



St John's Church Golcar

Working Together for God

PARISH MAGAZINE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



**JULY
2025**

50P



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

Who's Who at St. John's

<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Vicar:	Fr. Simon Crook	T: 01484 654647 E: revscrook@gmail.com
Parish Administrator:	Lucy Williams	T: 01484 647400 E: office@stjohnschurchgolcar.org
Churchwarden:	James Cooke	
Churchwarden	Lucy Williams	
Guthlac's Gang:	Natalie Woodford & Lucy Williams	
Sunday Youth:	Sue Starr	
Organist:	Ann Norton	T: 01484 652139
Music Director:	Joe Norton	
Treasurer:	Annabel Cooke	
Deanery Synod Rep:	Vacant	
Children's Society:	Susan Heywood	T: 01484 768564
Safeguarding:	Karen Locke	
Health & Safety:	Vacant	
Rainbows & Brownies	Margaret Shaw	T: 07906 159 991
Guides	Lucy Crosland	T: 01422 379757
Luncheon Club	Janice Hart	T: 07850 194314
Shoebox Appeal:	Caroline Faulkner	T: 07887 378451

SERVICES:

Every Sunday, our main service: 9.30am.

2nd & 4th Sundays in the month: 8.00am Holy Communion in traditional language (BCP)

Morning Prayer: 9.00am most Tuesdays and Thursdays

Weddings and Baptisms: Please contact the Vicar

**PCC Members: Chair: Fr. Simon Crook, Joe Norton, Helen Davies, James Cooke
Lucy Williams, Jeremy Cuss, Annabel Cooke, Sue Starr, Ray Hoyle.**

Bible Readers at 9.30am Services: Nore Beaumont, Richard Lodge, Betty Taylor, Marion Hall, Helen Davies, Margaret Henry, Anne Crosland.

Chalice Bearers: Anne Crosland, Betty Taylor, Josh Crosland, Owen Norton, Mark Weston, Marion Hall, Margaret Bickerdyke, Jeremy Cuss.

Intercessors: Helen Davies, Susan Heywood, Jeremy Cuss, Betty Taylor, Richard Lodge.

We would welcome more people who would like to be an intercessor. Please think about this and speak to Fr. Simon about it; then give your name to Lucy. Thank you.

Welcomers: Marion Hall, Betty Taylor, Jane Wood, Anne Crosland.

Please note: Please contact the office if you wish to come off one of the lists or if you wish to be added.

Website: www.stjohnschurchgolcar.org

This issue focuses on the life of faith at St John's Church what's happening in our parish and beyond.

Editor's Note



I'm settling in well to my new role as church administrator. Thank you to everyone who has helped me find my feet. For those who don't know me yet, I'm also a science teacher, which makes for some interesting conversations.

One of the most common things people say to me is, "How can you believe in God when you teach science?"

It's always said kindly, but it shows how deeply people think the two are in conflict. But I don't see a clash. In fact, being a science teacher strengthens my faith.

This month I've been teaching my students about the human eye. We looked at how the lens changes shape to focus light, how the retina is lined with over 120 million tiny cells that pick up light and colour, and how the optic nerve sends all that information to the brain in a split second.

It's complex. It's exact. And it works without us even thinking about it.

What struck me wasn't just how the eye functions. It was how much more it lets us do. We don't just see light and shape. We see sunsets. We see people's faces. We see art, colour, kindness. Science explains the parts. The physics and biology. But it doesn't explain why any of that should be so beautiful.

Faith gives me that part. The Bible says we are

"fearfully and wonderfully made."

When I teach the body, or look at creation, or talk with students about how nature works, that line comes back to me again and again.

God is not afraid of science. He made the world in such a way that we'd want to study it. Look closely. Ask questions. Try to understand. For me, faith and science don't pull apart. They point in the same direction.

So if you're someone who wonders whether faith and science can mix, yes they can.

They already do.

Lucy Williams
Editor



FROM THE VICAR

Fr Simon Crook - Vicar, St John's Church Golcar

A couple of weeks ago, on a very hot day, Sam and I had a day together in London. Almost by accident we found ourselves at the Tate Britain art gallery. That's not the Tate Modern in the converted power station, but the lesser-known gallery beyond the Houses of Parliament.

Tate Britain has the world's largest collection of paintings by JM Turner, but what took our breath away was a giant mural in the stairway, which is a tribute to all the victims of the Grenfell disaster. The mural is a swirling, flowing feast of colour signifying the tragedy and the hope of the community. In the midst of it all there are 72 human-like shadows, swimming away from death. These are the souls of all the victims fleeing their bodies and feeling their way towards the next place.

High above all this are 4 figures on different walls: a prophet or witness, an artist (who was one of the victims), and 2 mythical musicians who are calling the departing souls towards them.

“Church at its best is like that: real and honest, joyous and hopeful.”

In a glimmer of hope, the colours of the burning tower turn into a warm sunrise or sunset.

The mural is made all the more poignant because it fills the cavernous stairwell, bringing to mind the reality of people trapped by the fire in a high-rise building, in their own homes with their escape routes cruelly cut off.

This mural in Tate Britain is filled with honest, raw emotion. It holds nothing back from its reality, pain and anguish. But at the same time, within all of that, there is a glimmer of joy and an invitation to hope.

Church at its best is like that: real and honest, joyous and hopeful. Not shying away from the difficulties in life, but filling people with colour, listening to their stories, and transporting us to that place which calls us onwards, where all shall be well.

If you can, come and join us, be a part of the big picture which God is painting in the church. We might not be perfect, but we know the artist is making it all ok.

**God bless,
Fr Simon**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WHAT'S ON

WORSHIP/FAITH

JOINT BENEFICE GARDEN SERVICE & PARTY: SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST

Join us for a joint benefice service as St John's and St Marks come to together in worship and fellowship. After the service, stay for a garden party. A chance to chat, relax and enjoy some good company. All are welcome!

JOKE

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

Because Noah was always standing on the deck

Think you can do better?

Email your church jokes to Fr Simon
revscrook@gmail.com



SOCIAL

ORGAN RECITAL 12TH JULY 7PM

Don't miss concert organist David Price on his 2025 UK Summer Tour. Over eight weeks, he'll perform around 20 recitals across the country. His varied programmes suit each church's organ and aim to delight both locals and visitors. Each recital includes a major work from the organ repertoire. David brings decades of experience as a musician and examiner, and his playing is not to be missed!



SUPPORT OUR GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Our brilliant gardening team give up their time each week to keep the church grounds and graveyard looking beautiful. Thanks to their hard work, we all get to enjoy a peaceful, well-kept space.

To keep going, we urgently need to replace some worn-out equipment. We're aiming to raise £500 for a new self-propelled mulching mower and over £2,000 for a much-needed ride-on mower.

If you can give anything—big or small—it will go straight towards supporting the team.

Donations can be handed in to Annabel Cooke (Treasurer) and marked 'Gardening Fund'.

Thank you for your support.

LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER



➔ Celebrating Tarren



We're proud to celebrate one of our young church members, Tarren Norton, who has recently been recognised by Kirklees College for his outstanding contribution to college life. Here's what the college said:

"Tarren is our Communications Officer for the Students' Union and has helped organise many events including fundraising, pyjama days and free barbering sessions. He's always behind the scenes making sure everything runs smoothly. He's also promoted inclusion and LGBTQ+ awareness within college, helping to bring students together."

We couldn't agree more. Tarren brings that same energy and kindness to our church. He's a regular at Tuesday coffee mornings, always happy to lend a hand. He helps steward events, supports others without fuss, and even stepped up to direct the church panto. Tarren shows that faith isn't just about words — it's about action, service, and being someone others can count on. Well done, Tarren. We're proud of you.

WALKING TOGETHER – PENTECOST 2025

On Pentecost Sunday, people from St John's, St Mark's, Providence and Parkwood Methodist churches joined together for a shared walk of witness. We started at St John's and walked to St Mark's, enjoying each other's company as we went. It was simple but meaningful, a visible sign that we belong to the same Church and the same Spirit.

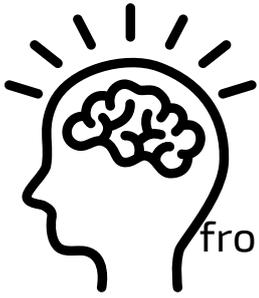
At St Mark's, we were welcomed by the sound of the bells ringing. It was a thoughtful touch that made everyone feel included. After the service, we shared a lovely lunch in the Community Parish Centre. Bowls of soup, fresh rolls, and homemade cakes were gratefully received. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and serve the food.

Pentecost is the day we remember the Holy Spirit being poured out on all people. No one was left out. It was the beginning of a Church open to everyone.

As Fr Simon reminded us, we are an inclusive church. Gay or straight, disabled or not, young or old, **you are welcome here.** That spirit of welcome and belonging was alive and well. Thank you to all who made it possible.

FAITH IN REAL LIFE

Practical ideas and honest answers



ASK US ANYTHING

A real question from someone in our community

Q: Can you be a Christian and still have doubts?

Yes. Doubt is part of faith, not the opposite of it.

Even Jesus' closest friends doubted, misunderstood, and questioned.

Faith isn't about having all the answers. It's about trusting God enough to keep asking.

At St John's, no one has to be perfect or certain.

Bring your questions. You're welcome.



Want to ask something?

Pop your question in the box at church or email:

office@stjohnschurchgolcar.org

This Month's



Put Faith into action with one small step

Invite someone to join you.

At Church, Coffee morning, Choir, luncheon Club. Even the next social event.

Just offer the invite.

Why?

Relationships matter.

Ministry starts with "hello".

Your small ask could brighten someone's week.

Faith and Real Life

Where God meets our daily challenges

What does love look like in practice?

It's going up on someone's doorstep with soup.

It's staying calm when someone's snapping.

It's noticing who's left out.

Love isn't always loud.

Sometimes, it looks like patience,

presence, or keeping the kettle boiled.

– CELEBRATING YOUNG LEADERS IN FAITH AND SERVICE

➔ Marking the impact of apprentices and interns across our churches



Around 60 people gathered at Fountains Church on 10th June to celebrate the work of Mission Apprentices and Diocesan Interns serving across Bradford and Leeds. Eleven apprentices have spent two years growing ministry in local churches

—from running courses, supporting those in addiction, and building community links, to sharing God’s love with neighbours of all faiths.

Three interns gave 11 months volunteering at Bradford Cathedral, St Stephen’s West Bowling, and St Matts in Leeds.

They spoke movingly about their journeys, which include bringing family to faith, opening churches to new groups, and exploring their own callings. Next steps range from law and football to continued church ministry.

Bishop Toby Howarth reminded everyone that God works both through and in people.

Revd Simon Walters praised the joy and impact of their service.

Some roles for the next cohort starting in September are still open, could this be for you?



BISHOP MALCOLM ORDAINED AND CONSECRATED AS NEW BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD

News from Diocese of Leeds

The Rt Revd Malcolm Chamberlain was ordained and consecrated as Bishop of Wakefield on 11 June, the feast day of Barnabas, at York Minster.

The service was led by the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, and attended by bishops from across the Diocese of Leeds. The sermon was given by Archdeacon Nikki Groarke, who praised Bishop Malcolm’s compassion, humility and strength.

Bishop Malcolm has served in Walsall, Liverpool, and Sheffield, where he was Archdeacon. He brings experience from urban and student ministry, and is known for his leadership and encouragement.

The Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, and Archbishop Stephen both welcomed him warmly and spoke of their hopes for his ministry in Wakefield.

Please pray for Bishop Malcolm and his family as he begins this new role.



Regular Events

Our Sunday services

9.30am at St John's Golcar

8am in Traditional Language at St John's Golcar on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

All Age / Family services are usually on the Second Sunday of the month 9.30am.

Gardening Group & Coffee Morning

Gardening Group are volunteers who help us keep our churchyard looking so good. **Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am at St John's. If you have a spare hour or so, just come along.**

Coffee morning St John's Golcar on **Tuesdays 10.30am**



Community Groups

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet Wednesday evenings in term time.

Luncheon Club is on Thursdays

Just Sing Community Choir, Thursday evenings.

Sunday Services July

6th:	9:30am:	Sung Holy Communion Service
13th:	8:00am:	Traditional said Holy Communion Service
	9:30am:	Sung Holy Communion Service
20th:	9.30am:	Sung Holy Communion Service
27th:	8.00am;	Traditional said Holy Communion Service
	9.30am:	Sung Holy Communion Service

150 Club Winners

June

1. No 80 Anne Crosland
2. No 77 Betty Taylor
3. No 29 Doreen Pasterfield

New members welcome
Anne Crossland will be pleased to part you from your money!
£1 per Month per Number

An interview with Canon Stephen Henry Continued...



At the conclusion of Stephen's curacy, he went to the Army Chaplain's Department, for 6 weeks training at Bagshot Park (now the home of Prince Edward), and then served as an army chaplain in Tidworth, Kenya and to Menden in Germany, where 2 very memorable events happened.

On St Barbara's Day (4th December, the Patron Saint of Gunners), the whole regiment from the Colonel downwards had a service, about 600 of them. The assistant chaplain general should have come and preached, but didn't turn up. The Roman Catholic monk, who was also taking part in the service, said he'd never preached a sermon in his life, so, "It was very on the spot. I did the sermon, and I talked about St Paul, breastplates and goodness and what else? I don't know if it had any connection with the readings or not, but I did this for about 10 minutes, and for some extraordinary reason, it just flowed and flowed. Obviously the Spirit was at work." Later the assistant chaplain general (who had been delayed by thick fog), reported that it was the best sermon that Stephen had preached.

"The other thing at Menden, which you're not allowed to do now, was I did an exorcism." Stephen was rung up in the middle of the night by the regimental doctor at the hospital, who said, 'Stephen, this one's for you'.

So, with medical clearance, and the backing of the doctor, Stephen entered the room.

"It was frozen, freezing, and the people couldn't get out of their chairs. There was a child crying in a weird sort of way, and a dog howling in an extraordinary way. And it was absolutely awful."

"I did an exorcism. Immediately the room warmed up, people could get out of their chairs, the baby stopped crying, the dog stopped howling. And I suppose that was the greatest thing that ever happened in my life, in the sense, that here was obviously the power of God operating in an extraordinary manner."

There's another great calling in your life, that calling into marriage. How did you meet Margaret?

Margaret was teaching in Wakefield, and decided to move to Leicester and teach there. Margaret went to St Philip's Church, where Stephen was curate. They were married in 1964. She didn't go with Stephen to Bagshot or Tidworth until later, because she was having their first child. "Throughout my ministry, Margaret gave wonderful support and encouragement."

In 1970, after 3 years as army chaplain, Stephen began looking for parish ministry. He contacted the Dean of Wakefield who put Stephen in touch with Bishop Eric Treacy, who was a brigadier in the war. Stephen was offered the parish of Christ Church, Woodhouse. The treasurer and secretary of the PCC told Stephen that they'd had 14 people come and look at it and turn it down. Maybe because the mission church, which had been rebuilt only recently, needed knocking down. Stephen accepted the post, and with his army background could take on the difficult decisions.

In Christ Church there was a flourishing African Caribbean community forming a large part of the congregation, which, in those days was very distinctive. There were other cultures and ethnicities too.

Stephen and Margaret were to remain at Woodhouse for 30 years, during which time Stephen also served on the Diocesan Parsonages Board, and the Diocesan Board of Finance. He'd sent his letter of resignation to Bishop Nigel, deciding to retire about 18 months early, and received an intriguing letter in reply, saying, "Thank you for your resignation, which I accept, but you will be hearing from me again in due course." The bishop had wanted to make Stephen a canon of the cathedral, but Stephen's early resignation had potentially put a stop to that. However, the legal advice was that, when the diocese had made the decision to make Stephen a canon, he had not yet written the resignation letter. So, three months before he retired, Stephen was installed as canon of Wakefield Cathedral.

Stephen had many reflections on his ministry, and how the relationship between the local parish Church and the Diocese have changed over years. These included the Vicar used to be given the "freehold", but now are seen more and more as employees. In all his years, Stephen never had a contract, nor even an interview for a job, "if that's where the bishop wants me to go, so be it."

He said, the church used to work from the bottom up, with the diocese supporting the parishes, whereas it seems that now initiatives come from the "top down".

Priests and parishes are now expected to complete all sorts of training, whereas in the past, someone from the diocese might be asked to come and do some of the required tasks such as grant applications. Stephen very much felt as if the Parish should be at the heart and centre of the Church of England, but that is being lost.

Another change has been in the number of communications. Stephen received an envelope from the diocese once a month, "which had probably half a dozen bits and pieces in it, all essential, for the parish, but basic stuff, so you weren't overwhelmed with people firing this, that and the other." There were no emails, mobile phones or social media back then.

In Stephen's view, both Bishops and priests are now required to be managers rather than "fathers in God." Stephen recounted how he could be frankly honest with Nigel, the Bishop of Wakefield, about all that had been going well, and not so well in the parish. "You could feel safe to tell him, and then, at the end, he'd give one or two bits of gentle advice, and you could come away feeling raised up."

I first met you when I was involved in the Church at Marsden, and you were covering a service as a retired priest. What has that phase of your ministry been like?

As a retired priest, Stephen supported churches in the Colne Valley, Ripponden, Barkisland, Moldgreen, Huddersfield. "It's a very different ministry, you had no responsibility for how the church was run or organised, or anything like that, but people are always delighted to see you." Stephen found that there may be a greater freedom for people to talk to him as a retired priest, rather than to the vicar. He didn't take many funerals in retirement, but there was one when he was rung up 2 hours before it was to take place, because the vicar's wife had an accident and she'd been taken to hospital. The person whose funeral it was, had been a musician in the Halle Orchestra. During the funeral service Stephen said, "I'm very pleased that I've been able to help out at the service today, but I'm not the vicar. I've been called in at the last minute. Is there anybody here who knew this good lady who could give an address?" And one man stood up and said he'd be willing to do it, and he did, and spoke brilliantly. Stephen remembers the gratitude that people had, and that it was one of those moments of "stepping into the unknown, and mysteriously, God can make it work despite the circumstances."

Finally, what has sustained you in your life and ministry through the years?

"Well, I see everything in the world as 'God-given' whatever it looks like, or feels like. That may come from my farming background."

And prayer, Stephen uses the prayerbook offices (morning and evening prayer, which all clergy should pray daily). He can remember these by heart, so that when the offices are said "on the hoof", the words come readily to mind. As part of these Stephen knows the Jubilate (O be joyful in the Lord..., Psalm 100) and Te Deum (We praise thee, O God: we acknowledge thee to be the Lord...).

"I just try to be faithful, to look into my calling. And we mustn't give up. we look at lights, little lights, wherever they are, and try and encourage them. And sometimes that might bring them to worshipping and commitment to our church, I think there's too much of looking on the dark side, rather than looking on the brighter side."

Stephen also wished to say that he'd been supported by people wherever he'd been, before moving on to say that Margaret has been a mainstay of support and encouragement throughout all their years together." Margaret and I have been married nearly 61 years. We had two boys - Andrew and David. Of course we have had our ups & downs in all these years together, but I couldn't have had a better one at my side. I've been very fortunate and blessed."

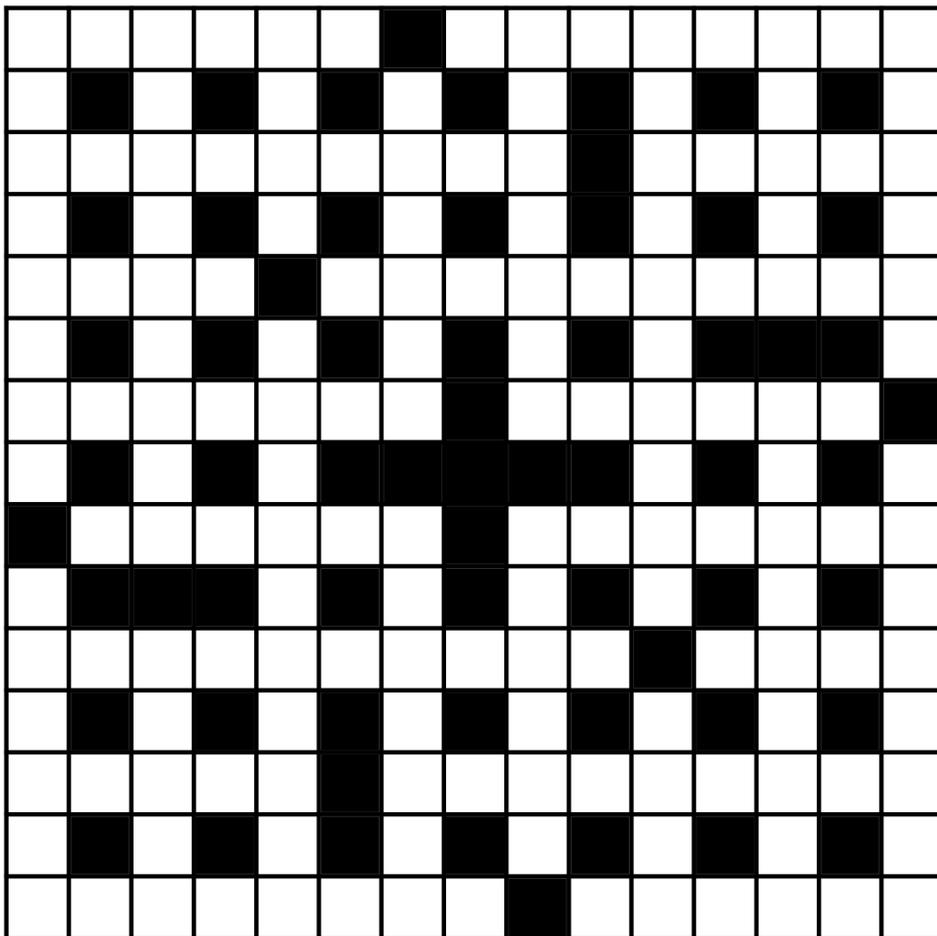
Bible Crossword

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a ____ thing
the king requireth'
(Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David
with one hundred
clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by
this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal
workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)



by *Philologus*

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

6 The words of Jeremiah
said not to listen to
these (10)

7 Jewish leader (5)

8 'He is proud, knowing
nothing, but _____
about questions and
strifes of words...'
(1 Tim 6:4) (6)

9 Bread makers (6)

14 In this year of King
Nebuchadrezzar's reign,
Nebuzaradan arrived in
Jerusalem (10)

17 Ancient city of Og, King
of Bashan (9)

18 Stringed instrument (8)

20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)

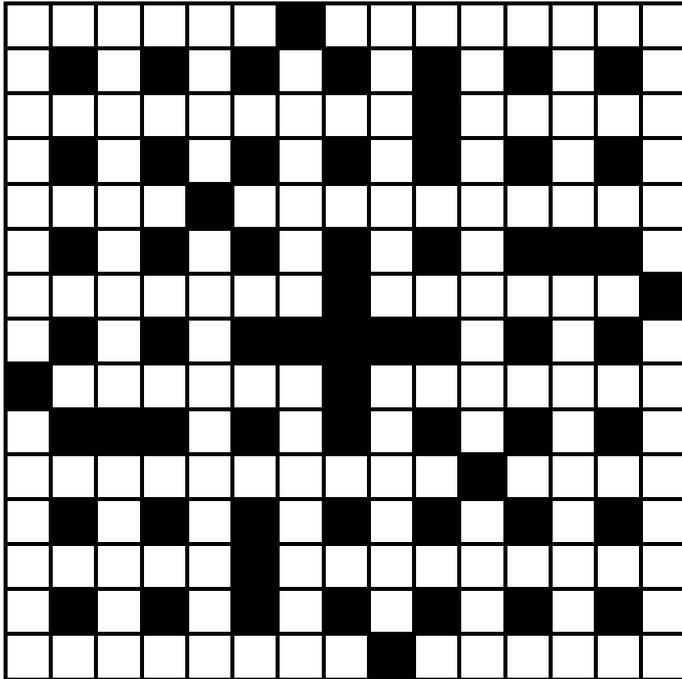
21 Tiny amount (6)

22 Jesus did this with
authority (6)

24 Last letter of the Greek
alphabet (5)

26 Province of the Roman
Empire (4)

Bible Crossword - Solution



Across: 1 Shekel, 4 Appeared, 10 Ephesians, 11 Cubit, 12 Rare, 13 Meditation, 15 Raisins, 16 Nathan, 19 Agreed, 21 Torches, 23 Atonements, 25 Baal, 27 Glean, 28 Millstone, 29 Teachers, 30 Rashly.

Down: 1 Shearers, 2 Exhorting, 3 East, 5 Passion, 6 Enchanters, 7 Rabbi, 8 Doting, 9 Bakers, 14 Nineteenth, 17 Ashtaroth, 18 Psaltery, 20 Dreamer, 21 Tittle, 22 Taught, 24 Omega, 26 Asia.

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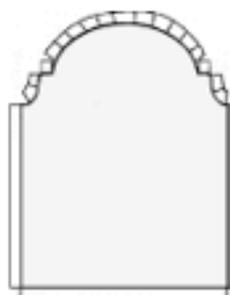
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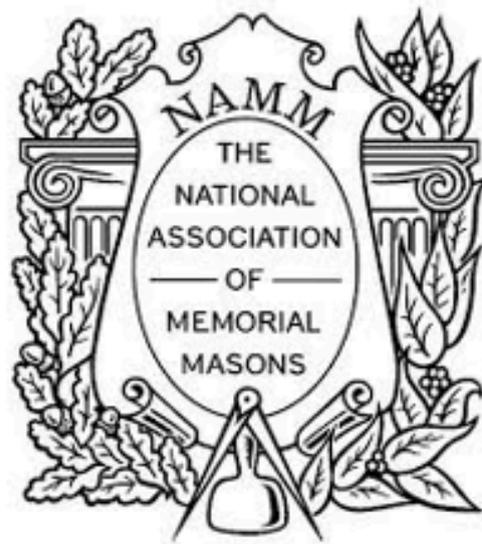
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THE LOCAL INFORMATION PAGE

Doctors:

Field Head Surgery, Field Head, Leymoor Rd.
Surgery hours:8.15am-12.30pm &1.15-6.00pm
Monday –Friday. Appointment only.

654504

Health Visitors:

347878/6

District Nurses

221600

Midwives

347887

Hospitals:

HRI

342000

Calderdale (Halifax)

01422 357171

Princess Royal (Chiropody)

03003045555

Kirkwood Hospice

512101

Social services (incl. Home Help Service)

223000

Community Health Council: 12 NorthParade, Huddersfield

544676

Cruise:

08457 585565

Samaritans:

533388

Bereavement Support Group:

01422 843683

Golcar Library – Opening Times:

01484 414868

Monday: 1.00pm-6.00pm

Tuesday: 10.00am- 1.00pm

Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday: 1.00pm-5.00pm

Friday: CLOSED

Saturdays: 10.00am-1.00pm

Golcar Library Readers' Group

01484 414868

Every 1st Thursday of the month at 1.30am.

Meet up & chat with other likeminded book-lovers. Tea & coffee provided!

Primary Schools in the Parish:

St. John's: email: office@stjohnsji.co.uk

644444

Manor Rd.: email: office@golcarjin.com

652954

Clough Head: email: office.cloughhead@kirkleeseducation.uk

222217

Wellhouse: email: office@wellhouse.heightsfed.org

645794

Scapegoat Hill: email: office@scapegoathill.co.uk

647008

Local Councillors:

Cllr. Andrew Marchington (Lib-Dem)

E: Andrew.marchington@kirklees.gov.uk

641698

Cllr. Graham Turner (Labour)

E:graham.turner@kirklees.gov.uk

M: 07772643361

Cllr. Angela Sewell (Labour): 24-26 James St. Golcar HD7 4DR

MP: Paul Davies (Labour): House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA E: paul.davies.mp@parliament.com

Other Local Churches:

St Mark's, Longwood revscrook@gmail.com

654647

Providence Methodist: Rev. Rosamunde Page

421461 OR 423797

E: rosamunde.page@gmail.com

Parkwood Methodist:

Andrew Marchington

E: andrew.marchington@btconnect

Scapegoat Hill Baptist:

Church Secretary John Stephenson

655615

Emergency numbers:

Gas:

0800 111 999

Electricity:

0800 375 675

Water:

0800 573 553

Police:

101

Telephone Preference Service: Tostop unwanted phone calls

0845 0700707