

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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

Dec '23 / Jan '24

Stanley Parish News



Free - please take a copy
www.northwakefield.benefice.uk

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**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.

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

Stanley Readers Group 
 First Monday of the month
 10am-11am: come and join our discussions! Ask in the library for more information or contact Mary on 07900 534571

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



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,
Wednesdays

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. Our last rehearsal of 2023 will be Monday 18th December and we will start back after the Christmas break on **Monday 8th January**. There is no audition and no previous experience required. The cost per session is £2.50. Lunches are available from 12pm in our café.



Our Christmas Concert will be at 3pm on Sunday 10th December at St Peter's church—see page 11 for details.

DECEMBER & JANUARY EVENTS IN STANLEY

Services and events every week at St Peter's Church

- Sundays** Family Communion service: with both a traditional and modern approach to worship, Holy Communion most Sundays and refreshments after the service.
- 10am**
- Mondays & Weds** Lighthouse Café A warm space with drinks, snacks, games, Jigsaws etc. Also on Wednesdays.
- 10am -12pm**
- Mondays**  Stanley Community Choir New members always welcome, no audition! Make friends and enjoy singing!
- 1pm-2pm**
- Tuesdays** Tuesday lunch club for older people with games, quizzes, talks, films, crafts and a hot lunch—£6.
- 10.30am-1.30pm**
- Wednesdays** Knit & Natter with crafts, chat and refreshments. New members always welcome.
- 1.30pm-3.30pm**
- Thursdays**  Children's Ark baby and toddler group with toys, play, singing and snacks. Cost £1.50 per child.
- 9.15am-11.15am**



Special services and events this month

- Weds 6th Dec**  Santa Comes to Stanley with free visit to Santa and gift. At Stanley community centre. See page 6 for details.
- 5pm-7.30pm**
- Saturday 9th Dec** Coffee morning with lots of with bacon butties, tombola, raffle, refreshments and more!
- 10.30am-12.30pm**
- Sunday 10th Dec** St Nicholas service café-style service—bring gifts for the Salvation Army to distribute to children in need, see p11.
- 10am**
- Sunday 10th Dec** Stanley Singers Christmas concert with a lovely festive programme of songs. Buy tickets on the door, see p11.
- 3pm**
- Weds 13th Dec** PCC meeting at St Peter's church at 7.30pm.
- Sun 17th Dec** Carol Service by candlelight with traditional carols and Bible readings.
- 6pm**
- Sun 24th Dec & Mon 25th Dec** Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: See page 10 for details of all our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.
- Sat 13th Jan 2024** Coffee morning with lots of with bacon butties, tombola, raffle, refreshments and more!
- 10.30am—12.30pm**
- Sat 27th Jan, 7pm** Burns Night event with meal, poetry, music and more!





Santa to visit Stanley Community Centre!

Wednesday 6th December, 5pm-7.30pm

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 6th December. There will be a free kiddies roundabout from 5pm, and 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 tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits for sale. Santa will be arriving at 6pm on his sleigh with a free gift for every child. Please come along and support your local groups and enjoy a special community event. Santa will also be visiting Outwood Memorial Hall on Tuesday 5th December, 5pm-7.30pm.

St Peter's Church is collecting toiletries for CAP



Could you donate some toiletries for homeless people and those in need? CAP Care, which is based on Market Street in Wakefield, needs toiletries mainly for men e.g. shower-gel, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shaving gel and razors, shampoo etc. Items can be placed in the box in the corridor at church.

Autumn Fair— a review

Many thanks to everyone who organised and supported our Autumn Fair which was held on Saturday 11th November. It was an incredibly successful event, raising £1,460. We are amazed by how many people came along, 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.



Aladdin pantomime

Thank you to everyone who supported our pantomime, Aladdin! We had some wonderful audiences, and lots of first time visitors as well as regular attendees. The cast and crew had worked very hard both on-stage and behind the scenes over the several months to put this year's pantomime together— it really is a team effort! We really hope you enjoyed the show!





North Wakefield Team of Churches

Newsletter for Dec '23 & Jan '24

North Wakefield Benefice



Dear Friends,

As another Christmas draws near we turn our thoughts towards the birth of Christ and journey to Bethlehem to hear the wonderful events surrounding his arrival. This year though, we weep with all those who are caught up in the terrible violence and bloodshed in the Middle East. It is hard for us to comprehend what is happening and no doubt like me you wonder how a lasting peace can ever be found. As usual we shall gather and sing our favourite carols, hear from scripture about Jesus' birth but this year with our hearts and minds sharing the pain and suffering in the Middle East. So dear friends, let us continue to hold the events in the Middle East in our prayers and we pray that the light of Christ may indeed bring hope and comfort to those caught up in such darkness and pain.

In other news, at the end of December we will say goodbye to Revd Rob Harper who has been on placement with us for three months, and we welcome Revd Diane Komorowski who will be with us for January and February on placement. The current plan is to re-advertise the post of associate priest again in March. Please see Diane's introductory letter below and I am sure we will give her a good welcome as she begins her time with us in the benefice.

"Hi I'm Revd Diane Komorowski, and I'm currently a curate at St George's Lupset and St James's Thornes. I'm going to be joining you for a couple of months from the beginning of January on a placement and I'm looking forward to getting to know you all and seeing what's going on across the four churches.

I'm a mum to two teenage kids and wife to Mick who, because he works til midnight tends not to make it to church. Before ordination I have had a varied career including multifaith chaplaincy, working for the diocese in the vocations team and working as a legal assistant. I like going for walks with our dog Nico, and working as a chaplain to the Wakefield Air cadets. I also like science and crocheting.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know you and ministering alongside you all over the two months of my placement. Blessings, Diane."

God's Blessing this Christmas and all the best for the New Year and thanks again for all your help, love, care and support over 2023 as we journey together in the North Wakefield Benefice, Glenn

Rev Glenn Coggins, Vicar of the United Benefice of North Wakefield



Events for December & January

Saturday 2nd Dec, 7pm [Alverthorpe](#)

Sounds of Christmas concert with the school choir and Wakefield Metropolitan Band. In aid of Wakefield Hospice.

Sunday 3rd Dec, 7pm [Alverthorpe](#)

Christmas concert with the Wrenthorpe Community Singers.

Tuesday 5th Dec, 5pm—7.30pm [Outwood](#)

Wednesday 6th Dec, 5pm-7.30pm [Stanley](#)

Santa events at Outwood Memorial Hall on Tuesday and Stanley Community centre on Wednesday, with free visit to Santa.

Friday 8th Dec, 7.30pm [Outwood](#)

Darts and dominoes at the church institute.

Saturday 9th Dec, 10am [Wrenthorpe](#)

Christmas Fayre in the Church Hall with stalls, refreshments, and children's crafts.

Saturday 9th Dec, 10.30am [Stanley](#)

Coffee morning with bacon sandwiches, raffle, tombola, jigsaws and more!

Sunday 10th Dec, 10am [Stanley](#)

St Nicholas Day service—please bring a gift to donate to a child in need. The Salvation Army will distribute the gifts.

Sunday 10th Dec, 3pm [Stanley](#)

Christmas Concert with the Stanley Community Singers and special guests.

Saturday 16th Dec, 10am [Wrenthorpe](#)

Women of Substance group for women, with study, lunch, crafts and chat to learn about women in the Bible.

Saturday 23rd Dec, 1pm [Stanley](#)

Carol singing at Outwood-Co-op on Leeds Road. Come and join us!

Christmas services across the benefice

Sunday 10th December

4pm Family Christingle service [Outwood](#)

Sunday 17th December

10.30am, Nativity service [Wrenthorpe](#)

4pm, Carol service [Alverthorpe](#)

4pm, Carol service [Outwood](#)

6pm, Carol service [Stanley](#)

Saturday 23rd December

5.30pm, Christingle service [Wrenthorpe](#)

Sunday 24th December

2pm, Crib service [Stanley](#)

4pm, Crib service [Wrenthorpe](#)

5pm, Christingle service [Alverthorpe](#)

5.30pm, Christingle service [Wrenthorpe](#)

10.45pm, Midnight Mass [Outwood](#)

11pm, Midnight Mass [Stanley](#)

11.15pm, Midnight Mass [Wrenthorpe](#)

Monday 25th December

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

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

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

10.30am, Christmas Day [Wrenthorpe](#)

Saturday 13th Jan, 10.30am [Stanley](#)

Coffee morning with bacon sandwiches, raffle, tombola, jigsaws and more!

Saturday 27th Jan, 7pm [Stanley](#)

Burns Night Dinner with food, poetry, music... more details in the New Year.

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



Church: Lake Lock Road, Stanley, WF3 4HW
Vicar: 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.

Regular 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 Now on Wednesdays too!	
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 17th December, 6pm

Carol service by candlelight

Sunday 24th December, 2pm

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

Sunday 24th December, 11pm

Christmas Eve Midnight communion service

Monday 25th December, 10am

Christmas Day family service



Please join us!

Carol Singing at Outwood Co-op

Saturday 23rd December, 1pm

Please join us for half an hour of carol singing at Outwood Co-op as we entertain the customers!



Rodillian Singers

Christmas Concert

Saturday 16th December, 7pm

At St John's Church, Wakefield

With guest soprano Caitlin Bellas

Tickets £10 on the door (under 16's free)



St Nicholas Parade service

Sunday 10th December, 10am



You are invited to our café-style family service for St Nicholas day, when we will be collecting gifts for the Salvation Army Toy appeal. There will be children's crafts and activities, and a visit from Santa! A representative from the Salvation Army will come along to explain about their annual appeal distributes thousands of presents to children in need every Christmas.

Presents should be brand new, UNWRAPPED, and can be for children aged 0-16. Please see in church for posters and flyers that give a list of suggested gifts for each age group.



Stanley Community Singers

Christmas Concert

Sunday 10th 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!

Contact details for St Peter's Church

Clergy

Baptism and wedding enquiries, request home visits, prayer and communion:

Rev Glenn Coggins 01924 218484

07951 651952

cogginsglenn@gmail.com

Rev David Teece 01977 318453

davidteece@gmail.com

Readers

David Greenwood-Haigh

Vicky Wilson

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

Coffee mornings

Join us for coffee mornings on Saturday 9th December and 13th January, from 10.30am—12.30pm. There will be bacon sandwiches, tombola, raffle and more!

Burns Night Dinner,

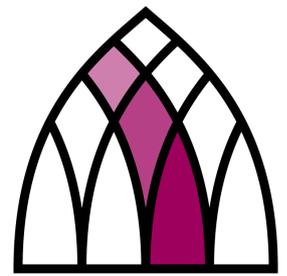
Saturday 27th January, 7pm

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



St Mary Magdalene, Outwood

Outwood



St Mary Magdalene

Church: Leeds Road, Outwood, WF1 2JL

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

Church Services every week:

Sunday 9.30am Parish Mass

(note, no Tuesday Mass at present)

Regular Events:

Mondays 7.15pm	Blokes United in the Choir Vestry
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Every other Wednesday 10am—12pm	Drop-In at the Church Institute. Coffee/tea, chat, quiz, raffle, free of charge
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Every other Wednesday 12pm	Lunch Club at Church Institute
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In the Bleak Mid-Winter—a history

Brian Taylor is singing this very popular carol in a concert with his male voice choir, and decided to look up its origins.



"In the Bleak Midwinter" was a poem written by English poet Christina Rossetti, and was published under the title "A Christmas Carol" in the January 1872 issue of Scribner's Monthly. It first appeared in book form in 'Goblin Market, The Prince's Progress and Other Poems' (Macmillan, 1875). In 1906, Gustav Holst composed a setting of Rossetti's words (titled "Cranham") in The English Hymnal, which is now sung throughout the world. Harold Darke composed an anthem setting in 1909.

Christmas Services at St Mary Magdalene, Outwood



Sunday 10th December, 4pm
Family Christingle service

Sunday 17th December, 4pm
Carol service

Sunday 24th December, 9.30am
Said Mass

Sunday 24th December, 10.45pm
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December, 9.30am
Christmas Morning Festival Mass

Sunday 7th January, 9.30am
Epiphany Service

We've just held our Autumn Fair and MU did the brunch kitchen. Thank you to everyone who helped and to the customers who supported us.

Our new **Meet Up Café** on Fridays at Treacy Hall 9.30am—12.30pm is proving popular...watch this space for developments in the new year! Despite wet and windy weather there has been a good response both from MU members and the general public who enjoy a warm drink in a lovely relaxed atmosphere 

The Outwood branch meeting last month was an informative talk about fostering, and plans are being developed to hold an event to find new foster carers and to help youngsters leaving care—more about this later.

We will be enrolling a new member during the Sunday morning service on 10th December, and will enjoy our Christmas dinner outing on Wednesday 13th.

Mothers Union members around the world pray for one another at midday each day in a continuous wave of prayer. Leeds Diocese has 5 links: Lesotho in South Africa, Kibungo in Rwanda, Etche & Ogbomoso in Nigeria and Hanuato'o in the Solomon Islands. Leeds Diocese's next time of prayer is from 8th to 10th January, and the Wakefield slot will be on Wednesday 10th January from

Contact details for St Mary Magdalene

Vicar

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

Rev Glenn Coggins 01924 218484
 07951 651952
 cogginsglenn@gmail.com

Church Wardens

Brian Taylor 07815 311082
 brian5163sullivan@gmail.com
Roland Harden 07771 848130
 roland_harden@hotmail.com

Parish Secretary

Beverley Beaumont
 beverleybeaumont@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Duncan Hall

10.30am until 11am. We will then hold our AGM when we receive reports of work completed and work still to be done as well as elections of new officers and planning the new year ahead.

Everyone is warmly invited to join us at any of our meetings... if you'd like to know more please contact

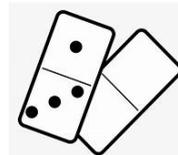
For any more details contact:-
Sheila Crosby 01924 825866



Darts & Dominoes

Starts on
Friday 8th December
At 7.30pm

In the Church Institute



St Anne's, Wrenthorpe

Wrenthorpe



St Anne's

Church: 121 Wrenthorpe Road, Wrenthorpe,
Wakefield, WF2 0JS

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

Services at St Anne's, Wrenthorpe

Sundays, 10.30am Holy Communion

Weds, 2.15pm Holy Communion

Other weekly events (term time only)

Mondays, 10am Cheeky Cherubs

Mondays, 2.30pm Youth Drop-in



Cheeky Cherubs

Our toddler group,
meets in church at

10am on Mondays in term time.

It is for children aged 0-4 years and
their carer, and includes stories, activ-
ities, crafts and plenty of time to play!

Lego Appeal! Do you
remember the fun you
had playing with Lego?



Do you have any which you could
donate to the Young People's Drop-In or
sell to us for a small amount? We would
be grateful for anything to start a collec-
tion and to introduce a new activity.
Contact Jacquie on 07503 075108 or
jacquiegrundy@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Christmas Services at St Anne's, Wrenthorpe

Sunday 17th December, 10.30am
Nativity service

Saturday 23rd December, 5.30pm
Family Christingle service

Sunday 24th December, 4pm
Crib service

Sunday 24th December, 5.30pm
Family Christingle service

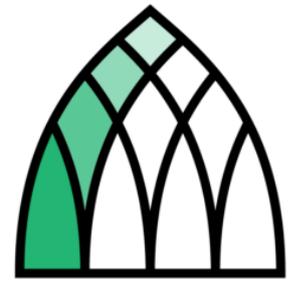
Sunday 24th December, 11.15pm
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December, 10.30am
Christmas Day Morning Communion

**Next year in 2024, St Anne's church will
be 150 years old!** It was opened and
consecrated in 1874 and since then it
has stood as a beacon of Christianity in
the village of Wrenthorpe; a place where
people have worshipped, been baptised,
married and had their funerals. Will the
church still be here in another 150
years? As it continues to evolve and
serve its community, surely it will.

St Paul's, Alverthorpe

Alverthorpe



St Paul's

Church: St Paul's Drive, Alverthorpe, WF2 0BT

Vicar: Rev Glenn Coggins, The Vicarage,
St Paul's Drive, Alverthorpe, 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 17th December, 4pm
Carol Service

Sunday 24th December, 5pm
Christmas Eve Christingle service

Monday 25th December, 10am
Christmas Day Family Service



New Archdeacon of Pontefract—Revd Canon Cat Thatcher

Revd Cat, currently Vicar of Oxenhope, will be installed as the Archdeacon of Pontefract at Wakefield Cathedral next May, working with Bishop Tony in serving our Wakefield Episcopal Area. She has been based in Oxenhope for 5 years but is looking forward to serving the people and parishes of Wakefield. The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds said "Cat brings to her new role wide experience and a strong working knowledge of our diocese....I'm sure her enthusiasm and skills will be warmly welcomed across the diocese, but particularly in the Wakefield area." Revd Cat grew up in Manchester and has a history degree from Emmanuel College, Cambridge. She worked in the national church and public sector before becoming Deputy Director of Primary Care in NHS Bradford and Airedale. In 2012 she left the NHS to train for ordination and served her curacy at Bradford Cathedral.



Carol Service

Sunday 17th December, 4pm

At St Paul's Church

Come along to our carol service and enjoy Bible readings and many of your favourite carols from your childhood days, such as Hark the Herald-angels sing, We three Kings, Away in a manger, O come all ye faithful, While shepherds watched their flocks, Once in Royal David's City and more!



A wonderful way to prepare for the birth of Jesus

Christmas Eve Christingle

Sunday 24th December, 5pm

At St Paul's Church

Please come along and enjoy carols and dressing up as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Let's all celebrate the true meaning of Christmas at our annual Christingle service. Remember to come early as we get very busy as we await the baby Jesus and Santa the next day!

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



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

Sounds of Christmas Concert

Saturday 2nd December,

7pm, at St Paul's Church



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



WAKEFIELD
HOSPICE

Tickets £7 (children free), in aid of Wakefield Hospice

Christmas Concert

Sunday 3rd

December, 7pm

At St Paul's Church



Come along for a Christmas concert with Wrenthorpe community choir.

With light refreshment & raffle

Tickets £7 available on the door, or tel: 01924 368558 (Melanie Dews)

Prayers for this month

Babies do that to you

After the lights and the kisses,
the visits and the visitors,
the presents and the promises,
only a Baby remains;
and parents who have never
been this way before.

After the dreams and the whispers,
the angels and the merrymakers,
comes the silence;
comes crying in the night,
a long, interrupted
journey,
along a strange path.

Things will never be
as they were before



Babies do that to you;
Jesus does that to you.
But He comes with you all the way,
carrying love in His tiny hand,
holding heaven in His heart.
by Tim Lenton

Christmas 2023

The night before Christmas when all are abed,
As reindeer and sleigh bells are heard overhead,
Children still sleeping will early arise,
With shouts of delights as they open each prize.

A doll for Amanda, a toy soldier for Jo?
Ah, these are toys of long ago!
Now it's computers, a party dress,
Gifts so expensive they're meant to impress.

But the real joy of Christmas forever will stay,
As church bells and carols proclaim that glad day,

Your Christmas Dinner Table



Gaze around your dinner table
As you dine on Christmas Day
Treasure them while you are able -
One day they may well go away.

Love is really hard to measure,
Love's not easy to define,
But memory's the only treasure
That will stand the test of time.

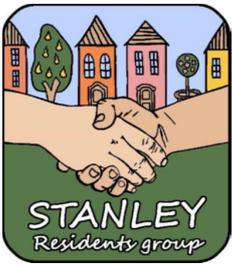
So, treasure all that Christmas laughter,
Hold it close – that's my advice.
For there may come a time soon after
When memory is worth great price.

It is sad that life is temporary,
Happy times will disappear;
When those you treasure are a memory,
The memory is a treasure dear.

Daily strength

“For God loved the world
so much that he gave his
only Son, so that everyone
who believes in him may
not die but have eternal
life. For God did not
send his Son into the
world to be its judge,
but to be its Saviour.”

John 3: 16–17



Update from Stanley Residents Group

2023 has been as busy as ever for Stanley Residents Group volunteers. In early spring we organised a plant/tree giveaway day and sowing sunflower seeds with local children. Many of the public were willing to sponsor one of our hanging baskets for the village and the rest were paid for from funds raised at the previous summer gala.

Work continued throughout the year at the community gardens we look after in the village and fruit and vegetables were grown at the community orchard on Mount Road, freely available to anyone in the village. The fruit trees should start to produce fruit from next year onwards and work continues to encourage butterflies into the designated conservation area there. The number of entries for the Veg, Flower and Cake Show was phenomenal this year and made it a huge success. Despite potential bad weather and being unable to use the Church field, our Gala Day went ahead and was just as enjoyable as previous years and provided us with much needed funds to continue making Stanley a lovely place to live next year.

The Scarecrow Trail was much enjoyed by all those who bought a map and voted for their favourite display and Community litter picks were arranged throughout the year.

But our biggest project this year was to launch the Stanley Heritage Trail, showcasing 38 different points of local history with FREE maps and information board on the site of the old St Peter's Church.



New volunteers are always needed and very welcome within the group, no matter the amount of time they can commit to, so if any of our projects interest you, please come along to our **AGM on Monday 15th January 6.30pm at the Thatched House pub** for the end of year reports and plans for 2024. Happy Christmas wishes from everyone at Stanley Residents



Thank you to everyone who organised and supported our **Wine Tasting** evening last month. It was a great evening, and the wine raffle raised £260 for the Alzheimer's Society. With gift aid, it will bring the amount they will receive up to around £325. Thank you everyone for your generosity.



Big Ben

Do you stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve? If so, this year will be special – it is 100 years ago, on 31st December 1923, that the BBC first broadcast the chimes of Big Ben to welcome in the New Year. It was not until that date that the chimes were ever heard outside of Parliament and Westminster. But then the BBC got permission to broadcast them to the nation, and history was made.

That first year, the BBC engineers were not allowed into Parliament, and so had to access Big Ben from the roof of the Palace of Westminster. This meant that their microphone picked up not just the chimes, but a lot of traffic noise as well. But a tradition had started, and by 1924 the Big Ben bongos were being broadcast every day. By then the BBC had installed low sensitivity microphones very close to the bells, so that they missed the sound of the clock mechanism.

The nation quickly came to love the sound of Big Ben, and during the Second World War the chimes were broadcast across occupied Europe, encouraging millions in their struggle against the Nazis. The Big Ben daily time signal on the BBC is still cherished today, and it rings live for important events such as Remembrance Day and New Year, when the BBC sends the sound right around the world.

Little donkey.....You are bound to sing about donkeys this Christmas, especially the little one that carried Mary to Bethlehem! But how much do you know about donkeys? They are really rather special:

- There are more than 44 million donkeys in the world, of all shapes and sizes.
- There are more than 186 breeds of donkey.
- Donkeys have good memories. They can remember places and other donkeys even 25 years after they last saw them.
- Donkeys are not stubborn, they are cautious. If they are fearful about something, they will do their best to avoid it.
- Donkeys are naturally clean. Given the chance, they are always grooming themselves and each other.
- Donkeys like to be warm and dry. They come from deserts and savannahs.
- Donkeys are social. They make deep bonds with their family and herd and get very upset if someone they love is taken from them.
- Donkeys have big ears so they can hear each other at a great distance. They communicate by braying, grunting, whiffling, squealing and snorting.
- Donkeys help the ecology of their desert homes by digging into the ground to access water, which also helps small animals and birds to find water.





Tuesday Lunch Club for Older People

At St Peter's Church, every Tuesday, 10.30am—1.30pm

The Tuesday lunch club is ideal for older people wanting a bit of companionship and something to do! Enjoy various activities and a hot lunch for just £6. Our programme during December is as follows:

- Tuesday 5th Dec—Christmas crafts
- Tuesday 12th Dec—Christmas singalong with Diane
- Tuesday 19th Dec—Christmas Dinner. The dinner has kindly been funded by a grant from Unite Union, but donations are invited towards the Salvation Army Christmas Dinner appeal. Booking is required for the dinner.
- Tuesday 26th Dec & 2nd Jan—closed. We restart on 9th January.



Mount Road Methodist Chapel

Although there are no longer any church services at Mount Road chapel, the **free coffee afternoon and Joyce's cake stall continue every Thursday 1.30pm-3.30pm** to raise money for the Zarach Beds for Kids charity which provides a bed, mattress, pillow, bedding and pyjamas to children in need. So far, twelve bed packages have been funded.



Cartoon Corner



We've got online carol singers again!



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the verger's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."

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and Newton Hill.*

ADVICE SURGERIES

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



- Great for health and well-being
- Promotes relaxation and helps balance, co-ordination, breathing, circulation and joints etc.
- You will receive a very warm welcome!

**Wednesdays
7pm-8pm**

Enquiries to Kathryn: 07711 538258

**at Stanley Methodist Church,
Mount Road, Stanley**

Help at Home

Bespoke support to assist you to live independently:

Dementia support, sitting service, friendly companionship, welfare checks, shopping, meal preparation, help after a hospital stay, household tasks, pet feeding, cleaning and laundry, light gardening, social outings and support in attending appointments.

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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 www.girlguiding.org.uk	

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.

St Peter's Church Rev Glenn Coggins

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