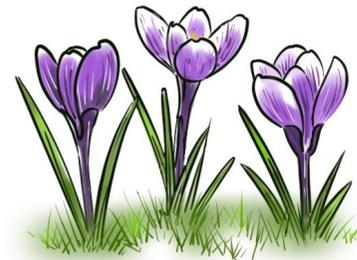


PARISH LINK



The Magazine of
St James Chapelthorpe

FEBRUARY



2024

50p

THE PARISH OF CHAPELTHORPE



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From the Vicarage



Dear Friends,

God really does work in mysterious ways as I was typing a draft of this letter I heard over the radio 'Love is in the Air' by John Paul Young. And he is correct, February is often thought of as a month for love as we celebrate St Valentine's Day on 14th February. Wales has its own patron saint for lovers, St Dwynwen. Her Feast Day is celebrated in Wales on 25th January.

Dwynwen lived during the 5th century and legend has it that she was one of the prettiest of Brychan Brycheiniog's 24 daughters. Dwynwen fell in love with a prince called Maelon Dafodrill, but unfortunately her father had already arranged that she should marry someone else. Dwynwen was so upset that she could not marry Maelon that she begged God to make her forget him. After falling asleep, Dwynwen was visited by an angel, who appeared carrying a sweet potion designed to erase all memory of Maelon and turn him into a block of ice.

God then gave three wishes to Dwynwen. Her first wish was that Maelon be thawed; her second that God meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers; and third, that she should never marry. All three were fulfilled, and as a mark of her thanks, Dwynwen devoted herself to God's service for the rest of her life. Her name means 'she who leads a blessed life.'

Soon the shops will be hiking up their prices on red roses and there will be one poor soul driving around the petrol stations in the early hours of the 14th attempting to buy roses at an extortionate cost. Do we really need to buy a card and flowers for those whom we love, isn't sharing the love better than any flowers. Romantic love is only one form of love.

When Jesus was asked to summarise the Ten Commandments he said: 'Love God and love your neighbour as you love yourself.' Loving God means that our focus is directed beyond ourselves. Christians believe that God is love and that he has created the earth and all that is in it. To love God is to praise and thank him for all the good things he has made.

It is to make space for him in our lives and to honour him by how we live our lives.

In addition to loving God we are also called to love our neighbour. When Jesus was asked 'who is my neighbour?' he told the parable of the Good Samaritan. Your neighbour, he explained, is anyone who is in need. And in another part of the gospels, Jesus explains what this entails. It means creating a world where the hungry are fed, the thirsty are given drink, the naked are clothed and the sick and imprisoned are visited. Love is shown in very practical ways.

In order to love others, we must also be able to love ourselves. That means facing up to the parts of ourselves that we find difficult, the things which we would rather avoid. The church encourages us to come to God openly with all our faults and failings. He loves us and longs to draw close. He offers forgiveness for those who are truly sorry and the opportunity to begin afresh.

As I close this letter just one last thing. I have spoken to the Postie and advised them not to leave the postal sacks containing all my Valentine cards on the door step, as I might struggle to climb over all the sacks. So please don't worry when posting your anonymous cards I shouldn't be having a trip/fall as it's all been sorted.

Your priest and friend.

Kevin

Holy Days

2nd February

Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



Holy Days

11th February

Caedmon—the poetic shepherd

Caedmon (d 680) should be the patron saint of all farmers who enjoy humming to themselves as they do the lambing this Spring. For Caedmon of Whitby was a bit like David in the Bible; he grew up as a simple herdsman out on the hills who enjoyed composing songs and poetry for himself while watching his flocks.

Like David, Caedmon also had a keen awareness of God, and used his creative gift to express his devotion and love for his Creator. When his poems and songs became known to others, they liked them so much that soon Caedmon left his sheep in order to become a monk. This gave him time to compose many poems based on the stories in the Bible: from Creation and Genesis, to the Exodus and entry of the Jews into the promised land, to the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ, and finally to the future Last Judgement, Heaven, and Hell.

Then one day Caedmon suddenly announced that he knew he was going to die soon. And so he did, in a state of charity and peace with everyone. There was great mourning.

Sadly, only nine lines of his poetry have survived, and we have the great historian, Bede, to thank for even that much. But in his time, Caedmon's gift of telling Christian stories in the vernacular must have been of great value in evangelising the common folk.



Holy Days

14th February

St Valentine

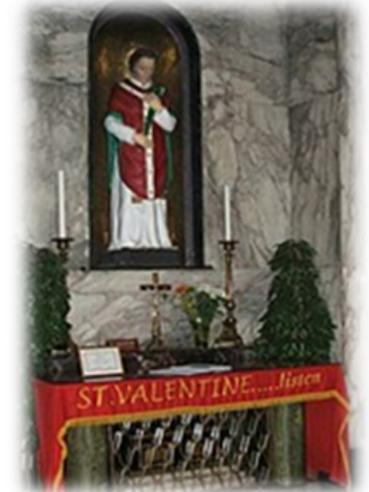
St Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

*To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.*

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

*The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.*



The Rectory, St James the Least of All

On why rural church-goers like to freeze in church



My dear Nephew Darren

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, and complain about the half an inch of slush outside, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow-free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a ten-foot drift under the lych gate.

Miss Margison, ever helpful in the worst sense of the word, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport to ice hockey.

Inevitably, congregations have soared. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As they both explained, they couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, a few flakes of wet snow may close *your* car park for health and safety reasons, but we shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity. We return home after Mattins, knowing we have proved our Christian commitment in being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Poetry Corner

Winter Now

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
Has left the heavens all coldly clear;
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
And all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
His life within the keen air breathes;
His beauty paints the crimson dawn,
And clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths...

O God! Who giv'st the winter's cold,
As well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in thy love enfold,
And keep us through life's wintry days.

From a poem by Samuel Longfellow 1819-92



All in the month of January

It was:

150 years ago, on 15th Feb 1874 that Sir Ernest Shackleton was born. This Irish-born British polar explorer was one of the leading explorers during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. He led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

100 years ago, on 5th Feb 1924 that BBC Radio broadcast the 'six-pips' Greenwich Time Signal for the first time.

Also 100 years ago, on 12th Feb 1924 that George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* was performed for the first time, in New York.

90 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1934 that Edward Elgar, the British composer, died.

75 years ago, on 22nd Feb 1949 that Niki Lauda, Austrian racing driver was born. He was Formula One World Champion in 1975, 1977 and 1984. He was severely injured and burnt in a crash at the 1976 German Grand Prix. (Died 2019.)

70 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1954 that the first field test of the polio vaccine began in Pittsburgh. It grew into a year-long national trial involving 1.8 million children.

65 years ago, 3rd Feb 1959, became 'the day the music died', when American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa.

60 years ago, on 7th Feb 1964 that the Beatles arrived in New York for their first US tour. They were met by thousands of screaming fans.

50 years ago, on 7th Feb 1974 that Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath called a snap general election following the miners' strike and three-day week. It resulted in a hung parliament, and the Labour leader, Harold Wilson, became Prime Minister.

40 years ago, on 14th Feb 1984 that figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the gold medal in ice-skating at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. They scored the first perfect 6.0 in Olympic history.



30 years ago, on 25th Feb 1994 that serial killer Fred West was arrested in connection with the disappearance of his daughter. Police then discovered human bones buried in his garden. He was eventually charged with 11 murders, and his wife Rosemary with ten murders.

25 years ago, on 1st Feb 1999 that the International Maritime Organisation stopped using the Morse code 'SOS' distress call. All sea-going vessels were required to have a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) fitted by this date.

20 years ago, on 4th Feb 2004 that Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched.

15 years ago, on 7th Feb 2009 that the Black Saturday bushfires took place in Australia. The worst in Australia's history, they destroyed 1.1 million acres of land, killed 173 people, injured 414, and burned down more than 3,500 buildings, including 2,000 houses.

Remembering Sir Ernest Shackleton

One hundred and fifty years ago, on 15th February 1874, Sir Ernest Shackleton was born in County Kildare, Ireland – into a family that was English in origin and had Quaker connections. Sir Ernest was one of the leading explorers during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. He led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

His father, Henry, was a farmer, who then qualified as a doctor, and the family moved to Sydenham, London in 1884. Ernest learnt seafaring in the Merchant Navy, becoming in turn second mate, third officer and first mate, before certifying as a master mariner in 1898: this qualified him to command a British ship anywhere in the world.

Expeditions he led included the Nimrod (1907-09), the Endurance (1914-17) and the Quest (1920-22). He was also on Scott's earlier Discovery expedition, but was invalided home early. From early on he had health problems, and the medical officer on the Nimrod expedition believed he had a hole in the heart.

Shackleton was described as spiritual but not religious. While crossing the mountains in South Georgia with two others to complete his heroic rescue of the crew of the Endurance, he and his companions said they were aware of a fourth presence, which they called 'providence', walking with them.

Although Shackleton did not make any major discoveries or register any notable firsts in Antarctica, he took part in some amazingly courageous enterprises and, although he was largely overlooked for many years, is now regarded as one of the giants of polar exploration, always admired by his crewmen. He died of a heart attack on the Quest at the age of 47 and was buried – at his wife's request – in the graveyard of the English church at Grytviken in South Georgia.



Tim Lenton

The Day the Music Died

It was 65 years ago, on 3rd February 1959, that American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa. Thanks to Don McLean and his eight-minute hit song *American Pie*, it became known as "the day the music died".

Buddy Holly was a rock 'n' roll pioneer who is widely regarded as having sparked a 'quantum leap' in popular musical output in the post-war years, being admired by such stars as Elvis Presley and John Lennon. He was born in Lubbock, Texas, to a Christian family and attended a Baptist church where he made a commitment and was baptised.

At the time of the plane crash – attributed to their young pilot's inexperience in appalling weather conditions – Holly, 22, Valens, 17, and the 28-year-old Big Bopper (J P Richardson), together with other musicians, were on what they described as "the tour from hell", travelling hundreds of miles each day by bus in temperatures as low as minus 35F.

After a concert in Clear Lake, Iowa, Holly decided to rent a private plane to get to Fargo, North Dakota, for the next concert. He planned to take his band members, Waylon Jennings and Tommy Allsup, with him, but Valens tossed a coin for Allsup's seat and won. Jennings then gave his seat to the Big Bopper, who was unwell.

Holly's young wife Maria learned about his death on television and suffered a miscarriage. His mother heard the news of his death on radio. Since then, news media have introduced rules to prevent the names of people who die in accidents being revealed before the family itself is informed.

Maria did not attend his funeral and has reportedly never been to his grave, but she preserved and promoted his music after his death.



Tim Lenton

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday this year is on February 13th. The exact date of Shrove Tuesday changes from year to year. But one thing remains the same, it's always 47 days before Easter Sunday. And yes, you guessed it, it's always on a Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Tuesday or Pancake Day is the day before Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), observed in many Christian countries through participating in confession and absolution, the ritual burning of the previous year's Holy Week palms, finalizing one's Lenten sacrifice, as well as eating pancakes and other sweets.

Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians, including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Roman Catholics, who make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God's help in dealing with. This moveable feast is determined by Easter. The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word *shrive*, meaning "absolve".

As this is the last day of the Christian liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide, before the penitential season of Lent, related popular practices, such as indulging in food that one might give up as their Lenten sacrifice for the upcoming forty days, are associated with Shrove Tuesday celebrations. The term *Mardi Gras* is French for "Fat Tuesday", referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Many Christian congregations thus observe the day through eating pancakes or, more specifically, the holding of pancake breakfasts, as well as the ringing of church bells to remind people to repent of their sins before the start of Lent. On Shrove Tuesday, churches also burn the palms distributed during the previous year's Palm Sunday liturgies to make the ashes used during the services held on the very next day, Ash Wednesday.

In some Christian countries, especially those where the day is called Mardi Gras or a translation thereof, it is a carnival day, the last day of "fat eating" or "gorging" before the fasting period of Lent.



God in Music

'Glorious the song when God's the theme': the Nunc Dimittis

St Luke tells us in his Gospel that the angels sang praises to God at the birth of Jesus, and he has given us three poems that have become part of Christian song: the *Magnificat*, the *Benedictus* and the *Nunc Dimittis*.

The first two are full of praise and rejoicing. The last comes as Mary and Joseph fulfil the Law of Moses and bring the child Jesus to Jerusalem. In the temple they meet Simeon and Anna. Simeon represents each of us who can look back over life with gratitude in the face of death as he says, 'Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace.' It is a story that has inspired preachers and artists, and also composers.

In the Christian Church these words of the *Nunc Dimittis* have become part of worship at the end of each day, not just the end of life. Cathedral and parish church choirs have sung settings of these words in that great tradition of Anglican choral music at Evensong – settings that have captured the sense of quiet resignation, but also conveyed the glory of the light that is Jesus shining for all people. Rachmaninov's setting is part of his Vespers, the night-long vigil sung in the Russian Orthodox Church on the eve of great feasts.

Rachmaninov composed the work (and it comprises 15 pieces) at great speed, but even so, the Vespers are now seen as one of the great masterpieces of religious music.

This was no more so than in his beautiful setting of the 5th canticle, the *Nunc Dimittis*. Just 36 bars long, it begins with a rocking, undulating figure in the upper voices. A solo tenor enters as the voice of Simeon, and it ends with the basses moving down to a low B flat: 'a sigh of wonder and resignation on the threshold of eternal rest and peace,' one critic has called it.

Rachmaninov later recalled, "After I played the passage at the end of the 5th canticle where the basses slowly descend to that low note, the conductor shook his head, saying, 'Now where on earth will we find such basses? They are as rare as asparagus at Christmas!' Nevertheless, he did find them." It was one of the composer's favourite pieces, and he asked for it to be sung at his funeral in the hope that it would send his 'ship of death gently towards the unknown region.'"

On 2nd February we shall hear these words as part of the Gospel on the feast of Candlemas. Simeon prays them because his cup is now overflowing. He has looked on the salvation of God. Music allows us to look on that glory and salvation also, and Rachmaninov, in his moving setting, has captured the calm trust of that moment, which shines out like the brightness of the light of Jesus.

ST JAMES CHURCH

Social Committee



Saturday January 27th	Table top sale 1.00pm - 3pm
Saturday February 24th	Coffee morning with flower arranging demonstration 10.30 - 12 noon
Saturday March 16th	Elysian Singers 7.00pm
Sunday March 24th	Home-made cake stall after Service
Saturday May 18th	Plant Stall 10.30—11.30
Saturday June 15th	Summer Fair 1.00pm—3.30pm

All St James' Church social activities are detailed on the notice boards, both inside and outside of church.

LIGHT LUNCH

The Light Lunches will resume on THURSDAY MARCH 21st 2024

Coffee Morning with Flower arranging demonstration

Saturday February 24th
10.30 - 12.00
St James' Church

**Come along and enjoy a cup of coffee
Whilst watching our own Diane demonstrate
her flower arranging skills**

Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our Christmas Fair a success.

The final total for our Christmas Fair held on December 2nd 2023 was **£1,221.30**

We would like to thank everyone again who came along and supported this social event and make it a success.

All proceeds were for St. James' Church

The Social Committee.

Raffle Prize

The winner of the Christmas Hamper was Liz Denton

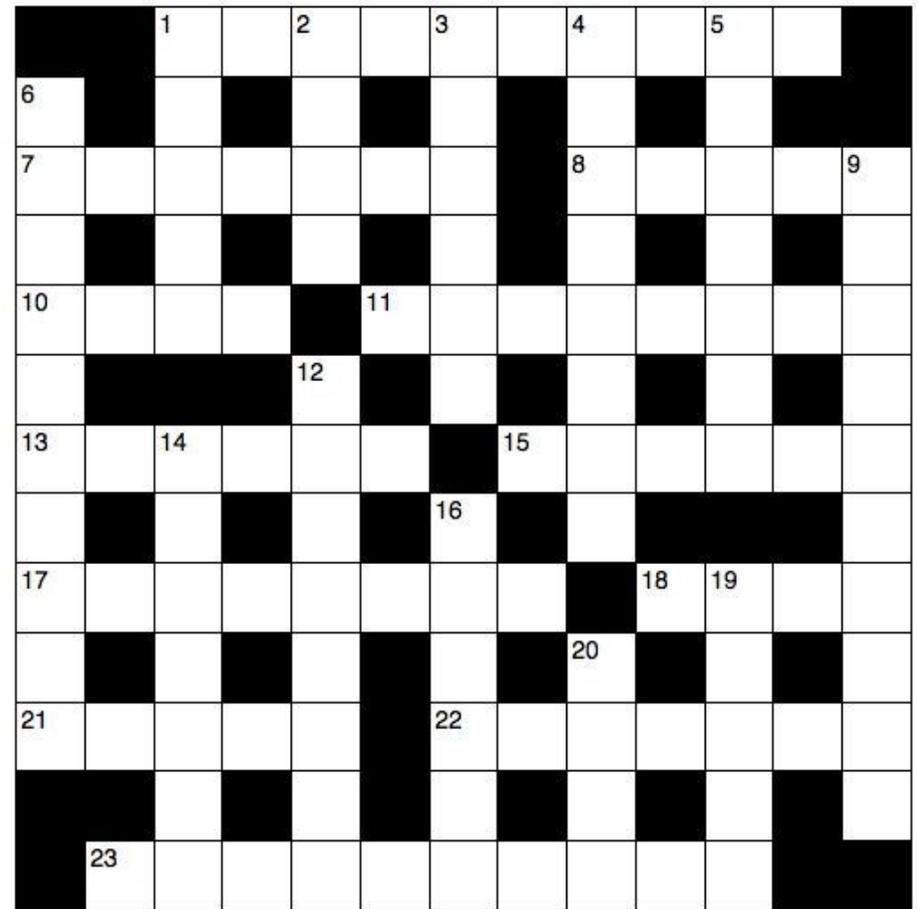
NEW THIS MONTH
Crossword for February 2024

Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)



Answers next month!

WORDSEARCH FOR FEBRUARY 2024



Valentine's Day

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and

Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good – unless we accept it!



VALENTINE
ROSE
ROMANCE
LOVE
PRESENT
RESTAURANT
HEARTS

KISS
HUG
GIRLFRIEND
BOYFRIEND
FIANCÉ
WORSHIP
REPENTANCE

ANGELS
BABY
TEMPLE
MARY
CANDLEMAS
PRESENTATION

Deadline date for inclusion in the next edition of Parish Link is:

February 15th 2024

Editors:

Kenneth and Dawn Poucher

Any contributions can be forwarded to
Rev. Kevin Greaves, David Wainwright,
Keith Wainwright or Margaret Poucher

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January Puzzle Answers

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USEFUL CONTACTS

City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Switchboard 01924 306 090
Typetalk 18001 08458 506 506

Email Address: es-contactcentre@wakefield.gov.uk

Environmental Services (24 Hrs) - 0345 8 506 506

Abandoned vehicles, Air Pollution, Anti-Social Behaviour, Blocked Drains, Bulky Refuse, Car Parking, Cesspools, Cleansing, Clinical Waste, Dead Animal Collection, Dog Fouling, Fallen Trees/Branches, Floods, Food & Hygiene, Fly Tipping, Graffiti, Grass left after Cutting, Highways Maintenance, Hypodermic Needles Disposal, Ice on Footpaths, Leisure Enquiries, Litter, Noise, Noxious waste, Overflowing Litter bins, Overhanging Vegetation, Pest Control, Potholes, Recycling, Refuse Collection, Septic Tanks Skip Hire, Snow Clearance, Spilled Refuse, Street Cleaning, Traffic Matters, Traffic Signals, Weeds Overgrown.

Social Care Direct (24 Hrs) - 0345 8 503 503

Adult Services, Advice, Assessment of need, Bus Passes *Disabled), Children's Services, Community Meals Service, Fostering, Guidance, Help with Adoption, HIV/Aids, Home Care

Wakefield District Housing (24 Hrs) - 0845 8 507 507

For all housing enquiries including: Allocations, Arrears, Lettings, Repairs, Tenancy Issues

Citizens Advice.....0844 499 4138

Council tax & Housing Benefits.....0345 8 504 504

Gas Emergency.....0800 111 999

Floodline.....0345 988 1188

NHS (24 hr non emergency).....111

Metro Access Bus.....0113 348 1903

Police (non emergency number).....101

Street Lighting Faults.....0800 783 1654