



# The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church, Worksop

February 2026

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## A NEW SEASON

Spring is on its way! As the days are lengthening we are beginning to see signs of spring and new life. Have you noticed the snow drops in the garden and the buds on the trees? In our homes we may start noticing cobwebs as the hours of daylight increase. It can be a time of spring cleaning, not only in our homes but also in our lives.

The season of Lent is approaching, the forty days leading up to Easter. We remember Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness before he started his public ministry and for us it can be an opportunity to reflect on our lives as we spend more time with God.



The Church of England's theme this year is

'Draw Near:  
Life-giving habits for Lent'

which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter. In our sermon series in church, we will be exploring different aspects of Christian discipleship - exploring the Bible, praying, offering service, giving and sharing the good news with others.

So during the 6 weeks of Lent from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday let us take time to 'draw near to God, and (we will find that, in doing so), God will draw near to us'. James 4:8

*Rosemary*

*Rosemary Arnott, one of  
our Lay Ministers, writes*

I never know when it's too "late" to wish someone "Happy New Year", so I usually use the "if I've not spoke to or seen someone, and it's still January, it will be fine", so using my same rule, Happy New Year to all Beacon readers. The other issue is of course, I might have missed the cut off date for the article, so as plan B, apologies if it's February !!

St John's Guides had another active half term up to Christmas, very "hands on" with many of our meetings spent creating items for Remembrance and, of course, Christmas. This year we worked on the topic of Remembrance, both through discussion and through the making of our own Poppies using Hama beads to create a lasting memento. We also learned about and made Anzac biscuits, to share with family members.

The guides paraded and carried out flag, with the other uniformed groups, local organisations and veterans in the Worksop Remembrance parade. Christmas crafts followed this; with the guides making Snowmen/Santa's using cedar cones, decorating with paints, felt (for clothing) etc. We also used a wood burning tool to personalise/decorate wooden parcel labels, made and decorated a felt Christmas Tree card and decorated some 3D cardboard baubles. Guides and leaders also represented our unit by attending the Installation Service for our new vicar. We completed some guiding programme activities and had a final games and snacks evening to round off the term.

So once, again a busy time for everyone. We restarted our meetings again on 6<sup>th</sup> January '26 and have another packed programme for this term. Any girl 10 – 14 of age is always welcome to join us, if you or anyone you know is interested please contact us: Sue (07813293107) or Natalie (07870357194).



## 40 Acts—Do Lent Generously



Join thousands this Lent for a 40-Day generosity challenge—building habits, deepening faith and reflecting the heart of Jesus through everyday acts. Each day offers a simple invitation to give, bless and grow in generosity—one act at a time.

Giving is not just about money. Share your time, a skill, words of encouragement. It can grow into a habit!

Examples of suggestions from previous years:

- ◆ Give someone a bunch of flowers
- ◆ Send a written message to a friend instead of a text
- ◆ Have a chat to people you see regularly but take for granted—postman, checkout girl, a homeless person
- ◆ Leave a small anonymous gift for someone to find
- ◆ Leave your £1 coin in the trolley

*Download the 40 Acts app to your phone to receive daily suggestions*

## AIM (Artificial Intelligence Missioners) Part TWO

A brief recap from Part ONE. Basically I was asking the question 'who, or what, is driving AI into our lives. What is their intent (mission) and what as Christians should be our response.

Personally I am concerned about the advancement of AIM and how it can be contained for good purposes. I see deception on a massive scale running unchecked, that leads me to realise the 'The Great Deceiver' (John 8:44 and Revelation 12:9) must be at the heart of AI and it's Missioners. But as I ponder the a, b and c scenario from Part One, (**motives of deception, illusionary living and ungodly wisdom**) I believe that all 3 criteria are already comprehensively addressed, not by AIM practitioners, but by **I AM!!**

Why? because 'I AM' has seen it all before when humankind (Pharaoh) tried to play god (see Exodus 3:7-15). It never works, as recorded in His word. The good news is we don't need to be tech savvy, but to simply and humbly accept the God given invitation to ask, seek, and knock (press in) to His Holy Spirit's wealth of understanding available to all who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Father God's one and only Son.

If you would like to delve deeper into the Christian viewpoint of AI and its implications, may I recommend more from Dr John Lennox ([Oxford University, Professor of Mathematics](#)) either on YouTube, or his books on AI. His latest book on the same theme is 'God, AI, and the End of History'. He admits the book title is a bit misleading as it's main arguments comes from the Book of Revelation. It's a bit pricy, and over 600 pages! I managed to get it as a Christmas present! Thank you Santa.

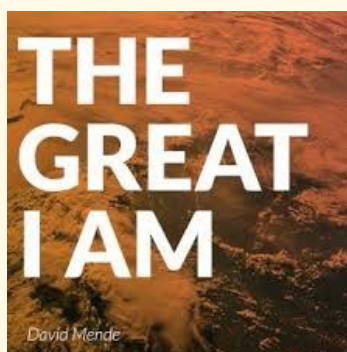
Finally, minimal AI was used in this article!

Just a reminder that there is a helpful YouTube video by Dr John Lennox (Oxford University, Professor of Mathematics) a good way in from a Christian perspective **'The End of the World? John Lennox on AI and the Book of Revelation'** ..... runs for about 47mins

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/mAfRswipXiE>

**Chris L**

If you missed Part One of the above article you can read it in the January issue of Beacon—see St John's Church website News/Newsletter or on Facebook



Thank you, Jennifer

### NEXT WEEK INSTEAD

I almost went to church last night  
but I couldn't find the time:  
so much to do about the house—  
to leave would be a crime.  
So I sewed and dusted and polished  
and went wearily to bed,  
BUT I MADE A RESOLUTION  
TO GO NEXT WEEK INSTEAD.

I almost went to church last night  
But some old friends came by.  
I could not close the door on them  
Or give a reason why.  
So we talked, chatted and gossiped  
Until the goodbyes were said.  
AND I MADE A RESOLUTION  
TO GO NEXT WEEK INSTEAD.

I almost went to church last night  
But my favourite programme was on  
And by the time it ended  
The time for church had gone.  
So I sat before the telly  
Until the set was dead  
AND I MADE A RESOLUTION  
TO GO NEXT WEEK INSTEAD.

I almost went to church last night  
But something made me late,  
And if I am not there in time  
It is a thing I hate.  
So I didn't go, but stayed at home  
And to my conscience said:  
I MADE A RESOLUTION  
TO GO NEXT WEEK INSTEAD.

I almost went to church last night  
But the weather was so cold  
To venture out on such a night  
was foolish I'd been told.  
So I sat before the fire  
Took up a book and read  
BUT MADE A RESOLUTION  
TO GO NEXT WEEK INSTEAD.

I almost went to church last night  
But a certain preacher was there  
And for his kind of sermon  
I didn't really care.  
So rather than go to church  
And come home with a heavy head,  
I MADE A RESOLUTION  
TO GO NEXT WEEK INSTEAD.

I actually went to church last night  
But Oh! I was too late.  
The church was dark and silent,  
'FOR SALE' was on the gate.  
Oh! the remorse which then I felt,  
For the church, it now was dead.  
AND I, YES I HAD KILLED IT  
BY GOING NEXT WEEK INSTEAD.

(Anon)

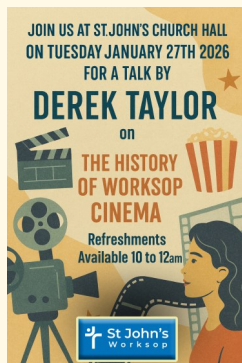


## JANUARY 27th

**TUESDAYS @ 10**

Join us in the church hall for coffee, and a chat

Occasional talks of local interest



## FEBRUARY 24th

**TUESDAYS @ 10**

Join us in the church hall for coffee, and a chat

Occasional talks of local interest

**'Aspects of the 1950s and 1960s'**

Oliver from Aurora with photos taken by a local photographer

**Don't forget Pancake Day  
February 17th**



I don't know what to do with the leftover pancake mix...  
Should I throw it away or do you have a batter idea?

A man in a rush ordered a pancake in a restaurant. He asked the waiter, "Will it be long?"  
The waiter replied, "No, it'll be round."

Why couldn't the teddy eat the pancake?  
He was stuffed







## About St J's



St John's is a Bible-based, evangelical Anglican Church, open to the moving of the Holy Spirit.

We aim to show the love of Christ to all.

Our main Sunday worship is at 10.30a.m. There is 'Kids' Church' for children aged 3 years and over. Also a creche for under 3s. '**Sunday @ 6**' is an informal evening meeting in the church lounge.

We welcome all who come into our buildings for any reason.

Prayer underpins everything as we support each other in a loving community and reach out to others.



### Sunday Services

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

### Contact Point

#### Church Office:

Overend Road, Worksop S81 1QG  
[usually open Friday a.m. from 9.30—12 noon]  
Tel: 01909 472595

Email: [office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com](mailto:office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com)

**Vicar:** Revd Gareth Banton 07897 005843  
[garethrbanton@gmail.com](mailto:garethrbanton@gmail.com)

#### Church Website:

[www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk](http://www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk)

**Heritage Website:** <https://worksopspire.org>

### Regular Weekly Diary

**Tuesday** 10.00—12 noon  
Coffee Morning

**Wednesday** 1.00 pm Mothers' Union  
(1st Wed'day of the month)  
7.00 pm  
Lifeline Praise and Prayer

**OR** Life Groups

**Friday** 7.00—8.30 (alternate weeks)  
Games Night for all ages

**Saturday** 10.00—12 noon  
Church open to all

*For more details of the above ask one  
of our leaders*



*Follow us on Facebook*

*'St John's Church, Worksop'*