

# IN TOUCH

Magazine of the Hanley Team Ministry

2026

January  
2026



# JANUARY DIARY

**Events in bold take place each week but check with organisers**

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Cobridge Kiddies</b>	<b>Christ Church</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>Lunch Club</b>	<b>Christ Church</b>	<b>12.00</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>Places of Welcome</b>	<b>St. Luke's</b>	<b>08.30</b>
	<b>Open Door</b>	<b>St. Mark's</b>	<b>09.30-13.30</b>
	<b>'Drop-In'</b>	<b>Christ Church</b>	<b>10.00</b>
	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	<b>St. Luke's</b>	<b>13.00</b>
	<b>Over 55s</b>	<b>St. Matthew's</b>	<b>13.30</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Place of Welcome</b>	<b>St. Mark's</b>	<b>08.30</b>
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>Open Door</b>	<b>St. Mark's</b>	<b>09.30-12.30</b>
<b>Second Sat</b>	<b>Bingo Afternoon</b>	<b>St. Luke's</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>Last Sunday</b>	<b>Bubble Church</b>	<b>St. Luke's</b>	<b>15.00</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> .	New School Term starts		
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> .	Coffee Morning & Lunch / Bingo	St. Matthew's	10.00 12.00

**Rev. Mike Bridgewater will be running an Alpha Course from the end of January. Watch out for details in notices and pew sheets**

## SUNDAY READINGS IN JANUARY

<b>4th.</b>	<b>The Epiphany</b>		
	Isa. 60: 1-6	Eph. 3: 1-12	Matt. 2: 1-12
<b>11th.</b>	<b>The Baptism of Christ</b>		
	Isa. 42: 1-9	Acts 10: 34-43	Matt. 3: 13-17
<b>18th.</b>	<b>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</b>		
	Isa. 49: 1-7	1 Cor. 1: 1-9	John 1: 29-42
<b>25th.</b>	<b>The Conversion of Paul</b>		
	Jer. 1: 4-10	Acts 9: 1-22	Matt. 19: 27-30
Or	Acts 9: 1-22	Gal. 1: 11-16a	Matt. 19: 27-30

# A New Year Message

The editor is grateful for all news, information and articles that go together to make up each monthly magazine. Some are inspired by our congregations. Additionally, Simon Jones, Creative Media Producer from Lichfield Diocese, comes up with a couple of articles each month, one of which is a regular contribution from Harriet Carty on environmental issues. Another welcome source is 'Parish Pump' with all manner of editorial content, including a much-loved favourite amongst our readers, the letters of Uncle Eustace to his nephew Darren. Anne Coomes from the Parish Pump Team has an encouraging new year message:

*The great American songwriter, Oscar Hammerstein II, once claimed that he just could not write a song without hope in it. He was an optimist, always looking for the positive in every situation. Well, the Bible is the most optimistic book you could imagine. Despite the pain of history, it has a happy ending – looking forward to an eternal future that is free from evil and pain.*

*We are about to enter 2026 with the world scene more uncertain than ever. Many people are feeling low, wondering which way to turn for comfort and security in their lives. You can help them, for your church magazine can be a small lifeline of Christian hope and love to the people of your community. Very few of them will ever see any other Christian publication. There is an old saying: Bibles that are falling apart are usually owned by people who are not. You won't be able to get the Bible into the hands of all the people of your community, but you CAN get your church magazine into their hands. You can publish articles that tell them of the Christian hope in Jesus Christ, and which encourage them to lift up their hearts and minds to God.*

*So be encouraged and energised this month, your magazine can be a little light which brings the Light of the World to your community this coming year. May we wish you all a good start to 2026.*

Amen to that.

## WORDSEARCH – EPIPHANY

6<sup>th</sup> January brings Epiphany - the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. Matthew calls them 'Magi', the name of an ancient priestly caste from Persia. Early church tradition says there were three: Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior. As for their gifts? Gold is a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense is a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh is a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things.

Epiphany	Priestly	Gold	Sacrifice	Ancient
Visit	Persia	Wealth	Myrrh	Gifts
Wise	Balthasar	Wisdom	Symbol	Tradition
Men	Caspar	Incense	Healing	Challenged
Magi	Melchior	Worship	Embalming	World





# SUDOKU

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## NAME THAT FLOWER

Sent in by Kath Durber of Holy Trinity

**Answers on page 13**

- |                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. What Jesus did from the dead | 2. Bovine misadventure             |
| 3. Sad ringer                   | 4. Lady of the vale                |
| 5. Reynard's hand covering      | 6. Wed Auric                       |
| 7. Amour in a slight fog        | 8. Dairy container                 |
| 9. Look in the eye              | 10. Royal drinking vessel          |
| 11. This is the best policy     | 12. Rapid drinking hole            |
| 13. Scruffy bird                | 14. Smart Leo                      |
| 15. It's in a rainbow           | 16. Will this get the house clean? |

**Bird question for tie -breaker – A flightless bird from Iceland**

# **GRATITUDE & Church Finances**

**Liz Jackson**

New Year is a good time to be looking back and forward. As Dag Hammarskjöld, the UN's second Secretary General prayed: "For all that has been, thank you. For all that is to come, yes!"

God is faithful in his provision for us and for his church (often coming through us). Recently published insights into 2024 Church of England finances show many signs of continuing financial health in Lichfield Diocese's churches, which is vital to a confident, thriving body of Christ, growing in love and service. So we can give thanks while remaining prayerful about our future needs and our part in providing them.

Thinking and praying is all the more relevant after the recent round of consultations with parishes this autumn which resoundingly backed using the diocese's increased income over coming years from the Church's national historic investments to invest in parishes rather than merely balancing the books.

The challenge is for parishes to achieve and maintain financial sustainability rather than spending all-too-exhaustible reserves. We will need to make the right spending choices to take us there. 2024's on-the-ground analysis of parishes shows us some encouraging signs as well as pointers to things that need attention.

One stand-out is that parishes are taking the responsibility of caring for their buildings as seriously as ever. They have found more money for their buildings in recent years with capital expenditure on buildings rising back to the pre-pandemic peak of £5 million a year, although this is not exactly comparable because of inflation.

Even better news is that the amount of grant income has risen to closely track and almost equal the level of capital expenditure 2022-2024.

This is a sea-change on a decade ago, so join me in giving thanks for the sources of grants for buildings, mostly trusts, and for all the skilled people, especially those in St Mary's House, who know where to apply and how to write the applications. In future, grant funding should be even easier to access through technological marvels like the Cornerstone platform which the national church is rolling out across dioceses.

Looking at our churches income and expenditure can also inform our future choices and the recently published data is uniquely about money flowing into and out of parishes. Total income rose slightly from 2022-2024 in monetary terms, again after a pandemic drop. A rise in income is always a cause of gratitude, but it is still lower than pre-pandemic. Expenditure on parish share (common fund, which pays for parishes to have serving, trained, housed and pensioned clergy and more besides) is broadly flat. It is the minor sources of income that have increased: interest, property income (church halls, parish houses), dividends and anything else. This is great, but the major part of parishes' income comes from giving and gift-aid. Notably, that is coming from fewer people giving more. Our aim and our call is for more people giving more!

So amongst the gratitude to God for giving, for givers and for Gift aid, here is a prayer:

*"All things come from you and of your own do we give you. Help us to put our whole selves into Seeking your Kingdom. Help us to offer our time, our talents and our treasure to this task so that we may overflow with thanks and be found talking, not about finding resources, but about using what we have to grow your church. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

***The Ven Liz Jackson, Archdeacon of Walsall***

**'Golden Tubes'** of pound coins collected in at Christ Church on their feast of title for Christ The King (see December's 'In Touch' magazine, page six) raised £501 for church funds. Treasurer Stuart Sneyd warmly welcomed the efforts of everyone involved.

## ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

*Historically, the Church of England has had its share of eccentric clergy. Clergy such as the elderly, Anglo-Catholic Uncle Eustace, who is incumbent in the small parish of St James-the-Least-of All, somewhere in Very Rural England. Eustace despairs of his nephew, Darren, who has become an evangelical curate in a busy urban parish... and so he writes letters, to try and properly ‘educate’ Darren in how to run a parish. The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from ‘Uncle Eustace’...*

### On the perils of leading prayers in church

The Rectory  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

I do hope you have now settled down in your first parish – although it is such a pity that you did not choose a more distinguished one. I know you feel your vocation lies in inner city work – whereas mine, fortunately, has always been to the better sort of rural village. I have always felt that the Almighty understands me well in that regard.

We had a little flurry of activity in church on Sunday. At the signal “let us pray”, as the congregation dutifully flopped to their knees, sounding like a flock of geese settling in for the night, Major Hastings lost his glass eye. Yes, *again!* That man is so careless at times. Anyway, released from captivity, the eye rolled under the pews like a fugitive marble, ricocheting from hassock to handbag over the stone flags.

My sonorous entreaties to the Almighty were completely lost as the entire congregation scuttled under pews, trying to retrieve it. It finally appeared on the collection plate – along with £4.17, 100 pesetas and Miss Simpson’s front door key. I was unsure whether the last item represented a fit of absent-mindedness or an improper suggestion. I returned it to her very firmly at the end of the Service.

The eye stared at me mournfully as I blessed it, along with the money. But it left a small social dilemma. What is the etiquette of returning a lost glass eye to its owner?

To have processed down the aisle with it, accompanied by crucifer and vergier seemed a little too public. To sneak it to him as we shook hands at the door seemed a little too furtive. I finally decided to send a server to deliver it during the last hymn. I still wonder if it was the right decision.

Perhaps you could look through that new Common Worship book and see if they have included an appropriate rite for returning lost glass eyes. We here at St James-the-Least-of-All haven't yet got round to Common Worship. The days are evil enough as it is.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

## **SMILE AWHILE ...**

*A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, surrounding a small puppy. Concerned lest the boys were hurting it, he went to investigate. One boy explained, "We just found this puppy, and we all want him. So, we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to take him home." The minister was taken aback. "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie? Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie." There was dead silence for a moment. The minister thought he had got through to them. Then the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."*

*Parish Pump*

## **Cream of the Christmas Crackers – sorry, the bar is low**

What do you call a very old snowman?  
*A Puddle*

What does a frog do if his car breaks down?  
*He gets it toad away*

## PARTY TIME

**'I never thought you could have so much fun with a blow-up dice' ... by Joan Maddock, Christ Church**



The Team Christmas Party at Northwood Parish Hall on Saturday, 13 December was a great time; music and games and dancing. I couldn't keep off the dance floor.



Everyone tucked into a fabulous buffet, there was lots of laughter and singing, with everyone enjoying themselves.

Many thanks to organiser Kath Durber, to David for the music, and to all the helpers. A good time was had by all.



Roll on next Christmas, when we can do it all over again.



It was party time also when St. Matthew's Church hosted a children's party... and on The Green at Birches Head people enjoyed a Community Christmas Tree Extravaganza. Charlotte and others met Santa



250 people from Grace Church gathered at St. Mark's, Shelton to sing carols.



At the Team Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church on the shortest day of the year, the Seventh Day Adventist Church joined with 50 others for Carols by Candlelight, poetry and music. Mulled wine, tea, coffee, and chocolates went down well again, too, along with Margaret's mince pies, which have the Mike Bridgewater seal of approval. Margaret does not keep count of the number, but estimates that she has made a few hundred mince pies over several Christmas events and for friends. The mince pie kitchen factory gets into full swing after pickled onion production ends.

At St. Luke's Church, Children showed off the baubles they had made at Bubble Church.



The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church now hire the Parish Hall, Northwood for their services. Before each service, they transform the hall by setting up and rolling out the red carpet.

# NATURE NOTES – THINKING ABOUT CARBON

**Harriet Carty, Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Adviser**

It seems fitting as we start a new year to focus on larger issues, trying to make positive changes to tackle the global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. For those of you who care for our churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries there is much you can do for wildlife and hopefully these monthly articles have already inspired you to take some steps already. How about climate change and carbon? Is there anything we can do about that on a local level?

Well, yes there is, for those of us who manage a piece of land, whether it's our own garden or the local burial ground there is a great deal that we can do.

Firstly, care for your trees. Trees and shrubs store carbon in wood, be it the trunk, branches or roots. Trees store more carbon than other plants owing to their size and long lifespan. Hedges too can store carbon for a long time. Many churchyards and cemeteries contain ancient trees as well as trees planted in Victorian times, often conifers with a shorter lifespan as well as the longer-lived native broadleaves. The life of a tree can be prolonged by care and prompt action as problems arise, (which can save money too). Perhaps you can think about planting young trees to replace those nearing the end of their lives. Is there room for a sapling now? Young trees grow quickly, laying down carbon-based wood as they do so.

Secondly, think about your grassland. Rather surprisingly grassland is actually great at storing carbon with most of it out of sight. Whilst carbon is stored in the visible, above ground plants it is within the soil that most of it is held; in fact, it is estimated that up to 30% of the earth's carbon is stored in grassland soil. Soil carbon comes from decomposing plants, animals and fungi. When things die, they are broken down and used as food by insects, worms and other invertebrates, fungi, bacteria and other microbes. Whilst some carbon dioxide is released most carbon is incorporated into the soil. The more mature the soil, the better for carbon storage.



A mature, complex, undisturbed soil has a wide range of life within its soil, all of which contain carbon. Churchyard, chapel yard and cemetery grassland are usually mature and full of different grasses, flowering plants, fungi and lichens. This richness above ground leads to a corresponding richness below the surface.

What about the length of the grass, does that have an effect? Yes it does. Taller grassland rather than short lawn has a deeper zone of active soil due to deeper plant roots. This active soil is full of carbon-based life.

So look at your local churchyard with new eyes, seeing it as a carbon store and seeing if you can improve this. Care for your trees, plant replacements and when trees need to be felled try to leave some deadwood on site or maybe keep the carbon locked away by using the wood for timber or wood-turning.

Is there scope to increase the grass length in some areas to increase the depth of active, carbon-rich soil?

All of these actions will benefit wildlife, too, so it really is doubly worthwhile.

All the best, Harriet

### **Answers to 'Name That Flower'**

- |                  |               |                   |                       |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Rose          | 2. Cowslip    | 3. Bluebell       | 4. Lily of the valley |
| 5. Foxglove      | 6. Marigold   | 7. Love in a Mist | 8. Buttercup          |
| 9. Iris          | 10. Kingcup   | 11. Honesty       | 12. Speedwell         |
| 13. Ragged Robin | 14. Dandelion | 15. Violet        | 16. Broom             |

**Tie-breaker:** Frozen Chicken

## HATCHES, MATCHES & DISPATCHES

**Baptisms – adult baptisms on the increase.** There were 67,800 baptisms in 2023 compared with 82,100 in 2022. Recent trends show a post-pandemic bounce-back and a surprising rise in *adult* baptisms, reaching a 10-year high in 2024

**Weddings – numbers hit a new low.** In 2023, 23,004 marriages were recorded by the Church of England and Church in Wales, according to recent data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS). It is the lowest number since the 1830s, except for 2020, when churches were closed during the pandemic. In total, 216,901 weddings of opposite-sex couples took place in 2023. The majority (184,428) were civil ceremonies. There were 32,473 religious weddings, of which 70 per cent were held in Anglican churches.

**Funerals - worshipping communities are getting older.** There were 10% fewer funerals in 2024 than in 2023 and numbers were down by 24% when compared with 2019. However, the proportion of funerals in churches rather than in crematoria and cemeteries now exceeds pre-pandemic levels (68 % compared with 62 %). The age distribution of worshipping communities has changed since 2019. Overall, 35 per cent are in the over-70s age group, compared with 33.3 per cent in 2019 and 13.5 per cent in the population as a whole.

### Where would we be without organists?

Q: Why are an organist's fingers like lightning?

A: Because they rarely strike the same place twice.

I'm here to tune your church organ.

I didn't call anyone to fix the organ.

Yeah, I know, but the neighbours did.

Q: What's the difference between an organ player and God?

A: God doesn't think he's an organist.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Crufts welcomes mongrels** The Royal Kennel Club, which runs Crufts, is going to admit mongrels for the first time in its 150-year history. Crufts will become a ‘year-round community’, available to all dog owners, whatever kind of dog they have. Its new online platform will launch in February 2026. This year, Crufts Dog Show takes place 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March at the NEC in Birmingham. Crufts has also held events aimed at non-pedigree dogs since 2000, after launching the crossbreed competition ‘Scruffts’. The King granted the organisation a royal prefix in 2023.

### **Eating alone can be bad for your health**

Pensioners who eat at home alone are more likely to suffer from poor nutrition and health. Researchers at Flinders University in Australia have found strong links between dining solo and diets of poor quality, with fewer fruit, veg and meat. This can lead to weight loss and frailty. Community-based initiatives, such as neighbourhood meal groups, intergenerational dining programmes, or local café partnerships can mitigate the harms of eating alone. Sharing a meal is an important social activity that can influence appetite, dietary variety, and overall well-being for older adults.

**Aim to ‘eat the rainbow’** The supermarket chain Tesco has reported a surge in demand for brightly coloured vegetables. The trend follows calls from nutritionists for people to ‘eat the rainbow’ of fruits and vegetables, so that they get the whole range of vitamins and minerals. Demand for rainbow carrots and pink onions is up by 100 per cent this autumn versus last, the demand for rainbow chard is up 70 per cent and that for Cavolo Nero – also known as ‘black cabbage’ – is up around 30 per cent on last year.

**Our love affair with coffee** London’s first coffee house opened in 1652, using beans imported from modern-day Yemen. Nearly 400 years on, we drink 98 million cups of it every day. Even though a takeaway flat white can now cost you more than £5 in London, still coffee has become a daily necessity for millions of us.



## **Hanley St Luke's CofE Academy part of Three Spires Trust**

In the final Newsletter of 2025, the  
Principal of Hanley St. Luke's Academy,

Mrs. Cooper, wrote of the message Christmas brings of peace, love,  
and hope.

*'The Christmas story reminds us of the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, whose coming brought light into the world. It encourages us to care for one another, to show kindness, and to offer love freely especially to those who may be finding life difficult. As a school community, we are thankful for the way our children and families live out these values every day through friendship, generosity, and compassion. Together, we create a place where everyone is welcomed, supported, and encouraged to shine. Our hope is that Christmas brings moments of calm, happiness, and togetherness for us and our loved ones, and that the message of hope continues to guide us into the year ahead.'*

### **On the Catering front, Catering Supervisor Miss Crowder wrote:**

*'Each day, the catering team encourages all children to try new dishes and explore different flavours, making lunchtime a chance to discover something new. We provide healthy options and have a vibrant salad bar. As we enjoy our lunches, it is always important to remember and respect food allergies. Some children have serious allergies to ingredients like nuts, dairy, wheat, or eggs. Staff are trained to prevent cross-contamination and to respond to any allergic reactions quickly.'*

*If you need to discuss allergies for your child, or their diet in school please speak to the school office and I will happily answer any questions you may have. Our lunch menus can be found on our school website.*

<https://www.hanleystlukes.com/parents/lunch-menus>

# HISTORY

## Menai Suspension Bridge celebrates 200 years

An average of 13,300 vehicles a day, or about 4.8 million vehicles a year use The Menai Suspension Bridge (*Pont y Borth*). It was formally opened on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1826, to link Anglesey (*Ynys Mon*) to mainland Wales (*Gogledd Cymru*).

The bridge is the world's *first ever* major suspension bridge, with a 176-metre span. Designed by Thomas Telford, it took seven years to build and has been a huge success. It made the crossing safer (until then farmers had had to swim their livestock across the strait), and it also made the crossing more dependable and quicker for everyone, cutting hours off the trip from London to Holyhead. The original wrought-iron chains were replaced with high-tensile steel chains in 1940, the bridge was reconstructed after a fire in 1970, and in 1998 it was brought under the management of UK Highways A55 Ltd.

## Other Anniversaries

**250 years** 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1776 - according to tradition, George Washington raised the **first American flag**, the Grand Union Flag, at Prospect Hill in Charleston, Somerville, Massachusetts.

**125 years** 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1901 - the **Commonwealth of Australia** was established when the six British colonies of New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia were federated.

**100 years** - 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 1926 - Scottish engineer and inventor **John Logie Baird gave the first demonstration of his TV system** to members of the Royal Institution.

**80 years** - 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1946 - **Elvis Presley received his first guitar** on his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Apparently, he would have preferred a bicycle.

*From Parish Pump*

## **BACK PEW**

### **I'll never forget what's-his-name**

I was having a discussion with old friend Nick Broad before Christmas, during which I said I would never do well on TV quiz shows. One reason is that I lack a breadth of 'general knowledge', especially when it comes to pop music, the periodic table and TV Soaps. Another is that, although I might know an answer, it might take a while for it to travel to the front of my mind, by which time I would be out of the running.

Many of us, and not only those of mature years, have difficulty remembering stuff that for years has been processed and stored somewhere in our cranial storage boxes, particularly names; not just films, actors and celebrities, musicians, sporting legends, characters from literature and others, but people we know. Another difficulty lies in people being known by different names. Lots of people prefer to be called by their middle names. At Holy Trinity Church, we know of Beryl's husband as James, but at home she calls him Arthur.

It is a type of language disorder, anomic aphasia. There you are, another name, this one relating to the inability to remember a name, even when we can remember everything else about something or someone.

The implications can be socially challenging. One of my first occasional tasks at the County Council was to assist colleagues in playing host to groups of employees coming to receive their long service awards. They would bring along a spouse or friend and for most it was a grand day out, a first visit to the splendid County Buildings; teachers, technicians, social workers, highway engineers librarians and many more. Hosts had their lists, so it was an easy matter to greet my allotted 15 or so recipients and guests as they arrived, mingled and chatted. The hard part was to gather them together again so they could be shepherded up to the Chairman in the correct order to receive their awards. This involved matching names to faces. I found it helpful to make notes on my list, like 'loud tie', flowery dress or, on one occasion, 'large nose', but I had to keep my list close to my chest.

My mother had a strategy for meeting up with people whose names refused to come immediately to mind. The ploy was to ask them about 'the old trouble' This would prompt a response about a spouse or a catalogue of illnesses and treatment, but it bought her some time whilst she smiled and went silently through the alphabet in her head. With any luck, in the meantime someone might call over to them by name.

The problem must be particularly difficult for teachers; they collect a plethora of names from different schools and year groups during their careers. 'Remember me, Miss?' can be an awkward question when bumping into the child-become- adult years later.

Spare a thought also for members of the clergy. I appreciate our gatherings are getting smaller but it is a confident minister who offers you holy communion using your name. There is also an added problem for clerics. When being collared by someone for a confidential chat, an important thing to bear in mind must be that the person may be related to a neighbour or to other members of the congregation. It can take years to sort out family ties and friendships (and enmities – where would crime fiction be without those?), only to have to move on to a wholly new set of people. Over time, the number of Johns, Joans, Marys and Susans must be quite extensive.

Perhaps there is something about memory we should include in the person specification for the new Rector. We could show names and photos of our church wardens to candidates when they arrive for interview and check if they can remember them at the end.

Sometimes, our subconscious releases those elusive names, perhaps during the night. At those times, we should put on the light and write down the answer, but we don't, do we? We doze off and forget again by the morning. (The same thing happens to brilliant speeches, stories and articles written in our dreams).

Our acquaintances include many people over a lifetime. Maybe we should simply accept that, though we may forget their names, we will never forget their friendship, love and kindness.



## CONTACTS

### Rector – Vacancy

Assistant Minister Rev. Mike Bridgewater

07488233118

[revmikebridgewater@gmail.com](mailto:revmikebridgewater@gmail.com)



Assistant Minister Rev. Gill Shilkoff 07525668262

[gillshilkoff@btinternet.com](mailto:gillshilkoff@btinternet.com)

## SERVICES

Holy Communion Sundays:	09.30 Christ Church, Cobridge
	11.00 Holy Trinity Church, Northwood
	10.00 St. Mark's Church, Shelton
	(First & Fifth Sundays, other Sundays Morning Worship)
Evensong	16.00 Holy Trinity (second Sunday)
Bubble Church	15.00 St. Luke's Church
	(Last Sunday of the month)
Midweek:	
Tuesdays	10.00 St. Matthew's, Birches Head
Wednesdays	11.00 St. Luke's, Wellington
Thursdays:	
Service of The Word	10.00 Christ Church, Cobridge

***Whilst the Rectorship is 'in vacancy', services will be co-ordinated by members of the laity in conjunction with available clergy.***

***For general enquiries, banns, baptisms and weddings, the contact is Winnie Wilshaw 07731829785***

***winnie\_184@msn.com***

***For funerals, contact a funeral director in the first instance, then***

***Kathleen Durber***

***01782 219147***

***Dekadurber@yahoo.com***

***'In Touch' editor Graham Foxley 07707011628***

***[mgftfoxley@live.co.uk](mailto:mgftfoxley@live.co.uk)***

***The deadline for February's issue is 16 January***