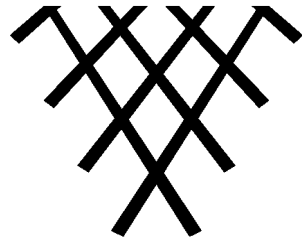




**ST PETER'S**  
CHURCH STANLEY



**February 2016**  
**Parish News**



**Free - please take a copy**

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**The Minister writes:** This is the first magazine of 2016, so I would like to begin by wishing you a Happy New Year.

This is the season of Epiphany when we think again about Christmas, but through the eyes of the ‘Magi’, mysterious visitors from the East. Epiphany can mean “revealing of Christ to the nations”, and these visitors are a powerful symbol of that. Matthew’s gospel gives us a brief crafted account that tradition has built upon. Matthew does not tell us how many there were or what gender or which was their country of origin or even their status.

Art through the ages has developed the scene to depict three men; sometimes all from Persia, sometimes including an African, sometimes giving a range of ages from young to old. We even have given them names and the status of royalty. The range shown is very inclusive. That Matthew includes the story shows how important he thought it was to record the visit of people from another land with another language and a different faith. This gives a powerful picture of the Christ who draws ALL people to him.

But it is a picture with a dark side too. The outward journey was long and arduous and led them into the dangerous company of Herod.

The Magi have a moment of calm and serenity when following the star again they come upon the Christ child. They bow their knees offering their gifts and return home transformed; using a route to avoid the power hungry Herod.

Their encounter with Herod was to bring disastrous results as out of his fear of another king, Herod massacres the boys in Bethlehem. Matthew tells us how warned by an angel, Joseph leads Mary and Jesus to safety in Egypt.

What a contemporary story this sounds; families fleeing to safety as refugees in fear of their lives because of the unbelievable cruelty of people to each other. In the midst of the horror there are signs of hope. There are groups now working to bring relief and help to those in need.

These visitors from the East remind us that Christ does draw all people to himself, even us. We are challenged to be open and welcoming ourselves.

*Rev Bill Henderson*

# Wakefield Wool Company



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[www.wakefieldwool.co.uk](http://www.wakefieldwool.co.uk)



## Music for All

[westies12@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:westies12@tiscali.co.uk)

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## Blades Hairdressers

**58 Lake Lock Road, Stanley, Tel: 822133**

*Lindsey & Amy would like to introduce our junior stylist, Beth.  
Appointments now available. Welcome to all customers, old and new.*

New to Blades: Wednesday  
is now Pensioner day:

- Perms £25
- Shampoo & set £10
- Colour, cut & dry £30

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offer hair extension. Call in for a consultation.

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disabled customers. Please give us a ring.

## **St Peter's Church Services**

*All services are held at St Peter's Church,  
Lake Lock Road, Stanley, WF3 4HW*

<b>Sunday</b>	10am	Family Communion
	7.30pm	Holy Space <i>(3rd Sun of month)</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	2pm	Prayers
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Taize <i>(1st Weds of month)</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	9:15 am	Children's Ark

## **Other Christian Worship**

**METHODIST CHURCH:** Lee Mount Chapel

Sunday: 10:30am service

Minister: Revd Barry Owen

email: [barry.owen@Methodist.org.uk](mailto:barry.owen@Methodist.org.uk), tel: 07753 127681

Steward: Mrs Doreen Abson, telephone: 01924 824577

**ZION CHRISTIAN CENTRE**

466a Aberford Road, Stanley,

[www.zionchurch.co.uk](http://www.zionchurch.co.uk), telephone: 01924 872262

Sunday:	10:30am Service
	11:00am Sunday School & crèche
Tuesdays:	7:30pm Prayer meeting
Wednesdays:	7:30pm Bible Study, discussions

Minister: David Dixon, telephone: 01924 872262

## Linda Skelton

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## DATES FOR FEBRUARY

- Tues 2nd Feb 10am—2pm** Senior Citizens' Lunch club with activities and a hot meal, every Tuesday. See p13 for details.
- Weds 2nd Feb 2pm-4pm** Coffee Afternoon at Mount Road Chapel with cakes, refreshments etc. See p10 for details.
- Weds 3rd Feb 7.30pm** Taize service with contemplation, prayer and meditative music.
- Weds 10th Feb 1.30pm** Jumble Sale at Mount Road Chapel; see p10 for details.
- Weds 10th Feb 7.30pm** Ash Wednesday service: celebrate the beginning of Lent with this special service, see page 14-15.
- Fri 12th Feb 7.30pm** Film Club: 'We Bought a Zoo' starring Matt Damon and Scarlett Johansson. See p16.
- Sat 13th Feb 10am-12pm** Coffee morning at the Community Centre with tombola, cake stall, and much more, see p11.
- Sun 14th Feb 10am** Family parade service: with the uniformed organisations.
- Sun 21st Feb 7.30pm** Holy Space service: a monthly, informal evening service. Everyone welcome.
- Weds 17th Feb 7.30pm** PCC Meeting at the church.
- Fri 4th March 7.30pm** Women's World Day of Prayer: this year's local service is at Outwood Parish church; the service is prepared by Christian women of Cuba: p12.
- Sun 6th March 10am** Mothering Sunday parade service: join us for this special family service.
- Thur 10th Mar 6pm** Moorhouse Action Group meeting: come and share any issues about Moorhouse. See p15.
- Sat 19th March 10am-12pm** Spring Fair at Stanley Community Centre with lots of great stalls and refreshments. Details next month.

## STANLEY LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Stanley Library** offers a wide selection of books, talking books, selected language tapes, DVDs for hire, as well as a photocopier/A4 colour photocopier, fax machine, newspapers and selected magazines. There are also public access computers, offering free internet access, and basic computer programs (i.e. word processing). There are also free UK Online computer courses available offering internet training and Introduction to Computers —please ask in the library.

### OPENING HOURS

Monday	9am—5pm
Tuesday	9am—5pm
Wednesday	Closed all day
Thursday	9am—7pm
Friday	9am—5pm
Saturday	9am—1pm

**Reading Groups:** There are two Reading groups: one meets in the morning of the first Monday of every month, and the second meets in the evening of the first Thursday of every month. Check with the library for times and book details.

**Activities for Children:** There is a Tiny Tots Storytime for under 5's, 11:30-12pm on certain Mondays: check with the Library for dates. Other activities for children are organised in most school holidays—please ask for details.

**Family History Group:** Family history sessions take place in the library on Saturday mornings from 10am-12pm.


**Coffee Morning:** There is a coffee morning every Thursday morning, 10am-12 noon. Come and relax with friends over a cuppa.

**The Community Centre:** The hall, two rooms and well equipped kitchen are available for hire. Contact the Librarian on 01924 303130 to book in advance.



## Thank you for your generosity

During 2015, the church and community groups meeting at the church helped support a number of charitable causes; your kindness and generosity in helping us do this is much appreciated. In addition, the PCC of St Peter's church made a commitment some time ago to put aside some money every year to be used for charitable causes. These are some of the donations that have been made during 2015, with the support of the congregation and community:

- The Stanley Community Singers held a wonderful and very well attended Christmas Concert on 13th December 2015 and raised £300 for the Salvation Army for their work with the homeless and needy, and also £50 each for the Move Ahead charity which supports people with brain injuries in Wakefield, and Jessie's Fund which provides music therapy for disabled children in York.
- The congregation of St Peter's took part in the annual 'Share a Christmas Card' scheme and raised £90 for Wakefield Hospice.
- The St Nicholas Day Service on 6th December 2015 was very well supported by the uniformed organisations and the congregation; hundreds of wrapped Christmas presents were donated to Barnados to distribute amongst children and young people in the UK.
- The Christingle Services were held on 10th January to celebrate Jesus as Light of the World. The services raised £143.26 in aid of the Children's Society which supports children in the UK who are not so fortunate. Thanks also to everyone who worked hard beforehand to prepare the oranges. 
- Earlier in the year, St Peter's Church donated £315 to Water for Life for their on-going rain-water harvesting project in Tanzania.
- A total of £668 was sent to support Christian Aid and Tearfund's work in helping those affected by the earthquake in Nepal which happened in April 2015 and killed over 8,000 people.
- The church is also sending £100 each month to the Cross Project, which runs lunch clubs, religious education lessons and after-school activities in local secondary schools.
- The church continues to support the annual Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning appeal and last year raised £280.

## Mount Road Methodist Chapel Events

- There will be a Church Council meeting at 12pm after the morning service on Sunday 31st January.
- The next Coffee Afternoon at Mount Road chapel will be on Wednesday 3rd February from 2pm—4pm with cakes, refreshments and other stalls.
- There will be a Jumble Sale at the chapel on Wednesday 10th February from 1.30pm. The sale will raise funds for camping equipment for the 20th Wakefield Cub scouts who meet at the chapel. Donations of jumble will be gratefully received and can be left at the chapel.
- Several crates of food have been donated by the chapel and groups that use the chapel to the Trinity drop-in and night shelter in Castleford. This is an ongoing scheme, so please donate any canned, packet food or useful household items (duvets, small electrical items). These can all be left at the chapel.



## Knit and Natter, Sew and Chatter!

At St Peter's Church Centre, every Thursday, 2pm-4pm

Enjoy a cuppa, company and a 'crafty' afternoon!

Please come and join this established group of ladies as they knit, sew, compare ideas and patterns, learn new crafty skills, and share conversation, refreshments and friendship.

**Just turn up: you will be very warmly welcomed**



## Jewellery for Alzheimer's—*thank you*

Thank you to everyone who helped us with our response to the Alzheimer's Society, who launched an appeal for old jewellery. We were able to send off 7 bags of unwanted or broken jewellery—all of it will be recycled by the charity and used to fund their projects against dementia.

## *From the Stanley Parish Register*

### ***Funerals***

Betty Milner	30 November 2015
Alan Littlewood	14 December 2015
George Craven	14 December 2015
Brett Woodfine	22 December 2015
Allan Balkwill	4 January 2016
Donald Goodison	5 January 2016
Marjorie Horner	18 January 2016

### ***Baptisms***

Blake Moses James Sawyer	17 January 2016
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### **Coffee morning thank-you**

Thank you to everyone who supported the most recent coffee mornings; the December coffee morning raised £226.40 and the January coffee morning raised £197.75. The next coffee morning will be on Saturday 13th February from 10am—12pm at Stanley Community Centre. As well as the usual great stalls—cakes, handmade greetings cards, raffle, tombola, jigsaws, books and toys, and refreshments—we are now serving bacon butties each month. So please come along and join us for a very pleasant and enjoyable morning.



### ***Prayer Meeting—every Tuesday from 2pm-3pm***

The weekly prayer meeting at St Peter's Church continues to meet every Tuesday from 2pm-3pm, led by Calli McKenna. Call in to pray for those in trouble, sorrow, sickness or need; for family, friends, the community and the world. Everyone is very welcome; please come along.

**The British custom of afternoon tea** dates back to the mid-19th century and the seventh Duchess of Bedford, Anna Russell. The Duchess complained of a 'sinking feeling' at about 4pm every day, and as it was still four hours until dinner (at 8pm), she began to have sandwiches or a small cake with some tea. Her friends thought this was marvellous; the idea spread through (hungry) upper class circles, and soon a great British tradition was born.



## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

*Friday 4th March, 7:30pm,  
Outwood Parish Church*



**“Receive children. Receive me.”**

Women's World Day of Prayer is a international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the voices of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. Every year, a great wave of prayer rises with the sun over the island of Samoa and sweeps across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, coming to rest in American Samoa some 36 hours later. By then, the WWDP service will have been celebrated in over 170 countries.

This year, the service has been prepared by the women of Cuba and is entitled—“Receive children. Receive me”.

Cuba is an island nation; the largest in the Caribbean with an area similar to the UK; but with a population of just 11 million. The earliest inhabitants were native Arawaks from Venezuela and Guyana, but from 1492 the Spanish took charge, bringing in slaves from Africa. Cuba broke free from its Spanish rulers in 1898 and became a republic, but in 1950 a dictatorship took power which devastated Cuban society. This was swept aside in 1959 by a new communist movement, led by Fidel Castro and Ché Guevara. A trade embargo was imposed by the USA in 1961, and is still in place today, although diplomatic relations between Cuba and the USA have now been re-established.

Cuban women play an important role in society, family and the church. More than 46% of public sector employees are women, 39% of managers are women, and 68% of the technically and professionally qualified labour force are women. Nevertheless, is it is still primarily men who occupy key positions in economy, politics and religion.

After the communist revolution, the Cuban government restricted the practise of all religions. However, from 1990, religious freedom has been allowed and churches have again flourished. The largest Christian denomination is Catholic reflecting the Spanish heritage.

All are welcome—men and women, and people of all ages—to this year's local WWDP service, which will be held at Outwood Parish Church at 7:30pm on Friday 4th March.



St Peter's Senior Citizens'

# Lunch Club



At St Peter's Church, Lake Lock Road

**Every Tuesday, 10am—2pm**

**This is the timetable for the next few weeks:**

Tues 2nd Feb	Local history photos & films
Tues 9th Feb	Health pod visit
Tues 16th Feb	Talk by local magistrates
Tues 23rd Feb	Visit by local Age UK team
Tues 1st March	Wakefield library service talk
Tues 8th March	Health pod visit
Tues 15th March	Chair exercises

- Arrive from 10am-10.30 and enjoy tea or coffee and a chat, followed by the activity of the day.
- Lunch served from about 12:15pm: a freshly cooked hot meal followed by dessert.
- Ideal for anyone wanting a bit of companionship and something to do!

**Cost per person = £5**

**Phone the church office on 01924 835746 for more info.**



## Ash Wednesday and Lent

Lent is the period of 40 days (not including Sundays) which starts on Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. It is traditionally a time of fasting and reflection. The name 'Ash' Wednesday is to do with getting things right between us and God and the tradition goes back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites sought repentance for their sins and mourned for the damage and evil they had done. They would cover their head with ashes, or even rend their clothes, as an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. The early Christian church adopted the custom of sprinkling ashes on those who were turning to God and repenting for their sins. They started to do this at the beginning of Lent, and so Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19). Sometimes, as at St Peter's, a branch used on Palm Sunday the year before is burned to create the ashes for the Ash Wednesday service.



The Ash Wednesday service at St Peter's will take place on Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm; all are welcome.

So Ash Wednesday and the period of Lent is a good time for us to consider our thoughts and actions, and admit when we have made mistakes. Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

- *'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)*
- *'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon*

*him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)*

- *'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.'* (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Lent. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

During Lent this year, St Peter's is organising some small groups to meet each week to follow a 5-week programme titled 'Preparing the Way' about the life and work of John the Baptist. The weekly meetings will be an opportunity to meet with other people and discuss the Bible in an informal and thought-provoking way. The Lent groups will start during the week commencing 15th February and will take place on the following days:

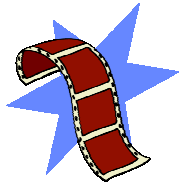
- *Tuesdays, 2pm at St Peter's Church*
- *Tuesday, 7.30pm, location to be advised*
- *Thursdays, 7.30pm at the Vicarage*

Further meetings might be arranged to meet demand; if you would like to take part but can't make any of these times then get in touch and suggest a time suitable for you. To join one of the groups, please contact Rev Bill Henderson on 822143, the church office on 835746, email [churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk) or put your name on the sign-up sheet in the noticeboard inside the church.

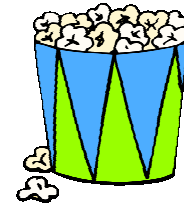
From mid-April, the church will be embarking on a 15-week programme called 'Jesus Shaped People' to help everyone learn more about Jesus. The plan is that the Lent small groups will continue after Easter using the 'Jesus Shaped People' material. More about this next month....

### **Moorhouse Community Action Group**

The next meeting of the Moorhouse Community Action Group will be on Thursday 10th March at 6pm at St Peter's Church. Please come along and raise any issues specific to Moorhouse with local councillors and WDH representatives.



St Peter's Church  
**Film Club**



**Friday evening, 12th February 7:30pm**

**'We Bought a Zoo' (2012)**



Matt Damon stars in this feelgood family feature based on the memoir by British journalist Benjamin Mee. Newly widowed Benjamin (Damon) is finding life difficult trying to raise his two young children. Urged on by his father, Duncan (Thomas Haden Church), to make a change, Benjamin decides to purchase a run-down manor in the countryside in the hope that it will bring his family together again. However, the house comes with a strange stipulation: the tenant must manage the zoo that accompanies the property. Having to care for 47 species, and with his friends thinking he's mad, Benjamin sets out to restore the zoo to its former glory. Fortunately he inherits some experienced and very loyal staff members, led by Kelly Foster (Scarlett Johansson). As an aside, the real-life park acquired by Mee continues to lead by example as a humane habitat for endangered species.

**Doors open 7pm, film start 7.30pm**

**Free admission, tea & coffee; bring your own popcorn!**

*West Riding Watercolour Society  
& Art Group*

The group meets every month at St Peter's Church for demonstrations by artists, informal painting evenings and to share techniques and knowledge.



Open to everyone; the cost is £3 per session.

Next meeting: Monday 15th February, 7pm-9pm  
*for an informal painting evening*





**Argentine Tango**  
**at St Peter's Church, Stanley**  
**Every Monday 7pm—9pm**  
 All levels of experience welcome  
 £8 per session  
 Contact: Dickson on 07796 520839

### Leeds Diocesan Synod news

At the last Leeds Diocesan Synod meeting on 17th October 2015 the Synod voted to give formal support for the practise of blood and organ donation. As a result, the Synod has written to every church in the diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales asking them to discuss the matter in their PCC meetings.

The letter has been duly discussed by St Peter's PCC, and the PCC has agreed to endorse the following points of the Synod's letter:

*“That every church in the Leeds Diocese should encourage their members to consider as part of their Christian giving:*

- a) becoming a blood donor; and*
- b) registering as an organ donor upon their death and making their wishes known to their family.”*

Churches are also being encouraged to offer their premises as a centre for blood donation, although unfortunately this isn't practical for St Peter's as the hall isn't big enough, and there are several other venues already in use in the immediate area which are more suitable.

The Synod also commented on the current refugee crisis and has requested that every church in the diocese consider:

- a) how they might support refugees locally;*
- b) how they might join in the debate about refugee support in the UK; and*
- c) how the Leeds diocese might respond in conjunction with local authorities and charities.”*

## **Report from Stanley Grove School**

*Aberford Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4NT, Tel: 01924 303805*

*Website: [www.stanleygroveprimary.co.uk](http://www.stanleygroveprimary.co.uk), Headteacher: Mrs J Frost*

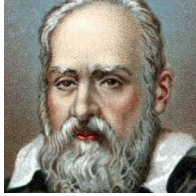
The school has had a busy and exciting start to the New Year. Recently, a group of children took part in the Young Voices concert at Sheffield arena with 7,000 other school children from the area. The children spent several months learning all the songs and actions and came together in a hugely exciting concert featuring Laura Wright, the RFU anthem singer, amongst other performers. It was a wonderful evening, and children were thrilled to take part in it.

The whole school is using the outdoors as a learning area more and more. The school is taking part in the Wakefield Council and Shanks Waste Management Rubbish Monster Competition 2016 with the aim of raising awareness of the 3 R's of waste management: reduce, reuse and recycle. Each class will be designing a monster to make out of litter, and will be cooking marshmallows around our outdoor fire-pit. During the year, the school will continue to use outdoor learning e.g. looking after the school environment; den making.

Class 5 recently enjoyed a visit to Sandal castle to learn about the local area. Next month, Class 5 will be going on a 3-day residential trip to Hawkshead activity centre in the Lake District. They will be taking part in lots of outdoor activities and team games.

The Christmas concerts, fair and raffle were hugely successful, raising a total of £1,117. Half of this was raised by the enterprise projects undertaken by each of the classes; they made various items to sell including Christmas decorations, wrapping paper, gift boxes and marshmallow snowmen. Each class will be able to decide amongst themselves how to spend the money they raised.

The school is very proud of its position in the latest league tables which shows that Stanley Grove continues to be one of the top performing schools in Wakefield. This is an outstanding achievement and shows how well the children are reaching targets for their age groups and above. It also demonstrates that the school is able to challenge the more able children while ensuring all children are involved in a wide variety of topics and experiences. A huge well-done to all the pupils, staff and governors for their continued hard work which makes results like this possible.



## Remembering Galileo

Galileo Galilei found himself at the centre of controversy 400 years ago this month, when he was ordered by the Catholic Church on 26th February 1616 to abandon his opinion that the Earth and planets revolve around the sun. He was banned from holding the opinion, promoting it, or teaching it.

Although highly respected as a scientist, the church feared that Galileo’s proclamations cast doubt by implication on the authority of Scripture. Galileo himself argued for a non-literal interpretation of Holy Scripture to solve the “problem”.

Born in 1564, he studied medicine before becoming Professor of Mathematics at Pisa in 1589, and then at Padua in 1592. In 1609, he heard about the invention of the telescope in Holland. Without having seen one, he built a superior version and made many astronomical discoveries, including mountains and valleys on the surface of the moon, sunspots, the four largest moons of the planet Jupiter and the phases of the planet Venus.

In 1632, he was again condemned for heresy after his book “Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems was published”. He was sentenced to life imprisonment; later reduced to permanent house arrest at his villa in Arcetri. He was also forced to publicly withdraw his support for Copernican theory. He died in 1642. In 1758, the Church lifted the ban on most works supporting Copernican theory, and by 1835 dropped its opposition to heliocentrism altogether.

## Stanley Community Singers

The Stanley Community Singers meet at St Peter’s Church, every Monday (in term-time), 1pm—2:30pm

**Come and join our friendly group of singers!**

No previous experience required, just a love of singing!

We sing a variety of different music including pop, musicals, spirituals and modern classics. Come along, make some new friends and enjoy a good sing-song!

**We sing from 1pm-2pm with time afterwards for refreshments and chat. Cost per session = £2.**

*Why not arrive a bit earlier and have your lunch in the Community Caf ? Sandwiches, salads, all-day breakfasts and hot meals all served.*

## Telephoning God.....

An American photographer on vacation was inside a church in Oldham taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read '£10,000 per call'.



The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way.

Next stop was in Manchester... There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Oldham and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 he could talk to God. 'OK, thank you,' said the American.

He then travelled to Blackburn, Darwen, Burnley, Rochdale and Littleborough. In every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same '£10,000 per call' sign under it. The American, upon leaving Lancashire decided to travel to Yorkshire to see if Yorkshiremen had the same phone.

He arrived in Todmorden, and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read '50 pence per call.'

The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign. 'Father, I've travelled all over Lancashire and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to heaven, but in Lancashire it was £10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?'

The priest smiled and answered, 'You're in Yorkshire now, son. It's a local call.'

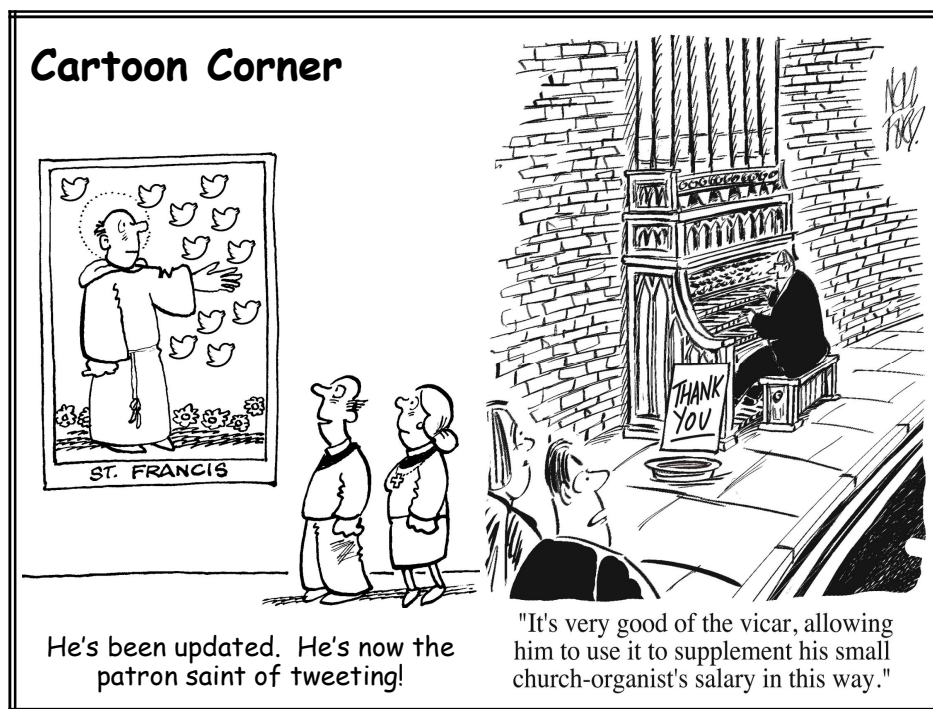
.....  
*During a church service my young niece had to go outside, as she did not feel well. She returned a few minutes later and admitted: 'I have been a little sick. But it doesn't matter, there's a box at the door marked 'for the sick'.*

## Leap Year: 29th February

2016 brings us a Leap Year. We need to add this extra day every four years in order to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun. The problem is very simple: our calendar has 365 days, but it actually takes 365.242199 days (a tropical year) to circle once around the Sun. That means we are 'out' by nearly six hours a year. Four times six hours is 24 hours - hence an extra day every four years.

Adding the extra day in February goes back to Julius Caesar in 45 BC. In his Julian Calendar, February was the last month of the year, and 24th February was Leap Year Day.

An old Irish legend tells how it was St Brigid who first struck a deal with St Patrick to allow women to propose to men every four years. The arrangement was meant to 'balance' the traditional roles of men and women in a similar way to how Leap Day balances our calendar.



## **Attacks on Kenya Christians on the increase**

Release International has charted a ‘worrying’ increase in attacks against Christians in Kenya, as Al-Shabaab militants seek to infiltrate the country. So says Paul Robinson of Release International, which supports persecuted Christians around the world.

A recent fact-finding visit by Release recorded increasing attacks against churches by Islamist gunmen based in Somalia, who are affiliated to al-Qaeda. There are also disturbing signs of hard-line intolerance towards Muslims who change their religion.

Now Release has also called for prayer for Hassan Ali, a recent convert to Christianity, who has had to leave his home for fear of being murdered by his relatives. According to Hassan, his in-laws were among a group of men armed with knives who came to his door in Witu, Lamu County, demanding to see him. He escaped through a window when he heard the visitors questioning his wife about her faith. His wife and their children, aged seven and four, have been taken back to live with her relatives. Her parents are reportedly insisting the children attend a madrassa (Islamic school). Hassan was raised as a Muslim but became a Christian about ten months ago.

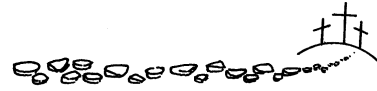
Attacks against churches in this Christian majority country are increasing. In the last few months Islamist extremists set fire to two church buildings in Tiribe near Mombasa. Pastor Mutuku of Faith Victory Church says his congregation now meet in a tent. Pastor Nyawa, whose Holistic Church was also burned, says his remaining members are now forced to meet outside, under police protection, but are contending with heavy rains and flooding.

Release International is urging the Kenyan government to do all it can to step up security. It also says that: ‘Muslim leaders must take urgent steps to counter the radicalisation of their youth.’ The Kenyan government has sent troops to Somalia, where al-Shabaab is based, and has raided mosques in Kenya to counter growing radicalisation.

Last April, al-Shabaab attacked a predominately Christian college in north-east Kenya, killing 150. The terrorist group became notorious after attacking the Westgate shopping Mall in Nairobi in September 2013, killing at least 67 people.

*Through its international network of missions Release International serves persecuted Christians in more than 30 countries.*

## *Prayers for this month*



### **Disturb us, Lord**

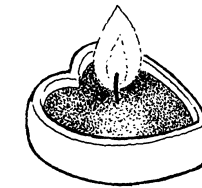
Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we have dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when  
With the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wider seas  
Where storms will show your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.  
We ask You to push back  
The horizons of our hopes;  
And to push into the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.  
*Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th Century*

### **Prayer on Prayer**

Dear Father, thank you that you want us, your children, to connect with you in prayer. Thank you that we can come to you, rest in your presence and spend time with you, either quietly or crying out our thoughts and concerns from open hearts. Help us to trust you; to be confident that you hear us and will answer our prayers, in the right time and in the right way for us, even if we don't always understand. Thank you for the sustaining privilege of prayer.  
In Jesus name. Amen.

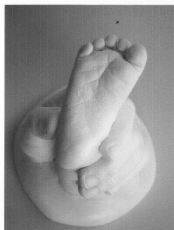


*By Daphne Kitching*

*Please contact the editor, Eleanor Plant, with items for the next magazine on 01924 835746, or by email: [churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk)*

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**Cllr Jacqui Williams**  
Tel: 01924 278007  
Email: [jacquel-inewilliams](mailto:jacquel-inewilliams)



**Cllr Matthew Morley**  
Tel: 07719 904085  
Email: [mmorley@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:mmorley@wakefield.gov.uk)

1st & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month	6pm—7pm	Stanley Community Centre
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month	9:30—10:45am	Stanley Community Centre
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month	11am—12 noon	Bevin Close Community Centre, Outwood

Excludes bank holidays, no appointment necessary, home visits can be arranged

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## ST PETER'S CHURCH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev W Henderson	822143
	379 Aberford Road, Stanley	
Assistant Minister	Rev David Teece	
Readers	Vicky Wilson	
	Calli McKenna	
Lay Pastoral Ministers	Ray Rushworth	07906 882433
	Margaret Woffendin	
Church Wardens	Barry McCarthy	
	David Sunderland	
Church Office	Eleanor Plant	835746
	churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk	
Treasurer	Contact Rev Henderson	
Church Flowers	Angie Daniel	376343
Musical Director	Julie West	829098
Electoral Roll	Eleanor Plant	835746
Prayer Chain	Glenda Oakes	820222
House Groups	Rev W Henderson	822143
Ladies Society	Contact Church Office	835746
Magazine Editor	Eleanor Plant	835746
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Calli McKenna	07557 735610

## YOUTH GROUPS

Children's Ark	Viv Henderson	822143
Creche	Rev W Henderson	822143
Sunday Gang & Explorers	Viv Henderson	822143

## UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Cubs/Scouts (boys & girls)	Mark Pringle	07450 953744
	firstyorkshire@gmail.com	
Brownies	Via Church Office	835746
Rainbows	Via Church Office	835746

For information regarding weddings and baptisms please contact the Vicar after any church service or by telephone on 01924 822143.

Contact the Church Office on 835746 (answer phone out of office hours) or by email: churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk

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