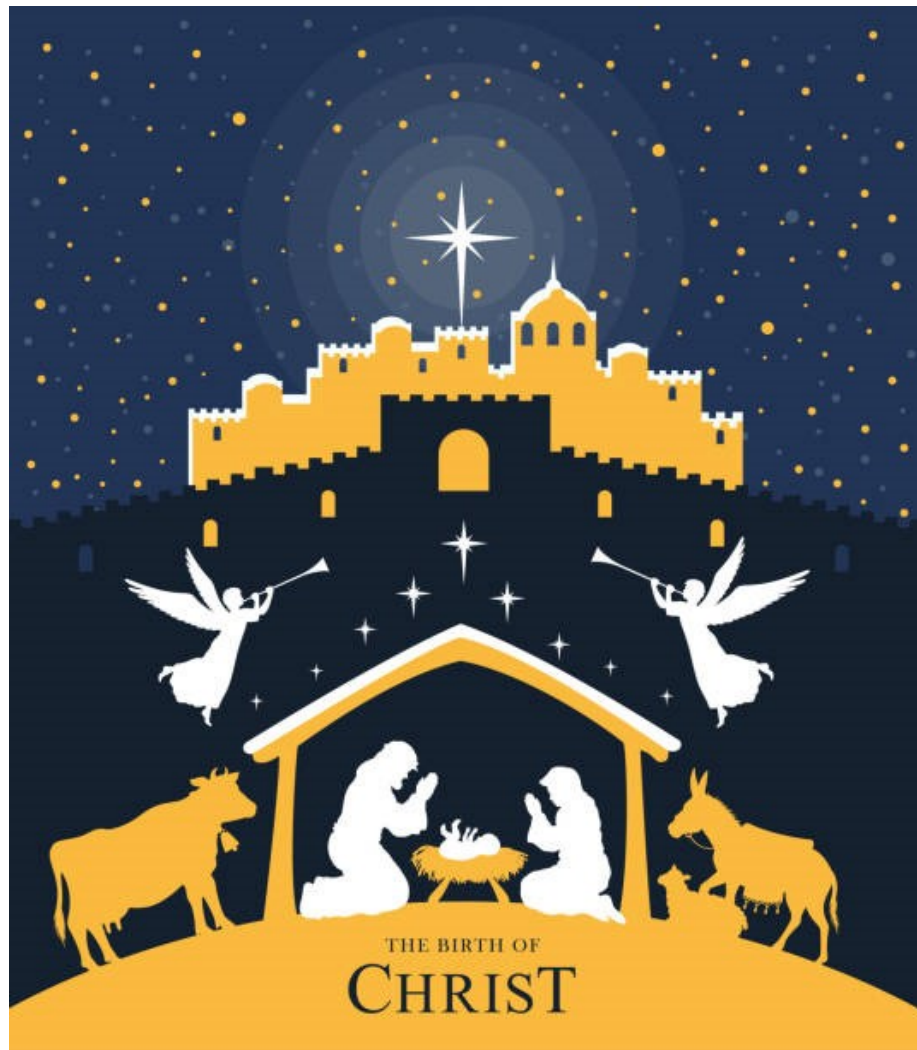


St Botolph's Church Magazine

December 2024/January 2025 PRICE 50p

Knottingley



Parish News

The Parish Church

Priest in charge	Mother Sharon	671415
Church Wardens	Linda Brown	673463
	Janet Laycock	662028
Deputy Wardens	Ray Wilson	
	Wayne Evans	
Organist	Daniel Fretwell	
Standing Committee	Mother Sharon, L. Brown, J. Laycock, R. Bagley	
Deanery Rep.	Wayne Evans	
Safeguarding	Janet Laycock	07790939025
Health and Safety Officer	Sheila Hutley	
Flower Co-ordinators	Janet & Linda	
Parish Room Bookings	Linda Brown	673463
Tower Captain	Paul Hargrave	678741

Organisations

Rainbows/Brownies /Guides	Janet Laycock	662028
Friends of St Botolph's	Linda Brown	673463

Knottingley Parish News

Editor	Janet Laycock	662028
Treasurer	Janet Laycock	662028
Advertisements	Janet Laycock	662028
Printing and Distribution	Linda Brown/Richard Bagley	673463 07396598237

The Parochial Church Council

Chairman	Mother Sharon	671415
Vice Chairman	Janet Laycock	662028
Secretary	Sue Barlow	07485170704
Treasurer	Richard Bagley	07396598237
Electoral Roll Officer	Janet Laycock	662028

of Knottingley

Sunday Services:

Parish Eucharist 10.00am
(all the family are welcome)

Holy Days - As announced

Contact us: Mother Sharon 01977 671415

Churchwardens : Linda 07939967800

Janet 07790939025

Or email **stbotolphchurchknott@yahoo.com**

Parents wishing their children to be Baptised should attend church beforehand, our services are 10 am on Sundays.

St Botolph's Diary Dates

7 December Christmas Fayre, Parish Room, 10am - 2pm

21 December Christingle Service, in church, 4 pm



The Editor

email **stbotolphchurchknott@yahoo.com** (please use plain text)

Web site - **www.stbotolphsknottingley.org.uk**

Copydate

Copy for February :- 5 January 2025

March:- 2 February 2025

April:- 8 March 2025

Dear Friends,

Once again, this year has flown past and by the time you read this, we will be into the season of Advent and the preparations for Christmas will well and truly have begun. Amongst all the preparations, parties and shopping I am conscious that for many people Christmas is a difficult time, whether that's because they are struggling to make ends meet, are missing that one important person at their table this Christmas, or for any other reason.



As I have been reflecting on this, it reminds me how important it is for us to think about the true meaning of Christmas. Yes, I do mean the coming of the Christ child, but I also mean really thinking about the gifts that we are giving to people, perhaps gifts that give something of ourselves as well. I know that personally the gifts that have meant the most to me, and that I have treasured for many years, have been those that people have made for me. Not only has the time and effort gone into that gift, but it is also the fact that someone knows me well enough to know how much I would appreciate the gift.

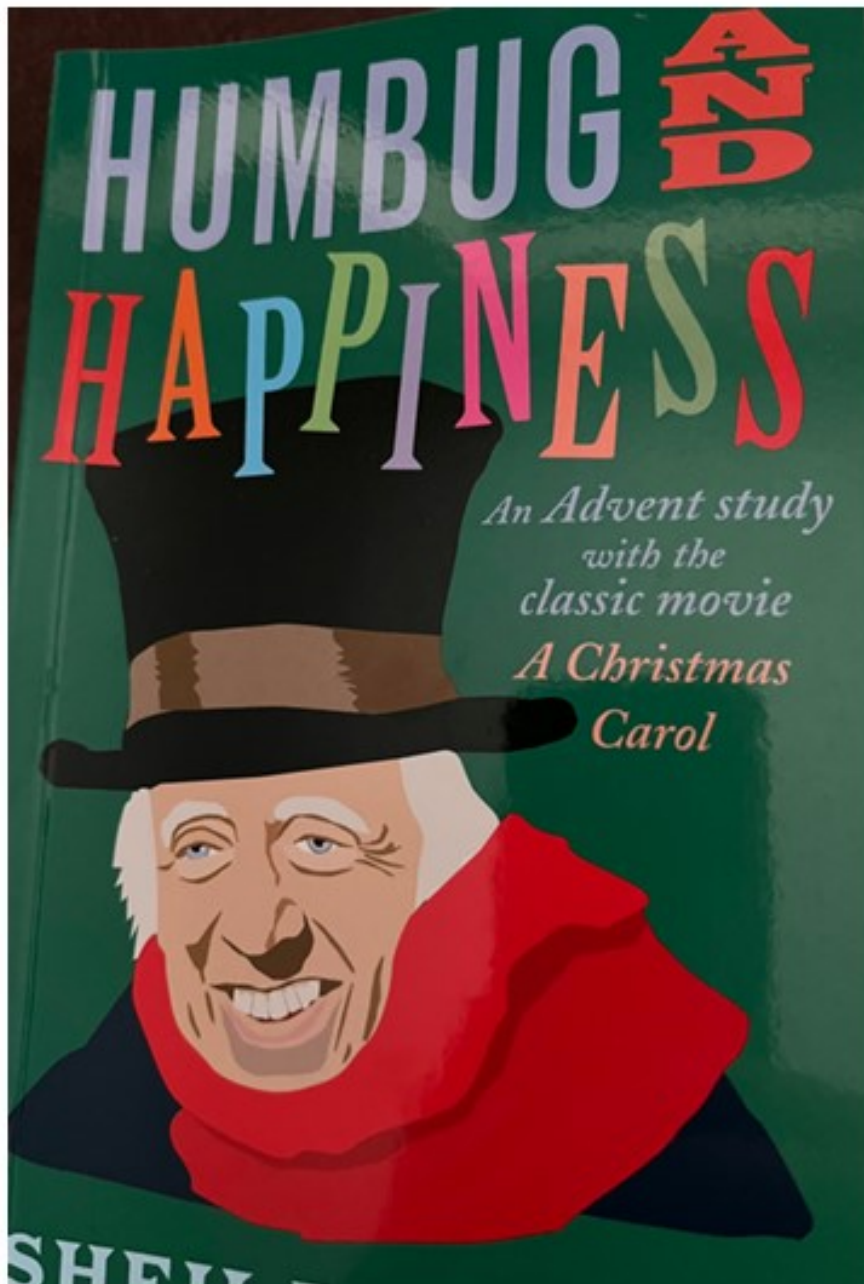
Giving the gift of memories, giving the gift of a small part of ourselves is something that we can all do and it is what God has done for us in the giving of His son, a gift that is freely given to each of us and that God longs for us to receive. God who by his love and goodness transforms us so that we might share his love with others. And it all started at Christmas with a baby...

Love is a gift of God. You don't have to buy it – you are only asked to share it. So, this Christmas, why not take a little time to receive the love of God. And then pass that on to others. Because that is what Christmas is really about! And if you want to come and share Christmas with us, do check out our Christmas services, because of course everyone is welcome.

With my love and prayers for a truly blessed Christmas and New Year.

Mother Sharon

The Aire Benefice Advent Course 2024



Based on the classic film Scrooge starring Alistair Sims

Mondays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd December
2pm St Andrew, Ferrybridge
6.30pm in Brotherton

Contact Mthr Sharon for details 010977 671415 Or
mothersharonbrown@gmail.com

Some useful numbers

Ash Grove Drs Surgery 01977 673141

Ash Grove Pharmacy 01977 622107

Ferrybridge Medical Centre 01977 664141

Non Emergency Medical 111

Emergency Dentist Urgent treatment cost £23.80 + Dental cost 111

Non Emergency Number 101

You should call 101 if you want to talk to your local police officer, get crime prevention advice, or report a crime that does not need an emergency response, for example: if your car has been stolen. your property has been damaged. you suspect drug use or dealing.

Emergency 112 can use this on mobiles also landline world wide; equivalent to 999

Emergency Gas Number for gas leaks or you can smell gas. 0800 111 999

Fast Response Electrician 24/7 local call outs, ask for a quote beforehand - Fault finding, Land Lord Certificate, Electrical Wiring, Pat testing 0800 038 5658



Looking through my albums and scrap books I found
these lovely pieces that I would like to share with you all.

Peter Greenwood.

Christmas Round the Corner

The months have gone so swiftly by;
The year is fading fast,
But we remember happy days
With memories to last.

November sometimes brings us gloom -
We need a smile or two.
With Christmas round the corner
We've cheerful things to do.

It's time for reaching out to friends
Both near and far away.
For sending loving, caring thoughts,
To warm a chilly day.

A time of looking forward now;
We hope the way is bright.
With Christmas round the corner,
Reach out to love and light.

Iris Hesselden



St Botolph's Church , Knottingley
REQUEST FOR AN ENTRY IN THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Please complete this form and return to one of the Churchwardens,
There is no fee for making an entry in the Book of Remembrance, but a donation towards the cost of a new Book will be most welcome, please make cheques payable to KNOTTINGLEY ST BOTOLPH'S PCC. The Parochial Church Council reserves the right to refuse any entry which is deemed unsuitable.

DETAILS OF THE DECEASED

Name _____

Date of birth _____

Date of death _____ Age _____

Additional short inscription (if required) _____

DETAILS OF PERSON REQUESTING ENTRY

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Today's date _____

Donation enclosed _____

The name and date of death will appear annually, in the appropriate month, in the Parish Magazine . Please tick the box if you do NOT agree to this.

For office use only – details to go in Church Parish Magazine

Full date of death, day-month-year _____

Name of deceased _____

Date request received _____

Puzzle Corner

Can you unscramble these carols?

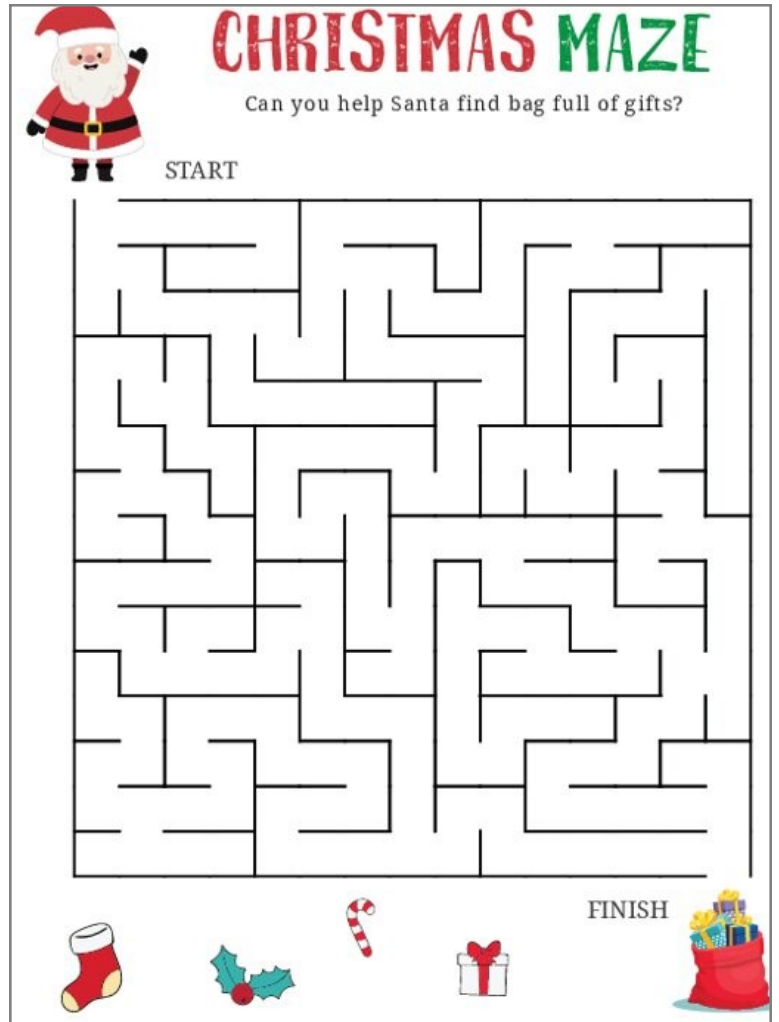
OYJ OT EHT DWRLO

IELTNS GHITN

EKDC HET LHLAS

YAAW NI A AERMNG

EW ERTHE SGNKI



S	H	R	R	Y	M	G	Z	S	B	Z	S	D
L	H	T	R	I	B	H	T	B	Z	E	G	T
E	H	S	C	M	G	A	J	A	J	S	N	H
M	Z	Y	A	L	R	A	J	D	M	N	I	R
A	O	R	T	L	U	E	M	V	I	E	S	E
C	Y	H	W	I	S	E	M	E	N	C	S	E
E	J	Y	P	U	V	T	K	N	F	N	E	K
L	P	E	S	E	R	I	K	T	A	I	L	I
C	W	D	M	E	S	B	T	P	N	K	B	N
A	L	E	G	N	A	O	L	A	T	N	A	G
R	H	N	N	S	T	X	J	Z	N	A	T	S
I	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E	M	R	S	J
M	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	F	X	S

Can you find these words in the wordsearch?

ADVENT	ANGEL
BETHLEHEM	BIRTH
BLESSINGS	CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE	
INFANT	JESUS
JOSEPH	MAGI
MANGER	MARY
MIRACLE	MYRRH
NATIVITY	REJOICE
STABLE	STAR
THREE KINGS	
WISE MEN	

St Botolph's



Handbell Ringers

**Available for any event to provide some musical entertainment, with tunes that can be adapted to any function,
i.e. Garden Parties, Charity Fundraisers, Christmas and Easter Festivities, Care Home Gatherings, and much more.**

Contact Paul Hargrave, Bells Captain, on 01977 678741 to discuss how we can best perform to your particular audience.

We do not charge a specific fee, but donations are appreciated towards the upkeep of the handbells – thank you.

St Botolph's Church Bell Ringers

Tower Bell Ringers

St Botolph's Church, Knottingley has a beautiful ring of 10 bells.

Unfortunately we have only 6 ringers.

If anyone is interested in tower bell ringing, please get in touch.

Paul Hargrave 01977 678741



SIMON COCKCROFT

D.Pod.M, M.ChS.

112 Weeland Road
Knottingley, WF11 8BG
(01977) 671791

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KNOTTINGLEY

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GARAGE



Need a joiner?

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tel: 07925923782

SamSco. Construction Limited

Community Shop

OPEN FOR MORE

Knottingley Community Shop

Opening Hours

Mon - Fri - 9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday - 9.00am - 3.00pm

Address: Hill Top, Pontefract Rd, Knottingley WF11 8EE

Membership is free and open to those who live locally to a Community Shop store and are in receipt of a means tested benefit (e.g. JSA, ESA, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support).

Community Shop Knottingley provides eligible members of the local community with access to high-quality, low-cost food and household products, as well as giving wrap-around support through its life-changing personal development programmes that deliver real change for individuals and communities.

Call in for your shopping or a tasty meal.



Church Funds/Flowers

We gratefully acknowledge donations from everyone who has so generously given to our funds, the clock appeal and those who have donated for flowers during this year.



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Calendar - December 2024/January 2025

1st ADVENT SUNDAY
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am



8th SUNDAY - ADVENT 2
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am

15th SUNDAY - ADVENT 3
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am

21st Sat Christingle Service 4 pm



22nd SUNDAY - ADVENT 4
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am

24th Tue **CHRISTMAS EVE** 1st Mass of Christmas 9.00 pm
25th Wed **CHRISTMAS DAY** Christmas Day Mass 10.00 am

29th SUNDAY- CHRISTMAS 1
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am

5th SUNDAY - CHRISTMAS 2
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am
* * * FEBRUARY MAGAZINE COPY DATE * * *



12th SUNDAY- BAPTISM OF JESUS
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am

19th SUNDAY - EPIPHANY 2
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am

26th SUNDAY- EPIPHANY 3
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am

St Botolph's Parish Room

Monday

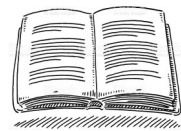
Tuesday Saviour Trust
Rainbows, Brownies and Guides
Hand Bells

Wednesday Children's Gymnastics

Thursday Friends of St Botolph's (second Thursday)
Lunch Club (fourth Thursday)
Judo

Friday

Church Rotas



8 December	Glenis	Ann	Colin
15 December	Sheila	Rita	Sheila
22 December	Renée	Edna	Mark
29 December	Dianne	Jackie	Jackie
25 December	Glenis	Ann	Colin
5 January	Sheila	Rita	Sheila
12 January	Renée	Edna	Mark
19 January	Dianne	Jackie	Jackie
26 January	Glenis	Ann	Colin



Knottingley Judo Club

**BRITISH
JUDO**



Knottingley Judo Club can be found in St Botolphs parish rooms on Thursday evenings. We pride ourselves on the fun, friendly, family atmosphere in the club and welcome all new members regardless of experience and ability. The club is run by Ian Sidaway (3rd Dan) with the help of Catriona Barber (1st Dan). All coaches are fully qualified, DBS checked and first aid trained.

Training Times

Thursday evenings at St Botolphs parish rooms

Junior grades	(5-14years)	6-30-7.30pm
Senior grades	(14 years +)	8.00-9.00pm

Contact

Ian Sidaway	07935 498518	iansid@live.co.uk
Catriona Barber	07594 922614	catriona.barber50@gmail.com

Bottery



Club

Membership costs £1 per week per number and the draw takes place in the Parish Rooms after the Sunday morning service

6 October	12	Janet Laycock	£40
	76	Wilma Tucker	£10
13 October	16	Marlene Tunningley	£40
	161	Ann Webb	£10
20 October	18	Wayne Evans	£40
	66	Lesley Tucker	£10

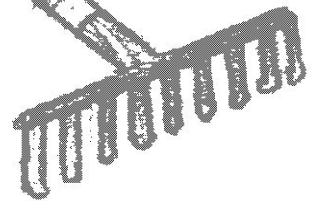
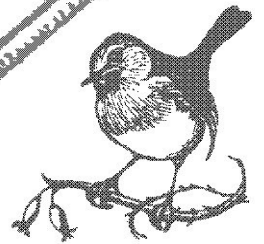
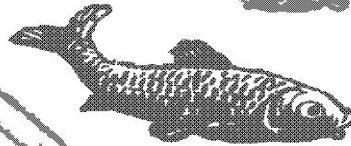
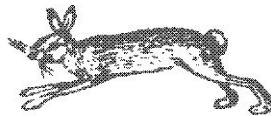
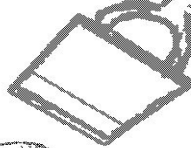
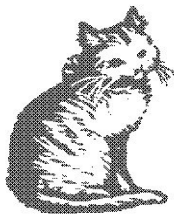
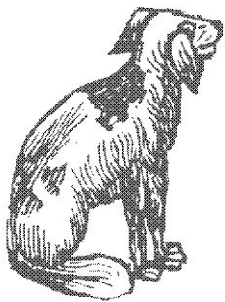
We would be grateful for any additional members to join our Bottery Club, all proceeds go directly to support the upkeep of St Botolph's Church.

If anyone would like to join the weekly bottery, which is £1 per number per week, please contact Sue Barlow on 07485170704



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KNOTTINGLEY 671238**



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Is the cost of living crisis affecting you?

With food and energy prices rising, it can be a worrying time for many of us. But we are here to help you.

The foodbank can support you with:

Providing emergency food

Offering a listening ear over a cup of tea

Support to find further help

Please call our help through hardship
freephone number 0808 208 2138
or come in and see us!

We are located at:

The Methodist Church, Ropewalk, Knottingley, WF11 9AL

Tuesday and Friday 10am – 12noon

Donate

We rely on donations!

Items we run short of

Tinned Veg/fruit, Long Life
Milk, Cordial, Tinned meat/
fish, Biscuits, Sugar,
Tinned Soup

Volunteer

We rely on volunteers and we
have some amazing people who
volunteer with Knottingley
Foodbank! If you would like to
volunteer please do
get in touch

Contact via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or Email
manager@knottingley.foodbank.org.uk

St Botolph's Parish Giving Scheme

As reported in last month's magazine, the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) was launched for St Botolph's in June 2020.

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is an established service for managing Direct Debit donations, designed to support churches to fund their mission and ministry. It reduces the burden of work on church volunteers and provides a simple and secure service to donors.



The service is freely available to all parishes, their churches and donors, within dioceses that have chosen to participate. Uptake is growing every year, with the majority of dioceses in the Church of England - and many of their parishes - now members of PGS and experiencing the benefits.

Further details can be found here: www.parishgiving.org.uk

The PGS makes it possible for donors to:
Donate monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit
Sign up to inflation-linked giving annually
Enhance your gift to your church by having Gift Aid at 25%
added to your giving
Give securely and donate anonymously, if you prefer

You can set up a Direct Debit to donate regularly to St Botolph's:

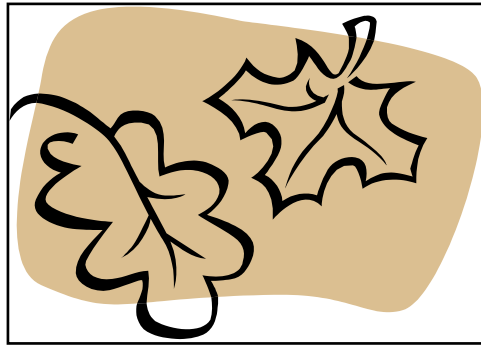
via gift form available from Richard Bagley (Treasurer).

Tel: 07396598237. Email: richardbagley99@gmail.com

**or directly via the Parish Giving Scheme on 0333 002 1271
(Monday to Friday, 9 am- 5 pm)**

The Manse

**Residential Care Home
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Knottingley
WF11 9AL**



**Placements available for: -
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Holiday/Short Stay Care
Day Care**

Private & DSS welcome

**For further details or to arrange a visit please contact us on
01977 677955**

A Family Run Home Where Care Comes First



email :- *care@the-manse.me.uk*
www.the-manse.me.uk

Fancy a cuppa?

**The 3rd Saturday of each month
21 December 2024 & 18 January 2025**

10am until 12 noon

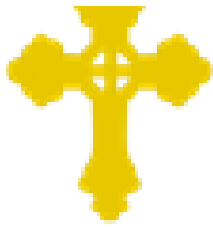
at

The Knottingley Club



Meet for a bacon butty and a cuppa
With your local British Legion





St Edward the Confessor

From the parishes of Ferrybridge and Brotherton and Byram



Our usual service times are below:

Sunday

8am	Said Holy Communion	St Andrew
9.15am	Parish Eucharist	St Edward the Confessor
11.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Andrew

Wednesday

9.15 am	Eucharist	St Edward the Confessor
---------	-----------	-------------------------

Thursday

10.00 am	Eucharist	St Andrew
----------	-----------	-----------

We now hold our Sunday evening services. Their format will vary, more information will be found on our Facebook pages and website.

1st Sunday of the month	St Edward the Confessor
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3rd Sunday of the month	St Andrew
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Facebook: St Edward the Confessor, Brotherton.

Facebook: St Andrew's Church, Ferrybridge

Website: www.stedwardsbrotherton.co.uk

Website: www.standrewsferrybridge.co.uk

Events

29 Dec

Sunday Social, 1 - 3pm

Brotherton Parish Hall (last Sunday of the month)

To arrange weddings or baptisms please contact Mother Sharon.

God Bless

Mthr Sharon Brown MA SCP

Priest in Charge of the parishes of Ferrybridge, Brotherton, Knottingley, Kellington & Whitley with Eggborough, and Womersley.

New Vicarage

Pontefract Rd

Ferrybridge

WF11 8PN

Tel: 01977 671415

Womersley

Church of St Martin

Sunday Mass 11am

Arrangements for Baptisms and Weddings
contact Mother Sharon Brown 01977 671415



Events

7 Dec Coffee Morning with various stalls, 10.30am - 12 noon

20 Dec Carols by Candlelight, 7 pm

Everyone Welcome

Kellington, Eggborough and Whitley

Church of St Edmund King and Martyr

Sunday Parish Eucharist 9.30 am



Events

15 Dec Carol Service in Church, 3pm

Arrangements for Baptisms and Weddings contact Mother Sharon Brown 01977 671415

Please come along and join us

The Fairburn Singers

Invite you to join us at one of their concerts

16 December Fairburn Christmas Concert, Fairburn Community Centre 7.30 pm

Help us to raise funds for charities

For full details visit:

www.fairburnsingers.co.uk



1st Knottingley Rainbows, Brownies and Guides



The girls have been busy preparing for Remembrance Sunday, learning about our Parliament and making things to sell at our coffee evening. Other challenges that lay ahead are learning about codes and the Rainbows are covering the Be Well Theme. Some of the Rainbows will achieve their Silver Award this term.



We have fun activities planned for the run up to Christmas including making crafts.

We have 3 exciting events to look forward to. We are joining units at Castleford and Ferrybridge to visit the cinema to see Moana 2. Then we are joining a Division Event to see the pantomime Sleeping Beauty in Normanton. In April 2025 some of us are joining the Division Sleepover to Gulliver's Valley in Rotherham. For some it will be their first sleepover and it is great that girls from each unit will be going.

We break up for the Christmas holiday on 17 December and we will meet again on Tuesday 7 January 2025.



We have welcomed a new helper with Rainbows. Thank you Janet for volunteering. We still need more leaders for all units. If we had more helpers, we could increase our number of girls; we have a waiting list. Please contact me if you can help.



Little Donkey, Little Donkey



We are all very likely to sing about donkeys this Christmas, especially the little one that carried Mary to Bethlehem! But how much do you know about donkeys?

Here are some fun facts:

- There are more than 44 million donkeys in the world.
- There are more than 186 breed 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 try to avoid it.
- Donkeys are naturally clean. Given the chance, they are always grooming themselves or each other.
- They like to be warm and dry. They some from deserts and savannahs.
- They are social. They make deep bonds with their family and herd.
- They have big ears so that 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. This provides smaller creatures such as birds and chipmunks with life-saving water.
- Donkeys need your help. Millions around the world are being mistreated. Can you help stop their suffering?

<https://www.peta.org.uk/blog/world-donkey-day/>



We are a small donkey sanctuary based in Cridling Stubbs dedicated to the care and protection of donkeys. You can come visit us at our farm where we offer fully guided tours!

'The Wonkey Donkey Visitors Centre' opened in August 2015. We have had the most incredible support since we opened. And we have managed to rescue and rehabilitate 30 donkeys, all of which are still in our care.

Christmas Services at St Botolph's Church

Saturday 21 December

Christingle in Church 4.00pm



Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

1st Mass of Christmas 9.00pm

Wednesday 25 December – Christmas Day

Christmas Day mass 10.00am

Please join us to welcome Christ

God in the Arts

The Virgin of the Lilies by Carlos Schwabe

Art can celebrate the wonder of this world. This painting is The Virgin of the Lilies painted by Carlos Schwabe. He was born in Germany and then lived in Switzerland and France, He painted this canvas in 1899 when he was 33 years old.

It is like a scene caught when we look out of an aeroplane window. We can see the earth beneath and spot the hills and valleys, roads and settlements and a river weaving its way through the countryside. Mary and Jesus are haloed in a lunar-like radiance. The lilies are symbols of purity and obedience, the qualities that will take them to that scene in Bethlehem which we give thanks for at Christmas. The heavenly light shining out in the painting brings hope and joy to the world below, transforming lives with the wonder of the Saviour's birth.

The baby Jesus holds three nails in his hand as a sign that His life will be tempered by rejection, suffering and death. However the lilies growing tall and straight in the skies are signs of new life and resurrection. The light that comes down to earth at Christmas can never be extinguished.

That light and love are expressed in the vivid, moving painting. Christina Rossetti caught the same in her poem "Christmastide"

*Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.*



FRIENDS OF ST BOTOLPH'S



What a fantastic year our ladies have had.

During Lent we managed to raise £600 for Martin House Children's Hospice Wetherby. For 7 weeks we served soup, a roll, sweet and tea or coffee. We also held a raffle and played bingo.

We knitted throughout the year for Ann the lady who sells the knitting for the Hospice, I think we have taken 4 lots of big bags of knitting, mainly baby knitting, clothes, blankets, etc. Ann has made £100s of pounds for the Hospice, where she lives and when she goes to the caravan and big events.

The ladies always support our church events by baking, helping and contributing where and when ever needed.

A few times this summer we have gone out to lunch to various places, for some this is the only time they manage to get out and go somewhere. We have had raffles and since the clock appeal have given it to that.

We have welcomed 3 new ladies this year who support the group. Mrs Whitehead, Janice and the latest is Janet E.

In December we go out to Christmas Lunch and we invite other members of Church to join us.

It is a lovely little group; if you would like to come along its the second Thursday of the month from 1pm to 3pm ,we also have a lunch club the fourth Thursday of the month 12noon to 3pm we have lunch, hold a raffle and play bingo.

If you are interested in joining us give Linda a ring on 07939967800.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for all your hard work supporting the group, the Hospice and also St Botolph's Church.

Diocesan News

November 2024

Listen, learn and debate, is the invitation to all our Synod members



Diocesan Synod members listened and learned together at their first meeting of the new triennium held at Holy Trinity, Boar Lane, Leeds last month.

Topics included work towards becoming net zero, being a diocese that supports Fairtrade, our diocesan budget for 2025, engagement with Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence and more.

It began with a Eucharist, allowing members to worship and pray together before the day's business.

Bishop Nick especially welcomed newcomers to Synod. He urged everyone to be faithful in their approach to the real life matters that would be discussed, and to heed the words of others, while always being ready to ask questions and voice opinions.

The first motion came from the Pontefract Deanery, calling on the Church Commissioners to release funds in the next triennium of General Synod to support all parishes in the installing of net zero carbon infrastructure.

After an engaging debate, the motion was referred back to Pontefract, with a view to it returning to a future Diocesan Synod.

Revd Jude Smith, Director of Church Revitalisation, gave an update on how parishes have been engaging with our Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence programme and how over 45% of our parishes have already engaged with the work of Barnabas.

Synod strongly reaffirmed our diocesan commitment to Fairtrade, passing a motion that all in the diocese are further encouraged to engage with Fairtrade in support of justice for all.

Members also voted to approve the diocesan budget for 2025.

Archbishop Stephen launches Lord's Prayer project for the North



The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell will teach the Lord's Prayer across the North of England throughout 2025, a priority of his vision for Faith in the North.

Working alongside others Archbishop Stephen is encouraging prayer, storytelling and church planting inspired by the Northern Saints such as Hild, Cuthbert, Bede and Paulinus.

Archbishop Stephen said: "In less than 70 words, Jesus gives us a prayer to learn by heart and a prayer that gets inside our hearts, shaping the way we live. The Lord's Prayer surely is the best place to start. It is said in just about every church service, from the coronation of the King to the christening of a child.

"It teaches us how to pray. But it also teaches us how to live".

Parish ministry is based on love and trust

Revd June Cockburn

It was with exhilaration and trepidation that I stepped into the role of Vicar of Beeston in January this year.

The privilege and responsibility of this sacred calling weighs heavily on me.

At times it can be quite overwhelming, however, I am blessed to be ministering in a diocese where diversity and inclusion are very much present; and here in Beeston I have found a reassuring openness and a warm welcome.

I was so worried that my sermons might sink, that the primary school teacher in me spent hours putting together pristine PowerPoints to support them. One Sunday the screens failed, so I had to adjust what I was going to say: no notes; no slides.

It was then I truly understood that whilst crafted sermons with 'whizzy-bang' PowerPoints are great, your congregation often just wants to connect with you and there are few better ways to do that than through story.

It's all well and good to bring new ideas, but unless the congregation get to know you and trust you, there can be a reticence in gaining co-operation. After all, most of them have been there a long time, holding the fort.



When you – not just the new vicar, but the *newbie* vicar bursts onto the scene – just like Joshua, what they are wordlessly asking is “Are you for us or against us?”

Like the angel you must be able to answer just as wordlessly (i.e. through your care and ministry) that you are there as the commander of the Lord's army: then equally wordlessly, we can together fall facedown to the ground in reverence, there to build and to add to the Kingdom of God. (Joshua 5:13-14).

This takes patience, encouragement and more than anything an ability to love: and it's impossible to love this way with just your own strength.

I am learning to adapt – laying down my plans, noble though they might be, to embrace what God is saying through the circumstances and situations I find in front of me, and asking “What message does my Lord have for his servant.”

So, even though as the weeks, months and years roll by and I become seasoned through experience, I must never be too proud or too embarrassed to say, or lose sight of the fact that “I'm new to this”.

13 people confirmed at new inner city worshipping group

13 members of The Feast, a new worshipping community built around a shared meal in Seacroft, Leeds have been confirmed by the Rt Revd Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall.

The Feast meets every Tuesday in Seacroft Parish and includes a meal shared together. It reaches some of the poorest families in the community and has been supported by a grant from the diocesan initiative Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence.

One candidate, following years of addiction, said: “The church is my safe place now where I can help volunteer at our cafe and through the week. I like to keep busy and praying with the vicar has helped me get through the darkest times.”

Revd Canon Anne Russell, Team Rector of the Parish of Seacroft explained the launch of the new worshipping group: ‘There's a great hunger for the good news of Jesus in our poorest communities. The Feast centres around a shared hot meal with activities through which we believe Jesus becomes alive and relevant to all who come.’



Prize piece of medieval Christian heritage is shared for all to see



A prized fragment of the Croft Cross, is now on display at the Yorkshire Museum, thanks to the churchwardens of St Peter's Church, Croft-on-Tees in the north of our diocese.

The base piece of the medieval standing cross is a beautiful example of elaborate and skilled stone carving and religious expression from the late 8th Century and is now for all to see at the popular York centre museum.

Andrew Woods, Senior Curator at the Yorkshire Museum, said: ". The Croft-on-Tees cross shaft is an exquisite example of the labour of skilled artisans who were influenced by the spread of Christianity across the north of England during the 8th Century."

The Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon added: "The Diocese of Leeds is delighted that this treasure from the parish church at Croft-on-Tees is to be on display in one of Yorkshire's premier Museums.

"The Croft Cross, with its intricate carving and ancient symbolism, is a tangible connection to the region's early Christian history kept safe for all these years in a church which is still active in serving local people in the present day."

The Croft-on-Tees cross shaft is a significant archaeological and religious object as it displays motifs of vines, birds and beasts. This iconography is both of international and local significance. Thought to be quarried from Tadcaster stone, the cross is a high-quality piece of northern heritage, a symbol of social and religious transformation.

Pam Dunn, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council said, "St Peter's Church attracts a lot of visitors who take a keen interest in its history.

"The Saxon Cross Shaft (of which a replica is displayed in the church) is a prominent feature of these guided tours.

"We are proud of our heritage and pleased that the original is now on display in the Yorkshire Museum where more people can view it and it can be preserved for future generations."



Generous church celebrates God's gifts at harvest



St Mary's Swillington celebrated harvest by thinking about God's generosity in its many forms.

The church reflected on God's gifts to us by preparing harvest gifts for a local community pantry, and by relaunching the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).

The familiar hymns of 'Come ye thankful people come' and 'We plough the fields and scatter' were sung, and the church also enjoyed a rendition of 'Our God is a great big God', including all the actions.

For the prayers, the church's children gave out mustard seeds, showing how something so seemingly small, weak and insignificant can grow into something big and mighty.

The Revd Sarah Harrison, Team Vicar in the benefice, said: "This helped congregation members to think about how the kingdom of God is like a tiny seed - when we look at it, we see smallness, weakness and insignificance but God sees potential, growth and significance in our churches and in our own lives."

Please contact the diocesan Stewardship Team to learn more about the Parish Giving Scheme.

The ways people come to worship

Revd Marianne Clough, Curate at St James Bradford and at Sorted

What brings someone to Christ, to church and what helps them stay?

How would you answer regarding your own journey with Him?

I'm fascinated what we communicate to people, in our words and actions, and how it's received. What motivates people to give God a go?

I asked some newcomers at our church what attracted them and what's made them stay. A man who comes along with his wife and little girl, told me that in response to all the turmoil in the world, they needed some joy.

That joy is evident as the congregation worships and together they are discovering the goodness of God is available for their family too.

Another newbie, a woman, saw a Facebook reel about an Ash Wednesday service. This particular service synched with her work schedule and so she found the courage and went. The worship leader said: "Please stand if you are able." As someone with chronic migraines, this really chimed



with her, as her seated worship was declared equally valid. She has since been baptised. The third newcomer came because of a parade service with cubs and scouts. He was surprised by the easy-going atmosphere and how no one blinked when the children weren't quiet.

After many years of absence from church, he felt God drawing him back in. He has felt loved and accepted and his trust is being restored. What do we learn from these stories?

For me, I learn that as a community we can prayerfully try to get our publicity right, to take time to connect and welcome people and be accepting. However, in every situation, the Holy Spirit has been at the heart of drawing people in and helping them find courage to discover more. Some plant, some water but God himself makes it grow, says 1 Cor 3: 6-9. What a joy to find ourselves in a team with the Lord of the harvest.

Now, call me greedy, but I'm praying for more.

Nice day for a warm wedding - thanks to eco-friendly heating



Wedding guests at St Mary's, Embsay had a warm, green welcome recently, thanks to a newly installed eco-friendly heating system that was switched on for the first time.

The old gas boiler had been turned off and the new Zero Carbon system of underfloor heating and wall mounted FAR infra-red units worked wonderfully, said Revd Canon Marion Russell.

"On its very first use for a wedding, the guests asked for part of the heating to be turned off as it was becoming too warm!" Revd Marion said. "This gives us assurance of the effectiveness for cold weather ahead."

Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary Lisa McIntyre offered her congratulations: "It's been a pleasure supporting people who have been so enthusiastic in their environmental mission - both in seeking advice from the DAC and their architect throughout and in sharing their learning with other churches with similar ambitions."



St Botolph's Annual Christmas Fayre

Saturday

7 December 2024

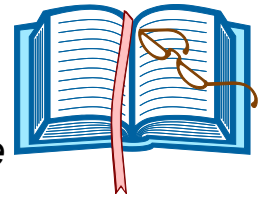
**10.00 am - 2.00 pm
in the Parish Room**

**Various stalls including tombola,
raffle, crafts, bric-a-brac**

Soup and roll available

Everyone welcome

IN MEMORIAM



On these days of December please pray for the repose of the

1	Gareth Ashley Moffat	1986	20	John David Littlewood	
	Harry Copley	1997		(infant)	1945
	Peter Moon	2018	20	Albert Ernest Keating	1969
2	Margaret Ramona			Charles Hughes	1969
	Richardson	1995		Derek James Adams	1997
	Steven Hobman	2007		Nellie Houlden	2020
3	William Henry Parkin	1959	21	David Peter Young (infant)	
4	Colin Sherwood	2022			1968
5	Harold Hutchinson	1965		Snowden Bairstow	1980
	Annie Lightfoot	1972		Frank Daw	1966
	James Edgar Dibb	1978	22	Gladys May Wilcox	1984
	Mary Titley	1999		Philip Graham Chadwick	
6	Margaret Sinclair	1992			1991
	Raymond Branford	1996	23	Bill Spence	1981
7	Horace Fox	1976		Ann Wilson	1987
	Alice Hill	1998		Jim Scatchard Moon	1989
	Leslie Dyson	2001		Daniel Crawford	2002
	Leonard Anthony Hewitt	2006		Muriel Hurst	2021
	Juliet Ann Kynman	2018	24	Arthur Johnson	1972
8	George Thornton	1963		Audrey Beatrice	
10	Donald Birkitt	1948		Hutchinson	1993
	Irene Rosa Keating	1973		Walter Dixon	1993
	Olive Marjorie Hargrave	1968		Leslie (Nen) Williamson	
11	George Arthur Gartside	1988			1996
	Sara Hanna Armitage	1989		C. P. Dearden (Tom)	2001
	Bernard Cooper	1993	25	Margaret Taylor	2023
13	Roy Costello Kiernan	1996	26	Thomas Whitton Harker	1956
14	Margaret Lilian Pearson	1973		Eric Firth	1993
	Harry James Iverson	1989		Fred Holt	1993
16	Percy Shay	2014		Margaret Richardson	2013
	Peter Shaw	2020	27	William Cookson Myers	1988
17	Elizabeth Blakeston	1979		Rita Fowles	1995
	Miriam Hepworth	1989		Mary Charlesworth	1966
	Lucy Guy	1997	28	Violet Brown	1983
	Sarah Wood	1967	29	Harry Burden	1993
18	Albert Juniper	1982	30	Katherine Emmeline	
	George Edwin Baxter	1988		Rowett	2016
19	Amos Harold Wilcox	1985		Gwen Surtees	2023
	Clarence Airey	2004	31	William Henry Dunn	1981

God in the Sciences

Follow the Star

Jesus' welcoming committee included Eastern scholars who learned about His birth through their study of astrology. We could say that the arrival of these people at Bethlehem is a link between a very early form of science (albeit mixed with their own form of religion) and Christian faith. What better way to discover God than to explore the world and follow the evidence wherever it leads? What exactly was the Star of Bethlehem? Scientists have investigated this question over the centuries, coming up with a variety of answers.

First, there is the idea of a supernova: the massively bright explosion caused by a dying star. On rare occasions a supernova can be seen from Earth with the naked eye, remaining visible for several months. We now know that Herod the Great died around 4BC, so the actual date of Jesus' birth must be a little earlier. The supernovae that might match this timing were one in the Andromeda Galaxy between March 8BC and September 7BC, and another in the constellation of Capricorn in the Spring of 5BC.

Secondly, comes a planetary conjunction. The alignment most commonly associated with the star of Bethlehem was between Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces in 7BC, but not everyone is sure whether this would be extraordinary enough to be the 'star' mentioned in the Bible.

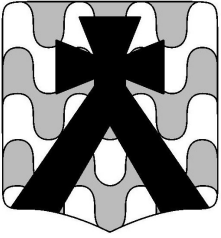
Finally, the bright astronomical object that drew the Magi could have been a comet. This idea came from Sir Colin Humphreys, Professor of Materials Science at Cambridge University, and

Oxford astronomer WG Waddington, who found that a comet had been recorded by Chinese astronomers between March and May, 5BC. Humphreys then speculated that the 'no room at the inn' scenario came about because about because Jesus was born during Passover, and the Magi visited Jesus in May or June.

People interpret the biblical account of Jesus' birth in all sorts of ways, but there is very little argument from serious historians that Jesus of Nazareth actually existed. Whatever the true explanation for the Star of Bethlehem may be, there is plenty of evidence that an astronomical event could have happened at the time of his birth.

It makes perfect sense that if God was going to enter His own creation and take on the form of one of His own creatures, it should be marked by a very significant physical event!





From the

Baptism

27 October

Abigail Joyce Grayson

Daphne Judith Freda Brown



Shine as a light in the world

Holy Matrimony

2 November

Robert Dodder and Suzette Henry



May God bless this marriage and may their love for each other continue to grow.

Funeral

7 November

Benjamin Luke Johnson

37 yrs

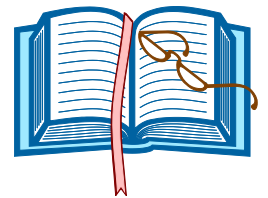
Wakefield Crematorium

May he rest in peace and rise in glory



Parish Registers

IN MEMORIAM



On these days of January please pray for the repose of the souls of:

2	Fred Guy	1997		
3	John Joseph Parker	2014	20	Eleanor Glenn Day 1988
	Clarence Airey	2015		David Kiernan 1994
4	Doris Parkin	1987		Edward Smith 2005
	Alfred Albert			Lilian Charlesworth 2021
	Hutchinson	1992	21	Olive Parkinson 1994
	Lilian Heseltine	1997		Nora Shaw 2021
5	Thomas Lawrence		22	John William
	Chapman	1991		Tunningley 1983
	Arthur Robinson	1992		Mary Rhodes 1997
	Leslie Tunningley	1999		Mary Ridge 2003
	Stephen France	2015		Paul Anthony Morrell 2016
6	Florence Victoria Maud			Mary Harrison Stones 1994
	Hambrook	1967	23	Willans Schofield 1974
	Elizabeth Asquith	1968	24	Peter James Titley 1988
	Henry Barker	1994		Dennis Hayton 2002
7	Harold Wood	1979	25	Alice May Holt 1996
9	John Cecil Harker	1978	26	Harold (Mick) Aaron1 996
	Claude Eskriett	1985	27	Edward David Burns 1984
	John Fairbairn	1991	28	Albert Greenwood 1999
10	James William Hepworth			Carol Anne Cottter 2019
		1960	29	Eric Fussey 1990
	Kelsey Taylor	1998		Jane Eskriett 1991
11	Vincent Morrell	1977		Jean Flynn 2001
12	Alison Mary Love	1990		Laurence Trevor Limbert
	Lucy Agnes Horton	1993		2008
13	Gertrude Schofield	1987		Eileen Carrington 2021
14	Olive Elizabeth Reeves	1975	30	Albert Thrush Durkin 1974
	Sidney Crabtree	2002		Nevile Anthony Henry
	Thomas Hudson	2004		Lawrance (Priest) 1972
15	Ambrose Askin	1979	31	Harry Shorthouse 1994
16	George Taylor	1995		
17	John Francis Cartwright	1985		
	Margaret Southern	1997		
18	Charles Ernest Miller	1987		
19	Eva Dyson	2008		

Holy Days and Commemorations

December

- 1 **1st Sunday of Advent**
- 6 Nicholas Bishop of Myra, 326
- 7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397
- 8 **2nd Sunday of Advent**
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 14 John of the Cross, poet, 1591
- 15 **3rd Sunday of Advent**
- 21 Thomas the Apostle
- 22 **4th Sunday of Advent**
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 St Stephen
- 27 John, Apostle and Evangelist
- 28 The Holy Innocents
- 29 **Christmas 1**

January

- 1 The Naming of Jesus
- 5 **Christmas 2**
- 6 The Epiphany
- 12 **Baptism of Christ**
- 19 **Epiphany 2**
- 25 Conversion of Paul
- 26 **Epiphany 3**

19 January
Epiphany 2
Isaiah 62: 1-5
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-1

26 January
Epiphany 3
Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4: 14-21

Eucharist Readings

1 December
1st Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33: 14-16
1 Thess. 3:9-13
Luke 21: 25-36

8 December
2nd Sunday of Advent
Malachi 3: 1-4
Philippians 1: 3-11
Luke 3: 1-6

15 December
3rd Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3: 14– end
Philippians 4: 4-7
Luke 3: 7-18

22 December
4th Sunday of Advent
Micah 5: 2-5a
Hebrews 10: 5-10
Luke 1: 39- 45

29 December
Christmas 1
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2: 41 - end

5 January
Christmas 2/Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12

12 January
Baptism of Christ
Isaiah 43: 1-7
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Aire Benefice

Christmas Services 2024



15th December 3pm Carol Service St Edmund, Kellington

20th December 7pm Carols by Candlelight
St Martin, Womersley

21st December 4pm Christingle St Botolph, Knottingley

22nd December

Morning services in all churches at the usual times

6pm 9 Lessons & Carols St Edward, Brotherton

24th December

1.30pm Crib service St Edward, Brotherton

3pm Crib service St Andrew, Ferrybridge

9.30pm 1st Mass of Christmas St Botolph, Knottingley

9.30pm 1st Mass of Christmas St Andrew, Ferrybridge

11pm Midnight Mass St Martin, Womersley

11.30pm Midnight Mass St Edmund, Kellington

11.30pm Midnight Mass St Andrew, Ferrybridge

25th December

9.15am Christmas Day Mass St Edward, Brotherton

9.30am Christmas Day Mass St Martin, Womersley

10am Christmas Day Mass St Botolph, Knottingley

10.30am Christmas Day Mass St Andrew, Ferrybridge



Knottingley, St Botolph's Church
in the Parish Room

Lunch Club
Fourth Thursday of the month
12 noon

Tickets £5 available from Linda

Friends of St Botolph's
in the Parish Room
Knit and Natter
Second and fourth Thursdays of the
month
1.30 - 3 pm

All welcome

**The Parish Room is available
for hire for
Parties or Meetings
at a reasonable rate
Ring 673463
for bookings**