

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Home, Hope, Hands

December 2024 - January 2025

From our Vicar, Revd Hannah Smith

It was John Lennon who wrote a song entitled 'Give Peace a Chance.' Perhaps it would be wise for us to heed this advice – when conflict and disagreement and war is such an easy option, giving peace an opportunity, a chance, giving peace a go is important – particularly for our world right now.

Our theme for this Christmas across the parish is 'Peace on earth.' We remember again at this time of year that Jesus was called the 'Prince of Peace' and that when he was born in the poverty of a stable all those years ago, angels greeted his birth by singing both glory to God and peace to all people.



Jesus became human to show us what God is like – and what do we see in the Christmas story? A God who is humble, who comes close to us, who is not far-off or proud but embraces human beings whoever they are and however he finds them.

Jesus shows us that God is a God who loves peace – who wants to have peace with us, and for us to have peace with one another. This is at the centre of the message of our faith.

So, this Christmas, let's follow the example of Jesus and be peace-makers. Let's pray for peace in our troubled world in every place – Ukraine/Russia, the Middle East, Sudan and many other places. Let's pray for and work for peace in our country – among people of different backgrounds and different viewpoints. Let's pray for and work for peace in our relationships with family and community – by listening and caring and preferring one another. And let's embrace the peace that Jesus offers us inside and out as we are drawn into the love of God – a love that never ends and is always moving us towards peace.

Do join us for any of our Christmas services this year – we'd love to see you!
And I pray for a peaceful Christmas and New Year for you all.

Hannah

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PEACE
PEACE
PEACE
ON EARTH



CHRISTMAS AT ST HELEN'S

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER	11AM	POP UP NATIVITY
	4PM	TRADITIONAL CAROLS
SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER	7PM	CONTEMPORARY CAROLS (NO 11AM SERVICE)
CHRISTMAS EVE	4PM	CHRISTINGLE
	11.15PM	MIDNIGHT MASS
CHRISTMAS DAY	10AM	FAMILY COMMUNION

www.sandalmagna.com | 01924 259966 | office@sandalmagna.com



CHRISTMAS AT THE SPRING
WED 18 DECEMBER | 3PM
CAKE & CAROLS

www.sandalmagna.com
office@sandalmagna.com
01924 259966



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Christmas Services at St Pauls and Portobello

Sunday 8th December - 11.00am Community Carol Service at St. Paul's

Wednesday 11th – 9.15am Toddler's Christmas at Portobello Community Centre

Saturday 21st – 11.30am Santa and Carols at Portobello Community Centre

Monday 23rd – 4.00pm Christingle at St. Paul's

Christmas Day – 11am Communion Service at St. Paul's

Parish Office Christmas Closure

The Parish Office will close at midday on Monday 23rd December 2024
and will re-open at 9.30am on Monday 6th January 2025

Women's Fellowship

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025 ;

Hope you are all getting ready for the Christmas seasonal activities and ensuring you are keeping cosy and warm too as the winter takes a hold.

We can help with this! Come along to our meetings for fellowship and warmth in more ways than one.

Here's what you could be missing if you don't come along on the first Monday of the month, 10am in the Emmaus rooms at the rear of the church.....

2024

DECEMBER 2nd; Cherry Crane ; Children's Air Ambulance

2025

JANUARY 6th; Lizzy Brothwood; 'Getting to know her'

FEBRUARY 3rd; Ella; 'Open Country' support services, Wakefield

MARCH 3rd; Simon ; Citizens Advice Bureau

Meetings always conclude with a chat & catch-up, cuppa & cake!

Gill Heap



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New Way to Give to the Church – Parish Giving Scheme

Direct Debit via the Parish Giving Scheme has arrived as a way to give to the church. This has many advantages including:

- It is a tried and tested scheme that allows givers to donate to the church by regular Direct Debit payments. It is the only payment method with a money back guarantee and is therefore safer for the donor than Standing Orders, cheques and cash.
- It has been found to be a simple method of giving, the gifts/donations are reliable and regular, and it helps churches plan for the future. Giving is reviewed annually with the givers, with an option for an inflationary increase.
- The scheme means that less money is handled in the church, which is safer for the volunteers and their time spent counting and banking the money is reduced. Bank charges may reduce as well.
- As more and more givers switch to direct debit with the Parish Giving Scheme, it will save many hours of administrative time at local church level. Gifts/donations are much easier for the Gift Aid Secretary to reconcile than standing orders or cash. It will also improve cash flow, since Gift Aid is claimed and added each month by the PGS team (rather than claimed annually by the Parish).
- There are no direct costs to a participating parish.

If you wish to know more about direct debit, please speak to Nigel Brook.

The Dedicated Telephone Service

Donors may prefer the option of setting up their Direct Debit by using the dedicated PGS telephone service. To do this donors should call: **0333 002 1271** Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9 – 5pm.

One of the PGS administrators will take the donor through the sign-up process – this normally takes around 15 minutes. The donor will need the following information to hand:

- Personal bank account details
- The name of the parish they wish to donate to
- They will need to confirm if they want to increase their gift in line with inflation each year
- Confirm if they are eligible for Gift Aid
- The PGS code for their parish 460646511



Nigel Brook

The Digital Service

The PGS Digital Service allows donors to easily set up regular giving for their parish online directly through the [Parish Giving Scheme website](#)

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Existing Methods of Giving

But please be assured that all existing methods of giving continue unchanged including plate donations, gift aid envelopes (Green or Yellow), weekly brown envelopes, Standing Orders or Digital Giving (Payaz) machine. We are trying to offer new alternatives and future proof in case we don't have enough volunteers to operate the existing methods. If you have any questions please ask me
Nigel Brook 07740 112902.

Regular Activities at St Helen's and St Paul's

Church Groups or Activities	
1 st Monday of each month 10.00 -12.00	Women's Fellowship. Emmaus Room. Contact Gill Heap. 01924 250103
3 rd Monday of each month 7.30pm – 9.30pm	Mother's Union. Barnabas Room, St Paul's
Wednesday 9.00am -12.00	Gardening Team. Contact Alex Hull 01924 256764
Church Cleaners 9.30am – 12.00 midday	Contact Vickie Lord. 01924 255938
Wednesday 7.00pm	Bellringers practice for Sunday Services. St Helen's. Contact Margot Cutt. 01924 255918
Thursday 7.00pm	Choir Practice. Usually, the Thursday before the 2 nd and 4 th Sundays. St Helen's Church. Contact John Arnold. 01924 372597
2 nd Thursday of each month 2.00 – 3.00pm	Contemplative Prayer Group. Barnabas Room, St Paul's. Contact Sue Davies. 07749 592858
Every 1 st and 3 rd Sunday. 6 -7.30pm in the Emmaus Rooms.	Shield Youth Group. Contact Rachel Chapman
Other Activities (charges may apply)	
Monday in term time 1.30 – 3.30pm	U3A Recorder Group. Emmaus Room, St Helen's. Contact David Johnson: 07484 230520
Monday in term time 7.00pm to 9.15pm	Wind Band. Contact Adele Jones: 07850 483727
Last Friday of the month at 5pm	Cllr Shaman Saleem surgery for local residents mailto:shabaansaleem@wakefield.gov.uk
Thursday eve	Sorooptimists, Barnabas Room, St Paul's. Contact Linda Phillips 07709 282403
Various days and times	Pilates, Barnabas Room, St Paul's. Contact Gill Carr: 07968199169

BELLRINGING FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

You may have noticed that the bells sounded different on Remembrance Sunday! To produce a sombre effect the bells are half-muffled. This is accomplished by attaching a muffle to the bell clapper (as seen in the photographs). All six bells in St Helen's have a large metal clapper suspended inside it, which swings from one side of the bell to the other as we ring and strikes the bell very hard. While the bells are muffled, every other strike makes a softer note. This is ideal when ringing for Remembrance Sunday, funerals and during periods of mourning when a monarch dies.

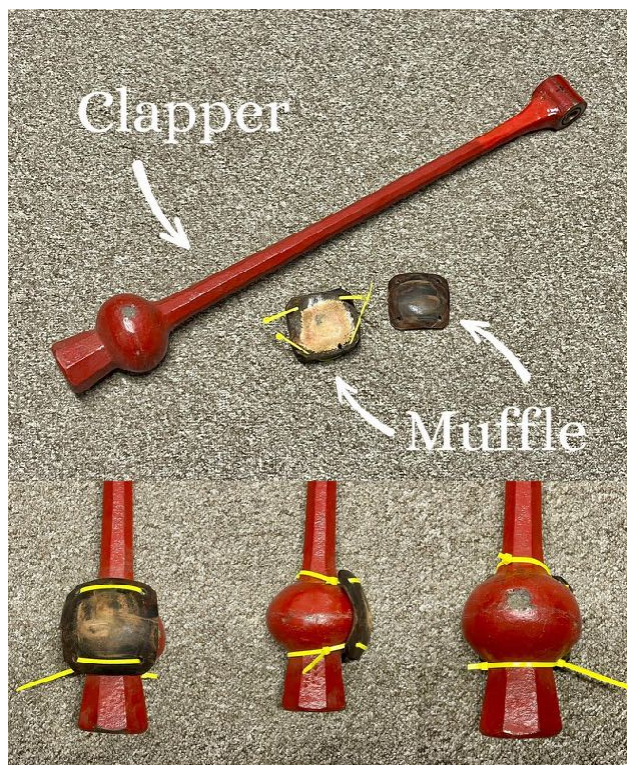
The Muffles

The muffles are made from a square of thick leather with carpet attached to the inside. The oldest ones at Sandal are around 100 years old. While historically leather thongs were used to attach the muffles, we now use plastic cable ties. When installing the muffles we must crawl under bells which are located at the very top of the tower. This process takes about an hour.

Ringling

We have some special methods that we ring for Remembrance. Echo ringing is where a regular method is rung but every stroke is doubled, which means when the bells are muffled it creates an echo effect. "Stand for Tenor" is where all the bells stop ringing apart from the Bell 6 (also known as the Tenor), the heaviest bell in the tower. This allows it to ring out once by itself before all the other bells join back in. This is repeated several times.

We are always looking for more ringers at Sandal, so if you know somebody who might be interested, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Written by Roger Townend,

Photos by Eddie Brook

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Youth Update

We've been having a lot of fun with Shield recently. As well as raising a whopping £1,236 for World Vision, we've also been looking at the concept of the armour of God. Lizzy really enjoyed the 'armour' bit and got very involved in demonstrating how the armour actually works physically.



We also updated the idea of armour to a more modern context. We looked at things that people wear for protection nowadays and how this relates to armour. All had much fun and there were some deep discussions



around spiritual defence and how life can be a little tough for young people with all the difficulties of modern life.



With every Good Work, we are continuing on Portobello with Hot Chocolate and beginning Game Changers in The Spring after the October Half Term. If you happen to have any board games, jigsaws or card games, any donations would be gratefully received. Please give them to me (Phil Asquith) on a Sunday morning in church or to the Parish Office when they are open.

Please also pray for us as we prepare and create our course for the next steps in the Every Good Work program. We will be taking young people and showing them how Christians help people in various charities in and around Wakefield.

Phil Asquith

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Shield Youth Group Dates

- No SHIELD on Dec 1st
- Dec 8th Christmas Party. 6 - 7.30pm
- Dec 22nd Contemporary Carols
7pm
- January 19th 2025
6.00pm-7.30pm in the Emmaus
Room

In February we will be starting Youth Alpha with SHIELD.

Year 6 to year 13 are invited to join us.

Youth Alpha

Our first Youth Alpha will be Feb 2nd 2025.

Please contact Rachel if you would like to join the Youth Alpha

Rachel and Andy Chapman



Shield Youth Group and Christians Against Poverty

Shield completed the considerable logistical task of assessing the needs of different CAP clients before filling the hampers accordingly and then auditing the contents to produce a list of things that might need adding.

Many thanks to all who gave items for the hampers. It is a privilege to be able to serve in this way.

Shield also took part in an interesting discussion about the implications of poverty in the world immediately around us.

Thanks to Andy and Rachel Chapman and Lizzy and all those who helped out.

Andy Owen - CAP Volunteer

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Christians Against Poverty

We took our team of ten volunteers out for afternoon tea at the end of November. Andy Owen is one of these, and supports us with administrative work. He has taken on the task of putting together the Christmas hampers for our clients, which we really appreciate. Members of the Shield Youth Group at St. Helen's helped assemble them. There will be 20 hampers, giving an indication of the number of clients we are in touch with at any time.

We are also grateful to those who give financially to keep the Debt Centre running: Local business owners, St. George's Church, Connect City Church and The Spring. If you give money to St. Helen's and St. Paul's then you too are helping to support this work because the church allocates a regular amount to this service. In January we will be inviting representatives of our donors to an information session over afternoon tea.

To give a few figures, spanning the past year:

- 14 of our clients are going through insolvency, or have done so and are debt free;
- 3 are on a debt repayment plan;
- 6 not yet reached the stage where a decision is made about their route out of debt;
- 11 accounts have been closed.

An account may be closed because after a preliminary visit, the client realises they don't need the services of CAP and can manage their debts themselves.

Each of these clients has an individual story, and a person is usually finding life extremely stressful by the time they contact CAP. It is a privilege to be able to begin to alleviate some of the pressure they are feeling, and often, in time, to help remove a great burden. If you would like to contribute financially to the work of CAP, we can let you have a "Lifechanger" form, just ring one of us (have a look around in church too – we'll try to make some available there).

Or you can go online to capuk.org/donate and follow the links.

If you'd prefer to support the work of the Wakefield Debt Centre:-

Account: **ST. HELENS PAR PRCHL CAP 2** Sort code: **089299** Account number: **65702220**

With thanks as always for your continuing support.

Nick and Vivienne Drayton 07961 443696 07946 338592

A statement by Bishop Nick on the Archbishop of Canterbury's resignation

The Rt Revd Nick Baines (Bishop of Leeds) has issued the following statement in response to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby:



"I respect the decision by the Archbishop of Canterbury to resign his office. In doing so, he takes personal and institutional responsibility for the Church of England's failures in relation to safeguarding. The Makin review made for very sobering reading.

"My concern now is to ensure that safeguarding practice in the Diocese of Leeds is the best it can be and that we improve where we lack. The focus in all of this must be the support of survivors of abuse. They remain in my prayers, as do the Archbishop and his family."

The resignation statement from the Archbishop of Canterbury, can be found at <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/statement-archbishop-canterbury-0>

A response from the Archbishop of York is at www.archbishopofyork.org/news/latest-news/statement-archbishop-york

The safeguarding officer for our Parish is Gerard Kiely-Jones who can be contacted on safeguarding@sandalmagna.com

New Bishop of Wakefield

Bishop Nick will be shortlisting for the new Bishop of Wakefield in early December with interviews on 24th January. The announcement of the appointment will happen around March and the new Bishop installed sometime in the summer. There have been some delays which had made this slower than hoped. Please be praying for Bishop Nick and all involved in this appointment and for the new Bishop whoever they will be!

Hannah

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Portobello Christmas Appeal

🎄 Last year's Christmas Appeal was a beautiful success! We had the joy of gifting Aldi vouchers to families, allowing them to choose what they needed most—whether that was a delicious Christmas dinner or essentials to see them through the season. The gratitude and smiles we received as we handed out these vouchers were priceless, reminding us of the true spirit of Christmas 🌟❤️.



PORTOBELLO
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

This year, we're eager to bring that same joy to families and individuals who could use some extra support through the Christmas holidays. 📺 If you'd like to contribute, donations can be made by placing an envelope labelled "Portobello Christmas Appeal" in the collection at any St. Helen's or St. Paul's service, or by bank transfer to Portobello Community Forum, sort code 08-92-99, account number 65409662 marked Portobello Christmas Appeal. 🌟 If you're a taxpayer, please include your name and contact details for a Gift Aid form so we can make your generosity go even further. Every donation makes a difference—thank you so much for your kindness and support! ✨

Sarah Cutts



Contributions Needed for our School Foodbank

We have strong links with our local Voluntary Aided (Church of England) Primary School, Sandal Castle. As in most other schools some of the families are struggling with the cost of living and the school keeps a small food bank for families in need. They are really short of:

- **Baby nappies, UHT milk and Cereal.**

Also, any of the following would be appreciated

- **Tuna, Sweetcorn, Hot dogs, Pasta sauce, Pre tinned meals, Sweet and sour sauce, Chilli tins, Crisps and Biscuits.**

Please leave any donations in the Emmaus Room at St Helen's, or contact Laura directly
Thank you so much,

Laura Truter - Children's worker

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Events at Portobello Community Centre

www.portobellocommunitycentre.org
portobellocommunitycentre



OUR YEAR
Portobello 2024



THIS IS OUR YEAR

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

MONDAY

Sewcial Crafting Group

10am to 1pm | £2

Meeting 2, 9, 16 Dec

Hot Chocolate Youth Club

6.30pm to 7.30pm | 11 to 16 year olds

Meeting 2, 9, 16 Dec

FREE Pizza and hot chocolate

Run by members of St Helen's Church

TUESDAY

Portobello Craft & Photography Group

12.30pm to 2.30pm | £2

Meeting 3, 10, 17 Dec

AA

7.30pm to 8.30pm

Meeting 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Dec

WEDNESDAY

Portobello Baby & Toddler Group

9.15am to 11am

Meeting 4, 11, 18 Dec

£1 adults / 50p baby or toddler

Run by volunteers from St Helen's Church

THURSDAY

Portobello Drop In

11am to 1pm | Donations welcome

Run by volunteers from local churches

Meeting 5, 12, 19 Dec

Falls Prevention with Chair Exercises

1.30 pm to 2.30 pm | £3

Kung Fu

7pm to 8pm - Beginners

8pm to 9pm - Advanced

£2 adults / £1 children 10+

Meeting 5, 12 Dec

FRIDAY

Sewcial Crafting Group

10am to 1pm | £2

Meeting 6, 13, 20 Dec

Zumba

6pm to 7pm

£2 adults / £1 children over 14+

Yoga

7pm to 8pm

£2 adults / £1 children 11+

Meeting 6, 13 Dec

MONTHLY

Fri, 6 December - STAR BEREAVEMENT

3pm to 5pm

Sat, 14 December - TRINITY MODELMAKING GROUP

10am to 1pm | £2 adult / £1 child

Wed, 18 December - CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY MEAL

5pm to 7pm | £2 adult / £1 child

@ouryear2024

ouryear2024.co.uk

wakefieldcouncil

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News from The Spring

Volunteers needed – Firstly can I say a huge thank you to all of those folk who have stepped forward to Volunteer on a regular basis and also those who have offered to go on our emergency list – we are all immensely grateful and you have made a real difference!



THANK YOU's!!!

Tearfund's Big Quiz Night - what a wonderful evening

was had by all 82 of you – thank you so much for helping us raise £1000 towards the work of Tearfund around the world. Special thanks to John Manners for running the quiz so brilliantly on the night and to all my helpers behind the scenes – a truly great night. Results so far from Tearfund suggest there were 11,000 quizzers attending across 261 churches who have raised £ 58,781 so far.



Spring Advent Craft Fayre 16th & 17th November

Thank you to everyone who shopped local last weekend and supported our Stall holders at the Spring Advent Craft Fayre. The feedback from visitors and stall holders was extremely positive and I would like to express my sincere thanks to Jackie Gabriel for organising the event from start to finish, even finding time to have a stall too!! And of course thanks to

Margaret Wilson and her team for manning a Spring Stall and raising funds for us. Special thanks also to Pauline Parker who organised another Silent Auction raising £300 which will be shared between Epilepsy UK and the DEC for the Middle East.

Cath Moxham

Continued on next page

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News from The Spring continued

Dates for your Diary

Advent @ The Spring 3rd – 20th December

Advent begins at the start of December and so too do our Advent Lunches, beginning on Tuesday 3rd December. The Spring will get pretty busy over the next three weeks so apologies now if we are unable to meet everyone's requests during this time. We have taken the decision not to reserve tables throughout December, other than those booked for lunches, but you can still walk in and enjoy our Full Menu alongside our Advent Lunches.

For all our Breakfast fans out there, please note that due to our Advent Lunches, our Breakfast offerings will stop from 11am not 11.30am and we will also be unable to offer any Afternoon Teas in December.

With the start of our Advent Lunches comes our Advent Blessings, which will happen every day around 1pm, giving us all the opportunity to pause and be still for a few minutes as we reflect on a reading.

Carols and Cake on Wednesday 18th December from 3pm @ The Spring

Everyone is welcome to join us as we enjoy some traditional Carols and Cake, accompanied by Reverend Hannah, Dr Bob and our very own Peter Maxwell – just call in for 5 or 50 minutes and join in the festivities. Song sheets provided!!

Community Christmas Lunches – available for **Collection or Delivery on Christmas Eve**: We will once again be offering a Traditional Christmas Lunch for those folk in need of one for Christmas Day. They will be freshly prepared on Christmas Eve and available for Collection or Delivery between 2pm and 3pm. We are able to cater for up to 50 meals, but they will be offered on a first come first served basis. We already have 28 people signed up so please do let us know sooner rather than later if you or anyone you may know would like to receive one. So as not exclude anyone - they come at no cost - folk can make a donation if they choose to.

Finally, The Spring will be closing for a wee rest from 2pm on Friday 20th December, re-opening on Tuesday 7th January 2025 @ 10am. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed, happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year – see you in 2025!!

Cath Moxham

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Events in the Parish

Sandal Singers Present
A Christmas Cracker
A concert of popular and festive music with individual performances by members of the choir

- Monday 16th December, 7pm -
Sandal Methodist Church
253 Barnsley Rd, Sandal WF1 5NU

Tickets £10 inc refreshments.
Pay on the door.

Supporting 'Our Year' Wakefield District 2024
and raising funds for Wakefield Street Kitchen

CALENDARS ON SALE!



Still only

£5 each!!

On sale at the library and other
village locations.

All profits will help to keep our library open
@Charles Waterton House, Almond Avenue, off The Grove WF2 6UA
Mon to Fri 2-5pm plus Tues/Thurs/Sat 10-1pm

WALTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY
invites you to our

**CEILIDH
DANCE**
Fri February 7th
@7pm
at **WALTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**
Shay Lane WF2 6LA

Tickets **£10** from the library, which is open
Mon to Fri 2-5pm and Tues/Thurs/Sat 10-1pm
Charles Waterton House, 6 Almond Avenue WF2 6UA

WALTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY
INVITES YOU TO OUR

**FESTIVE
QUIZ
NIGHT**

THURSDAY JAN 2ND
7PM @ THE LIBRARY
TICKETS £5 (INCLUDE A DRINK)

Admission on the night may be possible, subject to number of tickets pre-sold

Charles Waterton House Almond Avenue WF2 6UA
(closed from Xmas Day to New Year's Day)

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Sunday Worship at St Helen's & St Paul's Dec/Jan

Sunday 1st December 2024 Advent 1	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Helen's (Holy Communion, with Kid's Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)
Sunday 8th December 2024 Advent 2	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, with Kid's Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Carol Service)
Sunday 15th December 2024 Advent 3	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Pop Up Nativity) 11.00am St Paul's (Holy Communion)
Sunday 22nd December 2024 Advent 4	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) NO 11.00am service at St Helen's 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)
Special services for Christmas are listed separately.	
Sunday 29th December 2024	9.30am St Helen's Joint Parish Service (Holy Communion) No services at 11am at St Helen's or St Paul's
Sunday 5th January 2025	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, with Kid's Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Holy Communion)
Sunday 12th January 2025	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, All Together) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)
Sunday 19th January 2025	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Holy Communion, with Kid's Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Holy Communion)
Sunday 26th January 2025	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, with Kid's Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)



The Parish of Sandal Magna

Sandal, Walton and Portobello

Contact Details:

The Parish Office

St. Helen's Church, Barnsley Rd,
Sandal, Wakefield WF2 6EJ.

01924 259966

office@sandalmagna.com

