors more than ever, and I thought that this year I would spend some time committing to paper why I think I love the outdoors, and in particular, how walking helps me to appreciate it. Perhaps twelve articles on this subject might inspire you to walk more, perhaps they might help me to understand why I walk, or perhaps they might just give you an insight into me! Either way, I hope these twelve articles on walking will be of interest, and please do talk with me about them and share your thoughts as I explore mine over the course of this year.

## **Me and my size nines! – Walking to and fro: An introduction**

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

Psalm 116: 8-9

Walking is something which we take for granted. It seems so simple. It seems so obvious. When we want to go somewhere, we get up and walk, at least as far as the car or the bus or the train, and perhaps all the way to where we are going.

My children like to ask a riddle. What has four legs in the morning, two legs in the afternoon and three legs in the evening? The answer is of course: humans. We begin our life on all fours, then we spend years on two legs, before the day comes when we need a stick to help us and we gain an extra leg. This is rather over simplified, but it is a reminder that we are the only ones of God's creation to walk on just two legs without the use of a tail or wings to help our stability and balance, making walking on two legs, according to the paleoanthropologist John Napier "a unique activity during which the body, step by step, teeters on the edge of catastrophe".

So, what is this activity, this balancing on two legs; and why have humans, so many years ago, decided that this is the way forward? I don't want to get into the science of evolution. There is much we can read on that, but I would rather take the time to think about what walking actually means to us, rather than how we do it.

It's worth noting that walking is so often an activity described without any comment on the act itself. The act of walking is taken for granted, but without walking our place in the world would be very different. This can be explored through any tradition, but I will demonstrate this using the Judeo-Christian tradition as an example because I intend to explore walking over the next twelve months through the eyes of my own faith as much as my own practice.

In the book of Genesis, Adam and Eve, hiding in shame, heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden. In the book of Job, Satan tells God that he has come from "going to and fro on the earth,

and walking up and down on it". The Israelites on coming out of slavery in Egypt walked in the desert for forty years. Jesus himself spent his whole ministry walking to each and every place he went, and his followers learnt to make walking the rhythm of their discipleship. Walking is in every part of the story, but even at the very beginning, there is no description as to how to do it.

For a long time, walking was the way to get around. People walked to get to work, to get to friends' houses, to get to family, to get to church, and to get anywhere else they needed to get. People walked on pilgrimage to holy sites, to grow closer to God through the stories of the saints, or to seek healing.

Walking as a hobby really only became a thing in the nineteenth century with, as the Ramblers like to claim, "city dwellers heading into the open countryside to get away from pollution and the stresses of daily life."



GT SHUNNER FELL

And now, here I am, enjoying getting away from the pollution and the stresses of daily life at every opportunity I get. Over the last year, I've completed four long distance walks: the 52-mile Herriot Way in May, the 109-mile Cleveland Way in July, the 47-mile Stanza Stones trail in October, and the 55-mile West Sussex Literary Trail in November. Every walk was different. The company was different each time. The scenery was

different each time. The weather was different each time. The photos are different each time. The memories are different each time. But, each time, there has been company (even when I've been by myself), scenery, weather, photos, and memories.

The memories are so important but are probably not the main reason to walk. I've walked for years, and at different times, I would probably have argued different reasons for walking. In my twenties, I attempted to climb all 214 mountain peaks in the Lake District, in my thirties, I walked long day walks, often of 25 miles or more in a day.

Both of these times were times of challenge. "Bagging" the summits. Increasing the distances. I'm not sure who I was challenging, but I was always looking for something bigger and better. Now, I seem to be settling into a love of long-distance walking, taking the time to enjoy new challenges, and growing through them.

It's not just long distances though. I also spend time in many of our local outdoor spaces, just for an afternoon, just for some fresh air, just for some exercise. But each walk, whether 3 miles around Clayton West, or 109 miles around Cleveland, serves a purpose, and



allows me time with myself, with my thoughts (for good or ill), with my family (sometimes), with the people I bump into (many and varied), and with the beauty of creation (which also varies enormously).

All of this is held in the hand of God, who is a constant companion, and who must be pretty fed up with me at times, but who opens my eyes and my mind, who provides the beauty of the places I walk, and who, each and every time I step into my size nines, opens my heart and my mind, keeps my eyes from tears and my feet from falling, and gives me the space I need to walk with him in the land of the living (paraphrased from Psalm 116).

All of this I hope to cover in a lot more detail over the course of this year, as I think about inviting God into my walking boots, and share with you an integral part of who I am.

**Fr Tim**

### FLOODING - RELATED PROBLEMS

In view of a risk of heavy downpours this winter, if anyone is short of sandbags, I have some 15 bags of sand stored if anyone wants to collect them.

Please ring: 07801 790900

Tony Warden



### MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Unfortunately it is that time of year again when magazine subscriptions are now due. I hope everyone feels the magazine is value for money and enjoy reading it. If you could give your £12 to the person who delivers your magazine it would be greatly appreciated.

We in the United Benefice wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing you in church if at all possible

*Happy  
New Year*

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### FUNERALS

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



Marlene Banks  
Mary Dlubak  
Maureen Ripley  
Enid Blackburn

We remember also all whose anniversaries are at this time

**REST ETERNAL GRANT TO THEM O LORD**

### Thank you ....

I, David Highway, would like to say a thank you to all at St John's Church for having me as a success on the electoral roll. I do feel very pleased for being considered and I promise to attend church meetings at St John's and to come to church regularly.

Once again, a thank you to you all

It has been good for us at St John's to get to know David this year, and we are looking forward to travelling with him through the next year



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# ST JOHN'S ON STAGE PRESENTS TREASURE ISLAND

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### 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](mailto:staincrosspantomime@gmail.com)

Phone: 07896 169576

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. One of the disturbing questions that arises from the horrors of the Holocaust is 'where was God when the six million died?'

In his moving memoir, 'Night,' Eli Wiesel tells the story of an execution that the prisoners were forced to witness. Two men and a boy were made to stand on chairs with nooses around their necks. At the guards' signal, the chairs were kicked from beneath their feet. The men died instantly as the fall broke their necks, but the boy, flailed about, gasping for breath. Wiesel heard someone cry out, 'For God's sake, where is God?' In that moment, he heard a voice inside: '*Where is He? This is where: hanging here from this gallows*'.

As we think of this boy dying on the gallows, we are reminded of another Jew, who suffered and died on a cross. As the crowd gathered around the cross, it was Jesus who posed the same question: '*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*' (Matt 27:46).

Jesus became a human being, because God wanted to identify with His lost and suffering world. He willingly took upon Himself God's judgment for the sin of the world, as God turned away from the Son he loved: 'God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God' (2 Cor. 5:21).

So where was God when the six million died? The truth is that God is present in our suffering, to identify and suffer with us and to provide help, hope and meaning to those who suffer. Whatever we go through this New Year, let's not forget this truth!



**Thank you ...**

Ladies who regularly come to Darton Church opening on Saturday mornings brought this beautiful Christmas cake for everyone to share.

It was enjoyed by all and we thank them for their kindness



# THE 100 CLUB

**DECEMBER DRAW**

- 1st - No. 103 Hilary Riggs**
- 2nd - No. 49 Betty Dodd**
- 3rd - No. 1 Gina Rae**

**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**

- January 6: Tony Warden and Bridget Mellor-Frith
- January 13: Brenda Hepworth and Mollie Hall
- January 20: Janet Rodgerson and Ursula Senior
- January 27: Ann and Alistair Burns

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

## January rota for St John's

Date	Sunday 07 January 2024	Sunday 14 January	Sunday 21 January	Sunday 28 January
Day	The Epiphany of the Lord	Epiphany 2	Epiphany 3	Candlemas
Time	09:00	09:00	09:00	09:00
Welcome & Offertory	Cynthia/Gavin Sturgess	Doreen Piper	Pam Seaman	Margaret Foster
Reader	Margaret Foster	Pam Seaman	Nick Shields	Sue Green
Reading	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Revelation 5: 1-12	Revelation 19: 6-10	Hebrews 2: 14-18
Gospel	Matthew 2: 1-12	John 1: 43-51	John 2: 1-11	Luke 2: 22-40
Intercessions	Amy Roe	Nick Shields	Louise Smith	Revd Jean Sykes
Chalice	Louise Smith	Pam Seaman	Margaret Foster	Louise Smith
Coffee	Amy Roe Pam Seaman	Doreen Piper Louise Smith	Sue Dunhill Bob Hawes	Amy Roe Pam Seaman
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

## January rota for All Saints'

DATE	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
MINISTERS OF WELCOME	Ann Burns Alistair Burns	Jean Parker Linda Rayner	Hilary Riggs Christine Miller	Elaine Brown Lynda Charlesworth
READER	Lizzie Jones	Bethany Stevens	Derek Hollingsworth	Marjorie Crossland
INTERCESSIONS	Hilary Riggs	Rev'd Jean Daykin	Judith Hollingsworth	Hilary Riggs
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Ursula Senior	Janet Rodgerson	Marjorie Crossland	Stuart Holling

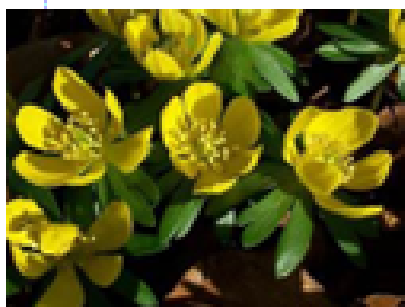
Readings as St John's

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

# Welcome to Eco Church

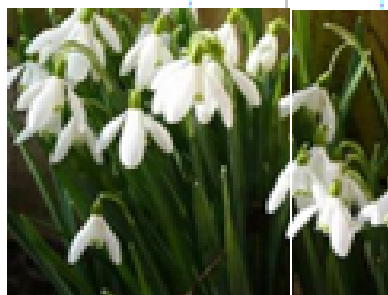
## Flowers you may see in January

Most famously, snowdrops are the flowers that tend to bloom in January... Keep an eye open as you go through the churchyard of All Saints church in Darton.



However, if you are out and about - particularly in woodland - keep an eye open also for the brilliant yellow blossoms of Winter Aconite:

The bravest early crocuses will also put in an appearance - a sure harbinger that Spring may still be a way off - but it will come!



## Reuse/recycle/remake

### New Year's Resolutions?

Whatever you resolve to do better in this year ahead, please make at least ONE eco-pledge. Easy ideas? These aren't new, but ask for a little commitment...

- If buying coffee or tea when out of the house, take your own refillable (lidded) mug with you - every time!
- Use a refillable water bottle - don't buy water in plastic bottles!
- Ditch paper serviettes / napkins in favour of cloth ones. Cheaper in the long run...
- Use washable and re-usable cloths for kitchen and bathroom cleaning: the disposable wipes are mostly awful for the environment - even if they claim to be biodegradable, the timeline is dreadful! And too many wind up in our oceans...
- Resolve to waste as little food as possible: planning food purchase to waste as little as possible is respectful of the food we have - and better for your pocket!



## Round/about

January can seem a dull month to be out and about but at least the daylight hours are lengthening and, if you can land on one of the bright frosty days, a walk is a joy. It dispels the lethargy which tends to accompany the dull times. A field of bright green winter wheat seems miraculous when fields around are so brown and muddy.

Winter skies can also produce amazing colours, the clear, brilliant blue of a frosty morning, when the hedgerows and grasses shimmer with silver outlines; the amazing reds, pinks, golds and blues of the low, setting sun and the clarity of the stars in a cloudless night sky.

There isn't a great deal of animal life to be seen - perhaps a brave squirrel scampering among the leaves in the hope of finding some tasty morsel. However, if you're up on the moors you may catch a glimpse of a hare in its white winter coat - or a stoat in emine!

## Thinking about eating less meat?

We know that eating less meat is better for the environment but a lot of us don't really like vegetables processed into "pretend" meat. However, some non-meat dishes are amazing. Try this:



## Chestnut and mushroom casserole

### Ingredients:

1 onion, peeled & thinly sliced  
2 garlic cloves, peeled & finely chopped  
15g thyme, leaves picked off the stalk  
400g chestnut mushrooms, quartered  
1 pack cooked chestnuts

1½ tsp cornflour  
1 tbsp tomato purée  
100ml red wine  
1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce (or a little miso paste)  
½ tsp bouillon powder / vegetable stock cube  
black pepper

Gently fry the onions until starting to soften. Add the garlic, mushrooms, and a little extra oil if needed. Wait for the mushrooms to soften a little then add the chestnuts, wine, tomato purée, Worcestershire sauce / miso and stock / bouillon powder. Mix the cornflour with a little water and stir in well. Allow to simmer, adjusting the thickness if you wish. A grating of black pepper goes well. Serve with mashed potatoes and vegetables - or with a pie crust. Also excellent with crusty bread!



## Carols and Christingle!

St John's held a Carols and Christingle service on Saturday 16th December which was a bit of an experiment. The Old Blowers Brass Band was on hand to provide the music as this has become a tradition at Staincross. The service began in the traditional way with welcoming prayers, carols and readings from Isaiah and St Luke which told the story of Jesus' birth.



Then Chris Tingle appeared in the pulpit! He is the shape of a Christingle orange and he can talk. The children in the congregation looked in amazement as Chris Tingle and Father Tim had a conversation. Father Tim asked the children, who were quite excited by this time, what questions to ask him. There were lots of questions and in reply Chris explained the

reasons why he was in the shape of an orange and why he had cocktail sticks with sweets stuck into him. When Father Tim asked him why he had a candle sticking out of his head, the first answer was 'for a bit of light entertainment!'. Further answers explained the full meaning of the Christingle and its origins. Children and adults alike were smiling and laughing. It was great fun.

During the singing of the Christingle Carol children and adults came to collect a Christingle Orange. Then the Old Blowers played a group of festive tunes including 'White Christmas', 'Let it snow' and 'Jingle Bells'. People sang along, swayed from side to side and children danced around in the middle of the church. It was lovely to see people reacting naturally to the music. Prayers followed and then the Christingles were lit, the lights dimmed and we all sang 'Away in a manger'. Singing in the light of Christingle candles is always a special moment in the service. After the blessing 'O come all ye faithful' was sung with gusto.

The service seemed to mix the traditional with the less formal in a really accessible way which was appreciated by a very full church. Many favourable comments were heard after the service as people had wine and mince pies. More than one person admitted that they had not been sure about combining the two services but had thoroughly enjoyed it. Another said it was the best they had ever attended! Maybe we have started a new tradition!

Thanks go especially to The Old Blowers Band, Revd Emily, Chris Tingle and Father Tim for a truly memorable service.

**Sue Dunhill**

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**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**

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**PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST**

Thank you to all who have bought magazines this past year, I hope you are enjoying reading them and please feel free to send me any items you would like including, it's always good to have contributions from different people.

On that note could I just say that subscriptions for the magazine will be due in January, please let the person who delivers it have your payment.

Happy New Year to one and all



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