
PARISH MAGAZINE



**FEBRUARY
2026**

50P

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.

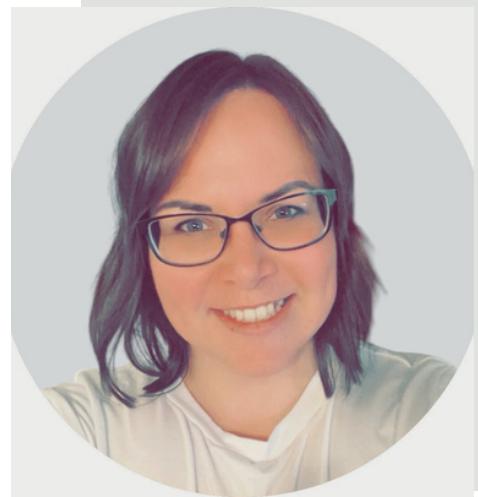
Intercessors: Helen Davies, Susan Heywood, Jeremy Cuss, Betty Taylor, Richard Lodge.

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.

Editor's Note



January is always a quieter month.

After the rush of December, that pause feels right. Time to catch breath, reset, and ease into the year.

So this is our first issue since December, but it hasn't all been left behind.

Inside, you'll find articles and photos from our December events. They marked the end of the year and are well worth looking back on, even a few weeks on.

December was a busy

It was full and sometimes tiring, but it was also deeply encouraging. Seeing church so busy, with people coming to worship, meet one another, and spend time together, made it all feel worthwhile.

Before we move on, it feels important to say thank you.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in church over the Christmas period, whether regularly or just once. It was a joy to welcome so many people through the doors. We were especially glad to welcome the school, who visited us more than once in December and brought so much life into the building.

February feels like the point where things begin again.

Groups start meeting. Plans take shape. Diaries slowly fill, without quite reaching the pace of the months ahead.

This issue looks both ways.

Back to celebrate what we shared in December, and forward to what is coming next. There are plenty of ways to get involved, whether you've been part of church life for years or are just finding your feet.

I hope this issue brings a bit of warmth on cold days
and reminds you that you are very much part of this community.

Lucy Williams
Editor



FROM THE VICAR

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

THE COMPOST BIN

In the garden I enjoy mowing the lawn, cutting back branches, and making compost. Sam does most of the weeding and planting.

I make compost partly to use it, but more as an environmental task. The kitchen waste and garden cuttings that are composted are kept out of landfill, and so create less carbon dioxide and methane.

The compost heap is a living entity. It needs feeding and occasional turning. It changes from season to season and year to year. It always gives me joy when I go to put something in, and lifting up the lid, see a swarming mass of red worms. The slugs are less joyful, but they do an essential job too.

It is astonishing how much material goes into the compost. It's like a magic trick: you keep adding things in, and it keeps making more space—until that moment when you have to admit it's full.

My system then is to empty out the older batch of compost, which is in a second bin and just about ready to use. I turn the contents of the full bin into the second one, leaving the first bin nearly empty and ready to start again. I always leave a bit of the old compost and some worms behind to get the next load going. This is sometimes called a starter culture.

My compost bins have made me think of Lent, which seems to begin all too soon after Christmas. Each year it starts on Ash Wednesday, the day after Pancake Day. Ash Wednesday this year is the 18th of February.



Lent is a good time to consider our lives. I wonder if it might help to think of our lives as compost bins:

- **After months of cramming everything in, is it time to take stock? Where is your life too full, and where do you want to create space?**
- **Do you need turning over? Compost benefits from being stirred up. Are there parts of your life that need bringing into focus?**
- **Can you see the end goal? Compost is created in the dark but is used by plants in the light. Can you appreciate the joy of life and set your sights on the hope of the resurrection?**
- **Can you offer yourself to the church? We want to grow in many ways, and your gifts might help us. Every gift is precious – lowly compost can help to produce the most beautiful rose.**

We can reflect on these things personally, but there is a communal element as well, which we might think of as the worms, bacteria, gardeners, starter cultures—and even slugs. These things can represent coming to church, prayer, reading (of all sorts), and Lent groups. Maybe the slugs represent the people we find less easy, but are still essential for our communal life and growth!

Lent ends with Good Friday, Jesus is buried in the earth. The parallel in the garden is the scraps are thrown in the compost bin and the lid is closed. But after that comes Easter, the resurrection, the tomb is opened. In the garden the lid of the compost bin is flung back, and if the conditions are right, the compost will be mature, enabling new life to grow.

God Bless

WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY



8TH FEBRUARY- WESTWOOD EVENT

Back in the Day.
Local history afternoon
with cream tea.
Sunday 8th February 2026,
3pm.
Westwood Retreat Centre.
£5 ticketed.

WORSHIP/FAITH

SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple also known as
Candlemas
Holy Communion 9.30am

THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

Churches Together 2pm at Providence Methodist Church. We start with a reflective bible reading, and then have a meeting where we plan our joint churches events

SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

Holy Communion 8am (traditional language). All Age Service
9.30am (with hymns)

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

Holy Communion 9.30am (with hymns)

ASH WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

Holy Communion 6pm Holy Communion with "Ashing" and Hymns, at St Mark's Longwood

SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

Holy Communion 8am (traditional language) and 9.30am (with hymns)

MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

Lent Course: Living in Love and Faith 7.30pm at the vicarage
The service of Compline 9pm at church

SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Concert, Voices in Achord and St John's School 6pm at church

LOOKING AHEAD

Mothering Sunday, 15th March
The clocks go forward on
Palm Sunday, 29th March
Maundy Thursday 2nd April

Good Friday 3rd April
Easter Sunday 4th April

LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER



→ SCHOOL AND CHURCH SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

It was a real joy to welcome St John's School into church for their Christmas service and show.

The children filled the building with sound and warmth. Their singing was phenomenal. It lifted the room straight into the Christmas spirit.

The performances were confident and joyful. You could see how hard the children and staff had worked. There was real pride on every face.

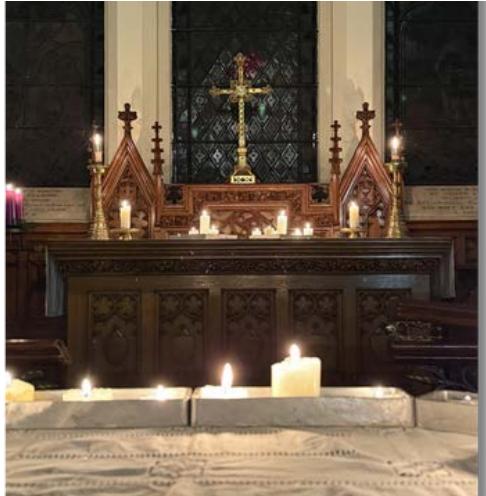
The service also reminded us that Christmas is celebrated across the world. Through song and storytelling, the children shared different traditions. It was simple, thoughtful, and easy to follow.

It was wonderful to see the church alive with children, families, and staff. Moments like this show the strong link between school and church. We are very grateful to everyone who helped make it happen.

MOMENTS FROM CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S

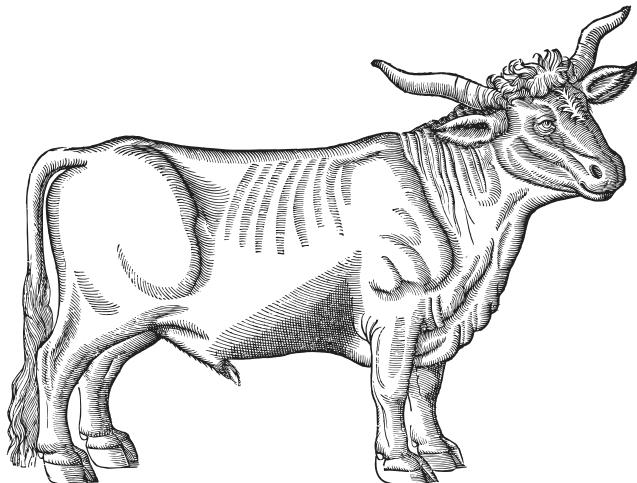
THESE IMAGES SHOW WHAT CHRISTMAS LOOKED LIKE IN OUR CHURCH.

We gathered to worship, sing, and reflect. The church was full of people of all ages. There was joy, stillness, and a real sense of welcome. Each service was different, yet the message was the same. Hope, love, and light were at the centre.



Bible Study Group Study

St. Luke



St Luke is traditionally shown with the ox, a sign of service and sacrifice.

The Monday study group has been taking a fresh look at St. Luke's gospel and discovering new things. We would like to share with you something of what we have been discovering.

Over the years the gospel writers have been assigned an emblem that describes their idea of our Lord. Luke's emblem is the ox. Now in our culture we would dismiss this animal as big, clumsy, stupid and dull but in ancient times it was anything but. Oxen were the David Brown tractors of their time! They were strong, dependable, adaptable and, treated well, gave long service to their masters. They were even status symbols, the more you had the richer you were and in the culture of the time they were the ultimate sacrifice for sin.

Luke, as a gentile, an educated man and a convert, was writing somewhat later than Matthew and Mark and had much written material to draw from. He also sought out eye witnesses and those with personal experience of our Lord's life.

As a gentile he was writing for gentiles and especially for someone named Theophilus, for whom he had a high regard. He begins his gospel by saying it is an ordered account of the life death and resurrection of the life of the Messiah.

All through our study of Luke we have encountered the qualities of the ox in our Lord's life. At his baptism he is publicly picked out and then tested in the dessert. Recognising that difficult jobs require team work we see Jesus picking a team to train and teach. His patience and persistence is evident in all his teaching. He was accommodating when met with incomprehension and unyielding in difficult situations. We learned that at his transfiguration, meeting with Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, his future was sealed and thereafter his face was set stoically towards Jerusalem to be the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the whole world! Thankfully that was not the end.

By: Betty Taylor

St John's Bible Study Group meets on **Mondays 3:00 - 4:00pm**
in the Community Room, Tea and biscuits are provided all are welcome

ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY



The planning began in October. We start looking round the shops to find Christmas gifts for the guests who attend the lunch club. At present we have 50 guests so it can be a costly business. It can be complicated too as we have couples so we have to get something different for them and then there are guests with special dietary requirements. Lots to consider!

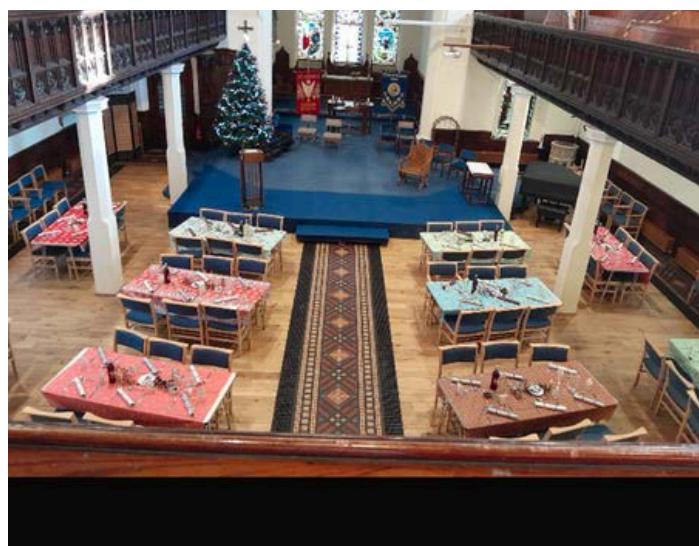
There's the table decorations, wrapping paper (It takes a while to wrap 50 presents) and the big one the food. The week of the party we start making trifles.... 72 of them!

All the volunteers come to the party and have lunch as well and there are 18 of them. A few of our guests have carers who are invited plus Fr Simon and then there is Father Christmas who deserves a hearty lunch before handing out all the gifts.

The Yorkshire Craft Butcher cooks our Turkey and sausages for us, The Valley Green Grocers donated a big bag of carrots and Aldi donated all the mince pies and the Girl Guides help us by setting out all the tables and chairs in the church

the night before the party - what a community we have.

The party day starts at approx. 7.30 am when all the volunteers get hands on, peeling potatoes and carrots, we have sprouts and roast potatoes too, some are putting the finishing touches to the trifles and others are setting the tables with festive tablecloths, serviettes and of course not forgetting the Christmas crackers and the church gardeners provided us with sprigs of holly for the tables. It looked lovely



The guests start arriving any time after 11am and it gets very noisy with everyone chatting. When everyone is settled lunch is served.

After lunch the fun began when Stella one of our volunteers brought along a few of her band friends plus Leah another of our volunteers to play for the guests,



and then 43 children plus teachers arrive from St John's Church School to sing Christmas Carols.

It's not over yet Father Christmas gets ready to hand out the gifts, he chats with the children making sure they've sent their letters.

The children go back to school and I think they really enjoyed coming to sing for us.

Father Christmas handed out all the gifts to the guests, we hope they all enjoyed them.

Then to finish the party everyone has a cuppa and Christmas cake and mince pie before they go home.

The cleanup process then begins, then the lunch club closes until January to give all the volunteers a well-earned rest!

If you would like to become a guest of the Lunch Club (which is held on Thursdays) please contact Janice Hart on Mob: 07850 194314



LENT WITHOUT THE PRESSURE

How small changes make room for God

Most of us reach Lent already tired.

Work, family, church, and noise fill each day.

When Lent adds more rules, it soon breaks.

Lent was never about doing more.

It was about letting go.

Jesus went into the desert to be stripped back. No crowd. No rush. No status.

Lent invites us to *do the same.*

NOT THIS	TRY THIS
Give up all treats	Give up one distraction
Long daily prayers	One quiet minute
Five chapters a day	Five slow lines
Guilt when you miss	Just begin again

THREE SIMPLE HABITS

1. THE PAUSE	2. THE SWAP	3. THE BOX
<p><i>Stop once a day for one minute.</i></p> <p>No phone.</p> <p>No words.</p> <p>Just breathe.</p>	<p><i>Trade noise for stillness.</i></p> <p>Scroll less.</p> <p>Notice more.</p>	<p><i>Write one thing you noticed today. Drop it in a bowl or box.</i></p> <p>Read them on Easter Day.</p>

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Read Mark's Gospel.
One short part each day.
Do not rush.
Just notice Jesus.
Who he stops for.
Who he listens to.
Where he goes.

Lent is not about being impressive.
It is about being open.

*God does not shout.
He waits for space.*

→ Deaf Ministry Team help people enjoy Christmas

Users of British Sign Language were able to take part in Christmas services and events throughout December 2025 thanks to the Diocese of Leeds Deaf Ministry Team.



Members of the team's BSL-Led Congregation held a 'Dress-Up Nativity' at Pellon, Christ Church, where Deaf people and sign-language learners used BSL to confidently re-tell the story of God's coming among us and they shared together in signed editions of Christmas carols.

The team also provided interpreters for services in the Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, and Wakefield areas.



REVD CANON JONATHAN TRIFFITT IS NEW INTERIM DEAN OF BRADFORD

News from Diocese of Leeds

The Diocese of Leeds has appointed the Revd Canon Jonathan Triffitt as Interim Dean of Bradford for three years.

He will be licensed on Sunday 1 March at 3pm at Bradford Cathedral by the Rt Revd Toby Howarth.

Jonathan is currently Director of Ministry and Mission in the Diocese of Salisbury. He grew up in Bradford and came to faith at St Augustine's Church.

He brings wide parish and diocesan experience and is looking forward to serving the Cathedral, the city, and the wider diocese. Jonathan is married to Joanne and they have two grown-up children.

Shoe Box Appeal

A thank you and next steps

A message from Caroline and Duncan

After much thought and discussion, we feel that now is the right time to step down from running the Shoe Box Appeal.

This is partly because we have been asked to become trustees of another charity, Food for Fort, and it may be difficult to be involved in both next Christmas.

We have really enjoyed supporting the appeal over the last seven or eight years. It has been a privilege and a humbling experience, and we are grateful for the opportunity to make a difference.

We will of course support the next person who takes this on and help with any handover that is needed.

We will also let Jayne at One Big Family know.

Thank you again for the opportunity and for all the support with the appeal.

God bless,

Caroline and Duncan

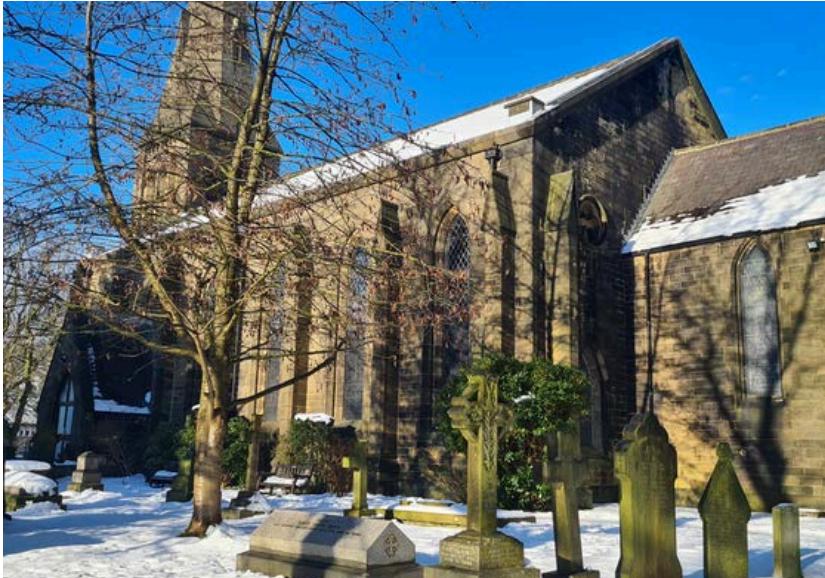
With grateful thanks

We would like to thank Caroline and Duncan for their commitment to the Shoe Box Appeal over many years, and for the care and effort they have given in supporting people experiencing homelessness through One Big Family.

Their work has made a real difference. We pray for God's blessing on their continued work with Food for Fort.

Looking ahead

The Shoe Box Appeal is something we would very much like to continue at St John's. To do so, we now need someone to coordinate it. If you feel able to take this on, or would like to find out what has is involved, please speak to Fr Simon.



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 (Volunteers needed See Anne Crosland)

Community Groups

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

Luncheon Club is on Thursdays If you would like to become a guest of the Lunch Club (which is held on Thursdays) please contact Janice Hart on Mob: 07850 194314

Just Sing Community Choir, Thursday evenings 7:30pm

Sunday Services February

Sunday 1st

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion – Candlemas

Sunday 8th

8.00am – Traditional Said Holy Communion

9.30am – All Age Service

Sunday 15th

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd

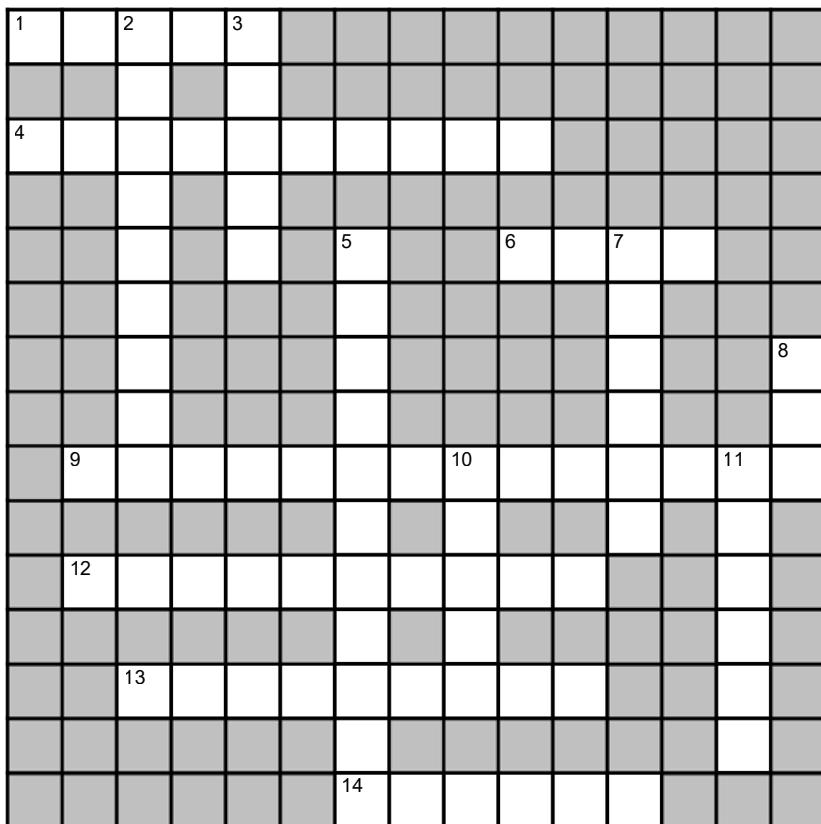
9.30am – Sung Holy Communion

From The Parish Registers Internment of Ashes

Internment of ashes in new plot in the garden of rest John Walsh, aged 67, Taylor Street, Golcar. Service taken by Rev Kevin Partington

Internment of ashes in existing plot in the garden of rest Doreen Ainley, aged 98,. Service taken by Fr Simon Crook

Luke 1



Across

1What was Mary to call her son? (5)

4Where did John live until he appeared publicly to Israel? (10)

6What name did Zechariah write in the tablet? (4)

9Who was standing at the right side of the altar of incense? (5,2,3,4)

12What will Zechariah unborn son be filled with? (4,6)

13Who was the wife of Zechariah? (9)

14On what day did

they come to circumcise the child? (6)

8Who did Gabriel tell Mary she had found favour with? (3)

Down

2The people would be given what through the forgiveness of their sins? (9)

3What was Zechariah unable to do when he came out from the temple? (5)

5What did Zechariah prophesise that our feet would be guided into what? (4,2,5)

7According to Mary's song who has been lifted up? (6)

10How many months did Mary stay with Elizabeth? (5)

11Who were brought down from their thrones? (6)

A WESTWOOD EVENT -



'BACK IN THE DAY'

TALKS BY TONY GARSIDE & DI MAYO

Join us for a community gathering at Westwood retreat centre.

Immerse yourself in the history of Westwood and the Bolster Moor region.

Step back in time and hear amusing stories of the past and check out interesting photos of Westwood and the surrounding areas from 'Back in the Day'!

Day includes:

- Cream tea
- Quiz
- Talks by Tony & Di
- Raffle
- Music
- Fun & friendship



ENTRY FEE £5 PER PERSON -
TICKETED ONLY!

EVENT DETAILS

08 FEBRUARY 2026 3PM

AT WESTWOOD RETREAT CENTRE WESTWOOD EDGE RD

BUY YOUR TICKETS
FROM TONY, DI OR EMAIL
WESTWOOD

info@westwoodretreatcentre.co.uk


ST JOHNS CHURCH
PRESENTS

GOLCAR'S GOT TALENT

Join us for a fun night of talent,
food and prizes

18 APRIL | 7:00 PM

St John's Church, Golcar HD7 4PX

**ENTRY & ADMISSION FREE
ALL TALENTS WELCOME**

Donations welcome for buffet

Golcar's Got Talent sign up

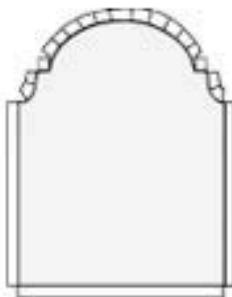


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THE LOCAL INFORMATION PAGE

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:

Gas:	0800 111 999
Electricity:	0800 375 675
Water:	0800 573 553
Police:	101
Telephone Preference Service: To stop unwanted phone calls	0845 0700707