



# The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church, Worksop  
December 2025

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## The Banton family have settled in to the Vicarage

When we visited for the first time in August, Phill, Jess and Ingrid were very friendly and we felt really welcome. When we walked around the church we noticed how big it was and we saw the safe and had a go on the organ. We also got to see the church hall and saw upstairs where I (Jonathan) found a drum kit. Luckily I already have a set of drumsticks!

When we next visited Worksop it was to see our new home. I (Samuel) picked the bedroom with the sink in it so I could brush my teeth and then jump straight into bed! We got to explore the garden for the first time. We discovered a base! There were branches in the trees that, when you lay down on them, felt like a hammock.

We were sad to leave our school, Queens Park, as we got ready to move to Worksop. Our classmates made cards for us and we had some nice goodbyes with friends. I (Samuel) got to go to PGL Winmarleigh Hall with everyone in Year 6. I went on a zip line and got to enjoy lots of outdoor activities in the rain with my friends. It was a special way to end my time at Queens Park

## Samuel and Jonathan present - Their Journey to Worksop

Our churches had a special service to say thank you and goodbye to us all. We felt so cared for by all the kind words, cards and gifts from our church family. One of our church family even made special boxes with treats and decorations for our new bedrooms.



We enjoyed a family holiday, then visited Grandad Parker in Dorset before the Packers arrived!!!!!! When we saw how quickly they packed up our toys we were amazed! But we did not want them to pack our important teddies and stuff. So we packed them ourselves! Like the fridge, the Nintendo switches and some clothes.

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The packers were so fast we left St Helens on the Tuesday night. When we started driving it was raining hard. We felt a bit scared driving on the dark motorway as the rain poured down. It took us aaaaaaages to get to our new home and we were very tired. We blew up our airbeds and got into our sleeping bags at 11:30pm!!!!



After all the boxes got into the house it felt like living in a maze! Which way was the kitchen or the toilet?!!!! Right or left past these boxes!! Thankfully mum and dad were pretty fast at unpacking the boxes and after our first day at school, dad had already built our new beds! We were over-the-moon with them and our new bedrooms.

Our new school teachers were kind and helpful. I (Samuel) made a friend called Arthur straight away! We think we are going to really like going to this new school.



Moving here has also had challenges! My (Samuel) leg started to really hurt after the second day at school. I spent my first Saturday in the hospital with Dad and then spent all Monday night and Tuesday daytime in the hospital again. Thank you for praying for me. I have gone back to school but I am still in lots of pain. I want to get better quickly so I can explore Worksop.

## Confirmation Service



On Sunday 16th November St John's had the pleasure of hosting a Confirmation Service for our Deanery. In all, 26 people of varying ages, and from several churches, were confirmed by Bishop Andy. Having previously attended a preparation course they gathered together to renew their Baptismal vows, declare their faith in Christ and so take this important step in their journey of faith. It was so encouraging to see the church full of family members and friends who had come to support the candidates.





## Christmas Craft Afternoon with Cream Tea

Saturday 13th December 3.00—5.00pm

£8 adults, £4 children

In aid of the building work at Crown of Life school in

Lusaka, Zambia

Tickets from John Hodgkins



## December Services and Events



Mon 1st	7.00pm	Licensing Service of Rev Gareth Branton
Sun 7th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 7th	4.00pm	Carol Service with Thurcroft Brass Band and Redlands School Choirs
Mon 8th	6.00 pm	Scouts Carol Service
Wed 10th	10.00 am	Redlands Christingle
Sat 13th	3 ~ 5.00 pm	Christmas craft event & Afternoon Tea
Sun 14th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
Thurs 18th		Edmund Hilary Christingles
Sun 21st	10.30 am	Family Service
Sunday 21st	6.30pm	Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve	4.00 pm	Christingle & Nativity
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Family Service
Sunday 28th	10.30 am	Family Service



# Advent Ring Cake

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This cake makes a wonderful centrepiece for Sunday tea during Advent.

There is one red candle for each of the Sundays in Advent while the white candle reminds us that Jesus is the **LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

## Ingredients

225g SR Flour  
1/2 Tsp Mixed spice  
110g margarine  
110g demerara sugar  
200 g mixed exotic dried fruits  
eg cherries, dates, apricots, papaya,  
cranberries, pineapple in fairly equal  
amounts.  
*(Holland & Barrett sell these in a  
mixed bag)*  
1 egg  
1 Tblsp milk  
Extra Dem sugar for sprinkling



## Method

Grease a large baking tray or pizza tin  
(approx. 24cm/9.5 in diameter).  
Sift flour & mixed Spice into a large bowl & rub in marg.  
Add sugar and stir through before adding fruit. Mix.  
Make a well in the centre.  
Beat the egg and add to the bowl with the milk.  
This should result in a stiff consistency.  
Place in a round heap on baking tray, leaving a hole in  
the middle for your candle  
(this can be achieved by placing a clean tin centre of  
mixture). Make sure the cake is of a fairly equal thick-  
ness all round to ensure even cooking.  
Sprinkle a little demerara sugar over the top.

Bake at gas mark 7/220C/425F about 20 mins middle  
shelf till golden brown. Cool on rack.

To complete add 4 red candles in the cake & 1 large  
white one in centre before serving.

*(This mixture also makes good scone-sized cakes but  
obviously reduce cooking time)*

## Contact Point

Church Office:  
Overend Road, Worksop S81 1QG  
[usually open Friday a.m. from 9.30—12 noon]  
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Email: [office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com](mailto:office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com)  
Church Website:  
[www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk](http://www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk)  
Heritage Website: <https://worksopspire.org>

## Sunday Services

10.30 am	Morning Worship + Kids, Church
6.00 pm	Sunday @ 6.00 Informal service in the Church Hall Lounge