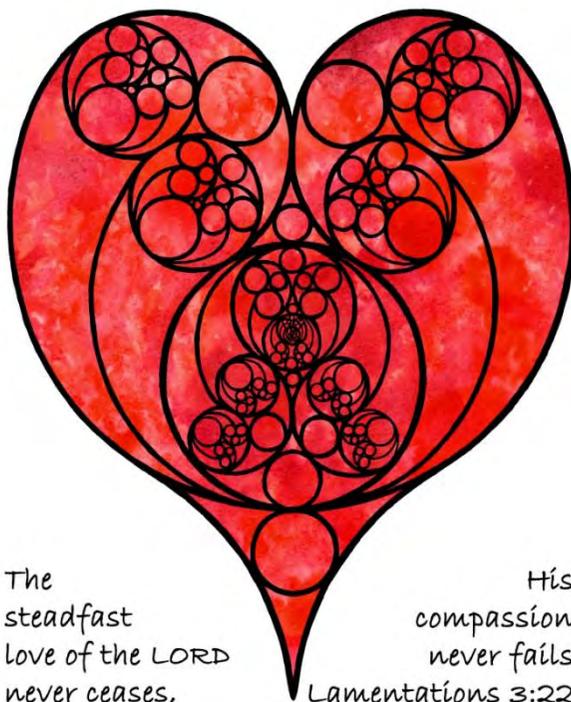




# Connected

## ***The Ryburn Benefice Magazine*** **February 2018**



The  
steadfast  
love of the LORD  
never ceases,

His  
compassion  
never fails  
Lamentations 3:22

**The Ryburn Benefice Churches:**  
**St Luke's Norland, St Mary's Cottonstones, St Peter's Sowerby**

# Church Contacts

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## Reverend Jeanette writes ...

Dear Friends.....

February is here again...already!! How did that happen and how is it that time seems to be slipping away ever faster? It is the month in which we celebrate Valentine's Day, a time of love and of giving. Personally, I'm not a big believer in Valentine's Day. I think if you have to set a day aside once a year to show someone you love them in a special way, romantically or otherwise, then you can't be doing things right. Love should be a steady stream I think, which is constantly moving and constantly ebbing and flowing. Love should be something that is given freely, because we feel it in the deepest part of our being, rather than being told we must feel it or have to give it. There is a quote on a poster on my study door which reads: **'We learn to love not by being told to love, but by being loved'**. It is a very deep and profound quote that I have pondered many times over the years. Love is a basic human need and at the heart of what makes us human, in all our messiness.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> this year, when lots of people are paying over the odds for flowers, cards, chocolates & restaurant tables, there will be those of us who will gather in churches across the land for 'The Imposition of the Ashes'. Ash Wednesday, this year, falls on the same day as Valentine's Day and is essentially about the same thing, though coming at it from very different angles. They are both about LOVE. When we receive the Imposition of Ashes, we are reminded of our own flawed humanity. We are asked again to turn to God, whose GRACE and LOVE are sufficient, and are everlasting. We are asked to think about the God who loves us fiercely and passionately, who knows us intimately and who longs for us to have abundant life. Instead of flowers and chocolates, we are asked to give ourselves over into that loving, all embracing relationship with our God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are asked to begin our journey through Lent, to open our

hearts and minds to God, and to walk with our Lord Jesus Christ as he journeys on to his Passion and death.

As we journey ever onward, with each other and with God, please bear this in mind. If you are one of the people for who time seems to be ‘slipping away’ or just moving too fast, this Lent, slow down. Take time to be with people and show them your love and care. Your time is really the greatest gift you can give anyone, so don’t be in a hurry. Stay awhile, make the call, write the letter, reach out to someone in need. Love is to be shared, not kept in our hearts selfishly. Jesus came to show us the way of love and that is what we are made for and from, LOVE.

Happy February everyone...may God be with you all.

X Revd Jeanette

# Hello God....

## **Desert Difficulties**

Luke 4: 1-12, John 16: 33

Life is difficult, sometimes.  
No matter how faithful,  
no matter how trusting,  
no matter how hard we try,  
life is difficult, sometimes.

Jesus understands.  
He walked in the desert,  
day after day after day.  
Faithful and trusting, yes,  
but hungry and weakened and  
vulnerable  
and tempted.

Even for Jesus  
life was difficult,  
especially for Jesus,  
knowing the end from the  
beginning.  
But He overcame the desert.  
He overcame death.  
The world is full of trouble,  
but He overcame the world.  
Take heart!  
Jesus can help.

By Daphne Kitching

# The Regular Church Calendar

## Sunday

- 10.00am Holy Communion St Peter's  
In It Together Worship 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month
- 11.30am Holy Communion St Mary's ( 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month only)
- 3.30pm Holy Communion St Luke's  
In It Together Worship 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month

## Monday

- 9.15am Morning Prayer St Luke's

## Tuesday

- 12 noon Lunch Club St Luke's, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the month

## Wednesday

- 9.15am Morning Prayer St Mary's

## Thursday

- 9.15am Morning Prayer St Peter's
- 10.15am Holy Communion White Windows, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month
- 12 noon Lunch Club St Peter's Centre 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month

## Saturday

- 9.30am Prayer Breakfast St Peter's, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in the month

Don't forget to look us up on the web:

[www.ryburnbenefice.org](http://www.ryburnbenefice.org)



SaintPeter's Church Sowerby

For details of Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Home Communion, Holy Unction, and Confession, please contact the Vicar:  
Revd Jeanette Roberts tel 01422 646 371  
[revdjeanneroberts@gmail.com](mailto:revdjeanneroberts@gmail.com)

## Particular events to note in February

Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Deanery Synod</b>	7.30pm Christ Church Sowerby Bridge
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pancake Bingo</b>	7.30pm Norland WMC
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	6.30pm St Peter's
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Weekly Ecumenical Lent Gps begin, finishing 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8pm St Patrick's, everyone welcome to attend Mass beforehand

•

## From the Registers ....

*There are no baptisms or weddings in the Benefice this month*

## Website

The website for the Ryburn Benefice is -

<http://ryburnbenefice.org>,

- from where you can access the websites for each of the three churches. Keep visiting over the coming months to stay connected with all that is happening in your local church community.

## How it happened – in verse

Slippery ice, very thin;  
pretty girl tumbled in.  
Saw a boy upon the bank –  
gave a shriek, and then she sank.  
Boy on bank heard her shout,  
jumped right in and helped her out.  
Now he's hers – very nice;  
but she had to break the ice.

*The Rev Paul Hardingham considers this month's unlikely link of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day ...*

## **'Lenten Valentines'**

During this month Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, share the same date! It seems an odd mix, yet there is an obvious link: love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is about learning how to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. It's also an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Luke 4: 1-13).

Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit (1), where He was tempted by Satan, but demonstrated the path of real love. Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread. Love gets to the heart of human need, not just satisfying physical desires. Satan tempts Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is the beginning of love and results in sacrificial service to meet the needs of others. Finally, He is tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Only real love can change hearts by practical love and care.

Lent teaches us how to live out the love of God in practice, as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

**Valentine was Christ's follower, committed to sharing God's love** with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and was martyred on February 14th. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret. He also helped Christians in Rome during times of persecution. He demonstrated the importance of showing real love in action.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

**'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning.'**

# Be My Valentine

If you are in a relationship, or have been in the past, it might amuse you to look back on your romance by asking yourselves **some of these questions** ...

1. How and when did you first meet?
2. What first attracted you to your partner?
3. Where did you go for your first date?
4. What things did you have in common?
5. How did he pop the question?
6. What do you love best about your partner?
7. What one thing would you change?
8. Briefly tell one funny story that has happened during your romance.
9. How long have you been married or in your relationship?
10. What would be your ideal romantic holiday together?

## Love is...

What do children know about love? When questioned, some four to eight year olds came up with the following:

- When you're born and see your mummy for the first time. That's love.
- Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.
- If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who hates you.
- Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.
- I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.
- You have to fall in love before you get married. Then when you're married, you just sit around and read books together.
- I let my big sister pick on me because my Mum says she only

picks on me because she loves me.

- Love goes on even when you stop breathing, and you pick up where you left off when you reach Heaven.
- Love cards like Valentine's cards say stuff on them that we'd like to say ourselves, but we wouldn't be caught dead saying it.
- When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.

## **The size of our congregations**

The size of a congregation is significant in a number of ways. Larger churches, for example, have more resources, both in people and (usually) finance, to undertake more activities. It is surprising, though, just how many smaller churches have numerous activities being undertaken frequently by a dedicated army of often older people, faithfully labouring behind the scenes.

The number of congregations in England which are comprised of under 50 people is about half, or 54%. In the Church of England, **about five per cent of these 'under 50' churches number only seven people**, and about 25 per cent of these churches number 15 people.

Turning to the larger churches, across the 0.5% of largest churches, the attendance is 700 (excluding the six churches with attendance in four figures, two of which are in central London [HTB and All Souls]). Across the largest 5% the average congregation is 150, and across the largest 25% it is 60.

Across the whole country and across all denominations the median size of congregation is 44 people; which means that is there are almost 20,000 churches with fewer than that on a Sunday, while 20,000 have more.

In America, the size issue takes totally different dimensions, **since there are probably about 1,500 "mega-churches", those with more than 2,000 on a Sunday**. There are probably a further **15,000 what they call "medium-sized" churches, that is, with**

between 500 and 2,000 attenders, with something like 325,000 churches catering for 34 million churchgoers.



"Looks like they've introduced contactless payments for their collections."

# 'He gave us eyes to see them' - Water



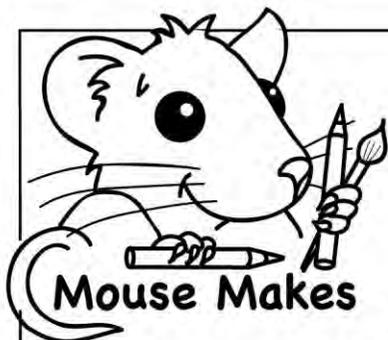
Open the door of any church and the first thing to greet you is the font. As you enter the porch to turn that door handle, there may be a holy water stoup set in the wall: both reminders of the sacrament of baptism that marks the beginning of the Christian journey.

In the church water is a symbol with two faces. One is the face of an enemy for it can be a destructive power. We can think of the engulfing water of the flood, consuming the earth, and the image of the Christian immersed and drowning in the water of baptism, dying to the old way to be raised to the new life of the spirit. But water is also a friend and an ally – a sign of life and refreshment, of washing and cleansing, of starting anew. We recall this twofold aspect when we cross ourselves with the water of the stoup or are sprinkled with water as we renew our baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil.

Around 1330 Andrea Pisano created a series of 28 glorious bronze panels for the south door of the 11th century baptistery in Florence. One of them depicts that crucial moment of the baptism of Jesus. He is up to his waist in the river. An angel kneels at one side with a towel, while John the Baptist stands at the other, pouring water on the head of Jesus as the Holy Spirit descends like a dove.



The baptism itself becomes a door – a door through which Jesus must pass to begin his ministry as the anointed one, and a door through which others must enter as they seek to follow. Jesus will go on to call disciples fishing in the water of the Sea of Galilee, just as he will tell a Samaritan woman about water that will gush up to eternal life. Jesus calls us and offers us this water – to be washed and refreshed by it: a door that will open out for us into a life of joy and service.



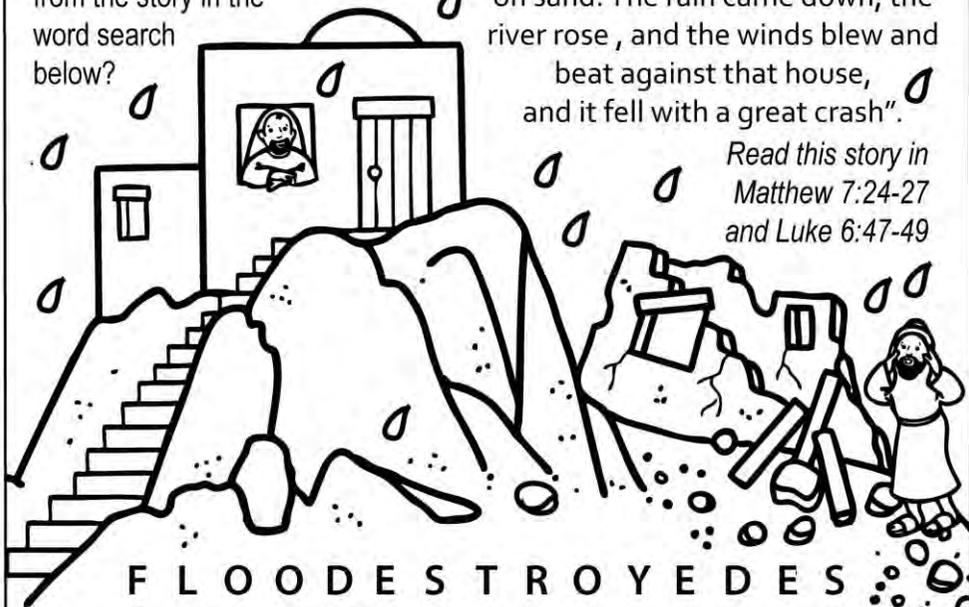
## Mouse Makes

Can you find the words from the story in the word search below?

Jesus taught his disciples...  
 "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain came down, the river rose and the winds blew and beat against the house it did not fall. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice

is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the river rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash".

*Read this story in  
 Matthew 7:24-27  
 and Luke 6:47-49*



F L O O D E S T R O Y E D E S  
 O W J H W A R B I F E L L F A  
 B O P O I F O U N D A T I O N  
 G R O U N D C I J E S U S O D  
 E D U S D O K L B U R S T L M  
 A S H E A R T T E W I S E I A  
 S O L I D R I V E R A I N S N  
 C O L L A P S E D R U I N H T

LISTEN • HEAR • JESUS • WORDS • WISE • MAN • BUILT • HOUSE • SOLID  
 FOUNDATION • ROCK • RAIN • WIND • FLOOD • RIVER • BURST • FOOLISH  
 SAND • GROUND • COLLAPSED • FELL • DESTROYED • RUIN

# The tale of the Tower Builder

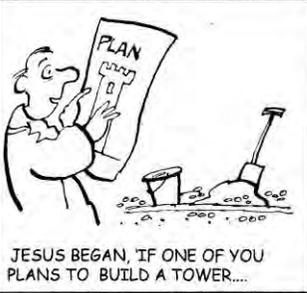
BUILDING SITE FOR SALE



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

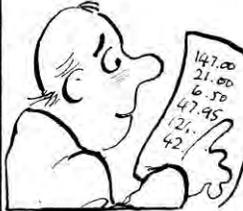


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



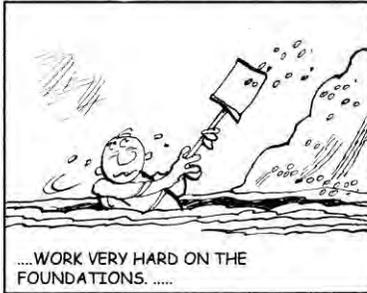
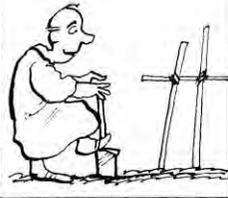
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



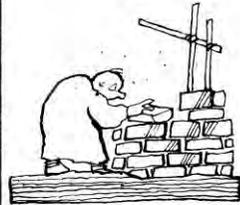
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START, ....



...WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS. ....

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS....



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



**MOVIE  
MOMENTS**

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

## A higher purpose?

The real Molly Bloom, whose story is told in *Molly's Game*, says that despite her power and wealth she felt an 'emptiness'. She was successfully running high-stakes poker games in which millions of dollars changed hands. She was popular with the rich and famous. She had fast cars, shopping sprees, and more cash than most other twenty-somethings could ever dream of. But, she says, 'my definitions of success and ambition were off'.



If you are a fan of Aaron Sorkin's screenwriting (*A Few Good Men*, *The West Wing*, *Steve Jobs* etc) then you will love *Molly's Game* where, for the first time, he also directs the screenplay he has written. This enables him to dig deeply into Molly's character and to raise questions that are helpfully left hanging in the air. One such is whether morality is anything more than psychology.

Molly (played brilliantly by Jessica Chastain) is a complex character. She runs a game in which experienced regulars beat naive new punters, but she also counsels players to get out before they lose too much. She won't collect bad debts from people who can't afford it, and is thus forced into the position of operating illegally by taking a percentage of the pot. She resists dishing the dirt on players in order to protect their lives and preserve her reputation.

So, how does she decide right from wrong? Is there any objective basis for her ethics beyond her personal experience? It is significant that much of the action is framed between two arguments with her father (played by Kevin Costner), a psychotherapist, in which she resists psychoanalytical explanations for behaviour.



Reflecting on her life, as now told on the screen, the real Molly Bloom says 'I'm not going down the road again where I sell my soul... I'd like to use that skill set for a higher purpose.' Perhaps we might pray that she, and many others like her, will discover the creator God who provides the ultimate purpose for our lives, and an objective basis for morality beyond our individual experience.



**ETHOS  
MEDIA**.org

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.

## Sharing the Good News with The 95

**95% of children and young people are not in church:** We need to go to the places they are if we are to share the good news of Jesus with them. Do you share our passion to do that? That's why we've launched our 95 campaign.

You're invited to join us for this **Hebden Royd Churches Together** event; hear more about Scripture Union's work with 'The 95', and discover how to get involved:

**Monday 5 February**

**7:30pm**

Refreshments from 7:15pm

**Hope Baptist Chapel**

New Road  
Hebden Bridge  
HX7 8EW

**This event aims to equip you to share the good news with The 95.** Whether you are just beginning to make connections in local schools and communities, or you want to build on your existing work – there will be practical ideas and resources to help us all to be more effective.

Please contact Ronnie Jackson on **07460 732 464** or email **ronchrisjackson@live.com** for more information.

**[www.hope-baptist.org.uk](http://www.hope-baptist.org.uk)**

For lots more information about how Scripture Union is inviting children and young people to explore the difference Jesus can make, head over to **[www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk)**.



# How to improve your memory

**Don't forget to eat your greens** – or you could be forgetting a lot of other things as well. It seems that a portion of green leafy vegetables each day can go a long way towards safeguarding the memory of older people. In a recent study, it was found that people who eat greens regularly can have a memory capacity equivalent to the memory of a person 11 years younger.

A recent study at Rush University Medical Centre in Chicago found that people in their 80s who ate just half a cup a day of certain green leafy vegetables (lettuce, spinach, kale and collard greens; all rich in vitamin K) had significantly better memory than those older people who did not.

## Good to volunteer

What is your work-life balance? Ideally, it should be a four-way effort of family, work, leisure and - very important - volunteering.

That is the belief of Sir Nick Parker, who served as Commander of the Land Forces from 2010 to 2012. He argues that young people, of between 10 and 20 years old especially, will themselves be helped by regular volunteering, as it helps them learn new skills, increases their resilience and self-confidence, and can improve their social mobility and life chances.

Now Sir Nick Parker has been calling on the Government to encourage people of all ages to get used to volunteering, as not only could it help revitalise civil society, it also can help young people to grow and mature, and get into the habit of playing an active, useful role in their communities.

## The Three R's:

at 25: Romance

at 45: Rent

at 65: Rheumatism

***Weekly Groups at St Peter's Community Centre which is just across the road from St. Peter's Church. Formerly the village school, therefore the entrance is via the old school yard.....***

### **Community Café**

Monday – 9.15am-noon. Term time. Join us for inexpensive bacon butties, omelettes, home made cakes, treats, children's play table. Free housing benefit advice available.

*Facebook: The Cafe St Peter's Community Centre Sowerby*

### **Tai Chi**

Monday – 1pm-2pm

2.15pm – 3.15pm Beginners Class. Weekly

### **Ryburn Art Club**

Tuesday - 10am-12.30pm. Term time.

### **Brownies and Guides**

Tuesday - 6.30pm-9pm - for girls aged between 7 and 14 years. Term time.

### **Sweaty Mama**

Wednesday – 9.30am Fun workouts with your child. Weekly

### **Lunch Club**

Thursday – Noon-1.30pm - first and third Thursday of each month.

### **Slimming World**

Thursday evenings from 7.30pm. Tracey is your Slimming World representative.

### **Stay and Play**

Friday – 9am-10.30am - a free, ( although donations appreciated ), messy play group for parents and toddlers. Sensible parenting advice given if asked for.

### **Artsbarre**

Friday – from 4.45pm. Term time.



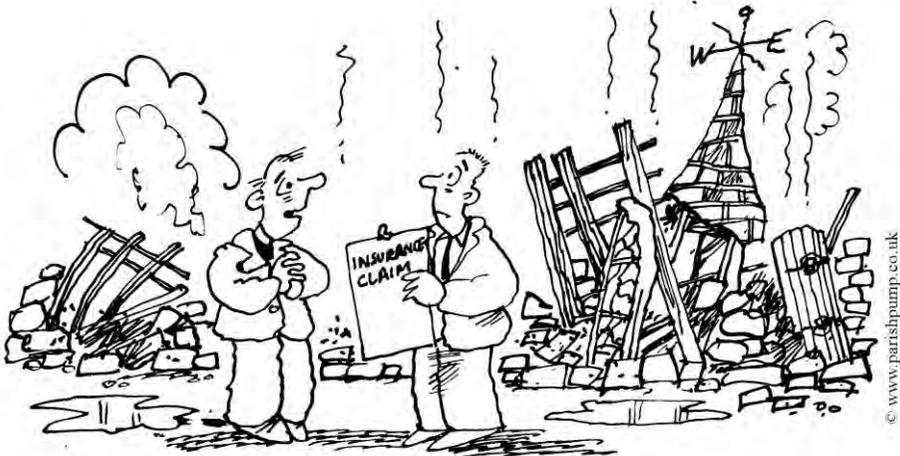
*St Peter's Community Centre groups cont.:*

**Community Café**

Saturday – 9am-1pm. Join us for inexpensive bacon butties, soup, home made cakes, treats, children's play table. Free housing benefit advice available.

*Facebook: The Cafe St Peter's Community Centre Sowerby*

If you are interested in coming to any of these groups, just turn up on the day to get more details.



*...er... apart from this little hiccup... it was an excellent church pancake supper...*

## Norland Church News

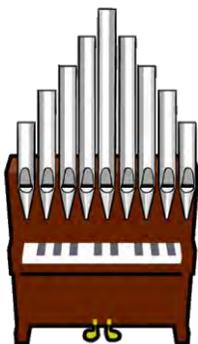
We are launching an organ fund, to refurbish our unique little organ.

All contributions should be made payable to

Norland Church

We will be very grateful for any gifts large or small.

Thank you.



## Norland Club Pancake Bingo

Pancake, Bingo and Quiz

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm.

Entrance £5 including supper ( children £2.50 )



# **Little Learners—Toddler Play Time**

## **Brand new Toddler Group and Café**

**Come and join us for some  
Practitioner led play time,  
Crafts, singing and story books!  
Whole lot of fun!**

**Open Tuesday and Thursday  
9.30-11.30**

**St Mary's Church Cottonstones  
HX6 3EU**

**Childminders, parents,  
Grandparents, nursery and  
Preschool groups all welcome!**

## December Sudoku solution

9	3	4	6	2	1	8	5	7
2	7	1	5	8	9	3	4	6
5	8	6	7	4	3	1	9	2
8	9	7	2	1	6	5	3	4
1	4	5	3	9	7	2	6	8
6	2	3	4	5	8	9	7	1
7	5	9	1	6	2	4	8	3
3	1	8	9	7	4	6	2	5
4	6	2	8	3	5	7	1	9

## February Sudoku

		3		8			2	
8	7		2	9	3			
	4	2	6			5		
5	1			3			7	4
2	3						9	5
7	8			4			3	6
		7			9	4	1	
			4	5	1		6	7
	9			6		3		

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# February 2018 Crossword

## ACROSS

1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?'

(Luke 6:32) (6)

4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)

7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)

8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1

Chronicles 15:22) (8)

9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)

13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)

16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)

17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)

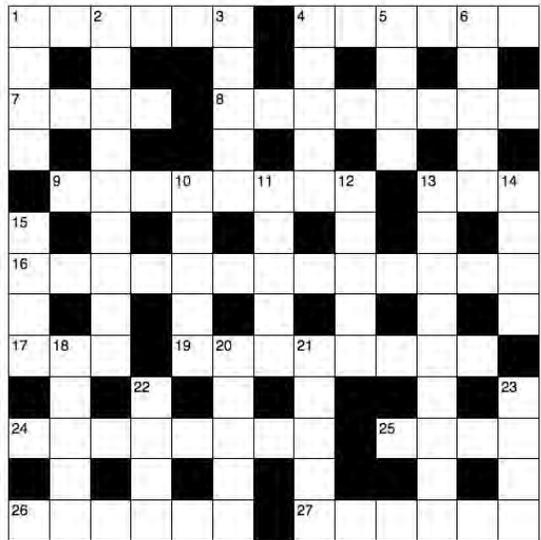
19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)

24 Simon had (anag.) (8)

25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)

26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)

27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)



## DOWN

1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)

2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)

3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)

4 Belief (5)

- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

## Answers : December 2017 Crossword



## And Finally.....

### **Oops!**

Memory is what tells a man his wedding anniversary was yesterday.

### **Listen**

My wife says I never listen, or something like that...

### **Insanity**

Doctor: 'Has there been any insanity in your family?'

Woman: 'I'm afraid so. My husband sometimes thinks he's the boss'

### **Long wait**

Service in the restaurant was abysmally slow. My husband was getting very tense, so I tried to distract him with small talk. 'You know,' I said, 'our friend Christine should be having her baby anytime now.'

'Really?' my husband snapped. 'She wasn't even pregnant when we walked in here.'

### **Prayers**

My 10 year-old niece says her prayers every night, but instead of 'amen', she says 'click, send.'

### **Windows**

She texted her husband from home on a cold winter's morning: 'Windows frozen, won't open.'

He texted back: 'Gently pour some lukewarm water over it.'

She replied five minutes later: 'Computer really screwed up now.'

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