



Jan 2024

this month includes...

Rector's Journal

A memorable day  
by Sue S

Nature Notes  
by Margaret S

plus

Prayer for New Year  
Epiphany  
Peace Point

## Under Pressure...

**Friday:** I am wandering around Keighley looking for a barber. Having been advised that my hair is "a right mess", there is some pressure to get it sorted before the weekend. The barber greets me with a cheery "What's it to be, boss?", and suggests, after I waffle helplessly for a bit "A number 3". I have no idea what this is which is why I emerge later with a very cold head, a visible bald patch, £10 poorer, and prominent ears newly exposed to the light of day.

**Sunday:** in the vestry 50% of the choir is smirking about the haircut - who did this to you? Etc. The congregation joins in after church is finished. My children also enjoy it immensely. Why did I let the barber do this to me? I am too weak to protest, that's why.



**Thursday:** I'm on a very rare visit to Chapter. This is a meeting of local vicars from the area; Ilkley, Burley, Kildwick etc. The cup of tea is so good, that the host vicar is commanded by the rest of us to reveal the brand. He feebly replies that tea-making is not in his job description. Moreover, there are no biscuits. In a vicarly way, we ramp up the pressure, and he crumbles before us, like I did in the barber's chair.

We discuss the issue of same-sex marriage. Every one of us will be under pressure this year to come up with a policy for our parishes. We know, from watching other churches, that painful splits are likely, and indeed, the six of us have different views.

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When does each one of us bend to the pressure of the power of others? When do we end up doing things we didn't really want to do? Is Jesus any help? He seems to advise us, first of all, to go back to the laws in scripture; and the summary of all those laws; **Love Your Neighbour** etc. But He also encourages



you and me to work out our own response to wherever we find ourselves. This is even more pressure, but it is a **creative force**. Jesus asks us to look at Him, and the Bible, and to apply both to whatever is pressing in on us, forcing us to make a decision.

In this New Year, our church will be making decisions, inter alia, on how to reorganise the interior of church, which bits of land we can or cannot sell, and what to do if we are asked to bless a same-sex relationship. **May we act under His pressure, and not our own weaknesses.**

Mark

## 6<sup>th</sup> January: Epiphany : the revelation to the Wise Men

How brightly beams the morning star!  
With sudden radiance from afar  
With light and comfort glowing!  
Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us,  
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.  
Praise, oh praise such love o'erflowing



hear J. S. Bach's *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IGXK4vI8CI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IGXK4vI8CI)

## Prayer at New Year

God of every moment,

we admit that we always find the time to fill our stomachs, but not our souls;  
we spend hours watching television, but not the wonders of your creation;  
we arrange outings with our friends, yet ignore your invitation to sit and talk;  
we make resolutions to change every aspect of our lives, except for that which pertains to you.

Forgive us, God of glory, and make us new.

In the moments to come this year, remind us that if there is indeed "a time for everything", then we do have those moments to spend in grace, seeking hope, finding joy, and for a relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Last year is gone. Today, we begin anew. Today, and every day, God offers us life and hope. Here, now, forever – we are forgiven and healed. Let this year be the year we will live as such people. Thanks be to God!

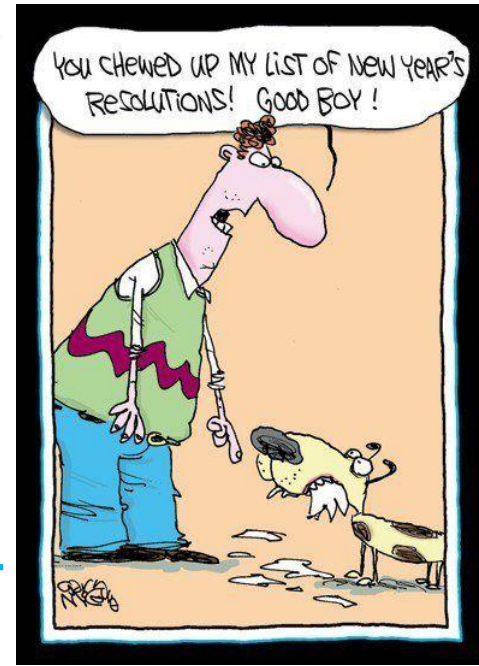
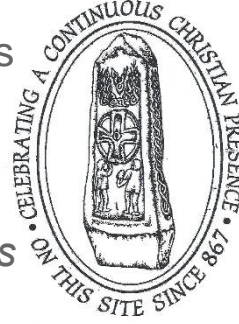
from 'The same old way?' by Thom M Shuman, Wild Goose Publications



Never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself.

*Florence Nightingale*

**Documented date... 867** : In 867, Danes captured York and “*there was immeasurable slaughter among the Northumbrians*” (Anglo Saxon Chronicles). Symeon, an 11th century monk writes that “*while these bloody struggles were going on, Bishop Wulfhere kept aloof, residing at Hatyngham, a valley in the Western part of Yorkshire which is called Hwerverdale, upon the bank of the River Hwerf between Otley and the Castle of Sciptun*”.



You can read more about the history of St. Peter's on our website.

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**2024** Happy New Year  
from St Peter's

The value of consistent prayer is not that he will hear us, but that we will hear him.

*William McGill*

### St. Peter's Study Group

meets again on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2.30pm at 156 Main St, thinking more about the Enlightenment – come and share ideas over a coffee.



**Sunday 28 Jan**  
**3pm**  
**@ Methodists**

*Remember to tell family and friends with children about Messy Church!*

NOT MY JOB	MY JOB
FIX OR SAVE PEOPLE	LOVE PEOPLE
BE LIKED	BE AUTHENTIC
DO IT ALL	TAKE THE NEXT STEP
PLEASE EVERYONE	SPEAK MY TRUTH
HOLD IT TOGETHER	BREATHE

### MY MEMORABLE DAY

*Sue Settle*

On a beautiful sunny, frosty Saturday morning, I put the dog on her leash and boots on my feet and set off for a walk onto Denton Moor. It was cold and very icy, therefore I saw no other walkers, just how I like it! The sky was blue and not a cloud to be seen. We walked up the road until we reached the farm, then the dog went off her leash and started to run.



*Denton Moor under a blue sky*

When we got to the top, stopped and looked at the view, stunning, no sheep, no cows, no wildlife, just me and the dog.

We then started to go back down the hill, even the muddy lane was frozen so when we got home the dog did not need a bath though she has very short legs.

A beautiful day to remember.

## Wulfherans

Many members attended the enjoyable annual **Party Night**. We started with a lovely *buffet* including homemade flans and cakes and mulled wine. *Pass the parcel* was good fun, followed by the *raffle*. Finally Judith played the piano and Margaret the flute as members sang popular *carols*.

Sign up  
in the hall  
for our  
**New Year  
Dinner**  
at the Fleece  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm**



## Peace point

*Across all cultures and throughout all human time we share the same six emotions – sadness, anger, fear, joy, love and peace.*

**You can watch all St. Peter's Podcasts at [vimeo.com/showcase/10274277](https://vimeo.com/showcase/10274277)**

## Nature Notes for January

Did you see the **Geminid meteor showers** in December? A shooting star spectacular for the end of the year! The astronomer Martin Lunn writes the most interesting articles about the **winter solstice**, too, which was 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, when the Sun was at its lowest point in the sky. Looking over the valley as I write, there are heavy clouds and it's quite cold, but with lots of **birds** flying over the garden looking for food food, which is good! and swooping over the valley too. A pair of **squirrels** are still dashing amongst the trees - they jump with great enthusiasm. Now I look forward to both hearing and seeing the **geese and swans** arriving from their amazing their long flights.

**Take good care and enjoy all aspects of nature!**

## Contacts

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## Find out more


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For up-to-date details of all services and activities, please look at our website, follow us on  Facebook or pick up a "What's On" leaflet.

**Everyone is welcome** and you can also join with St. Peter's online; we livestream many of our services to our  Facebook page, so take a look.

You can also follow  **C.a.f.e** – **children and family events** at St. Peter's Addingham

*To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing*

*Martin Luther*

Margaret Spencer



Geminid Meteor Shower over N Yorkshire (Danny Lawson)

Now I look forward to both hearing and seeing the **geese and swans** arriving from their amazing their long flights.