

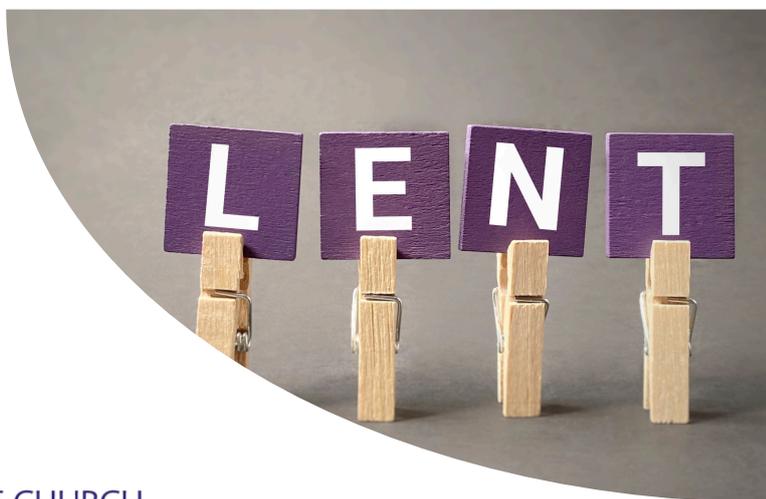


St John's Church Golcar

Working Together for God

PARISH MAGAZINE

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



**MARCH
2026**

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@stjohnschurchgolcar.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@stjohnschurchgolcar.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.

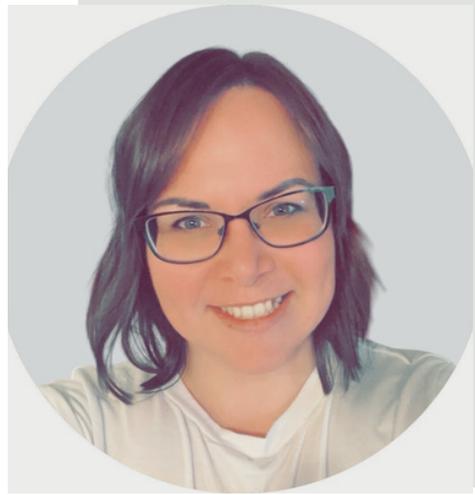
We would welcome more people who would like to be an intercessor. Please think about this and speak to Fr. Simon about it; then give your name to Lucy. Thank you.

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



Welcome to this month's magazine. As we move further into the year, there is already a great deal happening in the life of our church and wider community. This edition brings together news, updates, and dates for the months ahead, along with a look back at some of the work and events that have taken place recently.

One of the things that always becomes clear when putting the magazine together is just how much goes on that many people never see. There are volunteers giving their time, groups meeting quietly each week, and practical work taking place to care for our buildings and grounds. Many of these efforts happen behind the scenes, but they all play a part in keeping things running and making our shared spaces welcoming and well used.

You will find in this issue information about upcoming meetings and events, updates on recent projects, and news from different parts of parish life. We hope this helps everyone feel informed about what is happening and offers opportunities to get involved for those who would like to.

New faces and new ideas are always welcome, and there are many ways, large and small, to take part in the life of the community.

The magazine also depends on the contributions of many people. Thank you to everyone who sends in articles, notices, photographs, and suggestions. Your contributions help make each edition varied, interesting, and representative of the life of the parish.

If you have something you would like included in a future issue, please do get in touch. We are always glad to hear from you.

Lucy Williams
Editor



FROM THE VICAR

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

MUSIC IN THE NIGHT

A few days ago, Sam and I got back to the vicarage after a night out with friends. Opening the car door, we were greeted by some joyful birdsong.

Not surprising, you might think. One of the joys of being in Golcar and Longwood is the closeness to nature, including all the birds.

Except this was 11.30pm at night.

The cold, dark night was not silent. Instead, we heard the beautiful notes pouring forth from a bird.

We used a clever app on a mobile phone to identify the bird, and were not surprised to discover it was a robin, a bird well known for its singing.

We stopped and listened a while longer, before leaving the cold, the night and the robin behind, and headed inside.

Why was the robin singing in the dark night?

Maybe it does it every night! After all, it's not often I'm still awake at 11.30, so I wouldn't know.

Maybe it was confused by the street lamps and security lights, which these days steal so much darkness from our skies.

Maybe it was simply happy.

March lies entirely within the church season of Lent. And contrary to some people's belief, Lent is a happy time.

Yes, some of us give up things, which is not always easy. Some of us take up new things, like a different way to pray. And Lent is a season for saying sorry and for walking the way of the cross.



But all of these are to help us to be closer to God, and there is no happier place than being close to God.

Lent might lead us into a form of darkness. If it does, then the signs of joy will be all the more noticeable and welcome.

In this Lenten month of March, seek out joy and search for happiness. And if you find it, then like the robin, celebrate whatever the time of day, and whatever the season.

And if you can share that joy with someone else, especially if they are in the darkness, then your joy will be greater still.

From Psalm 100: O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

God bless.

WHAT'S ON

BENEFICE



21ST MARCH- BENEFICE PILGRIMAGE TO CHESTER

Join us for our annual parish pilgrimage, a day to step away from the rush of daily life, spend time in prayer and reflection, and enjoy fellowship together. This year we will be travelling to Chester Cathedral on Saturday 21 March, arriving for 10.30am and leaving at 5.00pm. All are welcome. If you would like to come along or would like more details, please contact the church office.

15TH MARCH- MOTHERING SUNDAY

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

LOOKING AHEAD

24th May Pentecost 10am joint benefice Service. Start at St John's, end at St Mark's.

WORSHIP/FAITH

29TH MARCH **PALM SUNDAY**

8am Service in Traditional Language, St John's Golcar
9.30am Sung Communion with procession of the palms, St John's Golcar
11am Sung Eucharist with procession of the palms, St Mark's Longwood

30TH MARCH **MONDAY**

3pm **Bible Study**, St John's Golcar
7.30pm **Living in Love and Faith**, The Vicarage
9pm **Compline** at St John's, Golcar

31ST MARCH **TUESDAY**

6pm Holy Communion at St Mark's, Longwood (said)

1ST APRIL **WEDNESDAY**

7pm A service using art and music to reflect on Holy Week, St John's, Golcar

2ND APRIL **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7pm Holy Communion, washing of feet and stripping of the altar at St Mark's Longwood
8pm the vigil, St Mark's Longwood

3RD APRIL **GOOD FRIDAY**

10am Churches Together in the village square in Golcar
11am-12.30pm Lighthouse at St John's Golcar, activities for families and children
2pm Stations of the Cross and communion at St Mark's Longwood

4TH APRIL **EASTER SUNDAY**

6am Dawn service at St Mark's Longwood (Sunrise 5.57 in Huddersfield).
8am Holy Communion in traditional language at St John's Golcar
9.30am All Age Service at St John's Golcar
11am Family Service at St Mark's Longwood

LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER



➔ FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

The past few months have been a busy and productive time at St John's. Behind the scenes, a good deal of work has been taking place to care for the building and keep things running smoothly. We have recently submitted the faculty for repairs to the west nave south window following further deterioration and water ingress, and we are continuing to work with the DAC and contractors as this progresses.

We have also been reviewing some of the day-to-day practical arrangements around cleaning, maintenance, and use of the building to make sure things are working well and that we are good stewards of both our volunteers' time and church resources.

Alongside this, planning continues for upcoming events and activities in the life of the parish, including our annual pilgrimage and community events later in the year. It is encouraging to see so many people giving their time and energy to support the church in different ways.

As always, thank you to everyone who helps, often quietly and without recognition. The life of St John's depends on many willing hands, and it does not go unnoticed. Please do keep the wardens and PCC in your prayers as we continue this work.

— The Churchwardens

➔ ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on 26 April 2026. If you are on the Electoral Roll, you are welcome to attend and take part. If you would like to be added to the Electoral Roll, please speak to Ian Crosland.

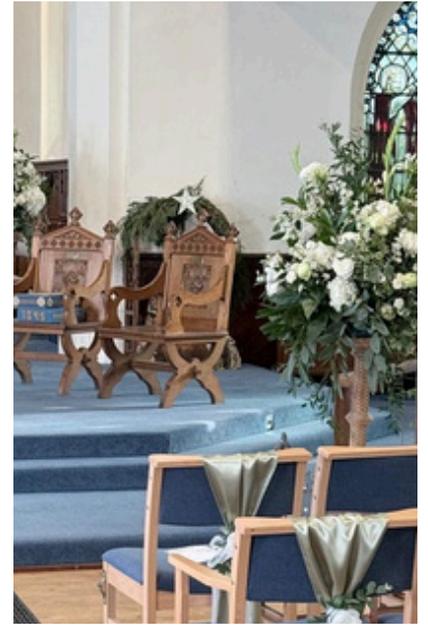
At the meeting we will review the past year, look at our finances, and elect Churchwardens and PCC members. The PCC helps guide the life and work of the church, and we are always keen to welcome new people with fresh ideas and different skills. If you have ever thought about getting more involved, this is a good place to start. Please speak to Fr Simon Crook.

➔ LENT COURSE AND COMPLINE

During Lent, Fr Simon will be hosting a weekly Lent course, Living in Love and Faith, on Mondays at 7.30pm. All are welcome to come along and take part in the discussion.

This will be followed at 9.00pm by the beautiful and reflective service of Compline at St John's, a short service to end the day in prayer and quiet. Please do join us for either or both.

Parish Share and Giving



Supporting the work of the Church, locally and across the diocese

Many people hear the term Parish Share but are not always sure what it means. Parish Share is the contribution each parish is asked to make towards the cost of ministry and mission across the Diocese of Leeds. The largest part of this supports clergy stipends, housing, pensions and training, as well as the support and safeguarding structures that help churches to function well.

Parish Share is based on the principle that churches work together and support one another. Some parishes are able to give more, others less, but by sharing resources the Church is able to maintain a Christian presence in communities of every size, including places that would otherwise struggle to support a priest or sustain regular worship.

Here at St John's, Parish Share is one of our largest financial commitments each year. In the past year, we contributed £31,500 towards this. Meeting this commitment relies on the faithful and regular giving of our congregation, and we are grateful to everyone who gives in whatever way they are able.

Giving to the church supports much more than Sunday services. It helps provide ministry at baptisms, weddings and funerals, supports our work with schools and families, enables pastoral visiting, and helps maintain our church building so that it remains open and welcoming to the whole community. Much of this work happens quietly, but it is only possible because people choose to give.

Regular giving, even in small amounts, makes a real difference. When many people give a little, it provides stability and allows the PCC to plan responsibly for the year ahead. Planned giving is especially helpful, but one-off gifts and fundraising events also play an important part in the life of the parish.

If you are part of St John's and would like to know more about giving, or about planned giving schemes, please speak to one of the wardens or contact the church office.

Thank you to everyone who supports the life and work of St John's through your generosity, your time and your prayers.

Gardener's Fund Reaches Target

Thanks to Community Support



St John's Church, Golcar, is pleased to share that the gardener's fund has now reached its target, following generous support from local groups, parishioners and the wider community.

A significant contribution came from the Huddersfield and District Round Table, who donated £1,000 towards the appeal. The PCC would like to express sincere thanks for this generous gift, which helped move the fund much closer to its goal. We are also very grateful to the Golcar Winkle Club for their donation of £750 towards new equipment for our volunteer gardeners, giving the appeal another strong boost.



Alongside these larger donations, many smaller fundraising efforts played an important part. Members of the congregation and community have been busy selling homemade jams, knitting items, and raising money in simple but creative ways. These efforts, given generously and often quietly, helped carry the appeal over the finish line.

The churchyard is a place that means a great deal to many people. It is used not only for burials and remembrance, but also as a peaceful space for reflection and prayer. The new equipment funded through this appeal will help our volunteer gardeners continue to care for the grounds so they remain safe, tidy and welcoming for everyone.

The PCC would like to thank everyone who has supported the appeal in any way. This has been a real example of what can be achieved when a community works together.

UKRAINE APPEAL THANK YOU !!



We know that many of you have been supporting Ukraine in many different ways since the beginning of the Russian invasion, however it has been several years since we did anything collectively. Nore and I sing in Carlton Community Choir in Halifax who heard that the terrific team at St Andrews Garage were gathering together urgently needed aid which they were again going to drive into Ukraine. After a successful collection there we decided that it would be great to invite people from Just Sing Choir (who rehearse at St John's), members and friends of St John's and St Marks churches to donate. We wanted to have a short time frame for the collection so donations could be included in the next 'convoy'.

It was a big ask to announce on one day and collect the following week. Nore and I wondered if it gave people time to collect things. Why did we worry? In total we will have taken 8 car loads of much needed items to St Andrews.



When the first load was delivered we were told that they couldn't take out of date medicines as this is illegal, we have no idea where that misleading piece of information came from but it meant that Nore, Ann, Stella and John spent hours sorting through the medicine donations and separating the out of date items. These were later taken to a local chemist for safe disposal.

Nore and a small team of volunteers (thanks to everyone who helped) sorted the rest of the donations and ensured everything was ok. The team at St Andrews were delighted. We think that they are quite literally heroes.

Most of all thank you, thank you, thank you to each and every person who made a donation. It is difficult for those of us who have never lived in war zones to understand what it must be like to wake night after night to the sound of sirens, to be forced to evacuate from our houses or to lose everything in the fighting or bombing. Sending a warm coat, a pair of gloves, a sleeping bag, boxes of plasters and bandages can literally be the difference between life and death. Perhaps as important it shows that people outside their own country haven't forgotten them and care about them.

We are thinking of having a coffee morning in the spring so we can donate cash towards diesel and to purchase shortage items so please look out for the date and publicise it widely.

Helen Davies and Nore Beaumont

➔ Racial Justice Sunday Marked Across the Diocese

The Diocese of Leeds recently hosted the Church of England's online service for Racial Justice Sunday, a day set aside for churches to reflect on racial justice, give thanks for the richness of human diversity, and renew the commitment to challenge racism and discrimination.

This year's service focused on the theme "Love your neighbour" and included contributions from bishops and church leaders from across the diocese and beyond, with music, prayer and reflection shared online for congregations to join.



➔ General Synod Update



At its recent meeting, the Church of England's General Synod voted to halt further work on proposals relating to LGBTQ+ equality, including developments linked to the Living in Love and Faith process.

Bishops said the decision followed continued disagreement across the Church, with no clear consensus on how to move forward.

The debate reflected strong feelings on all sides, and church leaders acknowledged the pain and division the issue has caused. A new group is expected to continue discussions on relationships, sexuality and gender, while the wider conversation in the Church continues.

HALIFAX MINSTER HOSTS FESTIVAL OF FAITH

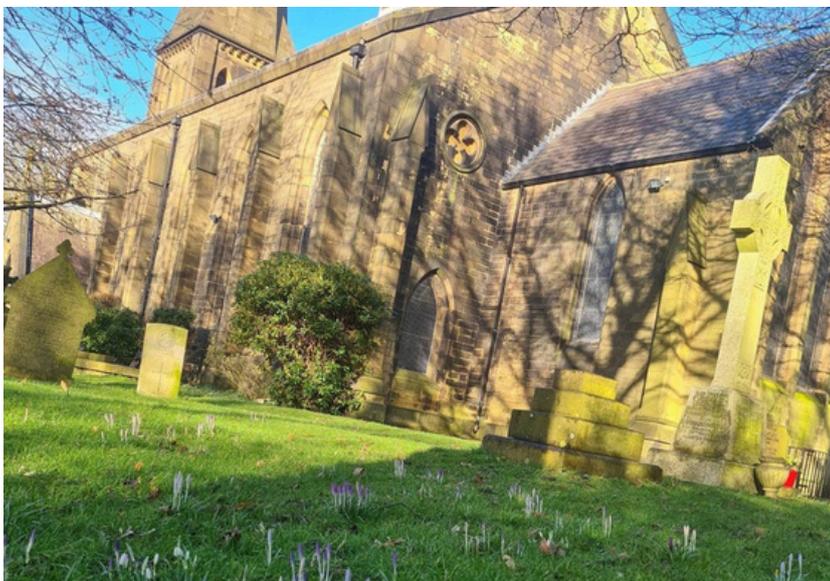
News from Diocese of Leeds

Halifax Minster is hosting its annual Festival of Faith, running from Ash Wednesday through to Easter. The festival brings together a wide range of events designed to explore faith, culture and public life, and to welcome people from across the community.

The programme includes themed days, visiting speakers, live music, poetry, exhibitions and public conversations. Among the guests are speakers from fields including sport, public life and community work, alongside opportunities for discussion and reflection.

There are also quieter elements within the festival, including spaces for prayer and stillness, as well as a sermon series exploring themes of hope. Special events include workshops, creative activities, and an exhibition reflecting on the dignity and role of women across different faith traditions.

The Festival of Faith aims to create a space where people can explore big questions, share ideas and encounter faith in different ways. Further details and the full programme are available on the Halifax Minster website.



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 March

Sunday 1st

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion - Candlemas

Sunday 8th

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion

Sunday 15th

8.00am – Traditional Said Holy Communion
9.30am – All Age Service - Mothering Sunday

Sunday 22nd: Passion Sunday

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion

Sunday 29th: Palm Sunday

8.00am – Traditional Said Holy Communion
9.30am – Sung Holy Communion

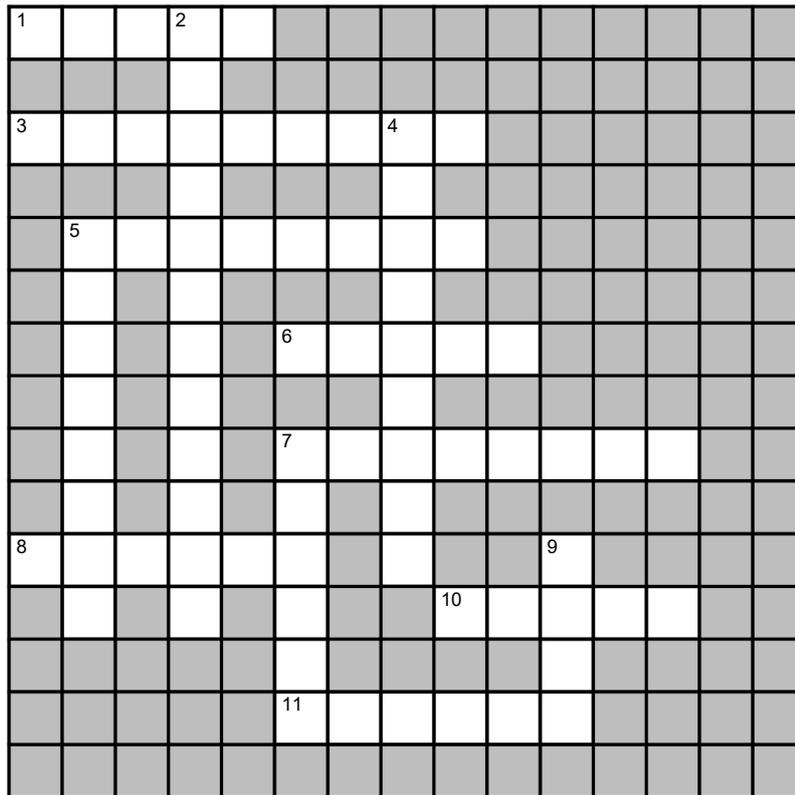
From The Parish Registers Funeral

The funeral of Doreen Pasterfield of Bobbin Court, Golcar, a much-loved member of St John's and faithful parishioner, took place at Huddersfield Crematorium on 16 February 2026. Doreen died on 16 January 2026. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.
Service taken by Fr Simon Crook

Baptism

We welcome into the church family Torvi Leigh Cooper, baptised on 1 February 2026, and Stanley John Wimpenny, baptised on 15 February 2026. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Romans 1



Across

1 What shameful desire did God give them over to? (5)

3 What did Paul say he had planned many times to do with the Gentiles? (4,2,3)

5 What happened to their foolish hearts? (8)

6 What will the righteous live by? (5)

7 What was Jesus appointed to through the Spirit of holiness? (3,2,3)

8 What did Paul say he was to both Greeks and non-Greeks? (6)

10 What of God is being revealed from heaven? (5)

11 What did Paul say he was not ashamed of? (6)

Down

2 Those who invent ways of doing evil will disobey who? (5,7)

4 What were we called through apostleship to call the Gentiles to? (9)

5 What sort of mind did God give them over to? (8)

7 What did Paul want to make the Gentiles through imparting some spiritual gift on them? (6)

9 Who was a servant of Jesus Christ? (4)

- Across**
- 1 Lusts (5)
 - 3 Come to you (4,2,3)
 - 5 Darkened (8)
 - 6 Faith (5)
 - 7 Son of God (3,2,3)
 - 8 Debtor (6)
 - 10 Wrath (5)
 - 11 Gospel (6)
- Down**
- 2 Their parents (5,7)
 - 4 Obedience (9)
 - 5 Depraved (8)
 - 7 Strong (6)
 - 9 Paul (4)

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

FREE

Family & Faith Day

10AM
-2PM

SATURDAY
20TH JUNE

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GLITTER TATTOOS
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AND MORE!

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
GOLCAR



ST JOHNS CHURCH
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GOLCAR'S GOT TALENT

Join us for a fun night of talent,
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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

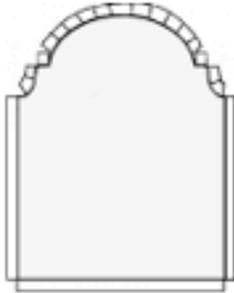


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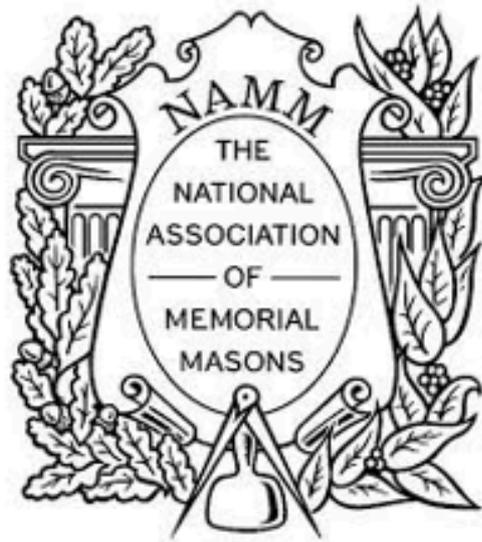
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THE LOCAL INFORMATION PAGE

Doctors:

Field Head Surgery, Field Head, Leymoor Rd.
Surgery hours:8.15am-12.30pm &1.15-6.00pm
Monday –Friday. Appointment only.

654504

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 1.30pm.

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