

St Peter's

200 years at the heart of the community

1824 - 2024

Dec '24 & Jan '25 Stanley Parish News



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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.

WHAT'S ON EACH WEEK	
Mondays 11am—11.30am	Storytime: Join us for our exciting Storytime with stories, songs and discover our magic games table!
Mondays 1pm-3pm	Bingo: Join us at Stanley Library for a fun-packed session of Bingo! 
Tuesdays 10am-12pm	 Adult Craft & Chat: Join us for a friendly session of crafting.
Thursdays 10am—12pm	Coffee morning: Meet friendly faces, have a chat and a cuppa at our weekly coffee morning. With the occasional quiz you're guaranteed to have a fun-filled morning. All welcome.
Thursdays 2.30pm—4.30pm	Family Games: You'll never be bored at our family games sessions. Fun for all the family! 
Fridays 10am—12pm	Mindful morning: Relieve stress and anxiety by focussing on mindful colouring, painting and puzzles.
Fridays 3.30pm—4.30pm	 Lego Club: Build Lego scenes, stories and characters. Lego provided. All ages welcome.
Saturdays 10.30am—11.30am	Family Crafts: Colour, craft and create in our weekly family craft sessions.
Saturdays 10am—1pm	Family History Sessions: Discover the secrets of your past with our resident family history expert.

LIBRARY OPENING TIMES	
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

Christmas Carols in Stanley Library 

Friday 13th December at 3.30pm

Join us for a Christmas carol singalong with the Stanley Community choir, followed by tea, coffee and mince pies. Come and enjoy this festive event!



LIGHTHOUSE CAFÉ at St Peter's Church Every Monday and Wednesday 10am—12pm

With snacks and refreshments,
plus light lunches on Mondays from **12pm—1pm**

*Plus free Wi-Fi, Books, Games, Jigsaws,
Newspapers, Children and babies welcome.*

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

Children's Ark

A relaxed and friendly baby and toddler group for pre-school children and their carers. Come and enjoy a cuppa and meet friends. £1.50 per child.

Play! Singing! Snacks! Stories! Toys!

Every **Thursday** in termtime at St Peter's church from **9:15am to 11:15 am**

Phone 01924

835746 or

07746 849509

for more info



Knit & Natter
St Peter's Church,
Every Wednesday
1.30pm-3.30pm

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

New members always welcome—
knit, sew, swap patterns and
ideas, learn new skills, and
share friendship, conversation
and refreshments.

**Come along for a very
warm welcome**

Stanley Community Singers

Every Monday, 1pm-2pm, St Peter's Church

The Stanley Community Singers offers a warm welcome to any new members who would like to join us, enjoy a good sing and make new friends. There is no audition and no previous experience required. The cost is £2.50 per session. Lunches are available from 12pm in our café. Our final rehearsal of 2024 will be Monday 16th December and we will start back after the Christmas break on **Monday 6th January 2025.**



Our Christmas Concert will be at 3pm on Sunday 15th December at St Peter's Church—see page 11 for details.

EVENTS IN STANLEY THIS MONTH

Services and events every week at St Peter's Church

Sundays
10am



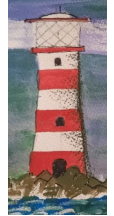
Family Communion service: with Holy Communion most Sundays and refreshments after the service.

Mondays
9.30am

Morning Prayer service: a short, informal service every Monday morning. All welcome.

Mondays & Weds
10am -12pm

Lighthouse Café A warm space with drinks, snacks, games, Jigsaws etc. Also on Wednesdays.



Mondays
1pm-2pm



Stanley Community Choir New members always welcome, no audition! Make friends and enjoy singing!

Tuesdays
10.30am-1.30pm

Tuesday lunch club for older people with games, quizzes, talks, films, crafts and a hot lunch—£6.

Wednesdays
1.30pm-3.30pm

Knit & Natter with crafts, chat and refreshments. New members always welcome.



Thursdays
9.15am-11.15am



Children's Ark baby and toddler group with toys, play, singing and snacks. Cost £1.50 per child.

Special services and events this month

Weds 4th Dec
5pm-7pm



Santa comes to Stanley event at Stanley community centre with free gift, community stalls etc.

Sun 8th December
10am

St Nicholas service: Bring brand new gifts to be distributed by the Salvation Army



Sat 14th December
10.30am - 12.30pm



Coffee morning with bacon butties, cakes, tombola, raffle, refreshments and more!

Sun 15th December
3pm

Stanley Singers Christmas Concert with a lovely festive programme of songs. Buy tickets on the door, see p11.

Weds 18th Dec

PCC meeting at 7.30pm

Sun 22nd Dec
6pm

Carol Service by candlelight with traditional carols and Bible readings.



Tues 24th &
Weds 25th Dec

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: See page 10 for details of all our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services

Sat 25th Jan, 7pm

Burns Night event with food, poetry, music and more!

The most beautiful story

A well-known atheist was being interviewed on Radio 4. When asked how he spent Christmas, he said he went to Midnight Mass at church. "But you're an atheist", his interviewer protested. "Yes", he replied, "but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told."

That 'beautiful story' tells of a Creator who sent His Son to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers, who today number about two billion people all over the world, believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

It is perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes it is beautiful. And that is the story that will be retold again this Christmas, in nativity plays, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.

One of the best-known statues in the world is 'Christ the Redeemer', towering over the South American city of Rio de Janeiro, his arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough. His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, it is 'the most beautiful story ever told'. Enjoy it again this Christmas. *By Canon David Winter writing in parishpump.co.uk*



Christmas Fair— a review

Many thanks to everyone who organised and supported our Christmas Fair which on Saturday 23rd November. We are very grateful to everyone who braved the wet and blustery weather to make it such successful event, raising approximately £1,400. Thank you also to the organisers, stallholders and everyone who helped beforehand and on the day. Please note all raffle winners have been notified.



Santa comes to Stanley!

Wednesday 4th December, 5pm-7pm
Stanley Community Centre

Santa will be coming to Stanley again this year with a free gift for every child! This wonderful community event organised by our local councillors will be at Stanley Community Centre with refreshments, activities, information stalls and more! Santa will also be visiting Outwood Memorial Hall on Tuesday 3rd December, 5pm-7pm.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



North Wakefield Benefice

North Wakefield Team of Churches

Newsletter for Dec '24 & Jan '25

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

Dear Friends, By now most people will know that Angela and myself will be leaving the benefice at the end of February 2025. My actual last day of full time ministry will be on Friday 28th February after nearly thirty years serving in various churches around the country. Looking back it's hard to believe that in July 1986 our Vicar at the time asked if I had ever thought of being ordained? That started a journey which led to selection for training for ordination in the autumn of 1992, followed by a two year course at Cranmer Hall in St John's, Durham the following September. We left Durham in the summer of 1995 with Angela heavily pregnant with our twins Bethany and Samuel who arrived into the world in October that year. By then I was serving a curacy in Warminster in Wiltshire which led onto seven years in the Fens in Cambridgeshire before working our way 'back up north' in 2006 to serve at St Michael's in East Ardsley until joining the benefice here in June 2019.

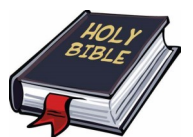
It is now time to stand down from full time ministry and move into retirement which will see us start a new life in Bridlington on the east coast. It has been a privilege and honour to serve in the benefice these past five and a half years and we are both very sad to be leaving. Nobody likes change but with Diane now on board and a very committed and gifted group of church members I am sure the benefice can go from strength to strength as it moves into a new stage in its life. This obviously brings on another vacancy and the Archdeacon is fully aware of the time-scales and has already thought about plans to fill the vacancy.

In the meantime please be assured that Angela and myself will continue sharing our lives with you all until our paths go separate ways. You will always have a special place in our hearts and we shall continue to remember you in our prayers.

As we journey towards Christmas, please join us in worship and the many social events and activities taking place across the churches as we prepare to welcome the Christ child into our hearts.

With much love and blessings at this time, Glenn and Angela

Some Bible course news: Throughout Advent we'll be following the **Advent course "They Sang"** in our midweek communion services and the Tuesday home group in Stanley. On each of the four weeks we will look at one of songs of Christmas: Zechariah's Song, Mary's Song, the Angels' Song and Simeon's Song. Come and find out what these songs mean to us today as we prepare for Christ's return.



Or maybe you'd like to know more about the bigger questions of life: **Does God exist and does it matter?** What does it mean to follow Jesus? We'll be running a six session course every Tuesday night from 7th January at St Anne's Church Wrenthorpe. For more details or to book your place please contact Revd Diane, details opposite. Also contact Diane if you're interested working towards **Confirmation**.

Events for December and January

Tues 3rd December, 5pm-7pm [Outwood](#)
and Weds 4th December [Stanley](#)

Santa events at Outwood Memorial Hall on the Tuesday and at Stanley Community centre on the Wednesday with free gift, Santa visit and community stalls.

Saturday 7th Dec, 10am [Wrenthorpe](#)

Christmas Fair at St Anne's with stalls and lots of craft activities for everyone.

Saturday 7th Dec, 7pm [Alverthorpe](#)

Sounds of Christmas concert in aid of Wakefield Hospice.

Saturday 14th Dec, 10am [Wrenthorpe](#)

Women of Substance group, discussing the story of Rahab.

Sat 14th December, 10.30am [Stanley](#)

Coffee morning with refreshments, bacon sandwiches, raffle and more!

Sun 15th December, 3pm [Stanley](#)

Christmas Concert with the Stanley Community Singers and special guests.

Sat 25th January, 7pm [Stanley](#)

Burns Night supper with food, music, poetry and more!

Christmas services across the benefice

Sunday 8th December

10am St Nicholas service [Stanley](#)

4pm Family Christingle service [Outwood](#)

Sunday 15th December

10.30am, Nativity service [Wrenthorpe](#)

4pm, Carol service [Outwood](#)

4pm, Carol service [Wrenthorpe](#)

6pm, Carol concert [Alverthorpe](#)

Sunday 22nd December

4pm, Crib service [Outwood](#)

5.30pm, Christingle service [Wrenthorpe](#)

6pm, Carol service [Stanley](#)

Tuesday 24th December

2pm, Crib service [Stanley](#)

4pm, Crib service [Wrenthorpe](#)

5pm, Christingle service [Alverthorpe](#)

5.30pm, Christingle service [Wrenthorpe](#)

11pm, Midnight Mass [Stanley](#)

11.30pm, Midnight Mass [Outwood](#)

11.15pm, Midnight Mass [Wrenthorpe](#)

Wednesday 25th December

9.30am, Christmas Day service [Outwood](#)

10am, Christmas Day service [Stanley](#)

10am, Christmas Day service [Alverthorpe](#)

10.30am, Christmas Day [Wrenthorpe](#)

Contact details for our clergy:

Vicar



Rev Glenn Coggins

The Vicarage, St Paul's Drive,
Alverthorpe, WF2 0BT

01924 218484 or

07951 651952

cogginsglenn@gmail.com

**Associate
Vicar**



Rev Diane Komorowski

St Anne's Vicarage,
121 Wrenthorpe Road,
Wrenthorpe, WF2 0JS

07903 044570

revddianek@gmail.com

St Peter's Church, Stanley



Lake Lock Road
Stanley
WF3 4HW

Stanley



Services every week at St Peter's:

10am on Sundays—Family Communion

Our weekly family service includes Holy Communion most weeks, followed by refreshments and time to chat.

9.30am on Mondays—Morning Prayer

A short informal prayer service.

Weekly events at St Peter's

Mondays 10am - 12pm	Lighthouse Café A warm space with drinks, snacks, games, jigsaws etc.	
Mondays 1pm- 2pm 	Stanley Community Choir New members welcome, no audition! Make friends and enjoy a sing-song.	
Tuesdays 10.30am- 1.30pm	Tuesday lunch club for older people with games, quizzes, talks, films, crafts and a hot lunch—£6.	
Wednesdays 10am-12pm	Lighthouse Café Also on Wednesdays!	
Wednesdays 1.30pm- 3.30pm	 Knit & Natter Enjoy a cuppa, company & a 'crafty' time.	
Thursdays 9.15am- 11.15am	Children's Ark baby and toddler group with toys, play, singing and snacks.	

Christmas Services at St Peter's, Stanley

Sunday 22nd December, 6pm

Carol service by candlelight

Tuesday 24th December, 2pm

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

Tuesday 24th December, 11pm

Christmas Eve Midnight communion service

Weds 25th December, 10am

Christmas Day family service



Please join us!

Monthly Coffee morning

We hold a coffee morning on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10.30am—12.30pm at St Peter's Church. The next dates are **Saturday 14th December and Saturday 11th January**. We have some fantastic refreshments including bacon sandwiches, as well as a raffle and a tombola.

Councillor Lynn Masterman is usually available for anyone to raise any local issues. Please join us!





St Nicholas Service
Sunday 8th December,
at 10am

You are invited to our family service when we will be collecting gifts for the Salvation Army's Toy appeal. A speaker from the Salvation Army will come along to explain how their annual appeal distributes thousands of presents to children in need across our region every Christmas.

Presents should be brand new, UNWRAPPED, and can be for children aged 0-16. Thank you.



Rodillian Singers
Christmas Concert
Saturday 14th December, 7pm
At St John's Church, Wakefield

With guests Tom Farrar and friends
 Tickets £10 on the door (under 16's free)



Christingle and Candlemas
 10am, Sunday 2nd February

Christmas is a very busy season in St Peter's Church, so we will be holding our Christingle service at the feast of Candlemas on 2nd February. Join us then for lots of Christingle treats!



Burns Night Dinner, Saturday
25th January, 7pm

Join us for a fun evening of food, music, poetry and more!
 More details in the New Year.



Contact details for St Peter's Church

Clergy

For baptism and wedding enquiries, to request home communion visits and one-to-one prayer, please contact Rev Glenn Coggins or Rev Diane Komorowski: see page 3 for contact details.

Church Office

Room hire enquiries, information about church groups, publicity:

Eleanor Plant 01924 835746
 churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk

Church Officer roles

Jason Plant	Church Warden
David Sunderland	Church Warden
Libby Gates	PCC Secretary
Jason Plant	Treasurer

Safeguarding concerns

Dave Florence 07957 203898
 daveflorence@gmail.com

Stanley Community Singers
Christmas Concert
Sunday 15th December, 3pm

With a varied programme of festive songs and singalong carols, and featuring some special guests!

Buy your tickets on the door:
£4 adults & 50p children

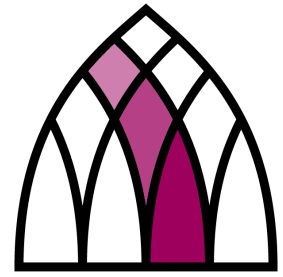
Also with a raffle and refreshments.
Wear something Christmassy if you want to!

St Mary Magdalene, Outwood



Leeds Road
Outwood
WF1 2JL

Outwood



St Mary Magdalene

Services at St Mary Magdalene	
Sundays, 9.30am	Parish Mass
Thursdays, 9.15am	Morning Prayer
Regular Events:	
Mondays 7.15pm	Blokes United in the Choir Vestry
Wednesdays 10am—12pm	Free Drop-In at the Church Institute: coffee/tea, quizzes, music, bingo, raffle
Fridays 9.15—11.15am	Mini Monsters at the Church Institute

Outwood Institute contact details

Institute Manager—Keith 07837 386891

Brownies—Rachel 07587 919263

Guides—Karen 07719 669146

Scouts— Josh or Toni 07407 497289

Wives Group— Norma 07854 780694

Mini Monsters— Barbara 07580 042854

Dance Class—Paula 07780 688623

Weight Watchers— Sara 07775744237

Pre-school—Suzanne 01924 825688

Christmas Services at St Mary Magdalene, Outwood



Sunday 8th December, 4pm

Family Christingle service

Sunday 15th December, 4pm

Carol service

Sunday 22nd December, 4pm

Crib Service

Tuesday 24th December, 11.30pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass


Wednesday 25th December, 9.30am

Christmas Morning Mass

Sunday 5th January, 9.30am

Epiphany Service

Join in our Christmas Services!

Our **Carol Service** at 4pm on **Sunday 15th December** will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. 

The **Crib Service** at 4pm on **Sunday 22nd December** will feature as many kings, shepherds, Marys and Josephs as possible! Come and join in!

Last month, Susan Sanderson, a trustee of The City of Sanctuary, taught us the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee. There are lots of myths surrounding this subject and she was a very eloquent speaker. She was accompanied by two gentlemen who bravely told their stories. We now know so much more and will continue to support them with our prayers and donations.

On **9th December** it is our Christmas Lunch. Our AGM will be held at 10.30am on **Friday 10th January**. It is also our turn at the Diocesan Wave of Prayer; we will meet in our Lady Chapel in the Cathedral at 12pm to pray for our link dioceses in South Africa, Solomon Islands, Nigeria and Rwanda.

Prayer is essential for the Mothers' Union; indeed central objective of our 5 objectives:

1. To be especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life;
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church;
3. To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service;
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children;
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity

Contact details for St Mary Magdalene

Clergy

For baptism and wedding enquiries, to request home communion visits and one-to-one prayer, please contact Rev Glenn Coggins or Rev Diane Komorowski: see page 3 for contact details.

Church Warden

Roland Harden 07771 848130

roland_harden@hotmail.com

Joanne Zubovas 07889 304979

joanne.zubovas@gmail.com

Parish Secretary

Beverley Beaumont

beverleybeaumont@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Duncan Hall

Benefice Magazine, Coffee mornings

Brian Taylor 07815 311082

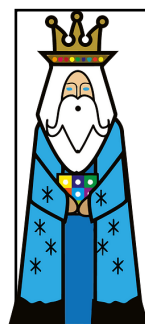
Safeguarding

Pat Robertshaw 01924 824086

davidpat.robertshaw@gmail.com

Members pray every day at midday for the dioceses listed in our prayer diary, and also pray for each other. We welcome any visitors to join us and look forward to meeting you.

As always, ring me for further information: *Sheila Crosby— 01924 825866*



Epiphany Sunday Brunch

We are celebrating Epiphany Sunday on 5th January at 9.30am, followed by a bring and share brunch—all welcome!

St Anne's, Wrenthorpe



121 Wrenthorpe Road
Wrenthorpe
WF2 0JS

Wrenthorpe



St Anne's

Services at St Anne's, Wrenthorpe

Sundays, 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesdays, 2.15pm Holy Communion

Other weekly events (term time only)

Mondays, 10am Cheeky Cherubs

Mondays, 2.30pm Youth Drop-in

Monthly events

2nd Monday of the month, 12pm-2pm Forget-me-not friendship group



Christmas Services at St Anne's, Wrenthorpe

Sunday 15th December, 10.30am

No practise Nativity service—
All welcome to come and take part

Sunday 15th December, 4pm

Carol service followed by mulled wine
and mince pies

Sunday 22nd December, 5.30pm

Family Christingle service

Tuesday 24th December, 4pm

Crib service with carols

Tuesday 24th December, 5.30pm

Family Christingle service

Tuesday 24th December, 11.15pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Weds 25th December, 10.30am

Christmas Day Morning Communion

Wrenthorpe Village Singers Christmas Concert

*7pm on Sunday 8th December in
Wrenthorpe Village Community Hall*

With guests Scherzo Strings

Tickets available on the door: £7

Other services this month....

We will be welcoming Archdeacon Cat Thatcher to preach and celebrate at our 10.30am Holy Communion service on **Sunday 8th December**.

Our 10.30am Holy Communion service on **Sunday 22nd December** will include a baptism.

Forget-Me-Not friendship group

Monday 9th December, 12pm-2pm

Anyone who is bereaved or lonely is welcome to join us at St Anne's. Bring a packed lunch.



Women of Substance

At last month's meeting we studied two amazing women, Jochebed and Miriam. What a lot we learnt from Miriam—she stirred each one of us and reminded us that whatever we do and whatever our motives, nothing is hidden from God as He always sees our hearts. Miriam was a worshipper and led the Hebrew women in praise, thanksgiving and worship. Irene started singing and we all joined her, ending the session singing and worshipping our Great God.

The next meeting of Women of Substance is at **10am on Saturday 14th December** (note the date change from the 21st). We will be studying Rahab, who married an Israelite and became an ancestor of Jesus. Rahab is mentioned in the lineage of Jesus in Matthew. We are each bringing a small gift to put into a Secret Santa, value up to £5.

In January, we're back to the normal 3rd Saturday, **18th January**, when we will be studying Deborah—ruler, prophetess and warrior of Israel. Deborah gives us a wise and inspirational example to follow. If she was trying to prove anything, it's that Israel's hope should not be in men, or women, but in the Lord!

Why not come and give it a try, you might like it and we will be very happy to see you. Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a New Year.

Lynn Fowley, 7890 589907
or ldfowley@live.co.uk



Contact details for St Anne's Church Clergy

For baptism and wedding enquiries, to request home communion visits and one-to-one prayer, please contact Rev Glenn Coggins or Rev Diane Komorowski: see page 3 for contact details.

Church Wardens

Lynn Fowley 07890 589907
ldfowley@live.co.uk

Lisa Cooper

PCC Secretary

Jacqui Grundy 07503 075108
jacquiegrundy@hotmail.com

Treasurer

David Payne
davidpayne24@gmail.com

Church Hall bookings

Bob Illingworth 07443 459558

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 7th December,

10am-1.30pm

St Anne's Church Hall

Come along for refreshments
and various fantastic stalls !



Also call into St Anne's church for
CRAFT AND CREATE
for all ages—this is a wonderful
opportunity for all ages to enjoy
making various crafts together.

ALL WELCOME!!

St Paul's, Alverthorpe



St Paul's Drive
Alverthorpe
WF2 0BT

Alverthorpe



We are St Paul's Church, Alverthorpe

Sunday and mid-week services:

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

9am Tuesday morning: 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 15th December, 6pm

Carol Concert

Tuesday 24th December, 5pm

Christmas Eve Christingle service

Weds 25th December, 10am

Christmas Day Celebration Service



Christmas Day

C Carols sound throughout the land
H Heralding 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

Christmas Eve Christingle Service

Tuesday 24th December, 5pm

At St Paul's Church

Please come along and enjoy carols and dressing up as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is always a very busy and popular service as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

There will be a collection for the Children's Society.

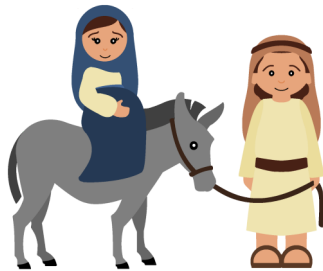


A Donkey's Life

Plodding along at a steady pace,
Taking care and being wary,
Going from place to place,
Sometimes things could be kind of scary.

One time, many were on the road
For registering in the town of Bethlehem
A couple hired me and with their load;
We had joined the throng of Bedlam.

It was plenty stony
and very cold
As we followed a
bright shining star,
Which helped me
feel bold
For we had come far.



The town was as busy as it could be;
No room was to be found at an inn.
The only spot that we could see
Was a stable full of my kith and kin.

There my load was taken down
Which meant that I was free;
The woman was made comfy with a
clean gown
And had food and drink for tea.

It became quite clear a baby was near;
It soon arrived without preamble
As had been told by a seer;
It was still all a bit of a scramble.

Shepherds brought with them a lamb
Then they welcomed the little man;
Angels came next but not with a ram
They sang some songs as only they can.

Melanie Dews

Contact details for St Paul's Church

Clergy

For baptism and wedding enquiries, to request home communion visits and one-to-one prayer, please contact Rev Glenn Coggins or Rev Diane Komorowski: see page 3 for contact details.

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

Sounds of Christmas Concert

**7pm on Saturday 7th December,
at St Paul's Church**

In aid of Wakefield Hospice

Featuring:

Wakefield Metropolitan Band and the
choir of St Paul's Alverthorpe School

Tickets: Adults £7, 5-15 year olds £2

Available on the door



A Christmas Gloria

During Advent, the Tuesday House Group is studying the four great Christmas songs in the Bible that relate to the birth of Jesus. We have looked at the Gloria—the angels’ song to the shepherds—and our response was to write our own Gloria; our thoughts on what Glory, Peace and Goodwill mean to us. The Tuesday House Group welcomes people from across the four churches of our benefice. We meet on Tuesdays from 7.15pm for tea and coffee, followed by Bible study, prayer and discussion, finishing at 9pm. All are welcome. Please contact the church office or any of our clergy for more information.

Glory to God in the highest,
Glory in every great thing!
The Glory of God surrounds us in His love.
The grandeur and beauty of the
mountains;
Praise, respect, honour, joy,
love and wonder;
Acknowledgement of something
much greater than ourselves;
Glory belongs to He who is above all.
To worship is to glorify Him –
Jesus appearing in the clouds!
Hope and glory
to God.
Glory!



Peace on earth;
May the whole earth know this peace.
The reward for living life in Christ,
Under the glory of God.
The calm of stillness and silence;
A still, quiet lake;
A calm mind, free from stress;
Love and understanding;
Appreciation of kindness;
The peace of being near our Lord’s
wonderful creation;
the sea or a sunset.
Peace!

Christmas Trees

Norway sent a Christmas tree
It marks the Saviour’s birth,
The incarnation manifest
As God came down to earth
A babe born to a virgin
Would grow up as a man,
Yet still divine, such mystery,
To implement God’s plan.



Another tree was put in place
A sacrifice was made,
As on that cross He gave His life
That all men could be saved.

So celebrate that wondrous day
When Jesus left His home,
To bring salvation down to man,
And claim us as His own.

By Megan Carter

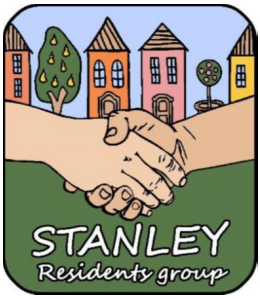


Welcome

Welcome, Jesus baby
To a world that is waiting,
Welcome, Jesus baby
To a world needing joy,

Thank you for the presents
That you bring us on your birth day,
Peace, love and hope
Wrapped in one baby boy.

By Daphne Kitching



Update from Stanley Residents Group

As 2024 draws to a close, all our volunteers can look back proudly on a very productive and successful year. Once again, we worked tremendously hard for the village with Community spaces maintained regularly and revamped but a huge task lies ahead for next year as we need to replace the bark chippings around the noticeboard, so any offers of help will be much appreciated.

More daffodil bulbs have been planted around the village and a huge number of crocus bulbs at the entrance to Moorhouse which should shout a huge welcome to Stanley in the spring. Massive thank you to WDH/Tivoli for funding, providing and planting them with us.

We organised all our usual community events this year, the veg/flower show, Gala, Scarecrow Trail, Heritage Trails for the kids and Santa comes to Stanley and all of them were very successful. We continue to be well supported by the community including those who sponsor a hanging basket and we are truly grateful for it, thank you.

If we could just encourage a few more friends and staunch supporters from the community to join us at our planning meetings and be willing to give a helping hand now and then, it would be amazing and make 2025 a little easier to deliver. Our next meeting is on **January 20th** - venue and time TBD and all are welcome so please come along to find out what we will be doing next year.

So all that is left to say is we hope you have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Remembering the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004

It is nearly twenty years since the Boxing Day Tsunami which occurred on 26th December 2004. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, killing more than 230,000 people in 14 countries. A massive undersea earthquake near Sumatra caused a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and East Africa. Waves generated by the earthquake travelled at 500mph and reached 50ft high in places. Aftershocks continued to shake the region daily for up to four months afterwards, and the effects of the tsunami were felt as far away as Somalia, 2,800 miles away. Since this devastating catastrophe, Australia has led the world in developing scientific monitoring and warning plans to improve the detection of tsunamis and to warn communities at risk.

Cartoon Corner



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

Christmas Pudding coins

The tradition of putting silver coins into Christmas puddings dates from the Middle Ages. The first coins were a silver farthing or penny. After WW1, it became a threepenny bit and then a sixpence. Finding one was supposed to bring you good fortune, but probably it was more likely to break a tooth as you bit into the pudding! We also traditionally give chocolate coins to children at Christmas, and also during Hanukkah in the Jewish community. It is said that one night Saint Nicholas climbed on a roof and threw a purse of money down a chimney, which landed in a pair of stockings that a little girl had hung up to dry. Good throw Santa!



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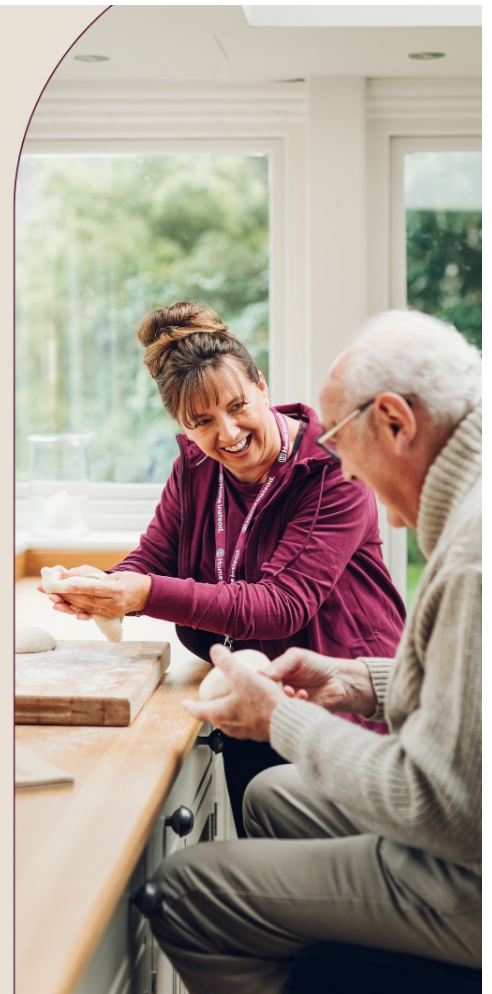
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No appointment necessary — Home visits can be arranged

Stanley Library & Community Centre, Lake Lock Road, Stanley,
1st & 3rd Thursday of each month 6.00 - 7.00pm

St Peter's Church Centre, Stanley
2nd Saturday of each month 10am - 11am

Excluding bank holidays

Tai Chi Class



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Baptisms and weddings

For information about baptisms, weddings, and banns readings, please see any of our clergy team after any church service or telephone 01924 218484.

St Peter's Church Rev Glenn Coggins

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Stanley St Paul's Drive
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