

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



North Wakefield Benefice

North Wakefield Team of Churches

# Newsletter for Dec '25 & Jan '26



**Dear Friends,** Each year, the John Lewis Christmas advert has become something of a cultural moment. This year's offering tells the story of a father and son who struggle to find the right words. On Christmas morning, the father discovers a gift: a vinyl record of Alison Limerick's 1990s classic, 'Where Love Lives'. As the music plays, he is transported back to his youth, but also to tender memories of his son as a baby and toddler. Finally, father and son embrace, wordlessly expressing what they could not say aloud. The advert closes with the tagline: "If you can't find the words, find the gift."

It's a moving reminder that gifts can speak when words fail. Yet as Christians, we know that at Christmas, God did something even more profound: He gave us the Word itself, made flesh. St John's Gospel begins with those majestic lines: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:1,14). Where human language falters, God's gift of Jesus speaks volumes. In Christ, God communicates His love not through symbols or gestures but through a living presence among us.

The John Lewis advert shows how music can bridge a gap of silence. At Christmas, God bridges the infinite gap between heaven and earth. The gift of Jesus is not simply a token of affection, but the very presence of God in our midst. Jesus is both the Word and the Gift; the message and the medium. He makes the Father known, who embodies love in action, who reconciles us when words are not enough.

What does mean to receive this gift? In the advert, the father is overwhelmed by memories and emotions as the music plays. In a similar way, the season of Christmas invites us to be overwhelmed by grace: to remember God's faithfulness, to recall moments of His presence in our lives, and to embrace anew the gift of Christ. The hug between father and son is a picture of reconciliation. In Jesus, God embraces humanity, drawing us close despite our failings.

January often feels quieter, more subdued, yet the gift of Christ is not seasonal. The Word made flesh continues to dwell among us, offering light in our darkness and hope in our weariness. As we step into a new year, we should carry that gift forward—to embody love in our own relationships, to speak words of kindness, and when words fail, to let our actions communicate God's grace. If you want to find out more, we're offering an opportunity to explore what it might look like to follow Christ. So if that's something you'd like to do, just give me a call or a text and I'll let you have the details.

At Epiphany, we are reminded that the Magi brought gifts to the Christ child. Their journey shows us that the right response to God's gift is to offer ourselves in return. So as 2026 begins, may we bring our lives as gifts to Christ: lives of worship, service, and love; trusting that He remains the Word who speaks, and the Gift who saves. May Christ, the Word and the Gift, dwell richly in you this season and throughout the year.

Christmas Blessings, ***Diane,*** Revd Diane Komorowski, Associate Vicar

## Events for December and January

**Tues 2nd Dec, 5pm-7pm** [Outwood](#)  
**Weds 3rd Dec, 5pm-7pm** [Stanley](#)  
 Santa events at Outwood Memorial Hall on Tuesday and at Stanley Community centre on Wednesday organised by our councillors with free gift and Santa visit.

**Thursday 4th Dec, 7.30pm**  
 MAPPS men's group meeting at Warmfield Church near Heath for a tour.

**Saturday 6th Dec, 11pm** [Wrenthorpe](#)  
 Christmas Fair and FREE Craft & Create event with various stalls and Santa visit.

**Saturday 6th Dec, 7pm** [Alverthorpe](#)  
 Christmas Concert with Wakefield Metropolitan Band in aid of the Hospice.

**Sun 7th December, 10.45am** [Stanley](#)  
 St Nicholas service—gifts can be brought for the Salvation Army to distribute.

**Sunday 7th Dec, 7pm** [Wrenthorpe](#)  
 Christmas concert with the Wrenthorpe community singers.

**Saturday 13th Dec, 10am** [Wrenthorpe](#)  
 Women of Substance group, with lunch, craft and Bible study.

**Saturday 13th Dec, 10.30am** [Stanley](#)  
 Coffee morning with refreshments, bacon sandwiches, raffle and more!

**Sunday 14th December, 3pm** [Stanley](#)  
 Christmas concert with the Stanley Community Singers concert.

### Christmas services across the benefice

#### **Sunday 7th December**

10.45am St Nicholas service [Stanley](#)  
 4pm Family Christingle service [Outwood](#)

#### **Sunday 14th December**

10.45am, Nativity service [Wrenthorpe](#)  
 4pm, Carol service [Outwood](#)  
 4pm, Carol service [Wrenthorpe](#)  
 6pm, Carol concert [Alverthorpe](#)

#### **Sunday 21st December**

4pm, Crib service [Outwood](#)  
 5.30pm, Christingle service [Wrenthorpe](#)  
 6pm, Carol service [Stanley](#)

#### **Wednesday 24th December**

2pm, Come along crib service [Stanley](#)  
 4pm, Crib service [Wrenthorpe](#)  
 5pm, Christingle service [Alverthorpe](#)  
 5.30pm, Christingle service [Wrenthorpe](#)  
 11pm, Midnight Mass [Stanley](#)  
 11.15pm, Midnight Mass [Wrenthorpe](#)  
 11.30pm, Midnight Mass [Outwood](#)

#### **Thursday 25th December**

9.30am, Christmas Day service [Outwood](#)  
 10am, Christmas Day service [Stanley](#)  
 10am, Christmas Day service [Alverthorpe](#)  
 10.30am, Christmas Day [Wrenthorpe](#)

### Contact details for our clergy:

Associate  
 Vicar



**Rev Diane Komorowski**  
 St Anne's Vicarage,  
 121 Wrenthorpe Road,  
 Wrenthorpe, WF2 0JS

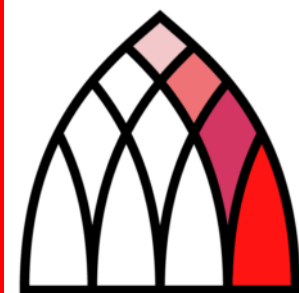
07903 044570  
 revddianek@gmail.com

# St Peter's Church, Stanley



Lake Lock Road  
Stanley  
WF3 4HW

Stanley



St Peter's

**Services every week at St Peter's:**  
**10.45am on Sundays -Holy Communion**  
Our weekly family service includes Holy Communion most weeks, followed by refreshments and time to chat.

**9.30am on Mondays—Morning Prayer**  
A short informal prayer service.

## Weekly events at St Peter's

<b>Mondays</b> <b>10am - 12pm</b>	<b>Lighthouse Café</b> A warm space with drinks, snacks, games, jigsaws etc. 
<b>Mondays</b> <b>1pm- 2pm</b> 	<b>Stanley Community Choir</b> New members welcome, no audition! Make friends and enjoy a sing-song.
<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>10.30am- 1.30pm</b>	<b>Tuesday lunch club</b> for older people with games, quizzes, talks, films, crafts and a hot lunch—£6.
<b>Wednesdays</b> <b>10am-12pm</b>	<b>Lighthouse Café</b> Also on Wednesdays!
<b>Wednesdays</b> <b>1.30pm- 3.30pm</b>	 <b>Knit &amp; Natter</b> Enjoy a cuppa, company & a 'crafty' time.
<b>Thursdays</b> <b>9.15am- 11am</b>	<b>Children's Ark</b> baby and toddler group with toys, play, singing and snacks.

## Christmas Services at St Peter's, Stanley

**Sunday 21st December, 6pm**  
Carol service by candlelight

**Wednesday 24th December, 2pm**  
'Come along Christmas' crib service with dressing-up, crafts and refreshments

**Wednesday 24th December, 11pm**  
Christmas Eve Midnight communion service

**Thurs 25th December, 10am**  
Christmas Day family service

**Please join us!**



## Monthly Coffee morning

We hold a coffee morning on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10.30am—12.30pm at St Peter's Church. The next dates are **Saturday 13th December and Saturday 10th January**. We have some fantastic refreshments including bacon sandwiches, as well as a raffle and a tombola.

Councillor Lynn Masterman is also available to discuss any local issues. Join us!





**St Nicholas Service**  
*Sunday 7th December,*  
*at 10.45am*

You are invited to our family service when we will be collecting gifts for the Salvation Army's Toy appeal. Rev Diane will be leading our service, when we will be thinking about generosity to others, especially those that don't have much at Christmastime. The Salvation Army distribute thousands of presents to children in need across our region every Christmas.



Presents should be brand new, UNWRAPPED, and can be for children aged 0-16. They can be brought into church anytime from 1st—7th December. Thank you.

**Contact details for St Peter's Church**

**Clergy**

*For baptism and wedding enquiries, to request home communion visits and one-to-one prayer, please contact Rev Diane Komorowski—see page 3 for details.*

**Church Office**

*Room hire enquiries, information about church groups, publicity:*

Eleanor Plant 01924 835746  
 churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk

**Church Officer roles**

Jason Plant	Church Warden
David Sunderland	Church Warden
Libby Gates	PCC Secretary
Jason Plant	Treasurer

**Safeguarding concerns**

Dave Florence 07957 203898  
 daveflorence@gmail.com



**Stanley Community Singers**  
*Christmas Concert*  
**Sunday 14th December, 3pm**

With a varied programme of festive songs and singalong carols, and featuring some special guest performers!

Buy your tickets on the door:  
**£4 adults & 50p children**

Also with a raffle and refreshments.  
*Wear something Christmassy if you want to!*

**Tuesday Lunch Club**

**Every Tuesday 10.30am-1.30pm**

The lunch club is an ideal activity for older ladies and gentlemen, costing just £6 for a hot 2 course meal and various activities. We have a lot of fun and always learn something new! Here is our plan for the next few weeks:

- Tues 2nd Dec—Christmas crafts
- Tues 9th Dec—Christmas singing
- Tues 16th Dec—Christmas lunch
- Tues 23rd Dec—Games and chat
- Tues 30th Dec—CLOSED
- Tues 6th Jan—New Year catch up
- Tues 13th Jan—Elvis singalong

**New members are always welcome.  
 Don't be lonely! Please join us!**

# St Mary Magdalene, Outwood



Leeds Road  
Outwood  
WF1 2JL

Outwood



Services at St Mary Magdalene	
Sundays, 9.15am	Parish Mass
Thursdays, 9.15am	Morning Prayer
Regular Events:	
Mondays 7.15pm	Rate My Mind men's group in the Choir Vestry
Mondays	Care4U Community Choir
Wednesdays 10am-12pm	Free Drop-In at the Church Institute: coffee/tea, quizzes, music etc.
Fridays 9.15-11.15am	Mini Monsters at the Church Institute

## Outwood Institute contact details

**Institute Manager**—Keith 07837 386891

**Brownies**—Rachel 07587 919263

**Guides**—Karen 07719 669146

**Scouts**— Josh or Toni 07407 497289

**Wives Group**— Norma 07854 780694

**Mini Monsters**— Barbara 07580 042854

**Dance Class**—Paula 07780 688623

**Weight Watchers**— Sarah 07775744237

**Pre-school**—Suzanne 01924 825688

## Christmas Services at St Mary Magdalene, Outwood



**Sunday 7th December, 4pm**

Family Christingle service followed by refreshments

**Sunday 14th December, 4pm**

Carol service - stay on afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies



**Sunday 21st December, 4pm**

Crib Service with as many kings, shepherds, Marys and Josephs as possible! Also with refreshments. Come and join in!

**Wednesday 24th December, 11.30pm**

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

**Thursday 25th December, 9.30am**

Christmas Morning Mass



**Sunday 4th January, 9.15am**

Epiphany Service to celebrate the visit of the Wise Men to baby Jesus.

We have been marking 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence and abuse and are holding a short service in the Lady Chapel in Outwood church on **Thursday 4th December at 9.15am** to which all are invited. Please pray for those who are being abused and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

**Friday 5th December** is the last date for the Treacy Hall Café this year and the Foster Care Singers will be performing. We're open from 10am—12pm when we end with midday prayers. Join us!

Our December branch meeting will be our Christmas Lunch out together.

In January we will hold our Wave of Prayer. As you are reading this, somewhere in the world it is midday, and the Mothers' Union in that place will be praying for other members around the world. So there is a continual prayer for the work of the Mothers' Union.

Prayer is one of the main aims and objectives of our organisation: 'to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service'.

It is wonderful to know that we are being prayed for all the time! Our link dioceses are Hanuato'o in the Solomon Islands, Kibungo in Rwanda, Lesotho in South Africa, and Ogbomoso and Etche in Nigeria.

**Contact details for St Mary Magdalene**

**Clergy**

*For baptism and wedding enquiries, to request home communion visits and one-to-one prayer, please contact Rev Diane Komorowski—see page 3 for details.*

**Church Warden**

Roland Harden 07771 848130  
 roland\_harden@hotmail.com

Brian Taylor 07815 311082  
 brian5163sullivan@gmail.com

**Parish Secretary**

Beverley Beaumont  
 beverleybeaumont@hotmail.com

**Treasurer**

Duncan Hall

**Benefice Magazine, Coffee mornings**

Brian Taylor 07815 311082

**Safeguarding**

Pat Robertshaw 01924 824086  
 davidpat.robertshaw@gmail.com



Our Prayer Date is **Saturday 10th January 2026 and from 11am-11.30am** we will be holding our prayer time in our Lady Chapel at Outwood. All are welcome to join us. We couldn't do what we do without prayer!

Our first Branch meeting in 2026 is at **10.30am on Monday 19th January**, again, in church. And again, all are welcome. For further information please contact me on 01924 825866.  
*Sheila Crosby, Branch Leader*

# St Anne's, Wrenthorpe



121 Wrenthorpe Road  
Wrenthorpe  
WF2 0JS

Wrenthorpe



St Anne's

## Services at St Anne's, Wrenthorpe

Sundays, 10.45am Holy Communion

Wednesdays, 2.15pm Holy Communion

### Other weekly events (term time only)

Mondays, 10am Cheeky Cherubs

Mondays, 2.30pm Youth Drop-in

### Monthly events

2nd Monday of the month, 12pm-2pm Forget-me-not friendship group

3rd Saturday of the month 10am-2pm Women of Substance group



## Christmas Services

at St Anne's,

Wrenthorpe

**Sunday 14th December, 10.45am**

No practise Nativity service—

All welcome to come and take part

**Sunday 14th December, 4pm**

Carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies

**Sunday 21st December, 5.30pm**

Family Christingle service

**Wednesday 24th December, 4pm**

Crib service with carols

**Wednesday 24th December, 5.30pm**

Family Christingle service

**Wednesday 24th December, 11.15pm**

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

**Thursday 25th December, 10.30am**

Christmas Day Morning Communion

## Wrenthorpe Community Choir's Christmas Concert

Sunday 7th December, 7pm

at St Anne's Church, Wrenthorpe



Come along for a Christmas concert with Wrenthorpe Community Choir

Tickets are £8.00  
and will be available  
on the door.



## Women of Substance...

**Saturday 13th December, 10am-2pm**

Wishing everyone a wonderful, peaceful, and joyful Christmas from Women of Substance!

Our meeting on **13th December** will be a little different. The theme is 'Your Name Is Daughter' and we will be looking at what the unsung women of the Bible teach us about our worth.

We will be having a lovely lunch and craft, and are expecting a visit from a special visitor, who will be taking a break from his busy schedule to visit us!

Also, we are having a Secret Santa, so bring a wrapped gift to the value of £5.



The January meeting will be on **Saturday 17th January**, when we will be studying Jezebel, a woman who only sought to do evil. There are few out and out baddies in history; many are normal people who just made the wrong choice or lost their way. But not so with Jezebel—she was pure evil. She had natural boldness, confidence, and a commanding personality, and sank to unparalleled levels of wickedness. Come and discover this woman and see how God deals with who displease him.

If you would like to join us as usual or for the first time, please do let me know, so I can have enough lunch, craft and study materials for everyone.

God bless, *Lynn Fowley*  
07890 589907 or [ldfowley@live.co.uk](mailto:ldfowley@live.co.uk)

### Contact details for St Anne's Church Clergy

*For baptism and wedding enquiries, to request home communion visits and one-to-one prayer, please contact Rev Diane Komorowski—see page 3 for details.*

#### Church Wardens

Lynn Fowley 07890 589907  
[ldfowley@live.co.uk](mailto:ldfowley@live.co.uk)

Lisa Cooper 07768 553901  
[lccooper@btinternet.com](mailto:lccooper@btinternet.com)

#### PCC Secretary

Lynn Fowley 07890 589907  
[ldfowley@live.co.uk](mailto:ldfowley@live.co.uk)

#### Treasurer

David Payne  
[david.payne24@gmail.com](mailto:david.payne24@gmail.com)

#### Church Hall bookings

Bob Illingworth 07443 459558

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Saturday 6th December**  
**11am—2pm**

**in St Anne's Church & Hall**  
Come along for refreshments  
and various fantastic stalls!



With lots of crafts and stalls and visit from Santa. The fair will be in the church hall, and **FREE Craft & Create** for all ages in the church. This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to enjoy making various crafts together.

**ALL WELCOME!!**

# St Paul's, Alverthorpe



St Paul's Drive  
Alverthorpe  
WF2 0BT

## Alverthorpe



St Paul's

**We are St Paul's Church, Alverthorpe**

**Sunday and mid-week services:**

**9.30am Sunday morning:** a mixture of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer

**9am Tuesday morning:** Morning Prayer

**11am Wednesday morning:** a short 'said' Holy Communion

We have tea and coffee after all services. We are on Facebook, and broadcast live every Sunday morning service

**A WARM welcome guaranteed**

**Men's group visit to Warmfield Church  
Thursday 4th December, 7.30pm**

This month, the men's group will be visiting Warmfield Church, between Heath and Kirkthorpe (WF1 5SW). It is one of the most ancient and beautiful churches in Wakefield. The church dates back to the 12th century, and the church warden will be giving a guided tour of its many features. There will also be refreshments and the service will end with a short service to include Advent reflection.



## **Christmas services at St Paul's Alverthorpe**

**Sunday 14th December, 6pm**  
Carol Service

**Wednesday 24th December, 5pm**  
Christmas Eve Christingle service —a very popular service with carols and dressing up.



**Thursday 25th  
December, 10am**  
Christmas Day  
Celebration Service



**Lifeboat prayer group  
Sat 31st January  
10am—11.30am**

Please note there is no Lifeboat group meeting in December, the next one will be 31st January. The Lifeboat prayer group meets on the last Saturday of the month at St Paul's church in Alverthorpe, from 10am—11.30am, for refreshments prayer and Bible study.

## Christmas for me—a reflection

It is a timely reminder of the birth of Jesus Christ;  
It is a time when families get together;  
It is a time of present giving, one to another;  
It is a time when decorations sparkle;  
It is a time for loneliness for many, without friends or family;  
It is a time when some indoor shelter is provided for the homeless, but not always for the rest of the year;  
It is a time when many people will hit the bottle, or the drugs, and eat too much;  
It is a time when staff in hospitals, the police and other services will be overstretched throughout the UK;  
It is a time of expectation of new birth in a family;  
It is a time of watching while others' lives draw to a close;  
It is a time of looking forwards towards another New Year;  
It is a time of reflection for the year that is nearly spent;  
It is a time to act on those things that can be changed and to leave somethings well alone;  
It is a time to give respect and recognition to the one who had the humblest of beginnings.



*Melanie Dews*

## Contact details for St Paul's Church

### Clergy

*For baptism and wedding enquiries, to request home communion visits and one-to-one prayer, please contact Rev Diane Komorowski—see page 3 for details.*

### Church Warden

David Dews

### Uniformed groups

*Cubs meet Monday evenings, Beavers and Scouts meet Friday evenings:*

Bill Sim 01924 382245

*Guides meet Wednesdays and Rainbows and Brownies meet Thursday evenings:*

Mrs Pat Lambert 01924 376857



## Christmas Concert

**Saturday 6th  
December, 7pm  
at St Paul's Church**

*Featuring:*

Wakefield Metropolitan Band and the choir of St Paul's Alverthorpe School

Tickets: £7 adults, £2 for 5-15 year olds, free for under 5's

Available on the door

*In aid of Wakefield Hospice*



## Rev Ayoola Banwa—a new addition to our ministry team

Revd Diane Komorowski is delighted to announce that Revd Ayoola Banwa has joined our ministry team, having received permission to officiate as a priest from the Bishop of Leeds. He will be leading our services periodically, as and when he is able to fit in around his work. Hopefully you will all meet him soon as he visits each of the churches in turn. Ayoola has explained a bit about himself:

"I am guided by a deep passion for the ministry of our Lord and Saviour. I have an intense desire for spiritual growth through sharing God's word with others. As a priest of over a decade, my calling has taken me through different aspects of ministry such as teaching, preaching, holding Bible classes, community engagement, counselling and more. I have an educational background in Theology and religious studies, and therefore my ministry has a compassionate pastoral approach with a solid foundation. Lastly, I love inspiring people at every opportunity; to transform the mind and strengthen individuals, and to promote unity in the body of Christ. My experience is that ministry is a service to God our Creator, the Church and humanity."

*Rev Ayoola Banwa*

### **Prayers for this month**

#### **Shepherds to Shepherd**

You will find the baby,  
Said the angel,  
You will find the baby  
In Bethlehem,  
The baby of glory and peace,  
The baby of good news and joy.



So the shepherds began  
Their journey of trust  
In the word of the Lord.



Hurrying, finding,  
Telling, glorifying,  
Praising.  
It was just as the angel had said.

And they went back to watch  
over their flocks,  
Having met one of their own.

*By Daphne Kitching*

#### **Christmas**

All heaven waited with bated breath  
As the Lord sent Gabriel on ahead  
To break the news to the young Jewish girl,  
'You will be with child' was all he said.

'How can this be?' Poor Mary cried,  
'I am a maid and know no man.'  
'With God all is possible' came the reply;  
This child would fulfil redemption's plan.

News spread fast when the baby was born,  
Shepherds were alerted by a heavenly host,  
Glory to God and peace on earth,  
God was coming to redeem the lost.

This Christmas day we celebrate,  
Like the shepherds and wise men  
we play our part,  
As they bring their gifts we worship Him too,  
But the one gift He longs for is our heart.

*By Megan Carter*