

St Botolph's Church Magazine

March 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.

Diary Dates

5 March Ash Wednesday

6 March Lent Lunches begin, 12noon, St
Botolph's Parish Room

7 March World Day of Prayer, 2 pm, Ropewalk
Methodist Church

The Editor

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

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

Copydate

Copy for April:- 8 March 2025

May:- 6 April 2025

June:- 4 May 2025

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday is on 5 March 2025. It marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days of fasting and penance that culminate in Easter Sunday. On Ash Wednesday we will join together at St Martin's Church Womersley and during the service, the sign of the cross will be made on our foreheads with ashes to mark the holy day.

Though Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent today, Lent is the older of the two. Lent was established and accepted only after the early church sorted out how to calculate the date of Easter. At the Council of Nicaea in AD 325, "all the Churches agreed that Easter, the Christian Passover, should be celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox." Since the spring equinox usually falls on March 21, the date of Easter in the Western Church can occur anytime between March 22 and April 25.

At Nicaea, the council settled on the 40-day fast period for Lent because it has roots in biblical writings. God sends rain on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights when Noah and his family go into the ark (Genesis 7:4). Moses sits atop Mount Sinai receiving instructions from God for 40 days (Exodus 24:18). Elijah "walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb" when he flees Jezebel's wrath (1 Kings 19:8). The 40 days of Lent, however, are primarily identified with the time Jesus spent in the desert fasting, praying, and being tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1–11). But though the length of Lent was set by the council, its start date in relation to Easter was still undecided.

It was not until AD 601 that the start date of Lent was set. Pope Gregory moved the start of Lent to 46 days before Easter, and established Ash Wednesday at the same time. This allowed for 40 days of fasting - where only one full meal and no meat are to be consumed - with six Sundays counted as feast days - when fasting does not apply - for a total of 46 days. He also established the tradition of marking parishioners' foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross. But why ashes?

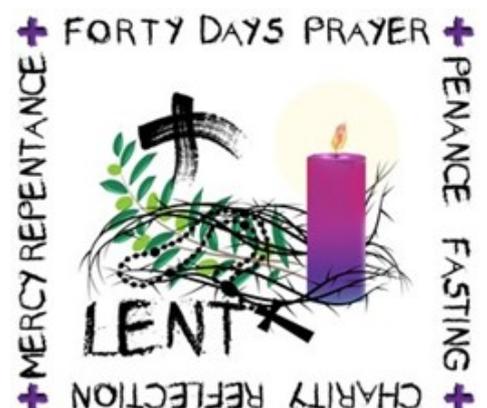
The symbolism of marking oneself with ashes traces its history to ancient traditions. The liturgical use of ashes can be seen in the Old Testament, where they denote mourning, mortality, and

penance. In Esther 4:1, Mordecai puts on sackcloth and ashes when he hears of the decree of King Ahasuerus of Persia to kill all of the Jewish people in the Persian Empire. In Job 42:6, at the end of his confession, Job repents in sackcloth and ashes. And in the city of Nineveh, after Jonah preaches of conversion and repentance, all the people proclaim a fast and put on sackcloth, and even the king covers himself with sackcloth and sits in ashes, as told in Jonah 3:5–6.

In the early Catholic Church, Eusebius, a church historian, wrote in his book *The History of the Church* that once an apostate named Natalis came to Pope Zephyrinus clothed in sackcloth and ashes, begging for forgiveness. By the Middle Ages, those who were dying lay on the ground on top of sackcloth and were sprinkled with ashes. The priest would bless the dying person with holy water, saying, “Remember that thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return.”

These words are still used today by the priest when they mark the foreheads of their parishioners. Another admonition sometimes given is “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” The connection of the ashes to the Gospels, which record the life of Jesus, comes from their preparation. The ashes used each year are made from burning the blessed palms from the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebration, which commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem the week of his death. Making the sign of the cross with these ashes ties the beginning of Lent, 46 days earlier, to the commencement of holy week the Sunday before Easter.

Today, Ash Wednesday is one of the most heavily attended non-Sunday masses, even though it is not a holy day of obligation in the liturgical year. Worship services are also held on Ash Wednesday in Anglican, Lutheran, and some other Protestant churches, who also sometimes observe Lent. Most importantly, however, Ash Wednesday and Lent lead up to the holiest day in the Christian calendar, Easter, which commemorates the resurrection of Jesus. Ashes and fasting, both drawing on several biblical traditions, create a season of penitence and expectation as Easter approaches.



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.

Springtime Joys

What are the joys of springtime?
Blossom buds, pink and white;
Baby birds cheeping from up in their nests
And day catching up with the night.

What are the joys of summer?
Paddling in cool, clear streams;
Lilies and roses and sunflowers, too.
And children devouring ice cream.

What are the joys of autumn?
Leaves of orange and gold;
Succulent berries bursting with juice
And squirrels preparing for the cold.

What are the joys of winter?
Hearing the north wind blow
Elegant branches on sleeping trees
And red-breasted robins in snow.



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 _____

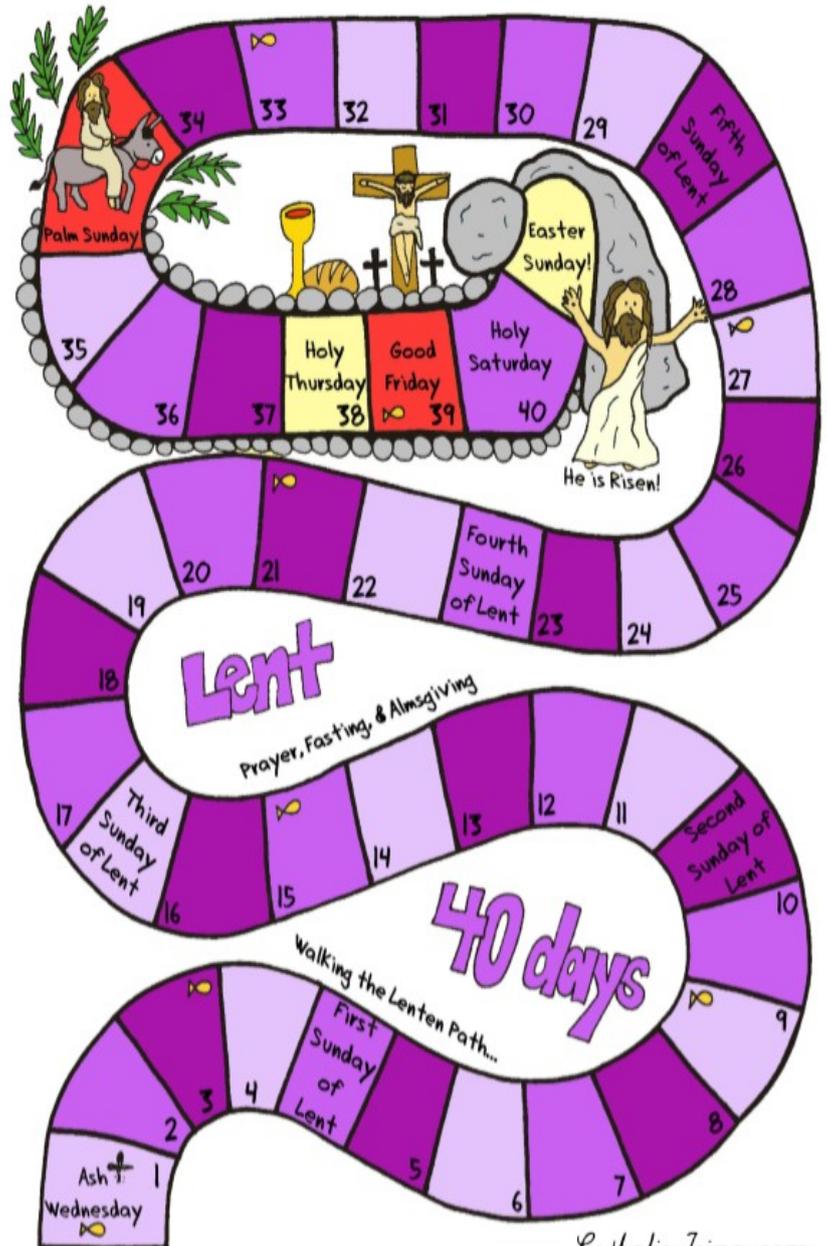
Puzzle Corner

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

- Ash
- Wednesday
- Sacrifice
- Almsgiving
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Lent



- Holy Week
- Holy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday
- Easter
- Palm Sunday
- Purple
- Palm Branch
- Forty Days
- Jesus
- Passover
- Foot Washing
- Resurrection
- Love



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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GARAGE



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Community Shop

OPEN FOR MORE

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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.



FRIENDS OF ST BOTOLPH'S GROUP

We started back after Christmas in January with the Lunch Club, it was a little cold for the group in the room so we are going to use a warmer room for our next meeting.

Everyone enjoyed their lunch; steak pie or soup & a roll and fruit crumble. There were 10 of us, which was a nice number to start with. After lunch we had a raffle and a game of bingo and more refreshments afterwards.

We are starting to do the knitting for the Hospice. Ann the lady from the Hospice will be coming in April as she is having a sale in May. She has asked for baby clothes for 0-3 months and 3-6 months as they sold out really quickly at their last sale.

Thursday after Ash Wednesday 6th March 12 noon we will be starting the Lent Lunches. If you know of any vulnerable people who would like a lunch delivering, please let me know and we will deliver one. Just a soup roll and a sweet.

The money raised will go to Martin House Children's Hospice Wetherby, the last few years we have £600 each time. The lunches will run for 7 weeks, the final one being on Maundy Thursday. There will be one week when we won't have a lunch that will be Thursday 27th March, we will be back the week after.

With love from all the group. God Bless

Friends. x



Calendar - March 2025

2nd SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT
TEAM EUCHARIST 10.00 am

5th ASH WEDNESDAY
TEAM EUCHARIST, 6.30pm, St Martin, Womersley

6th Thur Lent Lunch, St Botolph's Parish Room, 12 noon

9th FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am



13th Thur Lent Lunch, St Botolph's Parish Room, 12 noon

16th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am

20th Thur Lent Lunch, St Botolph's Parish Room, 12 noon

23rd THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am

30th FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MOTHERING SUNDAY
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.00 am



British Summer
Time begins.
Clocks Spring
Forward

3rd Apr Thur Lent Lunch, St Botolph's Parish Room, 12 noon

St Botolph's Parish Room

Monday

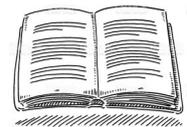
Tuesday Saviour Trust
Rainbows, Brownies and Guides
Hand Bells

Wednesday Children's Gymnastics

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

Friday

Church Rotas



2 March	Sheila	Rita	Sheila
9 March	Renée	Edna	Mark
16 March	Jackie	Dianne	Jackie
23 March	Glenis	Ann	Colin
30 March	Sheila	Rita	Sheila



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

5 January	56	Mary Patterson	£40
	47	Avril Chisem	£10
12 January	87	Annie James	£40
	86	Dany Tadd	£10
19 January	48	Brenda Barlow	£40
	12	Janet Laycock	£10
26 January	93	Joan Clayton	£40
	68	Michael Kite	£10

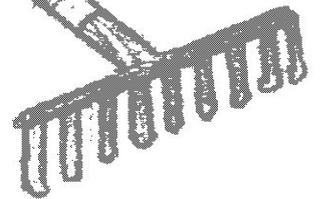
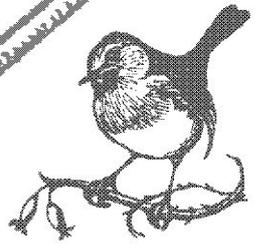
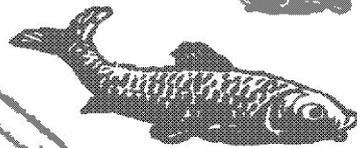
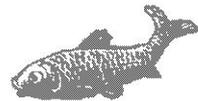
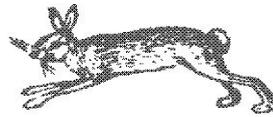
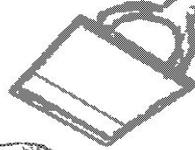
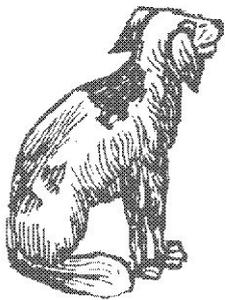
We would be grateful for any additional members to join our Bottery Club, all proceeds go directly to support the upkeep of St Botolph's Church.

In 2024 the Bottery Club raised £1056 for church funds. Thank you to all our supporters.

If anyone would like to join the weekly bottery, which is £1 per number per week, please contact Sue Barlow on 07485170704 or any member of the church.

KNOTTINGLEY PET & GARDEN SUPPLIES

**15 RACCA GREEN,
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:

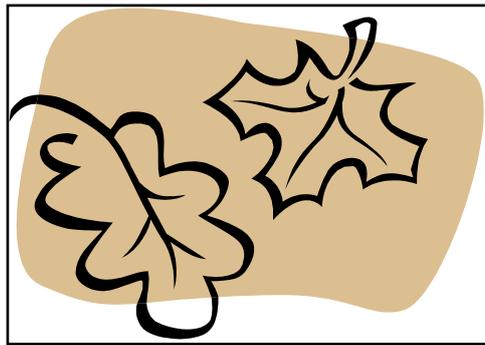
via gift form available from Richard Bagley (Treasurer).

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

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Knottingley
WF11 9AL**



**Placements available for: -
Permanent Care
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

15 March 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
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Thursday

10.00 am	Eucharist	St Andrew
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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

30 March 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

1 March Coffee Morning with various stalls, 10.30am - 12 noon

Everyone Welcome

Kellington, Eggborough and Whitley

Church of St Edmund King and Martyr

Sunday Parish Eucharist 9.30 am



Events

Arrangements for Baptisms and Weddings contact Mother Sharon Brown 01977 671415

Please come along and join us



World Day of Prayer 2025

March 7, 2025



Ropewalk Methodist Church

2 pm

A very special service designed by the women of the Cook Islands

Theme: I made you wonderful

Everyone welcome

1st Knottingley Rainbows, Brownies and Guides



1st Knottingley, St Botolph's Rainbows celebrated their first birthday in January. We started with 6 girls and now we have a full unit of 15 girls.

In January we enjoyed watching the pantomime Sleeping Beauty performed by Encore Theatre at Normanton Academy. It was great fun.

This term we are exploring the theme 'Express Myself' giving lots of opportunities to be creative with crafts, performing and experimenting. The Guides have made bridges, Brownies have explored different methods of communication including mime, British Sign Language and the Phonetic Alphabet and Rainbows have made lanterns for the Lunar New Year.





Lent Lunches



in St Botolph's Parish Room

Thursdays during Lent

6 March – 17 April 2025
(No lunch on 27 March)

At 12 noon

Soup, roll, dessert and tea/coffee

£5.00

Everyone welcome

All proceeds for Martin House
Hospice

Martin
House
Children's Hospice

Here when families
need us most

Martin
House
Children's Hospice

Here when families
need us most

To make you smile

A cat dies and goes to heaven.

God says, “ You’ve been a very good cat all your life, what would you like as a reward?”

The cats says, “I’ve run about in cold draughty barns & slept on hard floors all my life, so if it’s not too much trouble, I would like a warm soft pillow to sleep upon.”

So, God granted the cat his request and instantly the cat received a fluffy pillow warm & soft and more comfortable than the cat had ever imagined.

A few days later six mice came to heaven and God made them the same offer:

“Dear little mice, is there anything you would like to have here that you didn’t have on earth?”

The mice sat and thought about it and then told God, “we’ve been running fast all our lives, we think having a set of roller skates each would be great fun.”

So, God granted their wish and instantly all six mice were fitted with beautifully crafted tiny roller skates, and they raced around heaven with great glee.’

A few weeks later God went to see how the cat was getting on. He smiled down at the sleepy cat, stroked his head gently and said how are you getting on old Cat, are you happy here in heaven?

The cat yawned & stretched and said to God:

“Oh, it’s wonderful in heaven, I’ve never been happier in my whole life... And those meals on wheels you’ve been sending over are simply the best! “



St David's Day - 1 March

Every year on 1 March, Wales celebrates St David's Day - but how much do we actually know about the country's patron saint? He established many religious communities and gives his name to the smallest city in Britain.

But much of what we "know" is based on the Latin writings of Rhygyfarch some 500 years after St David lived.

His birthday is a mystery

An angel foretold his birth to St Patrick, 30 years before it happened - although the exact date is believed to be some time between 462 and 515 AD. Some say he lived more than 100 years and died on 1 March 589 - hence St David's Day.

He was born in a storm

Whenever it was, legend says his mother Non gave birth on a cliff-top in Pembrokeshire - during a fierce storm. At that exact moment, a bolt of lightning from heaven is said to have struck the rock, splitting it in two. A nearby holy well is said to have healing powers.



He had royal heritage

His family was aristocratic. The official biography claims his father was Sant, the Prince of Powys, and his grandfather King Ceredig founded Ceredigion. Non was a nun and later canonised herself.

He's not David

That was the name he was baptised with, but Non named her son Dewidd, or Dewi to the locals.

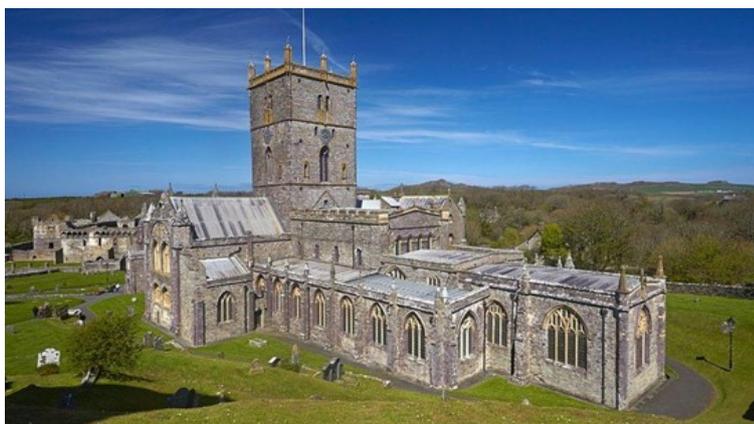
He took centre stage at Glasto

Educated at a monastery, he became a missionary, spreading Christianity.

Dewi was a renowned preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and south-west England. He visited Glastonbury to rededicate the abbey and donated a travelling altar that included a great sapphire - pinched 1,000 years later.

He left his mark

Like any seaside tourist, David reputedly brought back a rock - though not the pink boiled sugar kind - from his pilgrimage to Jerusalem. That stone now sits in an altar at St David's Cathedral, built on the site of his original monastery.



Miraculous stories

He is said to have cured his tutor of blindness with the sign of the cross and brought a dead boy back to life by splashing the child's face with tears.

It is also said that the ground beneath his feet rose up to form a hill so people at the back of a large crowd in Llanddewi Brefi could hear him speak before a white dove, sent by God, settled on his shoulder.

His legacy lives on

His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do'. The phrase 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain' - 'Do the little things' - is still well-known in Wales.

Diocesan News

January 2025

New Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven announced



The diocese is delighted to announce that Revd Canon Dr James Theodosius, currently Rector of Holy Trinity, Skipton, will be the new Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven.

Revd James will work with the Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon.

He knows the Ripon Episcopal Area very well as during the last ten years he was Vicar of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale, then served at Holy Trinity, Skipton, where he is also Area Dean.

A strong advocate for rural ministry, he is also keen to ensure that the urban and rural are thoughtfully integrated in ways which echo the good news of the gospel.

Speaking of his appointment, Revd James said: "I am delighted to be continuing my ministry in the Ripon Episcopal Area as the Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven.

"I will do all I can to serve the parishes and chaplaincies, both clergy and laity to ensure that we are real and true with each other and embolden one another with the good news of the kingdom.

"This is such a unique and special area, abounding in proud history and culture and with so many gifted and committed people.

"My job will be to encourage, facilitate and ensure that to the best of my ability, the structures and governance of the church enables, empowers and serves local ministry."

Welcoming Revd James to his new role, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds said: "After a thorough process and a very strong field, I am very pleased that James has agreed to be the next Archdeacon of Richmond & Craven.

He brings unique experience of parochial ministry and has been an excellent Area Dean. I very much look forward to him joining my staff team in the spring."

Christmas Tree Festival gives young people chance to raise funds for church



The Parish of Easby, Skeeby, Brompton on Swale and Bolton-on-Swale enjoyed their Christmas Tree Festival, with craft, live music and more.

The Festival was held at St Paul's church and Hub, and opened with a performance from the Brompton on Swale Primary School choir.

As well as the Christmas trees provided by community groups and businesses, attendees enjoyed stalls with Christmas crafts, trees and games, run by the church's young people group, We Are 1.

The Revd Simon Dowson, Vicar of the parish, said: "Lots of folk from the church, the local C of E School and the community came along during the day and enjoyed the trees that various groups, organisations and businesses had contributed, and the young people raised nearly £150 from their craft stall."

Bradford: heaven on earth

Bishop Toby

Happy New Year and welcome to Bradford 2025: UK City of Culture - we've arrived!

First it was the months of pulling together our bid, then that riotously joyful moment in City Park I remember so well when we heard that Bradford had been selected.

Bradford 2025 kicks off on January 10 with "Rise" a spectacular opening event with Steven Frayne, (formerly known as Dynamo) and continues through the year and across the District.

"Earth and Sky", for example, invites us to walk with Opera North's immersive music on Haworth's Pennistone Hill; "Draw" invites us to pick up our pencils with David Hockney, and "Sing, Dance, Leap" invites school children to do just that in a major programme with the Royal Ballet and other national partners.

We will be in the national spotlight, where we and others can examine the narratives that have shaped us with honesty, humour and love.

It's not just about the arts and "high culture". It is about economics and investment,



about development and jobs. National and international businesses will want to come to Bradford if they hear stories of confidence, youth, creativity and entrepreneurial energy.

The story of God's people in the Bible is told as story of grace. We learn that our real value lies not in our achievements or the suffering that we have endured, but simply in the fact that we are loved by God and called to follow in the way of love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

Such knowledge then gives us the deep confidence to create new stories and new futures for ourselves, our families and our communities. I hear these stories often as I travel around the Bradford District as bishop.

So, here's an invitation to everyone across our diocese, whether you're reading this in Bradford or further afield. Come and take part in our UK City of Culture and join in with this year's opportunity to re-frame Bradford's narrative. What about "Bradford: heaven on earth"?

Licensed Lay Minister helps children experience Christmas

Holy Trinity Barnoldswick have been helping local children experience Christmas.

The church recently ran an Experience Christmas event for some 120 Year 3 children from the three schools in the town.

The event was coordinated by Louise Firth, a Licensed Lay Minister at the church.

After being welcomed to the church, the children moved around five different stations to learn about different parts of the Christmas story.

The Ven Bill Braviner, Archdeacon of Halifax and Warden of Readers in the Diocese of Leeds, said: "Our Licensed Lay Ministers, who are part of their local congregations and locate their ministry as members of them, offer an enormously valuable gift to their communities all year round, and not least at this time of year.

"They are able to engage with the stories, the joys and the opportunities of the season, as part of the parish family they serve, and this brings a bevy of blessings!"



Recent visit shows diocesan support for church in Sudan



People in our link diocese of Sudan have been supported by a recent visit from the Revd Canon Anne Russell, Team Rector of the Seacroft Parish and Co-Chair of our Sudan Link Group.

Revd Anne met with the Most Revd Ezekiel Kondo, Archbishop of Sudan, as well as other bishops from the country, and expressed the firm support of people across the Diocese of Leeds to them.

Revd Anne heard stories of what it has been like in the country since the ongoing civil war broke out in 2023, hearing from those who have fled their homes and lives, and been witness to much violence.

The church in Sudan has been provided pastoral and practical care to those it can, supported by many organisations including the Diocese of Leeds.

Thousands of children and young people have fled the conflict areas, often leaving behind parents, and hundreds of internally displaced people have found food, education and support in the cathedral in Port Sudan.

Visitors from the UK were warmly welcomed by Archbishop Ezekiel, his wife Suria and other church leaders to discuss the prospect of

peace in Sudan and the security of the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

Revd Anne said: "I've been asked to pass on huge thanks, from Archbishop Ezekiel, Bishops Saman and Abdu, other church leaders (both lay and clergy), the Mothers' Union and congregations of the ECS.

"The long-standing relationship of nearly 50 years, alongside Salisbury Diocese, is profoundly important and influential to ECS and its people.

"We received such generosity and openness from those who we met and stayed with while we were there."

The diocese, along with others, has provided financial aid for the church in Sudan, helping to support the people there with food and other church essentials, and this is hoped to continue in 2025.

Revd Anne also had the chance to visit former MU paid workers from Sudan who are currently in Egypt, who are supporting Sudanese refugees with get-togethers including worship and prayers, singing and Sudanese food.



Bradford Royal Infirmary gets a Christmas visit from Bishop Toby



The Rt Revd Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford has paid a Christmas visit to Bradford Royal Infirmary, where he met with Professor Mel Pickup, the trust's chief executive, and toured the hospital, including the neonatal and intensive care units.

The neonatal unit was recently rated 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission. Professor Pickup said: "It was lovely that Bishop Toby took time out of his busy schedule to come and meet our colleagues and show his support for the trust and all it does.

"I know people really appreciated his visit and interest in what they do and enjoyed giving him a window on their world."

Bishop Toby also met members of the hospital's Spiritual and Pastoral and Religious Care (SPaRC) team including Church of England Practitioner Rev, Steve Lees, and Head of SPaRC and Imam, Mohammed Arshad.

His visit ended at the hospital chapel, where he joined staff for a Christmas carol service.

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A New Year, a new DAWM

Revd Julie Clarkson of Settle Parish, a Diocesan Adviser in Women's Ministry (DAWM)

What's in a name? Can I really be a priest, a vicar and now a DAWM? The answer of course is yes, and I am not alone. I am one of five DAWMs, otherwise known as a Diocesan Adviser in Women's Ministry.

Our team is headed up by Bishop Anna Eltringham and we were commissioned at Bradford Cathedral in May last year at a service that celebrated the 30th anniversary of women priests. A proud day! And now, as we barge into 2025, it's about the year ahead – what's coming and what can we all do to spread the Good News.

Our clergy and lay leaders will all have their own plans to meet the needs of their parishes and while women have been in ministry for three decades, there is a dedicated support network to help them make progress.

The National Association of Diocesan Advisers in Women's Ministry NADAWM is made up of advisers from almost every diocese.

Each of our five Episcopal Areas is represented by a DAWM (like me) and Revd Catherine Shelley (DAWM for Huddersfield EA) also serves as secretary on the association's executive committee.



As well as our "day jobs" as ordained women, we understand the needs and challenges that ministry brings and we are committed to help, support and represent women from all backgrounds and contexts.

We are passionate about helping them continue to take out the message of Jesus Christ, which is what brought us all into ministry...regardless of our title. In our diocese, a new Women in Ministry web page for 2025 will host information, resources and contact points as a "one-stop-shop" for those seeking support.

Few other dioceses offer such a resource and it is born of our shared goal of encouraging confident Christians by aiding everyone engaged in that work, according to their needs. That's surely a New Year's resolution we can all agree on! May I wish everyone the very best for the coming 12 months and in our worship and our ministry. There is so much we can achieve when we all strive, and rejoice together.

Commuters at Menston blessed with free drinks to warm early mornings



One of our Bradford area churches has been helping people on their commutes manage the dark winter mornings.

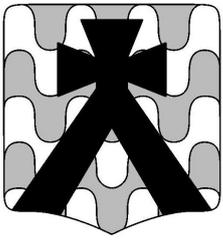
A team from St John the Divine, Menston, recently served free teas, coffees and hot chocolates to early morning commuters heading to Leeds and Bradford at Menston station.

The team, led by the Revd Jo Glenwright, vicar of the church, wanted to be with the commuters on the cold dark mornings and offer some cheer to them.

Revd Jo said: "We were inspired by a free church doing this at Horsforth station about ten years ago, when I was a commuter.

"We spoke to early morning commuters, often with their headphones in and heads down.

"We thought it was about the teas and coffee, but really it was about being present and being with people."



From the

Funeral

15 January	Annette Dickinson	82 yrs	St B
24 January	Joan Sidwell	82 yrs	St B
30 January	Christine Broom	80 yrs	St B
10 February	Peggy Taylor	98 yrs	St B

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



Thinking of You

No matter where I am

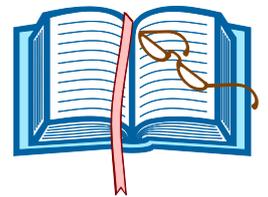
No matter what I do

My thoughts are of the happy times

That I shared with you

Parish Registers

IN MEMORIAM



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

1	Dorothy Mollett	1972	12	Betty Haigh	2012
	Mabel Winifred		13	Rosa Fozzard	1968
	Bedworth	1999		The Innocents of Dunblane	1996
	Ernest Brown	2007		Edward (Ted) Huscroft	2012
2	Brian Walker	1993	14	Ronald McAuley	1973
	Barbara Strangward	2005		Joan France	2016
3	Julia Mercer	1969	16	Irene Mary Crewe	1991
	William France	2006	17	Arthur Tunningley	1988
4	Mary Ann Askin	1983	18	Frank Seed	1961
	Derek Wrigley	2016	19	Lily Tunningley	1971
	David Alexander Middleton			Edward Beaumont	
		2019		(Priest)	1994
5	Edgar Thornton	1948		Denis Alan Dures	1987
6	Agnes Fairbairn	1963		Joyce Mary Reeves	2002
	Robert Graham		20	Peggy Margaret	
	Bickerdike	1982	21	Hughes	1997
	Harry Johnson	1989		Olive Rhodes	2001
	Walter Bell	1993		Joseph Sowerby	1994
	Kathleen Arnold	1997		Margaret (Madge)	
	David Michael Moulden	1996		Williams	1998
	Jane (Jenny) Moon	2009	21	Phyllis Pickard	1981
7	Derek Sunderland	1981		Edith Eileen Coulter	1986
	Dorothy Ellenden			Adelaide Swales	1998
	Keating	1988	22	Joe Wood	1984
	Alice Walker	1971	23	Elizabeth Bastow	1998
9	Ernest Miller	1983	24	Lawrence Neyens	1992
	Betty Davis	2005		Vera Wardle	1993
	Joseph William			Alan Nortcliff	2001
	Jefferson	2006	26	Arthur Clayburn	1981
	Florence Annie Pawson	2010	27	Pauline Myers	1992
	Pamela Ann Moon	2007	28	John Edwin Durkin	1978
10	Ralph Harker	1982		Marion Barnard Brown	1998
	Edward Fussey (infant)	1996		Alice Elena Fozzard	2000
	James Edwin Tweedie	1989	30	Nikalaus Gurka	1979
	Maurice Haigh	2002	31	Mary Ann Askin	1997
11	John Percy Bedford	2009			
	Lillian Gibbs	2022			

Holy Days and Commemorations

March

1 St David, Patron Saint of Wales, 601

2 NEXT SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

3

4 Shrove Tuesday

5 ASH WEDNESDAY

6

7 World Day of Prayer

8 Edward, King, Bishop Lincoln, 1910

9 LENT 1

10 Commonwealth Day

11

12 Gregory, Bishop of Rome, 604

13

14

15

16 LENT 2

17

18

19

20 Cuthbert Bishop, Missionary, 687

21 Thomas Cranmer

22

23 LENT 3

24

25 THE ANNUNCIATION

26

27

28

29 John Keeble. Pastor, Poet, 1866

30 LENT 4

MOTHERING SUNDAY

31 John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631

Eucharist Readings

2 March

**Quinquagesima
Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 34: 29-35

2 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Luke 9: 28-36

9 March

Lent 1

Psalms 91: 1-11

Romans 10: 1-13

Luke 4: 1-13

16 March

Lent 2

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

Philippians 3: 17- 4:1

Matthew 15: 21 - 28

23 March

Lent 3

Isaiah 55: 1 - 9

1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

Luke 11: 14-28

30 March

Lent 4

Mothering Sunday

Readings to be
confirmed with Mother
Sharon

6 April

Passion Sunday

Isaiah 43: 16-22

Philippians 3: 4-14

John 12: 1-8

**St Martin's Church
Womersley
Ash Wednesday
5 March 2025**

**Joint Team Eucharist
6:30 pm**



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**