



St John's Church Golcar

Working Together for God

PARISH MAGAZINE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



**SEPTEMBER
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

Editor's Note



Over the summer, my daughter Holly asked, "Does God go on holiday?" It made me laugh but also think. We all need a break. Even God rested on the seventh day. So does he ever stop, just for a bit? I told her no. God doesn't need holidays. He doesn't get tired like we do. But he does understand rest. He created it. That struck me this summer. I like to be busy. I can often become hyper focused and forget to rest, especially when I care about what I'm doing. Even on holiday, I find it hard to switch off. I make lists, plan days, try to squeeze everything in. But God isn't in a rush. He doesn't need constant action to be present.

During Lent this year, I went to Compline for the first time. It was quiet, simple and deeply peaceful. Like a pause at the end of the day. I've started weaving that rhythm into my evenings. Sometimes it's a moment of silent prayer. Sometimes I follow the Church of England daily prayer online. It helps me stop, breathe and remember who's in charge. Not me.

The Bible says, "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) That's not a suggestion. It's an invitation. And maybe a challenge too.

Jesus often stepped away from the crowds to rest and pray. Not because he didn't care, but because time with God wasn't an extra. It was the centre.

Resting isn't lazy. It's obedient. It reminds us that the world keeps turning even when we stop.

As September rolls in with new school terms, new rotas and new goals, maybe it's a good time to ask: where can I pause? What helps me be still?

Rest won't look the same for everyone. A prayer. A walk. A breath. A quiet moment before bed. Whatever it is, it's not wasted time. It's sacred space. So no, God doesn't go on holiday. But he does invite us to rest. Not just in summer, but in him.

Lucy Williams
Editor



FROM THE VICAR

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



WALKING THE STANZA STONES TRAIL



Last week I walked the “Stanza Stones Trail” with my daughter, Jude.

The trail came into being when the poet Simon Armitage, who grew up in Marsden, wrote 6 poems about water. In 2012 these were carved into stones spread out on a 47-mile route between Marsden and Ilkley. They are (in order): The Snow Stone, The Rain Stone, The Mist Stone, The Dew Stones, The Puddle Stones, and the Beck Stone.

The trail held a few challenges for us. Firstly, it's a long walk, with quite a lot of ascent (although you can walk to each stone separately in 6 short walks). Secondly, the route description was hard to follow – even with a trusty Ordnance Survey map to hand. Thirdly, when we got to each site, we still had to hunt around the general area to find the stones, which were mostly tucked away.

And finally, because the stones have been outside in all weathers for over 10 years, they were quite hard to read.

We enjoyed the experience as a whole, and the challenges made it all the more special.

My favourite poem was The Dew Stone. It was carved on two large slabs and placed in an opening of a wall, looking rather like a cross between stone gates and the Ten Commandments.

However, my favourite stone was the Beck Stone, a rounded boulder in the stream bed. On this one, the words were carved free-hand, and followed the contours of the rock.

This one gave the greatest impression of the softness of water in harmony with the hardness of the rock.

The water in the beck flowed around the boulder, because stone is solid, and hard-wearing. But the boulder is rounded, because over the years the water has worn it down. Water and rock, rock and water. With the poem's words so sensitively carved, the poem itself seemed to fit into this rolling dependency: each giving shape to the other.

We speak of God as our rock, unchanging, solid and dependable. God is also like water, taking many different shapes and forms, working away at the world over the years.

The Christian Faith is similar. Some things hold fast, through our own lives and over the generations. Other things flow, and change and take on different shapes and meanings as we grow and age.

Like the Stanza Stones, we too have writing on us. Sometimes it's a challenge to find, or hard to read. But in our lives and in our hearts, is the handwriting of the author of all things.

WHAT'S ON

WORSHIP/FAITH



GUTHLAC'S GANG IS BACK! – SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

Our children's group returns after the summer break.

Join us in church at 9.30am for the service, then head out for stories, games and fun activities.

All children and their parents/carers are welcome.

New faces always welcome – come and see what we're about.

CHURCHES TOGETHER THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

Churches Together prayers and meeting

2pm, Providence Methodist Church

JOKE

Archaeologists finally found King Solomon's Temple. It was located next to his ear!



HERITAGE



HERITAGE OPEN DAY SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 10:00AM - 3PM

Come and explore the history of St John's as part of the national Heritage Open Days.

The church will be open for visitors to look around, learn about its past, and enjoy the peaceful space.

Refreshments available throughout the day. All welcome. **Free entry.** Offers of help to Ray Hoyle

COMMUNITY



LONGWOOD SING 2025 - SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

Longwood Sing 2025 will take place on Sunday 14th September at 2:30pm.

As the amphitheatre is currently unfit for use, this year's event will be held in St Mark's Church.

We will be raising funds in support of the Longwood Memory Café a wonderful cause in the community.



ST JOHNS' PANTOMIME – HANSEL & GRETEL

Join us at St John's Church this December for our community pantomime!

Rehearsals start:

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Performances: Thursday 4th, Friday 5th & Saturday 6th December 2025
A fun-filled family show, open to all ages – come and support your local cast!

LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER



JOINT BENEFICE SUMMER GARDEN SERVICE

On Sunday 10th August, St John's and St Mark's came together for a joyful summer service in the vicarage garden. The weather held out, the garden looked beautiful, and it was very special to worship side by side as one church family. Lifting our eyes to the hills, seeing the goodness in the world, and considering the lilies made the service truly memorable.

Afterwards, we shared food, laughter, and conversation at the garden party. From children playing to grown-ups catching up, it was a real celebration of community and faith.

A huge thank you to everyone who brought food, set up tables and chairs, served drinks, played music, provided entertainments, or simply came along to join in. It was a day full of warmth and welcome, just as church should be.



Still Gardening in the Storm

As Storm Floris hit with wind and rain, our amazing team of volunteer gardeners were still out there, keeping the church grounds and graveyard tidy. Their commitment is something special.

They work week after week to create a peaceful space for reflection and remembrance. But their tools are wearing out fast.

We are currently raising funds for a new self-propelled mower (£500) and a ride-on mower (£2,000+). These will make the work safer, faster, and easier, especially on the tougher parts of the grounds.

We are so grateful to the Golcar Winkle Club for their generous donation of £750 towards this project. Their support gives us a strong start, but we still need help to reach our goal.

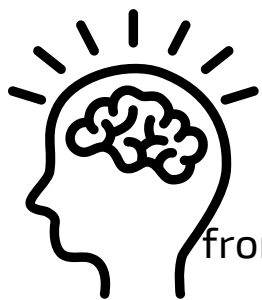
If you're able to give, or help spread the word, please visit:

● <https://givealittle.co/c/1BhOSijuskvDLw3EgBRcrb>

Thank you for supporting our volunteers.

FAITH IN REAL LIFE

Practical ideas and honest answers



ASK US ANYTHING

A real question
from someone in our
community

Q: What if I've had a break from church and don't know how to come back?

You're not the only one. Life gets busy. People drift. It happens. The good news? God hasn't gone anywhere.

Coming back doesn't need a big moment. Just walk in. Sit down. Be present.

No one will quiz you. No one's keeping score.

At St John's, you're welcome, whether you've been away for a few weeks, months, or even years. Come as you are.



Want to ask something?
email:

office@stjohnschurchgolcar.org

This Month's



**Put Faith into action
with one small step**

Choose one thing to re-start.

Maybe it's coming to church.

Maybe it's praying again.

Maybe it's volunteering, singing,
or showing up for someone else.

Why?

Faith grows through small actions.

One step is all it takes to begin
again.

Faith and Real Life

What does rest teach us?

That we're not in control of everything.

That the world won't fall apart if we stop
for a day.

That we're more than what we get done.

Rest makes room for prayer, reflection,
and noticing God's presence again.

It gives space for our souls to catch up
with our bodies.

What might God show you in the quiet?



BOWLING, BADGES AND BIG ADVENTURES - RAINBOWS & BROWNIES UPDATE

The Rainbows & Brownies used our Gift Aid money in February to enjoy a bowling evening as a treat. Great fun was had by all & 1 Rainbow & 2 Brownies managed to score a strike!

Also in February we celebrated World Thinking Day. The Rainbows had international fun in the unit & the Brownies joined with Longwood Brownies to find out about the World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts with its 10 million members. Both units celebrated the Chinese New Year of the snake & the Rainbows were challenged to make a twirling snake over the half term holiday.

We then congratulated Rainbow Molly on gaining her Gold Award - the highest achievement in Rainbows. Molly is now enjoying more challenges as a Brownie.

In March Rainbow Grace received the prestigious Blue Peter badge for writing about all the exciting things she's been doing as a Rainbow.

This is a first for us but maybe we'll have some more!

It was lovely for the Rainbows & Brownies to take part in the Mothering Sunday service & a joy to see them maypole dancing at Golcar Lily Day - although we did miss the expertise of Sue Starr!

The highlight of the year so far was for every Rainbow & most Brownies to attend the whole division activity day at Bradley Wood Scout Campsite. They all tried many different outdoor activities & then all the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & leaders & helpers all joined together for a giant campfire.

In June, with the help of the Golcar Lily Environment Group, the Rainbows & Brownies took part in a litter pick. They were all very enthusiastic & filled 4 large bin bags. The Rainbows were hilarious about finding a pair of underpants!

Huge congratulations were given at the end of the school year when Rainbow Gracie was presented with her Rainbow Gold Award after working very hard to complete all 6 themes & then doing a special gold challenge - she's our 9th Rainbow to do this in the last 5 years of the new Girlguiding programme. To celebrate these 5 years Girlguiding have just released some new interest badges - you probably saw some of the nationwide publicity. The new badges look very exciting & some of the Rainbows have already started working on them.

Margaret Shaw - Grey Owl

GOLCAR JUST SING CHOIR - SUMMER CONCERT

by Judith Cruickshank

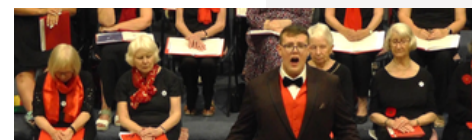
Golcar Just Sing Choir was, once again, delighted to hold our annual Summer concert in the beautiful surroundings of St. John's Church. This year we took to the skies to support Yorkshire Air Ambulance, celebrating 25 years of lifesaving missions across Yorkshire.



Starting with the upbeat This Little Light of Mine, the programme also included the Vicar of Dibley theme and choir favourite Choose to Stand. With no helicopter songs in our repertoire, we sang Flying Free and You Raise Me Up, which we felt fitted the theme. The audience joined in for Ilkley Moor baht 'at and Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines.

Our special guest was local tenor Damien Stirling, who entertained us with Is My Team Ploughing, The Holy City, Time to Say Goodbye, and songs from Company, Beauty and the Beast and Newsies.

Always happy to don a costume, Damien wore flying cap and goggles for Those Magnificent Men, joined by choir members in scarves and multi-coloured 'helicopter' caps.



Donations and the sale of YAA merchandise raised just over £700 for Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this event and give so generously.

The choir meets Thursday evenings, 7.30 - 8.30pm, in the Community Room at St. John's Church. There is no audition and new members are welcome year-round. Come along for a free taster session. Dates are on our Just Sing Choir, Golcar Facebook page.



WOMEN ACROSS DIOCESE RESPOND TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON NEXT BISHOP OF LEEDS

News from Diocese of Leeds

On Monday 28 July, around 20 women from across the Diocese met online to share experiences and hopes for the next Bishop of Leeds. Attendees included curates, retired clergy, and parishioners from rural and urban contexts.

They called for someone who is warm, approachable, a communicator across ages, and able to bring unity across diversity. Integrity, pastoral care, commitment to clergy wellbeing, and passion for mission were also highlighted.

Hopes included growth in numbers, depth and unity, recognition of community challenges, and a Bishop committed to justice, peace and creation.

It was agreed that Bishop Nick will be a hard act to follow!

HALIFAX MINSTER AT CALDERDALE PRIDE



Halifax Minster was proud to be part of Calderdale Pride today, sharing about Inclusive Church and the importance of safe spaces.

The Minster was delighted to host a Pride Eucharist, welcoming people from across Calderdale to celebrate diversity and God's love for

everyone. It was a joyful occasion that affirmed the message that all are valued and included.





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 September

7th: 9:30am: Sung Holy Communion Service
14th: 8:00am: Traditional said Holy Communion Service
9:30am: All Age Service
21st: 9.30am: Sung Holy Communion Service
28th: 8.00am; Traditional said Holy Communion Service
9.30am: Sung Holy Communion Service

150 Club Winners

August

No 09 Sue Mclellan

No 26 Ann Norton

No 51 Ros Townend

New members welcome

**Anne Crosland will be pleased to part you from your money!
£1 per Month per Number**

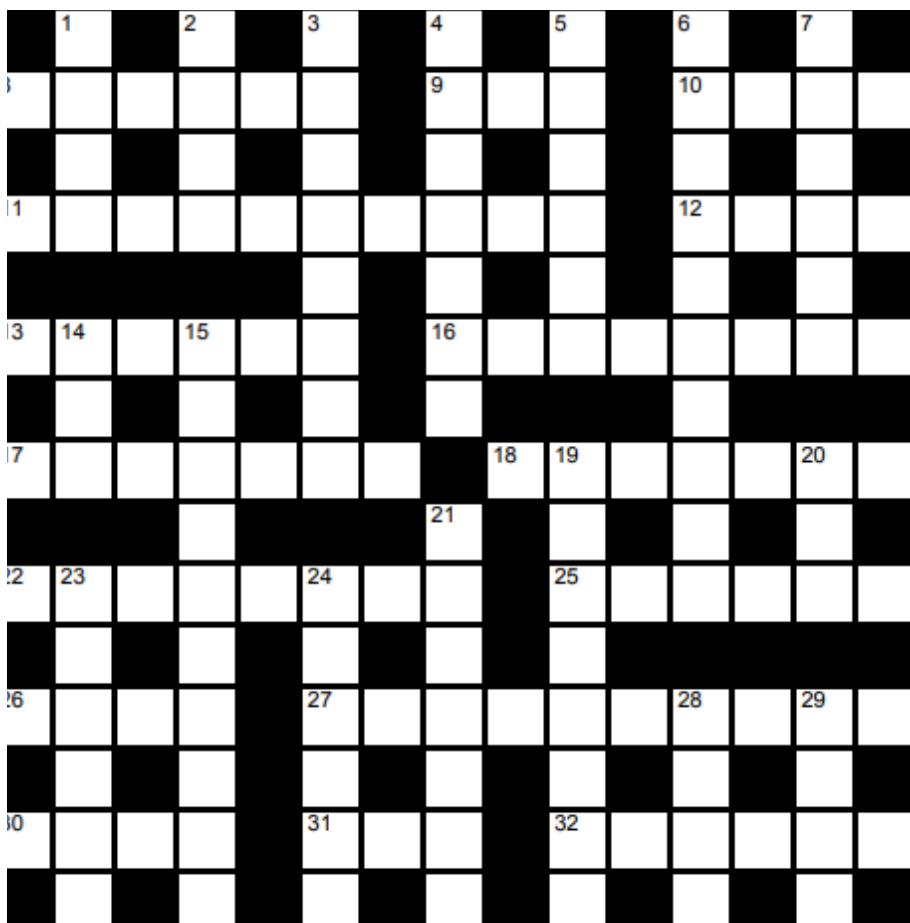
Bible Crossword II

Across

- 8 Religious service (6)
 9 Vessel (3)
 10 Drive forcibly (4)
 11 Christ does this for us (10)
 12 Bethesda was the name of this (4)
 13 Servant of a prophet (6)
 16 One who leaves the straight and narrow path (8)
 17 Check the money (7)
 18 Fragrant offering; make angry (7)
 22 Come out from among them (8)
 25 Works with clay (6)
 26 Main part of text (4)
 27 Chucked it too far (10)
 30 Treachery sealed with this (4)
 31 Simon washed his (3)
 32 Migratory grasshopper (6)

Down

- 1 Standard for the tribe of Judah (4)

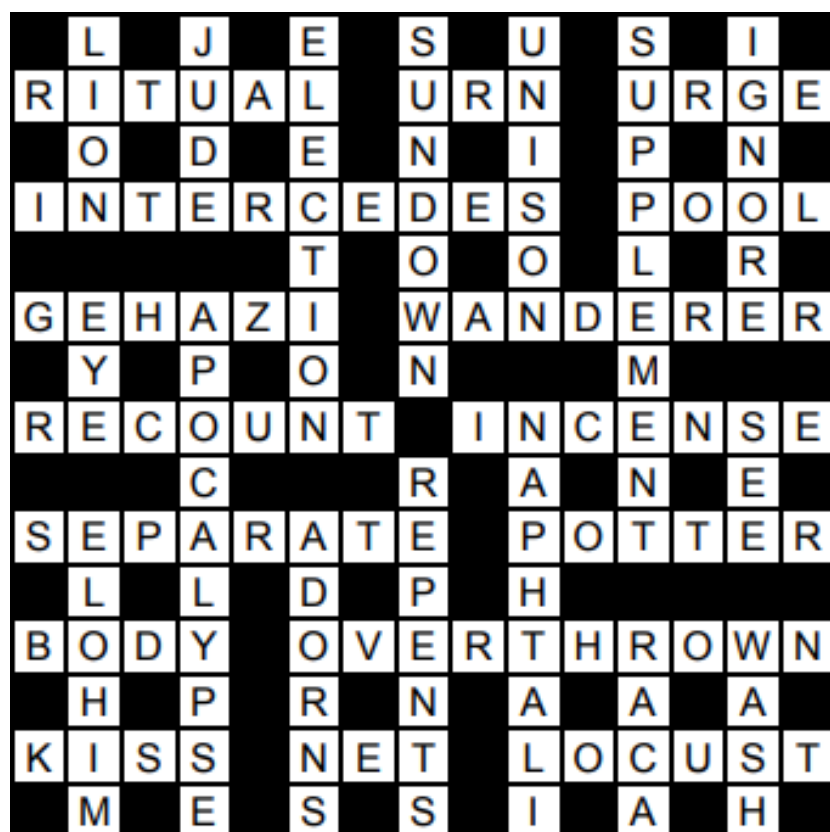


by *Philologus*

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- 2 Brother of James; Hardy book (4)
 3 Choice by vote (8)
 4 Evening glow (7)
 5 All sing the tune (6)
 6 To reduce deficiency (10)
 7 Take no notice of (6)
 14 Look at (3)
 15 Alternative Revelation (10)
 19 Son of Jacob (8)
 20 The blind will (3)
 21 Regrets; Serpent (anag) (7)
 23 Angels by another name (6)
 24 Decorates (6)
 28 Say it and you will be in danger of the council (4)
 29 Cleanse (4)

Bible Crossword II - Solution

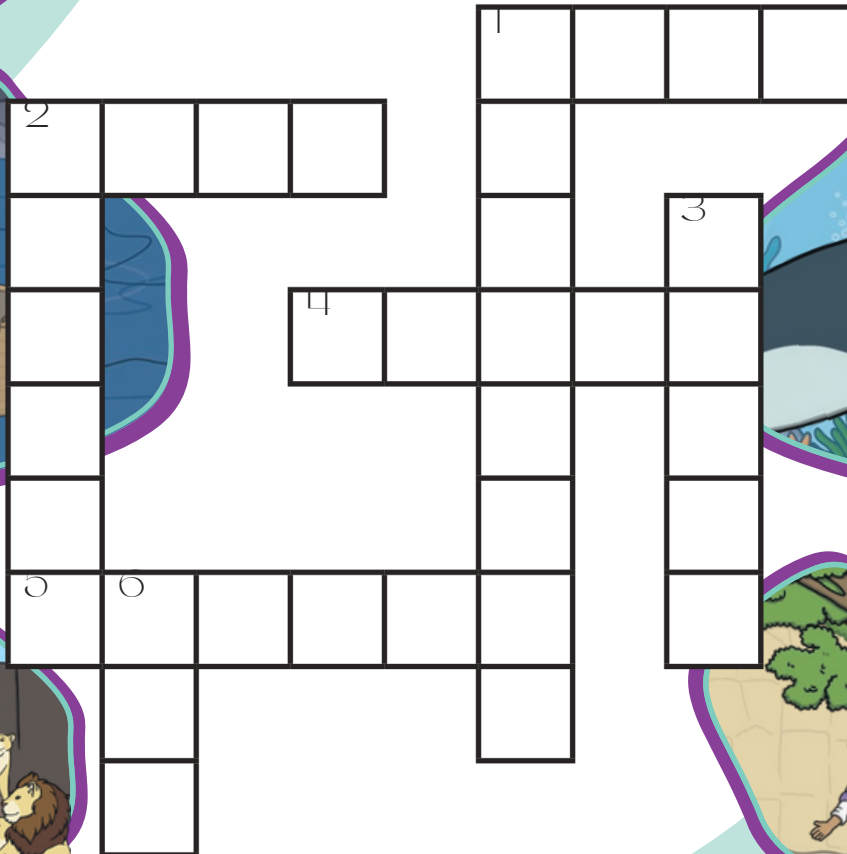
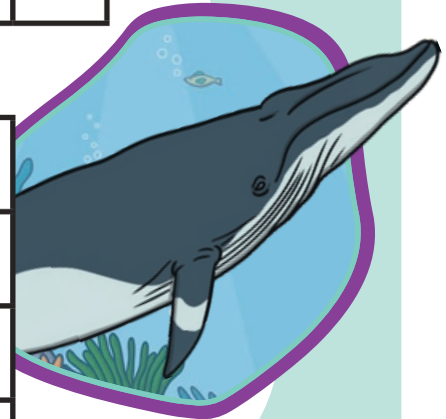
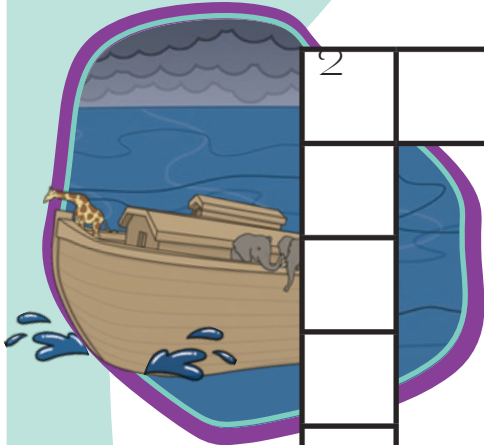


Across: 8 Ritual, 9 Urn, 10 Urge, 11 Intercedes, 12 Pool, 13 Gehazi, 16 Wanderer, 17 Recount, 18 Incense, 22 Separate, 25 Potter, 26 Body, 27 Overthrown, 30 Kiss, 31 Net, 32 Locust.

Down: 1 Lion, 2 Jude, 3 Election, 4 Sundown, 5 Unison, 6 Supplement, 7 Ignore, 14 Eye, 15 Apocalypse, 19 Naphtali, 20 See, 21 Repents, 23 Elohim, 24 Adorns, 28 Raca, 29 Wash.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Bible Stories



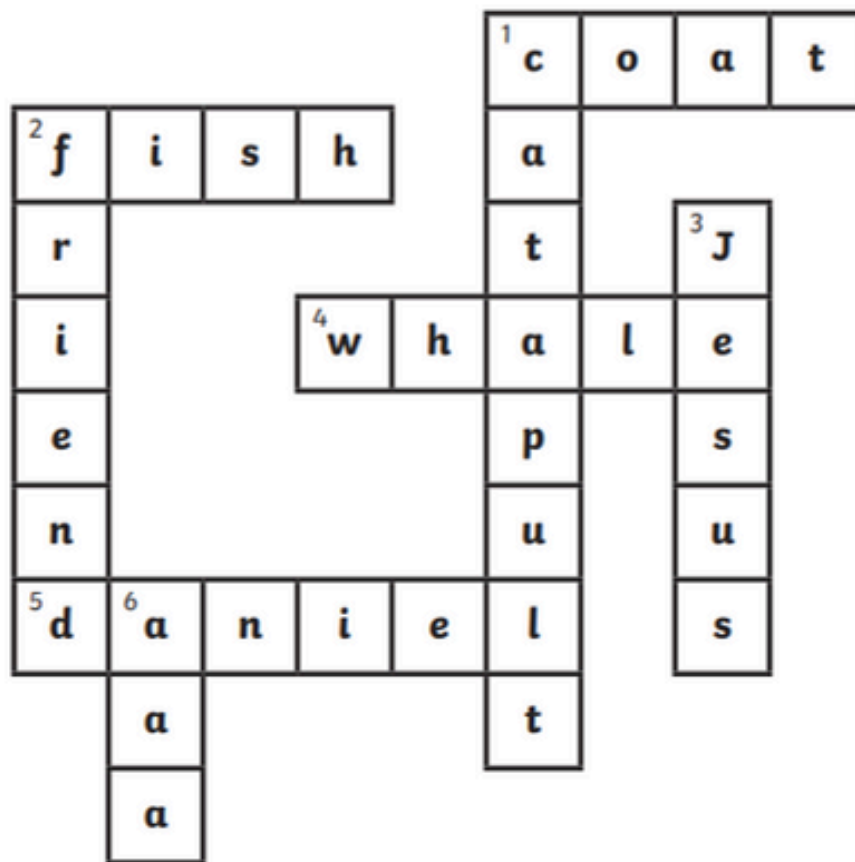
Across

1. Which special item of clothing did Joseph receive from his dad?
2. Jesus fed the 5000 people with bread and _____.
4. Which animal swallowed Jonah?
5. Who was thrown into a den of lions?

Down

1. What did David use to defeat Goliath?
2. Ruth was a good _____ to Naomi.
3. Who did Zacchaeus invite to his house for tea?
6. What did Noah build to save the animals from the flood?

Answers Bible stories



Across

1. Which special item of clothing did Joseph receive from his dad?

coat

2. Jesus fed the 5000 people with bread and **fish**.

4. Which animal swallowed Jonah? **whale**

5. Who was thrown into a den of lions? **Daniel**

Down

1. What did David use to defeat Goliath? **catapult**

2. Ruth was a good **friend** to Naomi.

3. Who did Zacchaeus invite to his house for tea? **Jesus**

6. What did Noah build to save the animals from the flood? **ark**

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HANSEL & GRETEL



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PERFORMANCE DATES:

Friday 5th December Saturday 6th
Sunday 7th December

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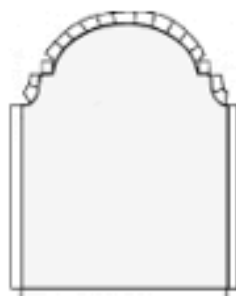
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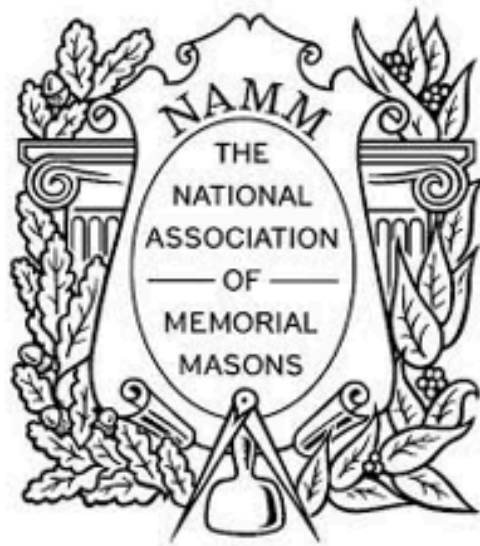
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THE LOCAL INFORMATION PAGE

Doctors:

Field Head Surgery, Field Head, Leymoor Rd.

654504

Surgery hours: 8.15am-12.30pm & 1.15-6.00pm

Monday – Friday. Appointment only.

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 North Parade, 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:

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101

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