



St John's Church Golcar

Working Together for God

PARISH MAGAZINE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



**NOVEMBER
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	office@stjohnschuchgolcar.org
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	Safeguarding@stjohnschuchgolcar.org
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.

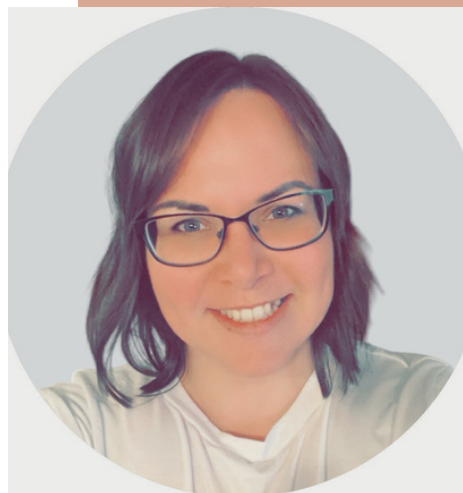
We would welcome more people who would like to be an intercessor. Please think about this and speak to Fr. Simon about it; then give your name to Lucy. Thank you.

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



November is a month of remembering. We pause to give thanks for those who have gone before us, those who shaped our faith and the loved ones who shaped our lives. In our village and across our nation, we stand together on Remembrance Sunday to honour the courage and sacrifice of those who served and never returned.

For me, this season always feels deeply personal. With my son serving as a Grenadier Guard, and my dad and grandad having worn their uniforms before him, I am reminded how service, duty and love for others run through generations. Remembrance is both national and deeply personal, woven into the stories of families like ours.

As a church, we have recently celebrated Harvest, a time to give thanks for all God's goodness and to share that abundance with others. It was wonderful to see the Guides join us for the service, bringing their energy and joyful presence.

We have also launched our Shoebox Appeal, a chance to extend that same spirit of generosity beyond our doors and bring comfort to those who need it most.

As we gather this month to remember the names from Golcar who gave their lives, we also hold fast to hope. For ours is a God who promises that light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. May our remembering and our giving draw us closer together in gratitude, compassion and peace.

Lucy Williams
Editor



FROM THE VICAR

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

IS LIFE A BLIZZARD?

It's that time of year again: the shops are filling up with Christmas gifts, food and decorations. In a certain budget shop I saw a batch of snow globes, each with a little landscape inside. Having been sitting a while on the shelf, all the snow had settled down to the bottom. Not able to resist, I picked one of them up and gave it a good shake. The scene within filled with snow suspended in whatever liquid is inside. At first it whirled around, then slowed to a general blizzard, and then began to settle back down again. On the shelf, the pretend snow would all end up back on the floor of the globe.

Modern life often feels like this to me. The snow represents all the thousand and one things which crowd around and demand attention, some of them good and joyful, some demanding and onerous. But altogether a bit too much, and constantly filling up our lives and taking over.

Just as each snowflake is tiny and almost invisible, so are each of the things which compete for space in our lives. Put them all together and there is an impenetrable blizzard, blocking out all else.

The good news is that back on the shelf, the snow settles and clears, and once more you can see.

Sometimes we can wear ourselves out trying to juggle the millions of flakes which float into our lives, or battling our way through them. Over time, this can wear us out.

Is it time to let it settle? Is it time for a rest and a reset? Time to go back on the shelf for a while and let the air clear and things to settle down, so that once more we can see enough to make sense of things.

A retreat can help with this process of slowing and stopping, letting things settle and finding a new perspective.



Whether a retreat or in other ways, if you need space for the air to clear and time to breathe and see, then start making a plan for it to happen. Stop telling yourself it's only snow, stop saying you should be able to cope, or that you simply have to try harder.

Find a way to step aside for a while and let the snow fall to the ground. The air after the snow has settled is beautifully clear, it's like a whole new world.

God Bless

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!

**SATURDAY 15TH
NOVEMBER - RNLI
COFFEE MORNING 9AM
AT ST JOHNS CHURCH**

**FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
- SHOEBOX APPEAL
DEADLINE**

**FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
- GOLCAR CHRISTMAS
LIGHT SWITCH ON
5PM**

JOKE

**What time of day did God
create Adam?
Just before Eve**

WORSHIP/FAITH



**SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER –
CONFIRMATION SERVICE 10AM**

We're delighted to welcome Bishop Smitha to St John's for a special joint benefice service as we celebrate and support those being confirmed in their faith – an important step where individuals affirm the promises made at their baptism and receive prayer for the strengthening of the Holy Spirit.

After the service, we'll be sharing refreshments together – donations of cakes would be very much appreciated. If you're interested in exploring confirmation or would like to know more, please contact Fr Simon.

**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 & SHOE
BOX BLESSING**

**ADVENT SERVICE 14TH
DECEMBER**

– 6pm St Johns church

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
19TH DECEMBER**

– 7pm St Johns church

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE 21ST
DECEMBER**

– 9:30am St Johns church

**CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH
DECEMBER**

Nativity Service 4pm St John's
Midnight Mass 11pm St John's

**CHRISTMAS DAY 25TH
DECEMBER**

Holy communion 8am St John's
Holy Communion with carols
9.30am St John's

LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER



HARVEST FESTIVAL AT ST JOHN'S

This year's Harvest Festival at St John's was a joyful celebration of thankfulness and community. The church was filled with autumn colours, beautiful displays, and a spirit of gratitude as we gave thanks to God for the fruits of the earth and the work of human hands.

A special mention goes to Betty, whose beautiful flower display in the entrance welcomed everyone in with warmth and colour, a wonderful reminder of the beauty of God's creation.

We were reminded that harvest is not only about what we receive but also about what we give and share with others. All the food donated during the service has been passed on to The Drop By Centre's Food Share and The Welcome Centre, where it was gratefully received.

These donations will help support individuals and families in need within our local area, especially at a time when many are struggling to make ends meet.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed, whether through tins, packets, fresh produce, or by helping with the beautiful displays and collection. Your generosity reflects the true meaning of harvest, sharing God's goodness with others.

St John's School Harvest Celebration

We were delighted to welcome St John's School for their Harvest Service, led by Rev Kevin Partington. The children filled the church with joyful singing and heartfelt prayers, reminding us how much we have to be thankful for.

Rev Kevin spoke about how Harvest can also spell Have, Eat, Starve, and Share – a simple reminder to think about others and share what we have.

It was a lovely morning of thanks, joy, and community.



LAUNCH OF THE SHOEBOX APPEAL

The church would like say a huge thank you to those who have already committed to giving to the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Many of you have donated for several years, showing your support and kindness. The Appeal supports the work of One Big Family who help local homeless and impoverished people in Huddersfield and Halifax. One Big Family tells us they see an increase in people needing their support, year on year.

Sadly, according to Shelter, homelessness has increased in the UK by 14% in the last year, following a 12% increase the year before. Government figures report a 20% increase in rough sleeping in the UK since 2023. One Big Family supports over 100 rough sleepers across Huddersfield and Halifax.

It is a complex picture as many rough sleepers are single men, but also, statistically, children are the group most affected by poverty as it can seriously impact on their life outcomes.

For the men, our donations of men's socks, boxer shorts, deodorant, joggers and sleeping bags provide much needed comfort and dignity.

For children, more than a quarter of children in Yorkshire are below the poverty line.

Around 440 Huddersfield families are in temporary accommodation, such as B&Bs. In 2024, Kirklees Council said the number of homeless households needing temporary accommodation has risen by a massive 168 per cent since 2019.

as well as homeless and vulnerably housed people, our appeal also helps provide a food bank.

One Big Family don't donate toys directly but pass them on to children in Social Services, who are grateful for them as people don't often donate to Social Services.

So, the St Johns Christmas Shoebox Appeal is more vital than ever. We do make a difference to all those who receive a shoebox or any other kind of donation.

Last Christmas, we spoke with a man who had been homeless, living in a tent in the woods. He told us the effect of receiving a gift from an unknown stranger, in the form of the shoebox. He said it was so important - he knew someone cared and loved him. This man is fine now and part of the Golcar community. The shoeboxes don't just contain essential items; they are compassion in a box.



Also last Christmas, some children had newly arrived in Kirklees Social Services and had very little with them. The toys we gave provided Christmas gifts, including a toy pram for a 3-year-old girl who was delighted with it.

Items can be handed into church by Friday 28 November, but money can be donated any time after this date. The church is open on Sunday mornings and Thursday mornings.

If you would like to help us with the wrapping and packing of the shoeboxes before they are blessed and delivered, this will take place on the morning of Saturday 29 November.

So, if you are blessed enough to be able to give, however much or little, it is very appreciated. Thank you again for all your support.

By: Caroline Faulkner



In October, Golcar Guides embarked on the celebrations for our 100th anniversary. We created an exhibition at Colne Valley Museum which highlighted the changes in programme, badges, and uniforms over time, together with myriads of photos and experiences shared by Guides both past and present.

Through the power of social media, we were able to get in touch with the niece and great-niece of Golcar Guides' founder – Sue and Helen Whitehead. It was fantastic to meet them at our reunion coffee morning, along with previous Guide leaders.

It was also lovely to celebrate our 100th anniversary at the Harvest Service with both past and present leaders, when we acknowledged our appreciation for all that they have done and all that they continue to do for Guides.

By: Lucy Crosland

GOLCAR GUIDES CELEBRATE 100 YEARS



WORKING TOGETHER TO CARE FOR OUR CHURCHES

News from Diocese of Leeds

Churches across the Diocese of Leeds are finding new ways to care for their buildings through Maintenance Collectives — a project focused on collaboration and shared expertise.

Supported by a grant from the Church of England's Church Buildings Management Partnerships programme, the Diocese has launched two pilot schemes: one in a rural area (Wensley Deanery, Ripon) and one soon to begin in an urban setting.

The Wensley pilot has funded an architect to help churches develop maintenance plans, training sessions for staff and volunteers, and

administrative support to ease the workload on clergy and wardens.

The aim is simple — make building care easier and free up more time for mission. Regular upkeep also prevents costly repairs later. To support this, participants attended the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' Faith in Maintenance course at St Alkelda and St Mary's, Middleham. Attendees enjoyed practical training, walkarounds, and shared experiences, leaving encouraged and better equipped to care for their churches.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with

one churchwarden saying the day was "informative, enjoyable, and full of practical advice."

The Diocese will soon launch its urban pilot and build on lessons learned to help more churches maintain their buildings well into the future.

BUBBLE CHURCH LAUNCHES IN MIRFIELD



St Mary the Virgin, Mirfield has launched a new family-friendly service called Bubble Church, designed to welcome young children and families.

The first service on Sunday 5 October drew around 25 people who enjoyed songs, puppets, Bible stories, and fun activities in a relaxed café-style setting.

Rev'd Graeme Blackwell, Assistant Curate in the Mirfield Team Parish, led the launch as part of the church's Year of Mission 2025. He said it was "wonderful to see so many families join us and share the joy of worshipping together."

Bubble Church will run at 4pm on the first Sunday of each month, offering a lively, welcoming way for families to explore faith together.

A New Chapter for the Church – Sarah Mullally Becomes Archbishop of Canterbury



History has been made. For the first time in nearly 1,400 years, the Church of England has chosen a woman as Archbishop of Canterbury. Sarah Mullally's appointment marks a turning point not just for the national church, but for parishes like ours too.

Her journey has been unusual. Before ordination, she worked in healthcare and rose to become England's Chief Nursing Officer, the youngest ever in that role. She was made a Dame for her service to nursing, then answered a later call to ministry. In 2017 she became Bishop of London, one of the most senior posts in the Church.

Now, she takes on the role of Archbishop at a time of difficulty. The Church is still facing the pain of safeguarding failures and the loss of public trust. There are deep divisions about inclusion, marriage, and how the Church should respond to the challenges of our society.

Mullally has not avoided difficult issues. She has spoken plainly about abuse, describing it as "shocking" and admitting the Church's failures. She supported blessings for same-sex couples, though not a change in the marriage rules. She has also spoken against assisted dying, warning of risks to the most vulnerable.

Her appointment as the first woman in this role will be celebrated by many and questioned by others. But whatever our view, this is a moment of change. She cannot lead by tradition alone. The Church needs wisdom, courage, and honesty.

For us here in Golcar, her appointment is not just a headline. It is a reminder that the wider Church is on a journey of renewal, and that we play a part too. How we welcome people, how we listen, how we hold each other accountable, all of this matters in the life of the Church.

Let us pray for Sarah Mullally as she begins her ministry as Archbishop of Canterbury. And let us also pray for our own church family here and that we may be shaped by honesty, justice, and love in all we do.

By: Lucy Williams



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 November

Sunday 2nd

10:00am - Joint Benefice Confirmation Service, Bishop Smitha

Sunday 9th

8.00am - Traditional Said Holy Communion

9.30am - All Age Service - Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 16th

9.30am - Sung Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd

8.00am - Traditional Said Holy Communion

9.30am - Sung Holy Communion

Sunday 30th

9.30am - Sung Holy Communion

150 Club Winners

October

No 121 Betty Taylor

No 30 Sue Starr

No 15 Helen Marchington

New members welcome

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

£1 per Month per Number



Parish Apple Crumble

Serves: 6

Prep Time: 15 min

Total Time: 50 minutes

From the Parish Kitchen – celebrating the fruits of generosity and community.

This month, we've been blessed with an abundance of apples – kindly donated by friends of the church in return for donations to our gardening fund. What better way to celebrate this generosity than by turning some of those apples into something comforting and delicious to share?

INGREDIENTS

- 4 large cooking apples (peeled, cored, and sliced)
- 2 tbsp caster sugar (plus a little extra for sprinkling)
- 1 tsp cinnamon (optional but lovely)
- 175g plain flour
- 100g butter
- 75g light brown sugar

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan).
2. Place the apple slices in an ovenproof dish and sprinkle with caster sugar and cinnamon.
3. Rub the butter into the flour with your fingertips until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs.
4. Stir in the brown sugar, then sprinkle evenly over the apples.
5. Bake for 30–35 minutes until golden and bubbling.
6. Serve warm with custard, cream, or ice cream – and a thankful heart.

A little thought:

Just as our gardens flourish when tended with care, so too does our community when kindness is shared.

Thank you to everyone who donated apples and supported the gardening fund – your generosity continues to bear fruit in more ways than one!

Bible Crossword IV

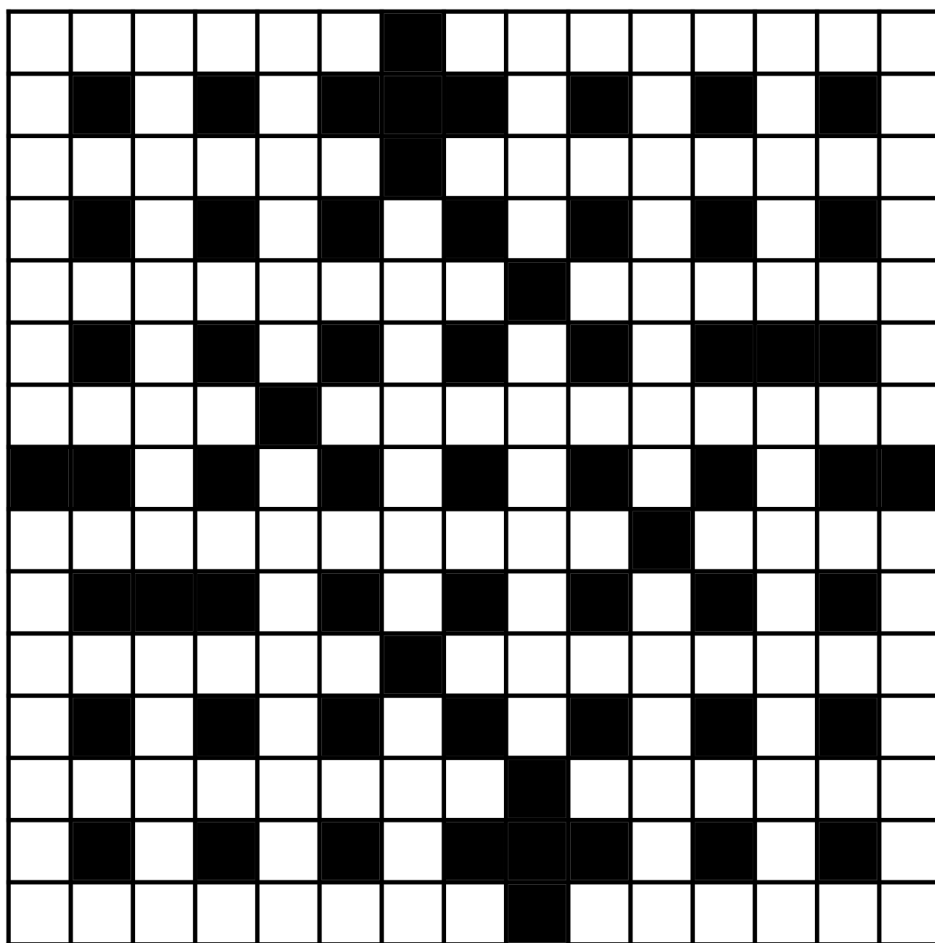
Across

- 1 Express sorrow (6)
 4 Anticipated (8)
 9 God with judge
 people with this (6)
 10 Sore ants (anag); In
 the White House? (8)
 12 Kept confined (8)
 13 Times Peter denied
 Christ (6)
 15 Noah became this by
 faith (4)
 16 Last book of the
 Bible (10)
 19 God's angels (10)
 20 Mix up (4)
 23 Thin length of
 material (6)

- 25 It never comes (8)
 27 Soothed (8)
 28 Money lender (6)
 29 Counted (8)
 30 Rigid sheets of
 metal (6)

Down

- 1 A dimension of God's
 love (7)
 2 Himalayas, for
 example (9)



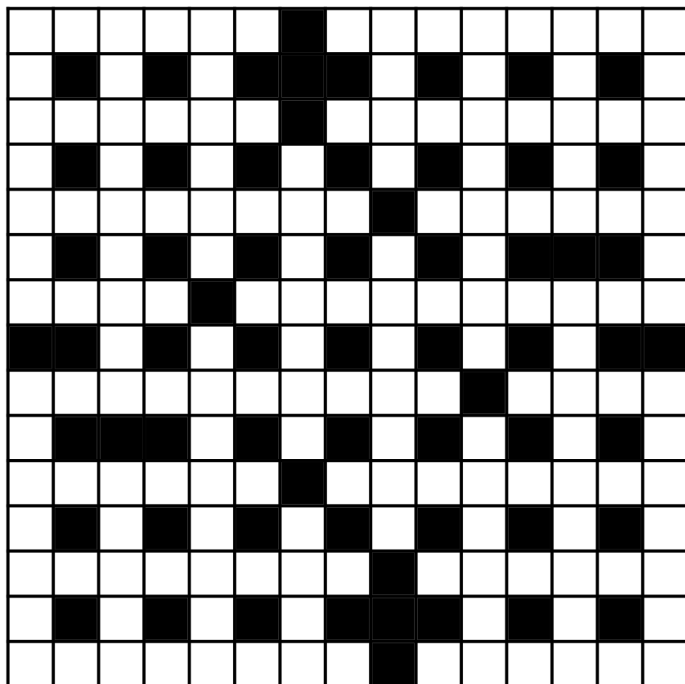
by *Philologus*

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 3 Gain, reach or arrive
 at (6)
 5 Sesame worked! (4)
 6 A faithful minister of
 Christ (8)
 7 Mother in law of
 Ruth (5)
 8 Sun sets in this sky (7)
 11 Retaliation (7)
 14 Scripture is profitable
 for this (7)

- 17 Magicians couldn't
 do this for Pharaoh's
 dreams (9)
 18 Jerusalem - how her
 house is left (8)
 19 Disease of cattle (7)
 21 When Jesus comes
 these will be with
 Him (7)
 22 Fragment of food (6)
 24 Booms (anag) (5)
 26 Not there! (4)

Bible Crossword IV - Solution



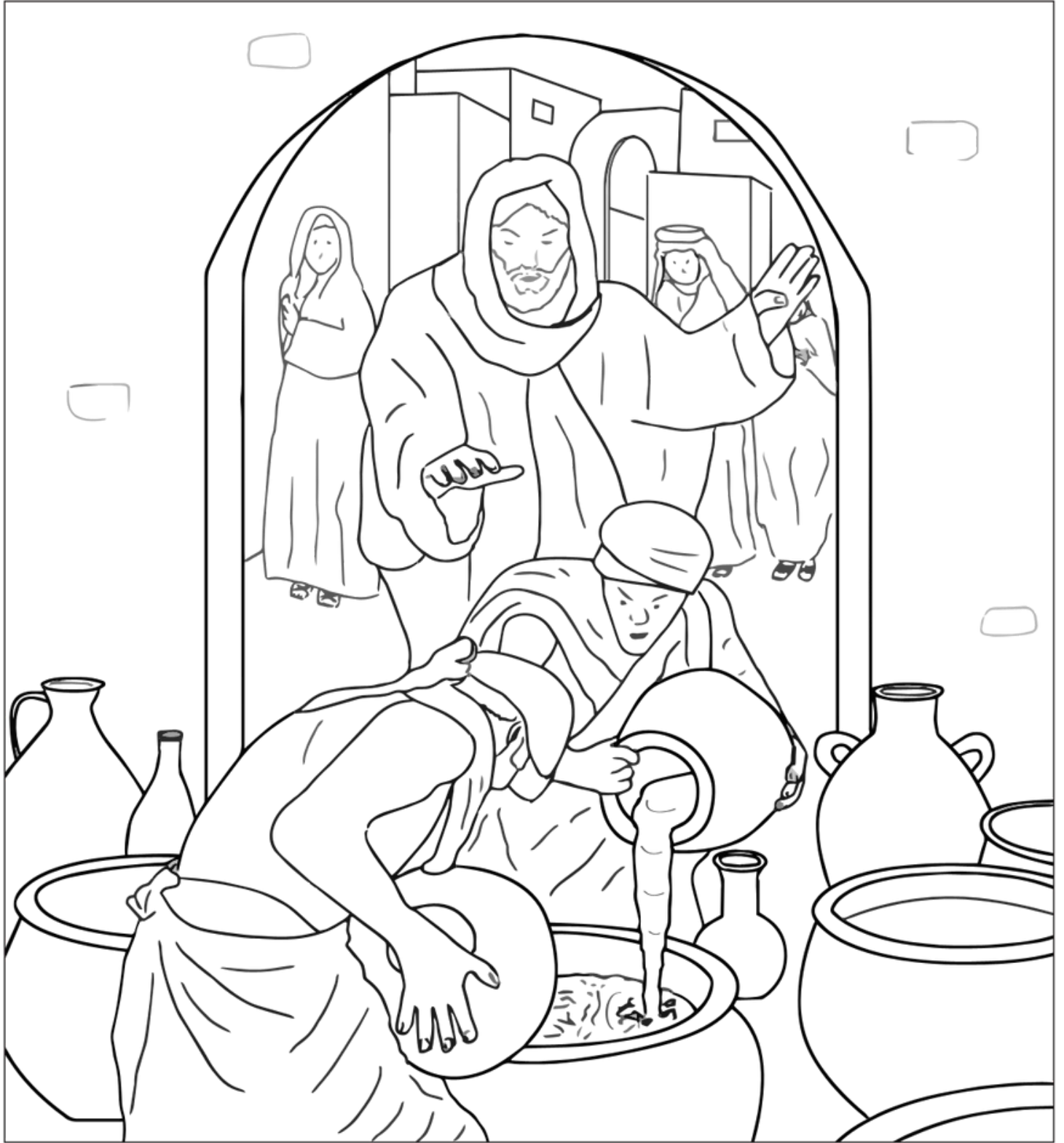
Across: 1 Bemoan, 4 Foreknew, 9 Equity, 10 Senators, 12 Detained, 13 Thrice, 15 Heir, 16 Revelation, 19 Messengers, 20 Stir, 23 Ribbon, 25 Tomorrow, 27 Assuaged, 28 Usurer, 29 Numbered, 30 Plates.

Down: 1 Breadth, 2 Mountains, 3 Attain, 5 Open, 6 Epaphras, 7 Naomi, 8 Western, 11 Revenge, 14 Reproof, 17 Interpret, 18 Desolate, 19 Murrain, 21 Rewards, 22 Morsel, 24 Bosom, 26 Here.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Jesus Turns Water Into Wine

John 2v 1 - 11



Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. (John 2 v 1-11)

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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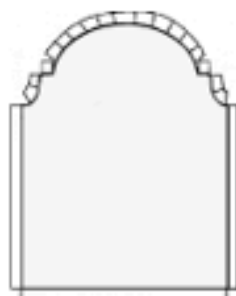
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THE LOCAL INFORMATION PAGE

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

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101

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