

New Year
2025
Same God!
6

January 2026

JANUARY:

NOT A FRESH START

BUT A FAITHFUL ONE

January has a reputation for being exhausting before it's even started. By the time the decorations are back in the loft and the recycling bin is groaning under the weight of cardboard, the month arrives carrying a long list of expectations. New start. New you. New habits. New energy. All of it slightly unfair when it's still dark at tea-time and the kettle has become our closest companion.

So, let's give January a break.

The Christian story has never been especially interested in dramatic restarts. God doesn't seem to wait for a clean page, a Monday morning, or the first of the month. Instead, grace turns up in the middle of things: in tiredness, in routine, in ordinary days that look suspiciously like the ones before them.

January, then, is less about reinvention and more about continuation. We are still the

people we were in December: loved, held, complicated, hopeful, occasionally bewildered. The calendar may have ticked over, but God hasn't suddenly raised expectations or introduced a tougher marking scheme. The mercy that met us last year meets us again this year, without fuss. The church calendar understands this better than most. While the world shouts "new!", the season of Epiphany gently says, "Look." Look again at who Jesus is. Look at how light finds its way into unexpected places. Look at what has been there all along, but we were too distracted to notice.

That makes January a good month for attentiveness rather than ambition. A time to notice small kindnesses. To rediscover familiar prayers and read them slowly. To show up for worship when enthusiasm is low and trust that faithfulness counts for more than fireworks. To be patient with ourselves and with one another.

It's also a month when many people carry hidden weight. The joy of Christmas can give way to quiet loneliness. Finances feel tighter. Energy runs low. If January teaches us anything, it is the importance of gentleness. And that means that church should be a place where no one has to perform optimism, where it's acceptable to arrive as you are, even if "as you are" is a bit frayed around the edges.

The good news is that God works brilliantly with the ordinary. With bread and wine. With shared silence. With small acts of care that never make the headlines. Nothing about this month disqualifies it from being holy. In fact, it might be especially suited to it.

So, as we step into this new year, perhaps the invitation is not to become someone else, but to walk on faithfully as who we already are. To trust that God is not waiting for improvement before offering love. To remember that light does not need a dramatic entrance; sometimes it simply stays on.

And if all you manage this January is to keep going, to pray when you can, and to care where you're able - well, that's more than enough. God has always done extraordinary things with that.

Reed Jonathan

**COMMUNITY
UPLIFTING
SPIRITUAL
WISDOM
PEACE
SPACE
FAMILY
WORSHIP
STILLNESS
BELONGING
INSPIRATION**

CHURCH
for me...

*what could
it be for you?*

Services in January



Friday 2 January

2.00pm **No Communion Service**

Sunday 4 January

9.30am **Morning Worship**
Epiphany

1st Reading: ***1 John 4, 7-10***
Jill Dorrington

Gospel: ***Mark 6. 34-44***
Chris Prior

Intercessions: John Prior

Friday 9 January

2.00pm **Prayer Meeting**

Sunday 11 January

9.30am **Communion**
- *Baptism of Christ*

1st Reading: ***Acts 10. 34-43***
Stella Ambler

Gospel: ***Matt 3. 13-end***
Simon Carlton

Intercessions: Ann Riley

Friday 16 January

2.00pm **Communion**
- *Baptism of Christ*
Priest: ***Gordon Cooper***

Sunday 21 December

9.30am **All Together Worship**
1st Reading: ***1 Cor 1. 1-9***

Gospel: ***John 1. 29-42***

Friday 23 January

2.00pm **Prayer Meeting**

Sunday 25 January

9.30am **Communion**
- *3rd of Epiphany*

1st Reading: ***1 Cor 1, 10-18***
Sue Saxton

Gospel: ***Matt 4.12-23***
Gill Sinclair

Intercessions: John Edward

6.30pm **Taizé @ St Peter's
Thorner**

Need prayer?



Got something on your heart and need a listening ear? Our Prayer Team are here every Sunday after the morning service, just come over to the Prayer Area on the right side of the church. It's private, confidential, and you'll be with people who care.

PRAYER REQUESTS



Is there something you'd like us to pray about? You can send your prayer requests by using this QR Code and completing the form.

All prayer requests are confidential.

Thank You

I would like to say "Thank you" to everyone who has bought Martin House Christmas cards from me during October and November. In total I sold 157 packs and I took £626 to the hospice.

Martin House has had a huge extension called "The Build" over the last 2 years nearly doubling it's size with a new children's wing, education centre and hydrotherapy pool; much of this money raised will go towards this immense project.

Sally Wray



The Café will be re-open on **Friday 9th January**, from 9:00am to 12:00pm and then every Friday for the rest of the month.

Our usual Saturday café will take place on **Saturday 31st January** from 10:00am to 12:00pm serving teas, great coffees, irresistible cakes, toasted teacakes, bacon butties & crumpets!



ST PETER'S, THORNER SUNDAY

25 JANUARY @ 6:30pm

If you've never been to Taizé worship service before, why not consider coming along.

It involves sung and chanted prayers, meditation, periods of silence and liturgical readings.



HOME GROUP



**Friendship
& Fellowship**



Prayer



Laughter



**A traditional
hymn or two**



**WHERE: John & Sally Edward's home
73 Nook Road, Scholes LS15 4AX**



**WHEN: First Wednesday of the Month
7:30pm - 9:00pm**

Everyone is welcome!

Especially if you are not a regular at a home group — no need to book, just turn up.

St Philip's Church Weekend Away

18th–20th September 2026
at Wydale Hall



Join us for a refreshing and faith-filled weekend at beautiful Wydale Hall, set in the peaceful North Yorkshire countryside. It's a chance to pause, pray, and enjoy good company, good food, and plenty of laughter together. There'll be time for worship, reflection, walks, and rest – something for everyone!

Come and be part of it – a weekend to reconnect with God, with one another, and with yourself.

Cost: £224 per person

Children under 2 years: **Free**

Children aged 2–11: **40% of adult price**

Children aged 12–16: **60% of adult price**

All accommodation is En-Suite and Full Board will be provided

**For more information and a Booking Form
please see Alan Stanley or Revd Jonathan
A £25 Deposit per person will be required**

Wydale

www.wydale.org





Prayer Group

What is prayer?

And why do we do it?

Prayer is our way of communicating with God and, incidentally, with each other.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday afternoon of every month to discuss and then pray for people and events within our local community and in the wider world.

If you want to know more, please speak to Ros Loach or email admin@elmetetrinity.org.

You would be very welcome to come along at any time, as and when you can, for a cup of tea and chat to find out what it is all about.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

In January our meeting will not be on Monday the 5th. We are combining our AGM with the "Wave of Prayer" on Thursday 8th January at 11am.

Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement working with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change. Our members are active in 83 countries and work tirelessly to serve their communities to build a future where everyone thrives.

Ending violence, ending poverty, ending injustice. We are a truly worldwide Christian movement. And a local one!

We usually meet on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm at St Philip's church.

If you want to know more, please contact:

Sue Saxton ~ 07757 509 072

Sally Wray ~ 07484 152 886

Foodbank

FOOD FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

The Food Bank is short of the following items and any donations are much appreciated:

- ⇒ **Tinned Meats**
- ⇒ **Tinned Fruit**
- ⇒ **Tinned Potatoes**
- ⇒ **Packet Mash**
- ⇒ **Pot Noodles/Super Noodles**
- ⇒ **Toilet Rolls**
- ⇒ **Shower Gel / Toiletries**

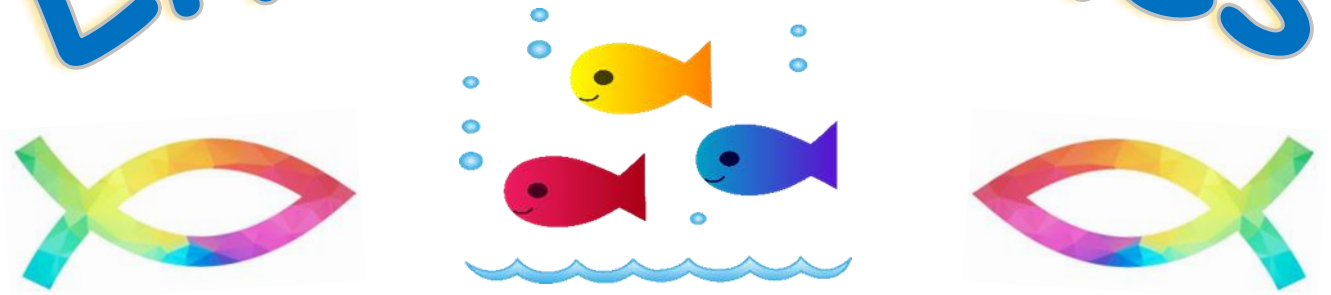
If you can pop an extra item into your shopping basket, it really does help. Thank you!

CARING FOR EACH OTHER...

If you haven't seen someone for a while, please either try and find out how they are or let us know and we will try and make contact. Please also ask the person if they would like to go on the prayer list (using their full name or just first name). A note to us giving a contact number or address of the person concerned often helps.



Little Fishes



Parent & Toddler Group

For ages 0 – 4

Every Tuesday

10.30am – 12.00pm

St. Philip's Church, Scholes



Drop in for friendly chats,
craft activities and coffee & cakes



Find us on Facebook
www.stphilips-scholes.org



THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THE NEW CREATION HAS COME.

THE OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW IS HERE!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
2026

WORDSEARCH

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

WORSHIP JOY GOD CHURCH CELEBRATE
JESUS NEW YEAR FAMILY PRAYER HOPE

MY NEW YEAR GOALS

1. Something I want to learn _____
2. A place I want to visit _____
3. Something I want to do _____
4. A Bible story I want to read _____
5. Someone I want to pray for _____
6. A way I can help someone this year _____
7. A new habit I want to start _____
8. A way I will spend more time with God _____

How many
rockets can
you find?

Find your way to the countdown clock

Start



TIC TAC TOE



WORD SCRAMBLE

enw ryae

yrpta

dnmhgiti

kfrwsoier

wdcuotnon



Reflections and
prayers to help
you find and
follow God in
everyday life

Everyday Faith is the daily devotional app from the Church of England designed to inspire, equip and encourage you in your faith every day of the week, not just on Sundays.

Everyday Faith is about where and how we encounter God as we go about our lives. Where is God in our daily lives? How do we find God in the fullness of everyday life?

Whether you wish to develop your faith or support others in theirs, Everyday Faith is designed to support you in your life discipleship, or vocational journey.

The app will provide you with carefully curated daily reflections, including selected Bible readings, a simple prayer to prepare you for the day ahead, and thoughts based on that week's theme.

Search "Everyday Faith" in the App Store or Google Play to download this free app.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for entries into the February issue of this Newsletter is **Wednesday 21st January 2026.**

Please send any items to
admin@elmetetrinity.org

If you need anything advertising between editions of the Newsletter, please contact Diane who will send out information via email and Facebook.

GIVING

SUPPORT THE WORK OF ST PHILIP'S

St Philip's is a charity which receives no funding from the government and is entirely dependent on donations to keep its doors open, continue its work in the community and maintain its buildings and surroundings.

If you would like to support us, you can donate in the plate or use the contactless device at the entrance to church. If you would like to give regularly, you can set up a Standing Order or use a Giving Envelope.

More info from Tim South, the Treasurer or Revd Jonathan.



Standing
Order

Giving
Envelope



Collection Plate

Contactless



giftaid it

If you pay UK Income Tax, we encourage you to Gift Aid all your giving to church. Gift Aid in the UK is a scheme enabling registered charities to reclaim the tax from the Government on a donation made by a UK taxpayer, increasing the donation by 25p for every £1 you give, without costing you any extra.

Elmete

Elderberries



Every Monday 1pm - 3pm
(except Bank Holidays)

Each week we offer:

- * Gentle, chair-based, exercise**
- * Help with family history research**
- * Crafting & card-making**
- * Games, Bridge, Jigsaws & Dominoes**
- * Drawing & Painting**
- * Brass Band & Folk Singing**
- * Knitting, Crochet & Needlework**
- * Computer & Camera assistance**
- * Refreshments & a warm welcome**

*Drop in to learn new things,
make new friends and enjoy a cuppa*

For Everyone: body, mind and spirit



How to Contact Us



Rector

Revd Jonathan Brennan

☎ 0113 289 2437

✉ rector@elmetetrinity.org

Licenced Lay Minister

Alan Stanley

☎ 07739 184781

✉ alan.stanley8@btinternet.com

Licensed Lay Minister

Beckie Briggs

☎ 07794 155158

✉ beckie@the-briggs.co.uk

Reader Emerita

Ros Loach

☎ 0113 260 5073

Churchwarden

Ann Riley

☎ 0113 273 3560

✉ annl.riley@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Tim South

☎ 0113 265 1742

✉ tim@thesouths.uk

Interim Rector's PA

Diane Brennan

✉ admin@elmetetrinity.org

Safeguarding Officer

Beckie Briggs

☎ 07794 155158

✉ safeguarding@the-briggs.co.uk

If you would like to speak to someone about any aspect of St Philip's Church safeguarding policy, or you have any concerns, please speak to Beckie in the first instance. You can also contact Revd Jonathan Brennan.



We need more volunteers in every area of church life, so if you would be interested to help with:

- Music Group
- Reading / Intercessions
- PA Desk
- Refreshments
- Welcome team

or would just like to find out more, please contact Revd Jonathan or Ann Riley.

All volunteers would be required to undertake necessary training / legal checks (DBS).