

# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



**Home, Hope, Hands**

**February 2025**

**From our Vicar, Revd Hannah Smith**

Dear Everyone,

I hope 2025 has started OK for you all.

During January we have been talking about generosity – how God is generous to us and how we respond in generosity. There are many ways to be generous and many people to be generous to.

Can I ask you to consider being generous to our parish? There are many ways to do this – the obvious way is money. If you give regularly to the parish then I give you heartfelt thanks. If you don't, then can I ask you to consider doing so – as it helps us do what we can to serve our parish and look after our buildings.

But just as important is being generous with our time. There are so many areas of parish life that you can get involved in, from youth and children's groups to bell-ringing, to Portobello, to the Spring, to reading in church or making coffee, to doing the slides in a service, to being involved in music.... And far far more! Please do have a think about how you can give some time to help the parish run and to bless other people – you may even enjoy it!!

I am very thankful to you all for your love and generosity to me and to one another.

With every blessing,

*Hannah*

**Quiet Day for our Parish**

Saturday 15th March at St. Paul's

Led by Paula Smith

Details to follow, please put this date in your diaries.



# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## Women's Fellowship

We are 75 years young, and still going; just.

The group began meeting in 1949, then called the "Sandal Young Members" (vaguely affiliated, as a younger branch, to the Mothers Union) Will we still be meeting in another 75 years? Well, that remains to be seen as like so many other groups, attendance numbers have dwindled. Discussions in the 1950's and 1960's included topics such as "Drug taking in young people" and "Factors which break up family life" amongst many others. Sadly, in our social history, nothing much seems to have changed over the last 70+ years.

Do come and join us at our monthly meetings and get a taste of what we have to offer in this century!

Coming up:

- MARCH 3rd; Citizens Advice Bureau (Simon)
- APRIL 7th; Lenten Service
- MAY 5th; Living After a Stroke (Norman Stowe)



Meetings start at 10am, in the Emmaus rooms at the rear of the church and finish with cuppa & cake at around noon.

We look forward to seeing you.

*Gill Heap*

## Area Quiet Day for Eastertide - Diocesan wide

Saturday 24th May 2025

10.00am-3.00pm.

College of the Resurrection,  
Mirfield, WF14 0BW

**'Risen Indeed'** led by  
Canon Philip Hobday



# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## Giving to the work of the Parish

As we have been thinking about Generosity in January, this is a summary of Nigel's article in our last issue, for any who wish to think about their giving.

There are a lot of different ways to give, and a new one is Direct Debit via the

- **Parish Giving Scheme** This can be done through the [Parish Giving Scheme website](#) . Or it can be done over phone if people prefer. Call: **0333 002 1271** Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm. The Parish Giving Scheme code for Sandal Magna parish is 460646511.

All the 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.



## News from Joyce Bloomfield

Joyce wants to share her love and thanks to everyone in the parish. She has had a tough couple of years with illness and after her stroke, still finds lots of people at once a bit overwhelming. However, she is still loving Jesus and is so grateful for everyone's love and prayers. She is particularly thankful for good test results recently on her kidney function which feels like a bit of a miracle - and she wants to praise God for this and encourage everyone with this news.

# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## The Choir

The Choir ready and waiting to lead the congregation at the St. Helen's Church 2024 Traditional Carol Service. Thanks are recorded to them for their dedication, Sunday by Sunday, in leading the 9.30am Services of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer throughout the year.

*John Arnold, Organist*



(Photo by Laura Truter)

## Men at Work - Extreme Cobwebbing!



In case you can't work out what is going on here - this is the sport of **Extreme Cobwebbing!** Spotted by our lead cleaner (May Winterbottom) and dealt with immediately by the two Julians (Finn & Gill).

Sent in by *John Arnold, Organist*

# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## Christmas Bells

Our team of bell ringers enjoyed a sociable evening on one of our practice nights just before Christmas, having 'a go' ringing the handbells (instead of a regular practice with the tower bells)

This was a new experience for many of the team and caused much hilarity. As well as 'trying our hand' at learning a new skill to ring 'Rounds', 'Call Changes' and 'Plain Hunt' just as we would with the tower bells, we also rang the Christmas song 'Jingle Bells'

Whilst we only rang a dozen of the bells that we have, the book 'A Yorkshire Parish And It's People' (by Brenda Andrassy & Mary Ingham) records that we have 'a good set' of 56 Hand Bells which were purchased for £21.0.0 (That's 21 pounds 0 shillings 0 pence for those who remember the 'old money'!) However, looking at the records, there do appear to be some inconsistencies, as there are in fact just 55 bells purchased on two separate occasions, in 1880, at a cost of £12.10s.0d and £6.17s.6d which totals £19.7s.6d

The bells range chromatically (think of the black keys and the white keys on a keyboard) from the largest & lowest note bell (needing 2 hands to ring) note F; measuring 21cm in diameter to the smallest & highest note bell being a tiny 5cm in diameter, note C.

We hope you have enjoyed hearing the bells over the Christmas and New Year period.



Would you like to come and have a go? Come up the tower to watch and listen on a Sunday morning or on practice night, which is Wednesday (7.30pm to 9pm) You'd be very welcome to come and join in our fun and friendly group trying to keep a traditional skill alive.

Please contact Jack (on 07469993013) or Gill (on 07773307155) if you're interested, we would love to see you.

# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## Youth Update

It feels weird talking about Christmas in January, for a February news letter, but here we are. Youth and Christmas goes together like bread and butter and at SHIELD they got so excited some actually turned into Christmas trees. Fortunately, before going home, they dropped their needles and left in somewhat the same state as they arrived.



being in church and joining in with the services.

We saw hundreds of young people in church over the Christmas period with all the kids from Sandal Castle Primary School, Walton Primary School coming. As well as that, we had the Christingle services and the pop-up nativity service and it was great not only to see but to hear so many young people enjoying

We had a break from Hot Chocolate over the Christmas holidays, but have got back into the swing of things making bracelets, learning to spin plates, juggle, use a diablo and devil sticks, as well as the usual pool and table tennis. Dom and Max have a lot of patience and are really good at threading tiny little beads. Sometimes, they even let the kids have a go.

Please pray for the young people we meet. There are a lot of pressures in young people's lives these days and they all deal with it so very differently. If you would like to help out with the youth, please talk to me. They aren't all that scary. And you can have a biscuit.

*Phil Asquith -Youth Leader - Every Good Work*

# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter

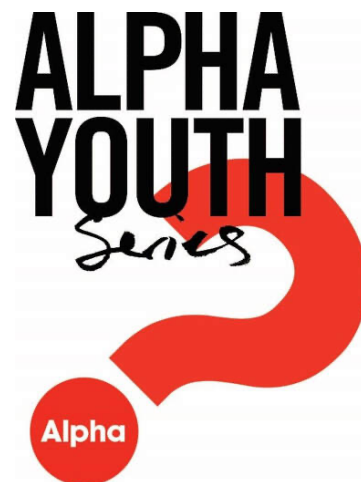


## Shield - Youth Alpha

Youth Alpha will start on Sunday March 2nd. Young people from year 6 to year 13 are welcome to join us at SHIELD.

Please get in touch with Rachel if you're interested:

07815770540 rachachapman@hotmail.com



### SHIELD dates:

March 2nd

March 16th

March 30th

*Rachel and Andy Chapman*

## Kids' Church Update

I love the discussions we have! What are your treasures that you keep close to your heart? Photos from Kids' Church on 19th January at 11am. The next All Together Service is 11am on 26th Jan - followed by the biscuit room.

*Laura Truter, Children's Worker*



## Portobello Toddler Group

Meets on Wednesday mornings at 9.15am. Doesn't this room set-up look amazing!

*Laura Truter, Children's Worker*

# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## Report of the Deanery Synod Meeting 12th Nov 2024

The meeting was at St Catherine's Church, Belle Vue. There were 30 people in attendance (24 laity and 6 clergy-including Revd Hannah Smith and Mike Keeton from Sandal Magna). Revd David Gerrard (Area Dean) welcomed everyone to the meeting and led prayers. There was a reading -Isaiah 5. 25-end which talks of God being displeased with his now dissolute people and causing their land to be invaded by more warlike peoples as a sort of punishment.

### **The speaker was the Ven. Catherine ('Cat') Thatcher-Archdeacon of Pontefract**

(which covers Wakefield). She mentioned the appointment of the Bishop of Wakefield (Area). Scheduled interviews will begin in January; announcement in March; consecration in June. Cat gave a quick rundown of her career to date (published in this Newsletter when she was installed last May). She is driven by a desire for social justice, discipleship and developing spirituality. She is learning about the Wakefield area and notices that there are quite a few new housing developments and wonders how the Church can reach out to the people in these developments. She asked the meeting to discuss between themselves what ideas they might have on that subject. There were quite a few fanciful ideas: a pantomime, opening up for Halloween, serve hot chocolate and hot dogs, chocolate bingo, young people's after school drop-in with toast, a men's club (in a pub). There were some more serious ideas: sending informative Christmas/Easter cards, use of Facebook.

*Authors note: the Cof E is a geographical, national organisation and these new housing developments must be in a parish. Really it is up to the incumbent of that parish to inform the inhabitants of that fact-probably by information cards.*

### There was then some **Deanery Synod business:**

Election of one clergy and one lay rep for the 'Area Mission and Pastoral Committee'. Clergy member Revd David Teasdale; Lay Member Tabitha Tanna.

Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting.

Kathryn Goldsmith elected to the Diocesan Committee.

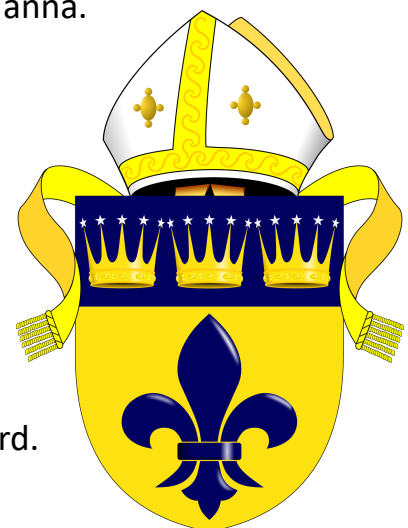
Matt and Lizzy Brothwood new curates in the Deanery.

Clergy vacancy-St Michael's ( Westgate End).

Reminder re clergy elections for General Synod.

Mike Keeton-Leeds rep of the Prayer Book Society gave information on the 'Cranmer Awards' and distributed some leaflets on the subject.

The meeting closed with Compline led by Revd David Gerrard.



*Mike Keeton, Deanery Synod Rep*



# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## News from The Spring

### Thank You

As we move into the new year, we welcome the opportunity to not only look back and reflect on the year that has past but most importantly – celebrate the work of our Volunteers at our Annual Tea Party – which we did on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January.



As a staff team we take great delight in preparing and serving the food and refreshments to our gathering of over 70 Volunteers, giving us the opportunity to serve them, as they serve week in week out at The Spring.

It was a truly joy filled afternoon enjoyed by all. Thanks, as always, to my amazing team who created such a welcoming and warm environment in which everyone was able to enjoy their beautifully prepared food.



# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## News from The Spring

I would also like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who enjoyed an Advent Lunch with us in December. We took the decision to donate any gratuities left by folk to two local charities – Wakefield Street Kitchen and The Community Awareness Programme, the amount collected, boosted by an anonymous donation, enabled us to bless both charities with £ 755 each –



helping them to continue with their amazing work in the community. We served just shy of 600 lunches this year and which felt like a blessing and a privilege, none more so than the 37



freshly prepared lunches distributed to folk from Barnsley to Batley on Christmas Eve – thank you to everyone involved.

**2025 - Volunteers still needed** – if you find you can spare a few hours a week to volunteer at The Spring – we'd love to hear from you. We need volunteers for our Washing Up team on Tuesday mornings from 10-2pm and Thursday lunchtimes 12noon – 2pm I am always happy to chat through with you the various roles on offer or if you know someone who is currently a volunteer perhaps ask them!!! We really are a very friendly bunch and time and time again our team say what an amazing place to serve in – but don't take our word for it - come and down and give it a go!!

**Keep an eye out for information coming out for our forthcoming events -** Shrove Tuesday, our Lent Lunch Appeal and our Passover Supper Information and whilst it does seem a little crazy, we have already been asked several times when we will be taking bookings for our **Advent Lunches 2025** – so it is 1<sup>st</sup> July if you are super keen.

# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## News from The Spring

Keeping our building in ship shape condition – means ongoing essential maintenance - which saw us at the end of the year installing a new flat roof at the entrance of the building – it did seem to take a fair amount of time but the poor weather at the back end of the year and the very cold start to the New Year made it more than challenging to Simon and his team – however that said we are now done and fully protected against the elements . The next phase of roofing above the Kitchen and the Donations Sorting room will begin in February all being well – once we've replenished the coffers. Roofs do not come cheap, and we will have spent the best part of £18,000 by the time we are done.



### **Community Notices**

**Knit & Knatter** – Held in the Spring Café every Thursday from 2pm-4pm – come and join Liz and the gang and enjoy a couple of hours of fellowship with like-minded folk – who knows you may learn a new skill and be exhibiting at the Craft Fayre in 2024.

### **Yoga Classes with Margaret Clegg**

**Wednesday 7.30 – 9pm** - If you are interested in joining this class, please call Margaret on 01924 370673 & Mobile 07787175432 and she will be happy to talk you through any questions you may have – all



levels catered for from beginners to the more advanced

### **Slimming World with Vicky**

Every Tuesday 5pm and 6.30pm – a warm welcome extended to all whether your new, existing or returning – contact Vicky on 07966 202826 if you want any further information.

*Cath Moxham, Manager, Spring Community Shop and Café*

# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE

👶🎄 **Santa and Carols at Portobello** 🎄👶

What a magical time we had at our Santa and Carols event! Over 40 excited children got to meet the big man himself and take home a special gift. The smell of burgers sizzling and doughnuts made lunch an absolute treat 🍔🍩.

Jonathan kept the festive vibes going with his tunes, while the kids danced, got crafty, and made memories with Santa. The amazing TLG Make Lunch team were total stars — cooking, serving, and leading the crafting fun.

We were also treated to Hannah's heartwarming **Chocolate Christmas Story** and carols sung beautifully with her little choir 🎵🎶. It truly was a couple of magical hours filled with joy, laughter, and community spirit.

A HUGE thank you to Santa for squeezing us into his busy schedule! 👶🌟

🎄🌟 **Portobello Christmas Appeal – Thank You!**



We want to say a **HUGE thank you** to everyone who so generously supported our Christmas

Appeal! ❤️ Together, we raised an incredible **£1,590**, which included a wonderful £500 donation from **Sandal Methodist Church**. 🙏

With your help, we worked alongside **Sandal Magna Primary School** and **Sandal Castle Primary School** to bless **38 families** with **£50 Aldi vouchers**. 📧🛒 We also supported families we work with here at Portobello Community Centre.

👧👦 **Laura and Sarah** personally hand-delivered most of the vouchers the week before Christmas. The families were absolutely **thrilled** to receive them and shared their gratitude. Your kindness and generosity truly made a difference this festive season. 🌟  
Thank you for helping spread joy and support to our community! 😊

*Sarah Cutts, Portobello Community Centre Manager*



### PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE

## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

#### MONDAY

##### Sewcial Crafting Group

10am to 1pm | £4

##### Hot Chocolate Youth Club

6.30pm to 7.30pm | 11-16 year olds

FREE Pizza and hot chocolate

Run by members of St Helen's Church

#### TUESDAY

##### Portobello Craft & Photography Group

12.30pm to 2.30pm | £2

##### AA

7.30pm to 8.30pm

Donations

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Portobello Baby & Toddler Group

9.15am to 11am

£1 adults / 50p baby or toddler

Run by volunteers from St Helen's Church

#### MAKE LUNCH FAMILY LUNCH CLUB

FREE crafting & hot lunch for those  
needing a helping hand in the hols

Wed, 19 Feb | 11.30am to 1.15pm

Booking essential - call or text no below

Run by volunteers from local churches

If you are on a low income and need support with subs please contact the office or group leader (in confidence)

#### THURSDAY

##### Portobello Drop In

11am to 1pm | £3

Run by volunteers from local churches

##### Falls Prevention with Chair Exercises

1.30 pm to 2.30 pm | £3

##### Kung Fu

7pm to 8pm - Beginners

8pm to 9pm - Advanced

Beginner subs: £3 adult/£2 child

First session free

#### FRIDAY

##### Sewcial Crafting Group

10am to 1pm | £4

#### MONTHLY

##### Trinity Model Making Group

Saturday, 8 February

10am to 1pm | £4


#### TENANTS & RESIDENTS MEETING

Come and have your say about your  
Community Centre & Portobello

Thursday, 6 February

3.30pm to 4.30pm

  portobellocommunitycentre

 07388 356008

 infopcfwakefield@gmail.com

 www.portobellocommunitycentre.org

# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## Local Events

### 'Follow Me' 2025

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Wakefield Cathedral WF1 1HG  
6.30pm Optional Evensong  
7.15pm Optional light supper  
7.45-9.00pm Teaching Session led by  
Professor Jane Williams on  
'The Holy Spirit'



### Poverty Sunday 2nd March 2025

Church Action on Poverty along with Christians Against Poverty and Wakefield Cathedral are marking Poverty Sunday on 2 March 2025. The focus will be hearing the stories of those who have a lived experience of poverty, what the Church and others are doing about it, and what is left to do and WHY for practical and theological reasons. The event will be at 3.30 pm and based around evensong.

WALTON 2026 CALENDAR



# PHOTO COMPETITION

**A MAXIMUM OF 3 ENTRIES PER PERSON, WHICH MUST BE**  
**\* IN LANDSCAPE ( HORIZONTAL) VIEW**  
**\*RECOGNISABLY TAKEN WITHIN THE WALTON BOUNDARY**

**Walton**  
  
**Community  
Library**

**CLOSING DATE**  
**FRI AUGUST 29TH**  
**AT 6PM**

THE FOLLOWING WEEK THERE WILL BE  
A PUBLIC EXHIBITION AT THE LIBRARY,  
WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE FOR  
YOUR FAVOURITE SHOTS!



PLEASE SEND  
YOUR ENTRIES  
TO

**WALTON SHOTS@GMAIL.COM**



**SANDAL  
FUNDRAISING  
GROUP**

## Joyce Swann Memorial Coffee Morning

**Saturday 8th February 2025**  
**10am - 12pm**

**Admission £2**  
**includes refreshments**



A variety of stalls including  
cakes, greetings cards and tombola.

**Everyone welcome**

 **Sandal Methodist Church**  
Barnsley Road, Sandal WF1 5NU

# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



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

Church Groups or Activities	
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month 10.00 -12.00	Women's Fellowship. Emmaus Room. Contact Gill Heap. 01924 250103
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month 7.30pm – 9.30pm	Mother's Union. Barnabas Room, St Paul's
Wednesday 9.00am -12.00	Gardening Team. Contact Julian Gill. 07769 225771
Church Cleaners 9.00am – 12.00 midday	Contact Vickie Lord. 01924 255938 or May Winterbottom 01924 219787
Wednesday 7.00pm	Bellringers practice for Sunday Services. St Helen's. Contact Jack Endersby. 07469 993013
Thursday 7.00pm	Choir Practice. Usually, the Thursday before the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays. St Helen's Church. Contact John Arnold. 01924 372597
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month 2.00 – 3.00pm	Contemplative Prayer Group. Barnabas Room, St Paul's. Contact Sue Davies. 07749 592858
Every 1st and 3rd Sunday. 6 -7.30pm	Shield Youth Group in the Emmaus Room 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
Monday in term time 7.00pm to 9.15pm	Wind Band. Emmaus Room, St Helen's. Contact Adele Jones: 07850 483727
First Wednesday of the month at 5.00pm	Cllr Katrina Law surgery for local residents, Emmaus Room <a href="mailto:katrinalaw@wakefield.gov.uk">katrinalaw@wakefield.gov.uk</a>
Last Friday of the month at 5.30pm	Cllr Shaman Saleem surgery for local residents, <a href="mailto:shabaansaleem@wakefield.gov.uk">shabaansaleem@wakefield.gov.uk</a>
Thursday eve, twice a month	Soroptimists, Barnabas Room, St Paul's. Contact Linda Phillips 07709 282403
Various days and times	Pilates, Barnabas Room, St Paul's. Contact Gill Carr: 07968199169



# Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



## Sunday Worship at St Helen's & St Paul's Jan/Feb

Sunday 2nd February	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, with Kids' Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Holy Communion)
Sunday 9th February	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, All Together) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)
Sunday 16th February	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Holy Communion, with Kids' Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Holy Communion)
Sunday 23rd February	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, with Kids' Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)
Sunday 2nd March	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, with Kids' Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Holy Communion)
Sunday 9th March Lent 1	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, All Together) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)
Sunday 16th March Lent 2	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Helen's (Holy Communion, with Kids' Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Holy Communion)
Sunday 23rd March Lent 3	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, with Kids' Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)
Sunday 30th March Mothering Sunday	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Holy Communion, Mothering Sunday) 11.00am St Paul's (Holy Communion)

### **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](mailto:office@sandalmagna.com)

The office is normally open Monday to Thursday in the mornings.

Website: <http://sandalmagna.com>