



St John's Church Golcar

Working Together for God

PARISH MAGAZINE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



**OCTOBER
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



Change has been on my mind a lot recently. Not just the kind that comes with new school terms, shorter evenings, and the turn of the seasons, but personal change too.

For much of my working life, my focus was always on the next step. I would measure success by promotions and deadlines, always asking, "How quickly can I climb the ladder?" I thrived on being busy and often judged myself by how much I was achieving. But the truth is, that way of living can become exhausting, and it left little space to pause and notice what really mattered. Over the past months, I've found my priorities shifting.

Becoming more involved in church life has opened my eyes and my heart in ways I didn't expect. Instead of chasing the next rung, I've begun to ask different questions. Not "what's next for me?" but "how can I serve?" Not "what will help me get ahead?" but "how can I help share the good news?"

One Sunday this summer, a gospel reading and the sermon that followed by Fr Simon struck me deeply. It was Luke 14:7-14, where Jesus spoke of humility at a feast, choosing the lowest place, and inviting those who cannot repay. It felt like a clear challenge to change my own way of thinking. Life with God isn't about climbing higher, it's about opening our lives and our tables in service and hospitality.

This issue carries that same spirit. We look back with thanks on the events that have brought our church family together, and we look forward with hope to what's ahead, harvest celebrations, the upcoming panto, and more chances to share fellowship and welcome.

So as autumn arrives, with all its fresh starts and challenges, I wonder what change might look like for you too. For me, it means looking less to my own ambition and more to the hope we carry as a church — to be people who help, who share, who welcome, and who spread the good news.

Lucy Williams
Editor



FROM THE VICAR

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



TIME MARCHES ON

The canal towpath from Slaithwaite to Marsden has now been tarmacked. It is much more pleasant for walkers, runners and cyclists. I must admit to having mixed feelings about this, because I have lovely memories from when the children were young, of catching the train from Slawit to Marsden, and splashing through the mud and puddles in our wellies as we walked back along the canal, pausing at the floating Moonraker Café Boat for a hot chocolate or ice-cream for an occasional treat.

As I grow older, I admit to appreciating a nice tarmac path more, and muddy puddles less.

For some reason the new path has numbers all the way along. Starting at "0" near Tunnel End, they measure the distance in metres all the way to the guillotine lock at Slaithwaite, where the numbers finish on "4440".

The numbers go up in 10s or 20s, and as I walk or run along, I find it's a bit like travelling through time.

"0" about when Jesus was born. "30" when he began his ministry. "500" the start of the Middle Ages. "1060-1070" the last time we were conquered. "1500" the end of the Middle Ages. "1830" when St John's was dedicated. "1970" near enough when I was born. "1980" and "1990" school days and growing up. "2000" the new millennium. "2020-2030" the present.

Moving along the numbers like this gives a sense of scale. It feels a very long time since Jesus was born, and a relatively short time since St John's was built. My life-time is just the blink of an eye.

The events of the Old Testament are even further back: if the numbering system went back into the negatives, Abraham, Moses and Jonah would be somewhere inside the Standedge Tunnel, or in Diggle on the other side.

In the present, and looking back, we can see that science, technology and medicine are evolving at an astonishing speed, faster than I can keep up – like many others I ask my children to do things on my phone which have me stumped.

The numbers on the canal don't stop at "2020" or "2030". When I'm walking or running along, they take me from the past to the present and then into the future.

What will the world look like next year, or next century and beyond?

At "4440", the Guillotine Lock is even further in the future than Jesus' birth is in the past (back at Tunnel End).

In the future, I hope the planet will be alive and cared for, that there will be world peace, that greater knowledge will lead to greater compassion.

Through it all, I do know that our faith and beliefs will still be relevant and poignant. That the message of love and salvation will always be needed. That forgiveness, mercy and peace will win through.

Of course, the towpath doesn't stop in Slawit (although the numbers do). It carries on through our parishes of Golcar and Longwood, and beyond to Huddersfield.

Through the years, and along the way, the Christian Faith is received and lived and handed on, as we all play our part in God's great plan.

God Bless

Editor's note: Since Fr Simon wrote this, the painted numbers have now been painted over – yet his reflections on time remain just as thought-provoking.

WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY



**THURSDAY 4TH –
SATURDAY 6TH
DECEMBER –
PANTOMIME**

St John's present Hansel and Gretel – a magical family pantomime filled with laughter, music and festive fun. Evening performances will run Thursday to Saturday, with a special Saturday matinee. Come along and support this much-loved village tradition!



**SUNDAY
26TH
OCTOBER –
CLOCKS GO
BACK**

Remember to put your clocks back an hour as British Summer Time ends.

JOKE

**What kind of man was Boaz
before he got married?
Ruth-less.**

WORSHIP/FAITH



SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER – HARVEST FESTIVAL

Join us to give thanks for God's provision. We'll also be celebrating 100 years of the Guides in Golcar and launching this year's Shoebox Appeal.

As part of Harvest, we are collecting donations for the Welcome Centre and the Drop-By Centre on Sycamore Avenue. Items especially needed are cereals, corned beef, sugar, tins, tea bags, and monetary gifts.

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER – CONFIRMATION SERVICE

A special joint benefice service at St John's, 10am, with the Bishop of Huddersfield as we support those being confirmed in their faith. Please contact Fr Simon if this is something you like to explore

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

We gather to honour and remember all who have given their lives in service of others.

SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER – SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

A time to reflect on our commitment to making church a safe place for all.

ADVENT SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

– ADVENT BEGINS

The start of Advent. Shoeboxes will be blessed during the service.

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER 6PM – ADVENT SERVICE



LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER



➡ GUTHLAC'S GANG – BACK AFTER SUMMER!

Guthlac's Gang had a wonderful first Sunday back after the summer break!

This term began with a lively session on the Armour of God from Ephesians 6. The children explored what it means to be equipped by God, with belts of truth, shields of faith, helmets of salvation, and more, before creating their very own armour out of cardboard. It was such a joy to see everyone together again, smiling, crafting, and remembering that God makes us strong.

It is always a blessing when children and families choose to join us, and we look forward to growing together in faith and friendship.

Guthlac's Gang is such a special part of our church life. It gives our children the chance to learn Bible stories in a way that is fun, creative, and meaningful, while also building friendships and confidence in their faith.

The lessons they take away – about truth, faith, peace, and God's love – are treasures that stay with them as they grow.

Moments like this remind us how important it is to nurture young people in the life of the church. As they cut, coloured, and built their armour, they were also building a foundation of trust in God – learning that His strength is always with them, whatever they may face.

As Paul reminds us:

"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power!" (Ephesians 6:10)

We give thanks for the joy and energy that Guthlac's Gang bring each week and look forward to all that this new term holds.

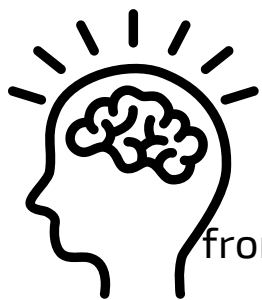


➡ Open the Book

The Open the Book team have been back in schools sharing Bible stories with children in a fun and lively way. We're delighted to welcome Mrs Marchington as a new acting member of the team, and she has already brought great enthusiasm to the storytelling!

FAITH IN REAL LIFE

Practical ideas and honest answers



ASK US ANYTHING

A real question
from someone in our
community

Q: How do I hold on to faith when the world feels uncertain?

Life is full of ups and downs. Wars, worries, and personal struggles can leave us feeling shaken. But God is steady, even when life isn't.

Faith doesn't mean pretending everything is fine, it means trusting that God is with us in the middle of it all.

Doubt and questions are part of faith. You don't need to have all the answers. You just need to keep turning back to the One who holds you steady.



Want to ask something?

email:

office@stjohnschurchgolcar.org

This Month's



CHALLENGE

Put Faith into action
with one small step

Choose one way to bring peace.

Light a candle and pray for the world.

Share a kind word with someone who's struggling.

Switch off the news for an evening and rest in God's presence.

Why?

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." Peace starts small, in our homes, our hearts, and our words.

Faith and Real Life

What does peace teach us?

- That God's peace is deeper than calm feelings.
- That we can choose peace even when life is noisy.
- That peace is not the absence of trouble but the presence of God.
- That peace given to us is peace to share with others.



ST WILFRID'S HARROGATE LIGHTING THE WAY TO NET ZERO

News from Diocese of Leeds

Thanks to a Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins Fund grant, St Wilfrid's Harrogate have been able to make big improvements to their lighting as part of their journey to net zero.

The Grade I listed church and parish centre has replaced hundreds of halogen and fluorescent bulbs with efficient LEDs, added movement sensors in busy areas, and upgraded exterior floodlights to more suitable fittings.

These changes have reduced electricity use, improved lighting quality, and made the historic building more welcoming.

Facilities Manager Rebecca Oliver said: "There are still areas to tackle, but we are aiming to have replaced 100% of the old inefficient bulbs and fittings by the end of 2025, a milestone on our pathway to net zero."

Grants are still available through the diocesan scheme to help churches with small-scale decarbonisation projects such as lighting, heating, insulation and more.

KIRKHEATON CHURCH BECOMES MORE ACCESSIBLE THANKS TO PARISH GRANTS SCHEME



Kirkheaton Parish Church has made a simple but important improvement to their Parish Centre thanks to the Parish Grants Scheme. With a grant of £4,500, the church was able to extend their handrails right up to the front door, making access much easier for older members and those with mobility concerns.

Parish Administrator Cathy Howarth said: "Since the work has been done our centre users have been delighted with the improvements, especially those who lacked confidence to come on their own in case they couldn't manage."

The Parish Grants Scheme supports small projects of up to £5,000 that improve accessibility. It is part of the Church of England Disability Project (2024–26), which aims to remove barriers faced by Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people in church life.



Regular Services

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 October

Sunday 5th

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion, led by Revd Jan Sargent

Sunday 12th

8.00am – Traditional Said Holy Communion

9.30am – All Age Service

Sunday 19th

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion

Sunday 26th

8.00am – Traditional Said Holy Communion

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion

150 Club Winners

September

No 33 Ann-Marie Ruscoe

No 28 Judith King

No 52 Phillip Jackson

New members welcome

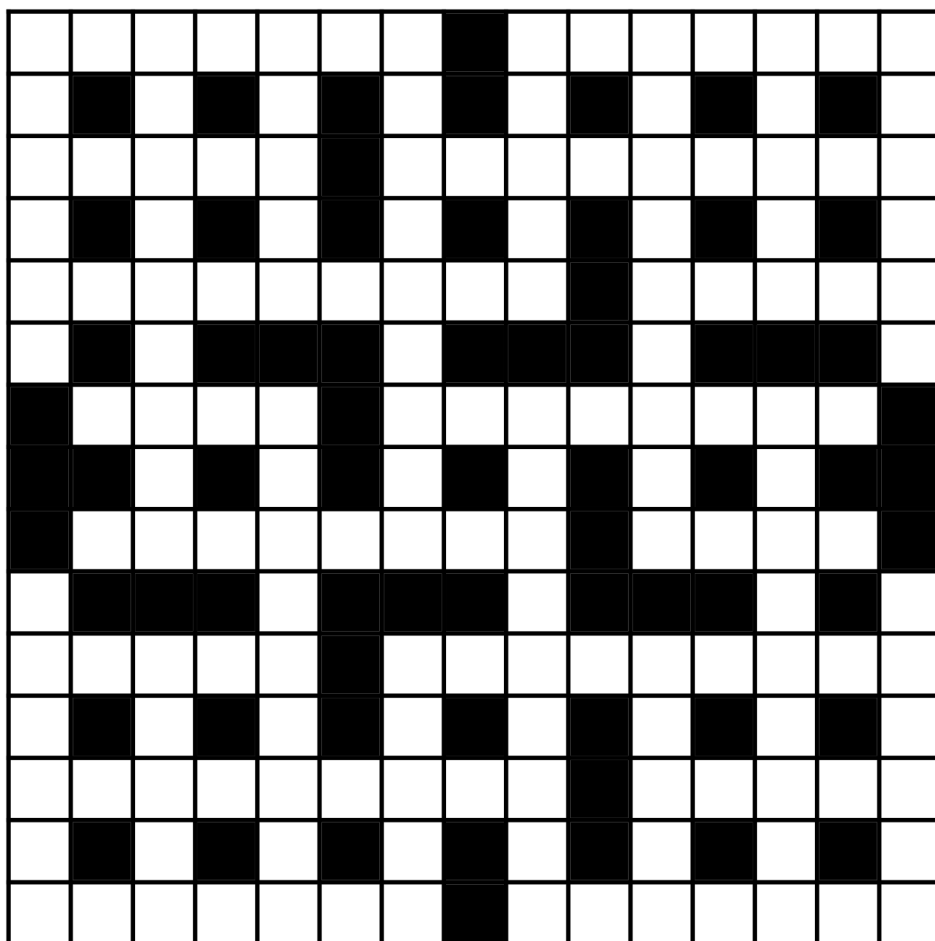
Anne Crosland will be pleased to part you from your money!

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Bible Crossword III

Across

- 1 Desperation; Praised
(anag) (7)
- 5 God, doing this on day
7 (7)
- 9 More refined (5)
- 10 One of Paul's
letters (9)
- 11 Uncared for (9)
- 12 Encamp against
city (5)
- 13 Charitable giving (4)
- 15 Consecrated (8)
- 18 Abraham received
these (8)



by *Philologus*

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

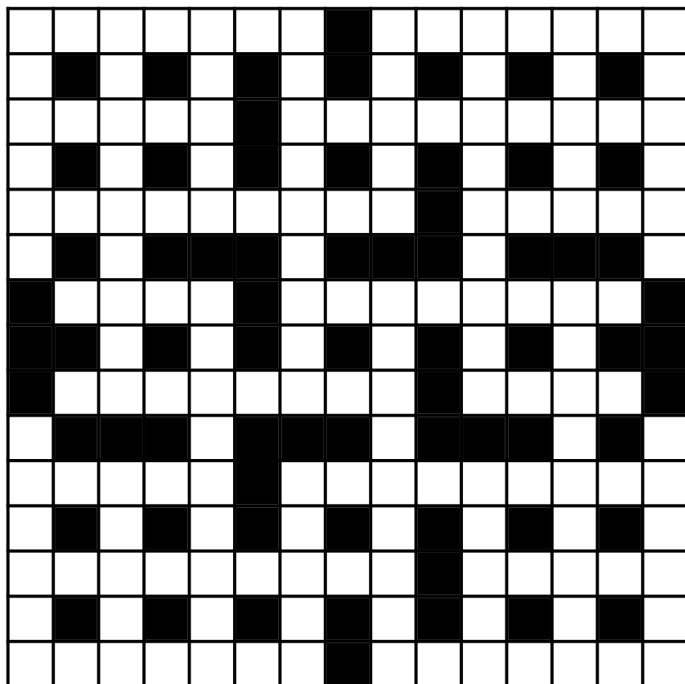
- 19 Jesus raised in 3 (4)
- 22 Colour found only in
Ezekiel (5)
- 24 Someone who
shields (9)
- 26 Continuance of life (9)
- 27 Grind together (5)
- 28 Unusual (7)
- 29 Athalia's cry (7)

Down

- 1 Rely on (6)
- 2 Tail-ender (9)
- 3 Be in harmony (5)
- 4 Not wicked (9)
- 5 Reigned (5) 6
Contented (9)
- 7 Picture (5)
- 8 Good news (6)

- 14 The first, first-aider?
(9) 16 Fraudulent (9) 17
Slain by Moses (9) 20
They get the hump (6) 21
Parentless (6) 23 Prickly
shrub (5) 24 300 bought
ointment
to anoint Jesus (5)
- 25 Keen-sighted bird of
prey (5)

Bible Crossword III - Solution



Across: 1 Despair, 5 Resting, 9 Purer, 10 Galatians, 11 Neglected, 12 Siege, 13 Alms, 15 Ordained, 18 Promises, 19 Days, 22 Amber, 24 Protector, 26 Existence, 27 Gnash, 28 Strange, 29 Treason.

Down: 1 Depend, 2 Straggler, 3 Agree, 4 Righteous, 5 Ruled, 6 Satisfied, 7 Image, 8 Gospel, 14 Samaritan, 16 Dishonest, 17 Egyptians, 20 Camels, 21 Orphan, 23 Brier, 24 Pence, 25 Eagle.

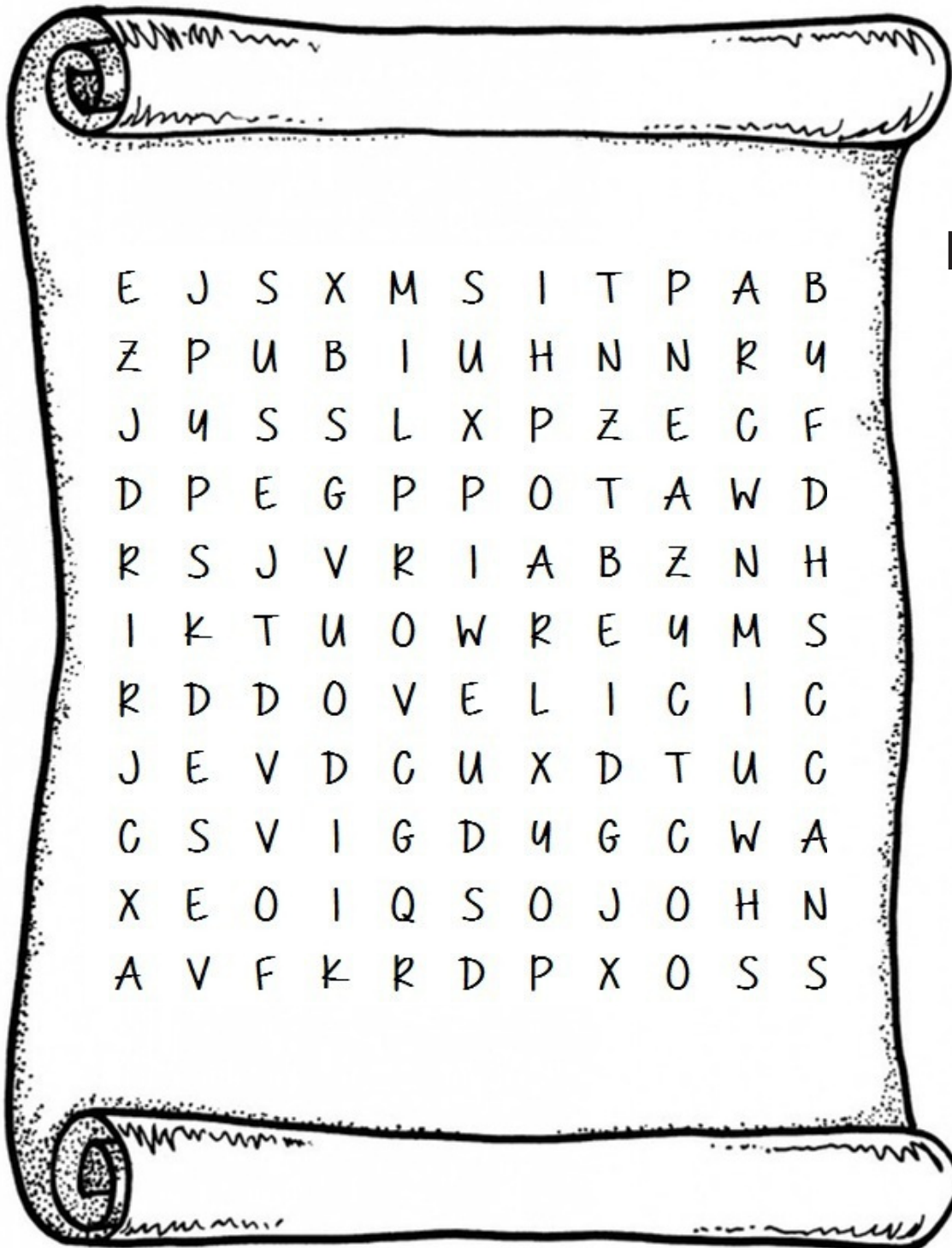
Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Jesus Activity Workbook

Jesus Word Search Puzzle



Find the listed words in the grid. They are all to do with the baptism of Jesus. The words may be in any direction including backwards or diagonally.



BAPTISM

DOVE

GOD

JESUS

JOHN

RIVER

SPIRIT

VOICE

WATER

HANSEL & GRETEL



A COMMUNITY PANTOMIME!

Oh yes it is!



PERFORMANCE DATES:

Thursday 4th December 7pm Friday 5th December 7pm
Saturday 6th December 2pm & 7pm

VENUE: St John's Church
Golcar



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Email: margaret.holland497@btinternet.com

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

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Police:

101

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