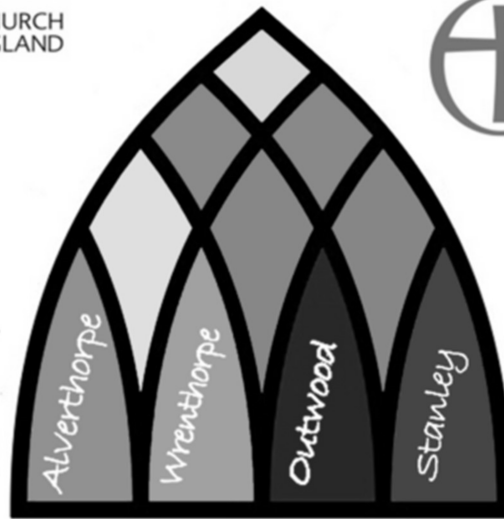


THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



St Peter's Church is a member of the  
North Wakefield Benefice team of churches

# Dec '22 / Jan '23

## Stanley Parish News



**Free - please take a copy**  
[www.northwakefield.benefice.uk](http://www.northwakefield.benefice.uk)

# Emma Philpotts

## Podiatrist /Chiroprapist

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- Family run business—est. 40 yrs.
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- No job too small or too large.
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- Courtesy cars available.

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# Locksmith & Security Installer



**-Lock Upgrades**

**-CCTV & Alarm Installation**

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**-Safe Fitting**

**-Call for a free security assessment**

**Call Andy: 07721876571**

**LEMONLOCKSMITH.CO.UK**

**DBS CHECKED - CITY & GUILDS CERTIFIED  
Covering Stanley & Nearby Areas**

## STANLEY LIBRARY

**Stanley Library** offers a wide selection of books, talking books, language tapes, newspapers (including the Wakefield Express), magazines, and an A4 colour photocopier (please enquire for prices). There are also public access computers with free internet access and basic software e.g. word processing. It is free to use the computer; users just need a current library card.

### OPENING HOURS

Monday	9.30am—5pm
Tuesday	9.30am—5pm
Wednesday	Closed all day
Thursday	9.30am—7pm
Friday	9.30am—5pm
Saturday	10am—1pm
Sunday	Closed all day

### WHAT'S ON EACH WEEK

**Monday:** Under 5's Storytime is 11am-11.30am every Monday during the year. Please ask for details about school holiday children's activities.

**Monday:** Adult Bingo from 1pm-3pm Refreshments included, all welcome! Come along and have a brilliant bingo time!

**Tuesday:** Adult Craft & chat morning from 10am-12pm Bring your knitting, drawing, crocheting or other activity and enjoy chat and refreshments.

**Thursday:** Adult Coffee Morning from 10am—12pm Come and relax with friends over a cuppa.

**Friday:** Under 5's Storytime from 1.30pm—2pm

**Friday:** Children's Lego Club from 3.30pm—4.30pm

**Saturday:** Family Crafts from 10.30am—11.30am

**Contact Stanley Library:** Lake Lock Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4HU, Telephone: 01924 303130, email: stanleylibrary@wakefield.gov.uk



**Stanley Readers Group, first Monday of the month 10am-11am**

Please come and join us in our discussions! Ask in the library for more information or contact Mary on 07900 534571



## Santa to visit Stanley Community Centre!

*Wednesday 7th December, 5pm-7pm*

Thanks to our fantastic local councillors, Santa will be coming to Stanley again this year! This wonderful community awareness and fundraising event at Stanley Community Centre will be happening on Wednesday 7th December. Santa will be arriving at 5pm with a free gift for every child, so there will be plenty of time to visit Santa during the evening. There will also be local charity and community group stalls so come and bag a Christmas bargain and find out more about what's going on locally. There will also be free kids' roundabout outside. Please come along and support your local groups and enjoy a special community event.

### **Mount Road Methodist Chapel—*events this month:***

- Family services take place every Sunday at 10.30am at Mount Road Methodist chapel with a different speaker every week, and followed by tea and coffee.
- Saturday 24th December 7.30pm Christmas Eve service
- Free Tea & Coffee every Thursday 1.30pm-3.30pm with Joyce's cake stall raising money for 'Zarach', the Leeds charity that tackles bed poverty for children; £150 provides a package (worth 3x that amount) comprising a bed, mattress, pillow, bedding and pyjamas. Most events in 2023 will be to support this charity.
- Jumble Sales are planned for Wednesday 15th February and 10th May, 1.30pm. The Chapel is also hoping to host regular table top sales on Saturday mornings providing there is enough Interest from potential sellers.








### **LIGHTHOUSE CAFÉ at St Peter's Church Every Monday 10am—12pm**

For snacks and refreshments,  
Followed by light lunches from **12pm—1pm**  
*Plus, free Wi-Fi, Books, Games, Jigsaws,  
Newspapers, Use of Computer*

**A Warm Space and a Warm Welcome—  
Come and join us!**

## DECEMBER & JANUARY EVENTS IN STANLEY

- Mon 28th Nov**  
**10am—12pm** Lighthouse Café A warm space and a warm welcome every Monday with drinks and snacks.
- Mon 28th Nov**  
**1pm-2pm** Stanley Community Singers: every Monday, Come and enjoy a sing-song and make friends 
- Tues 29th Nov**  
**10.30-1.30pm** Tuesday lunch club: every Tuesday, with activities such as films, crafts, talks, games etc and lunch. Only £5.
- Weds 30th Nov**  
**1.30pm-3.30pm** Knit & Natter every Wednesday with crafts, chat and refreshments. New members always welcome.
- Sun 4th Dec**  
**10am** St Nicholas parade service: bring a wrapped gift for a child in need this Christmas, see page 10. 
- Weds 7th Dec**  
**5pm-7pm**  Santa comes to Stanley with free visit to Santa and gift. See previous page 4 for more information.
- Thurs 8th Dec**  
**9.15am-11.15am** Children's Ark: our group for pre-school children runs every Thursday with toys, stories, songs and refreshments. Cost £1.50 per child. 
- Sat 10th Dec**  
**10.30-12.30pm** Coffee morning with bacon butties, tombola, raffle, refreshments, jigsaws and more. See page 6.
- Sun 11th Dec**  
**3pm** Stanley Singers Christmas concert with a lovely festive programme of songs. Buy tickets on the door, see p11.
- Thurs 15th Dec**  
**7.30pm** PCC meeting at St Peter's church.
- Sun 18th Dec**  
**6pm** Carol service by candlelight with traditional carols and Bible readings. 
- Sat 24th Dec**  
**7.30pm** Mount Road Chapel Christmas Eve service: see previous page 4 for information about Mount Road services.
- Sat 24th Dec & Sun 25th Dec** Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: see page 10 for details of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.
- Sun 8th Jan 2023**  
**10am** Family service for Epiphany with drama & readings to tell the story the wise men.
- Sat 14th Jan 2023**  
**10.30-12.30pm** Coffee morning with bacon butties, tombola, raffle, refreshments, jigsaws and more, see p6.



## Update from Stanley Residents Group

Alongside the Christmas spirit, community spirit also brings plenty of peace and joy, and it has been a bumper year for that with the Stanley Residents' Group in 2022! Volunteers have worked hard on the group's usual activities, including the summer gala, vegetable, flower and baking show, scarecrow trail, litter picks, youth club, Stanley Facebook page, noticeboards, community gardens, spring bulbs and organising the hanging baskets. In addition, this year the group also facilitated the late Queen's Jubilee celebration in Stanley in June, involving a street parade, miles of bunting around the village, and a fete in Stanley St Peter's school. The rain did not prevent many local groups, schools, businesses, pubs, families and residents coming together for some fun, supported by Co-op and National Lottery funding.

SRG volunteers also extensively developed the community orchard on Mount Road this year and created new community garden spaces and plantings at the Cross Keys centre and Lime Pit Lane. The number of regular volunteers has expanded, and many others help out now and then or offer their support in different ways. It has been especially good to work on projects alongside many other great volunteer groups and businesses in Stanley.

Everyone is welcome to join the meetings, to bring new ideas, come to events and join in the volunteering. There is plenty more planned for 2023, including the heritage trail and trail boards, Stanley St Peter's Community Memorial garden, new community benches, a new website and more, all aimed at improving our local environment and bringing people together.

Our AGM is on **Monday January 9th at 6.30pm** in the Thatched House pub, where we will be electing new officers of the committee. A further meeting will be held on **January 19th at 6.30pm** to plan the year's activities. Do come along!

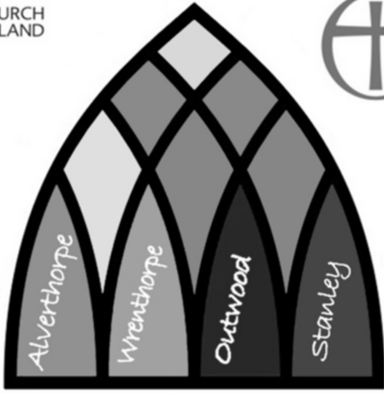
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### Coffee Morning thank you

Many thanks to everyone who came along to last month's coffee morning; it raised an incredible £327! The next coffee mornings will be held on Saturday 10th December and 14th January from 10.30am—12.30pm and will have the usual bacon sandwiches, refreshments, tombola, raffle and more! Councillor Lynn Masterman is usually available in case anyone has any local issues they would like to raise. Please come along and join us for a very pleasant morning with lots of general chit-chat and socialising! We look forward to seeing you.



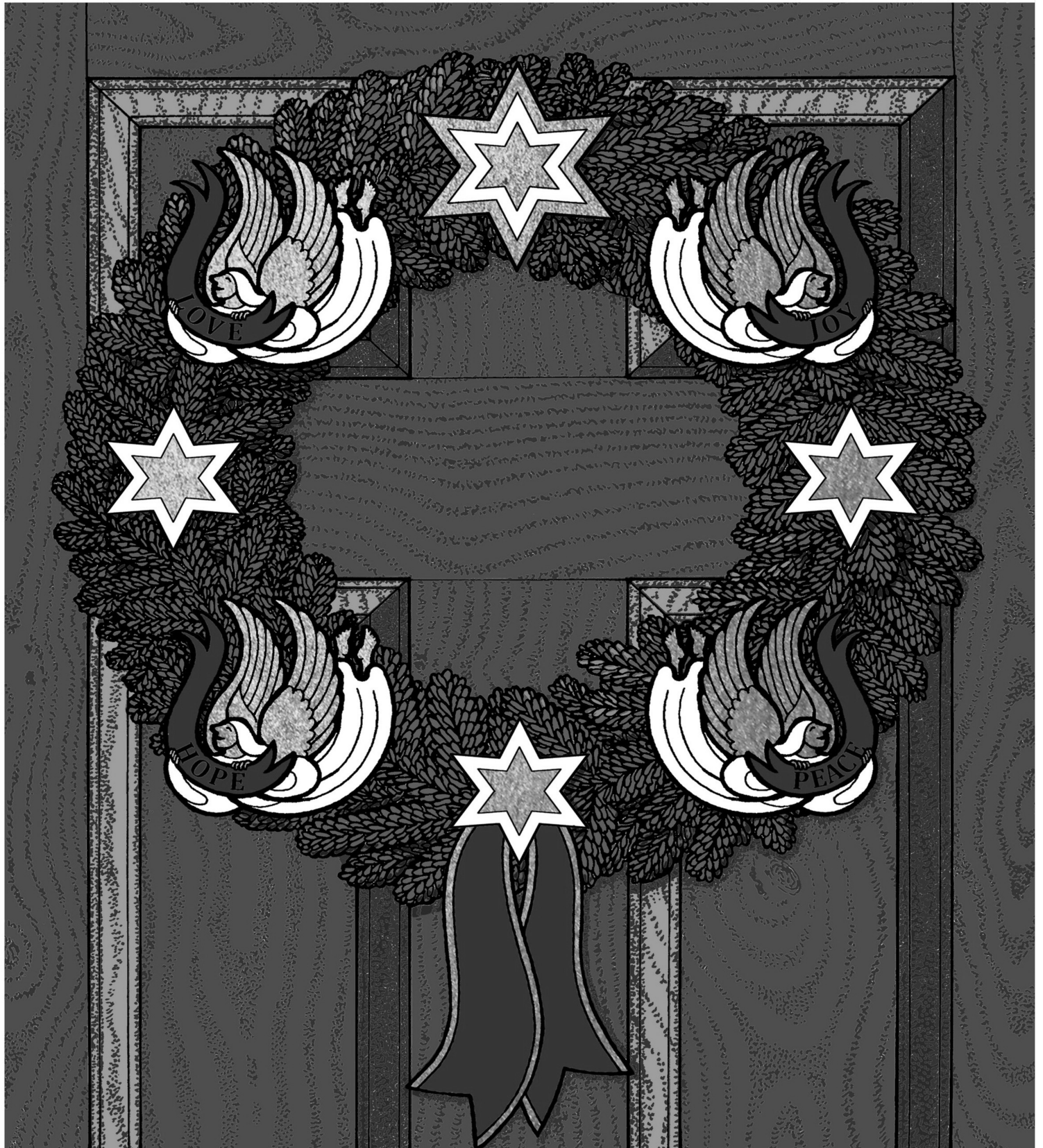
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



North Wakefield Benefice

North Wakefield Team of Churches

# Newsletter for Dec '22 & Jan '23



**Dear Friends,** Well, it is finally happening! Next month, a moving van will arrive to take Mother Jo and I to our new home in Batley, and a new start for me as priest-in-charge of four churches: All Saints' Batley, St Thomas' Batley, St Andrew's Purlwell and St Paul's Hanging Heaton. It will be a big change and a big challenge. We have been blessed to get to know so many people in our six years in Outwood and Wrenthorpe. You have welcomed us into your homes and shared your lives with us, and we have been so grateful for the love and hospitality you have shown us.

There are two things that I think make for a healthy church: taking what we do seriously and also being serious about the people we do it for. I believe in a welcoming church which expects and plans for people of all ages and backgrounds to come along, as well as in a church which is faithful to the traditions that have shaped us as Christians and which we hope to pass on to the next generation. That is the kind of ministry I have tried to have in St Mary Magdalene's, St Anne's and the wider North Wakefield Team, and which I hope to carry to Batley. The challenge is a big one: all four of my new churches are small, with an average of only around 80 or 90 people going to church across the team. The team covers a diverse area, with many families who trace their roots to India and Pakistan, but there are healthy interfaith links and lots of community work going on.

One of the things which encourages me most about the North Wakefield Team as I leave it is that there is so much good which has been done in the last year, and a great deal of it has been led by the people of our churches, rather than the clergy. Whether its the Youth Drop in at St Anne's, the Drop-In and Lunch Club in St Mary Magdalene's, the reopened Ark in St Peter's or the Warm Spaces initiative in St Paul's, there is so much going on which comes about because of the hard work of parishioners. I hope and pray all these things carry on and grow in the coming years - it was very encouraging to discover the Gardening Club in St Mary Magdalene's had been awarded a large grant from the Bishops' Development Fund to continue its work.

Of course, the clergy DO have a role to play, and I shall miss the company and fellowship of Glenn, David and Stuart, as well as all the lay ministers. I have learned a lot in my time with you all and I wish you all every blessing in the months and years to come.

So it's farewell from me, good luck for the future, and the blessing of God almighty go always with us.

*Father Jonathan Bish is priest of Outwood and Wrenthorpe churches in the North Wakefield Benefice*



## Events for December and January

**Sat 27th Nov—Sat 3rd Dec** Stanley  
Beauty and the Beast pantomime. Contact St Peter's church on Facebook to check ticket availability.

**Sat 3rd December, 10am** Wrenthorpe  
Christmas Fair and craft event

**Saturday 3rd December, 7pm** Alverthorpe  
'Sounds of Christmas' concert in aid of Wakefield Hospice. Buy tickets on the door.

**Sunday 4th December, 10am** Stanley  
St Nicholas Service—bring a wrapped gift for a child who might not receive much this Christmas, to be distributed by Barnados.

**Sunday 4th December, 4pm** Outwood  
Messy Church craft afternoon with a short act of worship.

**Weds 7th December, 5pm-7pm** Stanley  
Santa comes to Stanley event at Stanley Community centre with free gift and visit to Santa, activities and displays.

**Sat 10th December, 10.30am** Stanley  
Coffee morning with lots of great stalls, refreshments, bacon sandwiches, raffle, tombola etc. from 10.30am-12.30pm.

**Sunday 11th December, 3pm** Stanley  
Stanley Community Singers Christmas concert with a lovely programme of songs and sing-along carols. Buy tickets on the door.

**Sunday 8th January, 4pm** Outwood  
Farewell service for Father Jonathan Bish as he leaves to take up his new post in Batley.

**Monday 16th January, 10am-12pm** Stanley  
Family History Research group - come along and find how to research your family.

### Christmas services across the benefice

#### **Sunday 11th Dec**

10.30am Nativity service Wrenthorpe

4pm Family Christingle service Outwood

#### **Sunday 18th December, 4pm**

4pm, Carols by candlelight Outwood

5.30pm, Christingle Wrenthorpe

6pm, Carols by candlelight Stanley

6pm, Carols by candlelight Alverthorpe

#### **Saturday 24th December**

2pm, Crib service Stanley

4pm, Family nativity service Outwood

4pm, Crib service & carols Wrenthorpe

5pm, Christingle service Alverthorpe

5.30pm, Christingle service Wrenthorpe

#### **Saturday 24th December**

11pm, Midnight Mass Outwood

11pm, Midnight Mass Stanley

11pm, Midnight Mass Wrenthorpe

#### **Sunday 25th December**

9.30am, Christmas Day service Outwood

10am, Christmas Day service Stanley

10am, Christmas Day service Alverthorpe

10.30am, Christmas Day Wrenthorpe

**Please see the individual pages for each church for further information about these events, and for details of regular services, community groups etc.**

# St Peter's Church, Stanley

Stanley



St Peter's

**Church:** Lake Lock Road, Stanley, WF3 4HW

**Vicarage:** Rev Glenn Coggins, The Vicarage,  
St Paul's Drive, Alverthorpe, WF2 0BT

## 10am Sunday family communion

Congregational services take place every Sunday morning at St Peter's church, with Holy Communion on most Sundays, and opportunities for one-to-one prayer. We serve refreshments after every service.

## Christmas Services at St Peter's, Stanley

**Sunday 18th December, 6pm**

Carol service by candlelight

**Saturday 24th December, 2pm**

All age crib service with dressing-up, crafts and refreshments

**Saturday 24th December, 11pm**

Christmas Eve Midnight communion service

**Sunday 25th December, 10am**

Christmas Day family service

**Please join us!**



## Regular events at St Peter's

<b>Mondays</b> <b>10am - 12pm</b>	<b>Lighthouse Café</b> A warm space with drinks, snacks, games, Jigsaws etc.	
<b>Mondays</b> <b>1pm-2pm</b>	<b>Stanley Community Choir</b> New members welcome, no audition! Make friends and enjoy a sing-song.	
<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>10.30am-1.30pm</b>	<b>Tuesday lunch club</b> for older people with games, quizzes, talks, films, crafts and a hot lunch—£5.	
<b>Wednesdays</b> <b>1.30pm-3.30pm</b>	<b>Knit &amp; Natter</b> Enjoy a cuppa, company & a 'crafty' time.	
<b>Thursdays</b> <b>9.15am-11.15am</b>	<b>Children's Ark</b> baby and toddler group with toys, play, singing and snacks.	

## St Nicholas Parade service,

*Sunday 4th December, 10am*

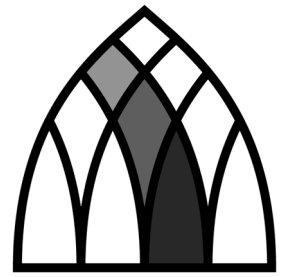
The St Nicholas family and parade service is an opportunity to donate a wrapped gift for a child who might not otherwise receive much this Christmas. The gifts will be handed over to Barnados to be distributed. Please bring a brand new wrapped gift, labelled with a suggested age and gender.





# St Mary Magdalene, Outwood

Outwood



St Mary Magdalene

**Church:** 560 Leeds Road, Outwood, WF1 2DT

**Vicarage:** Father Jonathan Bish,

121 Wrenthorpe Road, Wrenthorpe, WF2 0JS

## Church Services every week:

***Sunday 9.30am Parish Mass***

***Tuesday 7pm Mass***

## Regular Events:

<b>Mondays 7.30pm</b>	<b>Blokes United</b> in the Choir Vestry
<b>Every other Wednesday at 10am</b> 30th Nov & 14th Dec	<b>Drop-In</b> at the Church Institute. Coffee/tea, chat, Free of charge
<b>Every other Wednesday at 12pm</b> 7th & 21st Dec	<b>Lunch Club</b> at Church Institute (see below)

## Lunch Club

Our fortnightly Lunch Club takes place at the Church Institute from **12-2pm** every other Wednesday (7th and 21st December this month) and costs £3.50. Open to all!



For more information, please contact Colin and Carol Lunn  
csrlunn@hotmail.co.uk

## Christmas Services at St Mary Magdalene, Outwood

**Sunday 11th December, 4pm**

Family Christingle service

**Sunday 18th December, 4pm**

Carols by candlelight

**Saturday 24th December, 4pm**

Family nativity service

**Saturday 24th December, 11pm**

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

**Sunday 25th December, 9.30am**

Christmas Morning Mass

**“For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a Son is given”**

## Parish Lunch Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the recent Sunday lunch that was held on Sunday 20th November. It was greatly enjoyed by everyone and raised £396 for church funds. Special thanks to Jean Wade.

## Building Project Update

Our Building Project continues to make slow progress. The Diocese have agreed to our proposals, and a public notice is now displayed for all the works we hope to carry out to restore the building—please call into the church and have a look at our ideas. However, firstly we are trying to progress with the more urgent repairs and the church wardens will be submitting grant applications for these as soon as possible.

### Messy Church

There will be a 'Messy Church' craft afternoon with a short act of worship on **4th December at 4pm.**



Please come along and invite your friends! Suitable for all ages, especially school age children.

### A Back to Front Advent Calendar

It is estimated more than 16 million Advent calendars were sold in the UK in 2019. This is quite a statistic! Another more alarming statistic is that 14.5 million people are living in poverty in the UK; 4.3 million of these are children.

This year, St Mary Magdalene is supporting the idea of the Back to Front Advent Calendar. Instead of buying an advent calendar and opening a door every day, the Back to Front advent calendar requires us to put aside an item of food every day that could be given to someone in need.

If you would like to join in, put an item of food into a carrier bag every day during Advent, and then bring it into Church and we will make sure it gets to our local Food Bank at Wrenthorpe & Kirkhamgate. This is our Christmas gift for those less fortunate than we are.

### Contact details for St Mary Magdalene

#### Vicar

Father Jonathan Bish 01924 373758  
The Vicarage, 07772 601259  
121 Wrenthorpe Rd  
frjonathanbish@gmail.com

#### Church Wardens

Brian Taylor 07815 311082  
Roland Harden 07771 848130

#### Parish Secretary

Margaret Taylor

#### Treasurer

Duncan Hall

### Christmas Tree Raffle!

Advance notice that there will be a Christmas tree raffle again this year! More information to follow soon.



# St Anne's, Wrenthorpe

Wrenthorpe



St Anne's

*Church and Vicarage:*

121 Wrenthorpe Road, Wrenthorpe,  
Wakefield, WF2 0JS

## Nativity Service

Our Nativity Service on Sunday 11th December at 10:30am tells the Christmas story from the viewpoint of the different people involved.

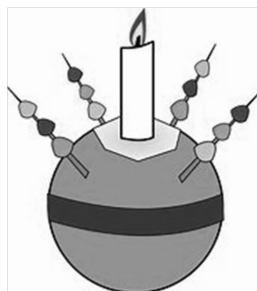


This year, members of the Youth Drop In will help lead the service! Children are welcome to attend dressed as a king, shepherd, animals or angels!

## Christingle Services

Christingle services will take place on Sunday 18th December at 5:30pm, and on Saturday 24th December at 5:30pm.

Come along to learn the Christmas story through an orange, sweets, a candle and a ribbon. Don't know what that's all about? Come along and find out!



## Christmas Services at St Anne's, Wrenthorpe

**Sunday 11th December, 10.30am**

'No Rehearsal' nativity service

**Sunday 18th December, 5.30pm**

Family Christingle service

**Saturday 24th December, 4pm**

Crib service and carols

**Saturday 24th December, 5.30pm**

Family Christingle service

**Saturday 24th December, 11pm**

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

**Sunday 25th December, 10.30am**

Christmas Morning Communion

## Posada

Our Posada figures are making their way around Wrenthorpe! They will be welcomed back into church on Christmas Eve at the crib service at 4pm. Do sign up to take them into your home if you haven't already!

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Saturday 3rd December, 10am**

At this event, we will be holding a

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

in the church hall, and also a

### CHRISTMAS CREATE AND CRAFT

in the Church.

We are hoping to have some costumes for the children to dress up in for the Nativity story so any material suitable for angels, shepherds, wise men, donkey or Mary would be gratefully received. Anyone who can sew pre-cut items please let Jacquie Grundy know.



### Cheeky Cherubs

Our toddler group, Cheeky Cherubs, meets in church from **10am on Monday mornings in term time.**

It is open to children aged 0-4 years and their parents and



grandparents, and includes stories, activities, crafts and plenty of time to play!

### Contact details for St Anne's Church

#### Vicar

Father Jonathan Bish 01924 373758

The Vicarage, 07772 601259

121 Wrenthorpe Rd

frjonathanbish@gmail.com

#### Church Warden

Malcolm Endersby 01924 361556

malcolrendersby6@gmail.com

#### PCC Secretary

Jacqui Grundy

jacquiegrundy@hotmail.com

#### Treasurer

David Payne

davidpayne24@gmail.com

#### Church Hall bookings

Bob Illingworth

07443 459558

### Youth Drop-In

Our Youth Drop-in continues to go from strength to strength!  
It is open to all children aged 11-13, and meets on **Mondays from 2:30pm** after school.

It is free, and there are crafts, games, drinks and food for all!

### Christmas Flowers



Please let Maureen Brownlie know if you would like to donate Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one.

# St Paul's, Alverthorpe

Alverthorpe



St Paul's

*Church and Vicarage:*

St Paul's Drive, Alverthorpe, Wakefield,  
WF2 0BT

**We are St Paul's Church, Alverthorpe**

The Rev Glenn Coggins is our Vicar:  
01924 218484 or cogginsglenn@gmail.com

**Sunday and mid-week services:**

**10am Sunday morning:** a mixture of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer

**11am Wednesday morning:** a short 'said' Holy Communion

**Saturday coffee & chat:**

**10am-12pm Saturday morning** quiet time, or simply a chat and tea/coffee.

We have tea and coffee after all services.

We are on Facebook, and broadcast live every Sunday morning service

**A WARM welcome guaranteed**

## **Christmas services at St Paul's Alverthorpe**

**Sunday 18th December, 6pm**  
Carol Service

**Saturday 24th December, 5pm**  
Christmas Eve Christingle service

**Sunday 25th December, 10am**  
Christmas Day Family Service



### **St Paul's is a 'Warm Space':**

At St Paul's we are delighted to be hosting two 'warm spaces' during the winter months. The warm spaces initiative offers people an opportunity to come into a warm room in church for a hot drink and chat. These 'warm spaces' sessions have begun and are taking place on **Saturdays from 10am—12pm**; the committee room will be heated and drinks and biscuits will be available. There are also games available and other activities.

The other 'warm space' time is on **Wednesdays from 11.40am—onwards**. Holy Communion begins at 11am and finishes at around 11:40am, and the refreshments afterwards have been extended to include soup and a roll with cheese. Funding is being sought to help develop this warm space initiative and possibly to add more time slots during the week.



**'The Sounds of Christmas'  
in aid of Wakefield Hospice**

**Saturday 3rd December at 7pm  
At St Paul's Church, Alverthorpe**

Featuring Wakefield Metropolitan Band  
and St Pauls' School choir.

Buy your tickets on the door:  
£6 adult and children (5-15yr old)  
£2 and under 5's free.

**Holding Crosses for Wakefield Hospice**

As we know, our local hospice offers amazing care and support to individuals and families in the Wakefield area. As part of this care, they have chaplains on call who, with the help of donations, have been giving out holding crosses to those in need. These have been really appreciated and we would like to continue donating them. They cost £2.50 each. Are you able to

make a donation towards purchasing more crosses? If you are able to help, please speak to Glenn Coggins, who helps co-ordinate the chaplains at the hospice. Thankyou in anticipation.



**Contact details for St Paul's**

**Clergy**

*Weddings, banns, baptisms, funerals—  
please talk to Rev Glenn Coggins:*

Rev Glenn Coggins           01924 218484

07951 651952

cogginsglenn@gmail.com

**Church Warden**

David Dews

**Uniformed groups**

*Cubs meet Monday evenings, and Beavers  
and Scouts meet Friday evenings*

Bill Sim                           01924 382245

*Guides meet Wednesdays and Rainbows  
and Brownies meet Thursday evenings*

Mrs Pat Lambert           01924 376857

**Family History Research Group**

**Monday 16th January, 10am-12pm**

**At St Peter's church in Stanley**

This month's meeting of the new Family History Research Group will be at St Peter's church in Stanley on Monday 16th January. Come along and meet up with Angela Coggins and others to find out what resources are available to help you research your own family history.

*Refreshments will be available*

**A general invitation....**

On Sunday 8th January at 4pm there will be a farewell service for Father Jonathan Bish at St Mary Magdalene in Outwood as he leaves us to take up his new post in Batley. Please join us for a joint thanksgiving service for Jonathan's time with us followed by refreshments. Jonathan's licensing in his new post will take place at 7:30pm on Tuesday 24th January in St Andrew's church, Purlwell.

## Prayers and Poems for this month

### Bethlehem Ephrathah

Bethlehem Ephrathah  
Though small you be  
Your fruit shall be a ruler  
Who'll rule for Me  
When she who is in labour  
Comes to give birth  
Then shall her offspring's greatness  
Fill all the earth.

For He shall be a shepherd  
O'er all His sheep  
In God the loving Father  
In peace they'll sleep  
O Bethlehem Ephrathah  
His name we'll praise  
For He began before all time –  
The Ancient of Days!

*By Nigel Beeton*



### Christmas Day

- C** Carols sound throughout the land
- H** Heraldng a special birth
- R** Rejoicing as from Heaven's realm
- I** Immanuel comes to bless the earth.
  
- S** So in the town of Bethlehem
- T** The Saviour Jesus gently lies,
- M** Mary rocks the tiny child
- A** As angels serenade the skies.
  
- S** Shepherds told the awesome story
- D** Divinity will now reside
- A** As He who ruled in Heaven above
- Y** Yet Lord of all comes as a child.

*By Megan Carter*

### I heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

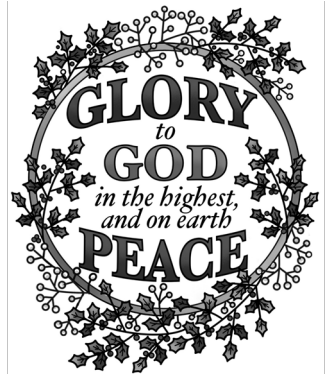
I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

*By Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow, 1863*



### Christmas Prayer

Father,  
Thank you for creating us and for loving us  
so much that you sent Jesus to become one  
of us and to be our way to you. This Christ-  
mas may we know the love, peace, comfort  
and joy that only You can give, no matter  
what our circumstances. And may we reflect  
Your light and love in this dark world to bring  
glory to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## 90 years of broadcasting the Royal Christmas message

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations. It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.



But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year – except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary Royal Family, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year.

## The mysterious ways of Mistletoe

Mistletoe has long been used as part of our Christmas decorations, but it is an unusual kind of plant. It is hemiparasitic, meaning that although its leaves enable it to feed itself through photosynthesis, its roots invade the host tree or shrub to extract water and other nutrients.

Mistletoe loves living in apple, lime, hawthorn, poplar or oak trees. You may spot it high up, as a large globe, on the bare trees in winter. There is one spectacular example in Windsor Great Park, clearly visible from the path on the opposite side of the Thames.



Mistletoe's berries are almost translucent, fleshy and sticky. They form in the forks of mistletoe's many branches. While they are toxic to humans, they are attractive to birds, who wipe the remaining seeds off their beaks onto the nearest branch, which of course helps the plant to spread.

For some reason, Romans thought mistletoe represented Peace, Love and Understanding. Perhaps that is how it got into our Christmas celebrations? The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the 16th century, but we don't know who got kissed first.

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### Some observations this Christmas ...

- "There were only a few shepherds at the first Bethlehem. The ox and the ass understood more of the first Christmas than the high priests in Jerusalem. And it is the same today." *Thomas Merton*
- "If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in me, then I would still be lost." *Corrie ten Boom*
- "The nature of Christ's existence is mysterious, I admit; but ... reject it and the world is an inexplicable riddle; believe it, and the history of our race is satisfactorily explained." *Napoleon Bonaparte*
- "The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable." *R Sockman*
- "God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man." *C S Lewis*
- "The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding." *Martin Luther*
- "A part of kindness consists in loving people more than they deserve." *J Joubert*
- "Kindness is a hard thing to give away. It keeps coming back to the giver." *Ralph Scott*

## Christmas Fair— a review



Many thanks to everyone who organised and supported our Christmas Fair which was held on Saturday 19th November. It was an incredibly successful event, raising £1,299. We are amazed by how many people came along, especially given the heavy rain, and we thank everyone for your generosity. Many thanks to the organisers, the stallholders and everyone who helped beforehand and on the day to make it such an enjoyable, happy and successful event. *(Please note all winners of raffle prizes have been notified).*



## Beauty and the Beast pantomime

We are looking forward to welcoming audiences to our brand new pantomime, Beauty and the Beast! Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard back-stage and on-stage over the past few months to prepare the pantomime for our audiences. At the time of writing, we have tickets left for most of the evening shows. Tickets can be purchased on the door, or contact us via our Facebook page or email [churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk) to check availability. We hope you enjoy the show!

### Cartoon Corner



*Rodney didn't know how she'd got in,  
but she seemed keen to audition for  
the nativity play....*



*"Does anyone have a light, please?"*

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No appointment necessary — Home visits can be arranged

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St Peter's Church Centre, Stanley  
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Church Wardens	Jason Plant David Sunderland	
PCC Secretary	Libby Gates	
Treasurer	Jason Plant	
Church Administrator	Eleanor Plant	01924 835746 churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Dave Florence	07957 203898

### UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Cubs & Scouts	Mark Pringle	07450 953744 firstyorkshire@gmail.com
Rainbows & Brownies	Register on <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a>	

### Baptisms and weddings

For information about baptisms, weddings, and banns readings, please see the Vicar or Curate after any church service or telephone 01924 218484.

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