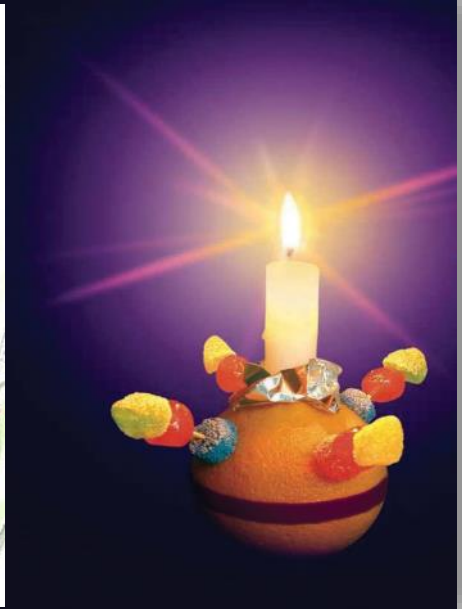


THURSTONLAND PARISH NEWS NOV—DEC 2023



**“THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED
IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN
A GREAT LIGHT.”**

Isaiah 9:2

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A Season of Remembrance: Honouring the Past, Embracing Unity

As the leaves change colours and the air turns crisp, the Season of Remembrance begins, encompassing the festival of All Souls also known as The Commemoration of the Dead. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and remembrance. This is a significant season, and the Church, working with other groups and organisations leads the nation in remembering.

The festival of All Souls, traditionally observed on November 2nd, is a time when many cultures and religions pay tribute to their departed loved ones. It serves as a reminder to cherish the memories and honour the lives of those who have passed away. During this festival, communities come together to remember their dead, offer prayers, light candles, and share stories, all with the intention of keeping their spirits alive in our hearts.

National Remembrance Services take place in Churches and at various memorials on Sunday, November 12th. The Remembrance services, which take place across the nation, mark the loss of life in conflicts throughout recent history. These are profound moments of significance because they pay tribute to the selfless acts of bravery and sacrifice made by service personnel. They likewise serve as significant reminders of futility of conflict and the importance of unity, peace, and compassion.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13 beautifully encapsulates the essence of Remembrance services. It reminds us that true love is best exemplified in acts of selflessness and sacrifice. Such services allow us to express our gratitude, for Jesus' offering of himself for us and for those who have given their lives in service to their country.

The Season of Remembrance offers a time for reflection, unity, and gratitude. Through the festival of All Souls, we commemorate our loved ones, keeping their memories alive and cherishing the impact they each had on our lives. Whilst Remembrance Services honour the courage and sacrifice of those lost in conflicts. Let us embrace this season with open hearts, recognizing the profound love that surrounds us with a mind to work towards unity and compassion in our communities and beyond.

Blessings Sean the Vicar.

VILLAGE DIARY November 2023

Thurs 2 Nov	Coffee Morning Choir Practice All Souls Day Service at New Mill	10.30 –12noon 7.30-9pm 7pm
Sun 5 Nov	Family Service & Baptism	10am
Wed 8 Nov	PCC meeting WI meeting at SVH	7pm 7.30pm
Thurs 10 Nov	Community Cards Group Choir Practice	2-4pm 7.30-9pm
Sat 11 Nov	“Spruce Up Day & Sausage Sizzle” Please bring any tools etc you may think useful – all ages welcome!	10am-12 noon
Sun 12 Nov	Remembrance Day BCP Communion Service Remembrance Day Service 	9.30am 10.20am (11am at the War Memorial)
Tues 14 Nov	Team Council Meeting & Joint PCC @ Holmfirth Parish Church	7pm
Weds 15 Nov	Lantern Workshop (see Parish News for details)	2-4pm
Thurs 16 Nov	Choir Practice	7.30-9pm
Sun 19 Nov	Family Holy Communion Service	9.30 am
Thurs 23 Nov	Community Cards Group Choir Practice	2-4pm 7.30-9pm
Fri 24 Nov	Community Lunch	12 noon
Sat 25 Nov	Christmas Market @The Rose & Crown Christmas Market @ New Mill	From 12 noon TBA
Sun 26 Nov	Christ The King Family Communion Service	11am
Weds 29 Nov	Mothers' Union Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 30 Nov	Please note – no Choir Practice	7.30-9pm

VILLAGE DIARY—December 2023

Sun 3 Dec	Advent Sunday Family Service with Christmas Tree Lighting	10am
Thurs 7 Dec	Coffee Morning Choir Practice	10.30 – 12 noon 7.30-9pm
Sat 9 Dec	Messy Church “Follow That Star” @ New Mill (see Parish News for details)	4-6pm
Sun 10 Dec	BCP Holy Communion Service	9.30am
Tues 12 Dec	School Nativity (morning & evening)	TBA
Weds 13 Dec	WI meeting @ SVH	7.30pm
Thurs 14 Dec	Community Cards Group Choir Practice	2-4pm 7.30-9pm
Fri 15 Dec	Festive Afternoon Tea – booking essential	2pm
Sun 17 Dec	Carol Service followed by refreshments in the church room	10am
Thurs 21 Dec	Carol singing round the village – meet at the school	6.30pm
Fri 22 Dec	School break up for the Christmas Holidays	
Sun 24 Dec	Christmas Eve Christingle Service – <u>please note the new time</u> Midnight Mass	2pm 11.30pm
Mon 25 Dec	Christmas Day “HAPPY CHRISTMAS” Carols & Communion	 10am (TBC)
Sun 31 Dec	Team Service of Holy Communion @ St David’s Church, Holmbridge	10am
Mon 1 Jan 2024	 “HAPPY NEW YEAR” 	

THURSTONLAND CRICKET CLUB

The 2023 cricket season encapsulated the vagaries of the British climate in no uncertain terms. Conditions were in marked contrast to those of the previous year when only ten minutes were spent off the field because of the weather.

April and May were cool and damp but June hinted at a return of warm and settled days in which to enjoy games. This was then followed by seven of the next eight matches all being weather affected, including two when not a ball was bowled. Records suggest that this was an unprecedented spell. One or two other years saw a similar number of interruptions but they were not concentrated into such a short time span.

Somewhat ironically the final game on September 9th was played in high temperatures.

The end of season celebration of the junior teams was well attended on Sunday September 17th by players, parents and other family members with the thriving female section, the Thurstonland Thundercats, also receiving deserved recognition.

Early October saw our Australian player, Jimmy Kain, return to his Adelaide home after a second season with us which also included valuable help with coaching our junior players. After playing commitments were over he enjoyed a week or two sightseeing accompanied by one or two others who also came to the area from distant parts to play with other teams.

It seems unlikely that he will be able to return next year but it is good to place on record the club's appreciation for his wholehearted efforts on the field of play and for being so friendly and fitting in so readily to the team and the local community.

Andrew Pearson

COMMUNITY CARDS

The Community Cards Group who make all our used greetings cards into new ones and sell them to raise funds for the Welcome Centre, continue to meet in the church room on the afternoons of the 2nd & 4th Thursday in the month. They have a good selection of greetings and Christmas cards available to purchase in the church room. Used cards can be left in the box in the church porch for re-cycling.

The Ludlam and Horsfall Trust

Those of you who are familiar with this plaque on the south wall of Thurstonland First School might well question the relevance of a trust founded in 1766 to our village school today.



The trust is indeed still very active, providing additional financial support to Thurstonland First school in terms of items, services and facilities and looking after the schoolhouse property. The house was originally the home of the headmaster and the adjoining field provided grazing for his horse.

The trust meets each term to decide how best to support the children. Recently we were able to contribute a sizeable sum of money to the refurbishment of the barn whilst we regularly make grants, as was originally intended in the terms of the trust, for the purchase of books and other teaching materials. At the moment we are helping to refurbish the library.

There are seven trustees drawn from different aspects of village life. The chairman is Richard Wood representing St Thomas' church, Cllr Robert Barraclough and Cllr Richard Smith from Kirkburton Parish Council and Kirklees council respectively, Tony Clifton represents Thurstonland Village Association as does Angela Carmichael who is also a Green Hills First Federation school governor. Finally, Rev Canon Robertshaw as Vicar and Lynsey Wagstaff as Headteacher, are ex-officio trustees.

Many of these trustees have given years of dedicated service to the trust and would therefore welcome some new blood from the village. If you are interested in helping in this important role please contact the trustees at the school for more information.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

The church has booked a stall/pod at the Christmas Market at the Rose & Crown on 25 November. We aim to raffle a **hamper**, have a **chocolate tombola** and a **"silver and gold" tombola** (these can be any items and will be wrapped, (by us!), in either silver or gold paper). Needless to say we are after donations for all these events so if you can help, please could you leave your donations in the boxes in the church room. If this is difficult, or you want more information, please ring Janet on 663123. Draw Tickets for the hamper are now on sale. All profits will go into general church funds to help with running costs. Thank you!

THURSTONLAND MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in St Thomas' Church Room

Jenni Wohlman writes:

In my absence, Janet Wiltshire welcomed our speaker in September. I heard, on my return, that not only was Suzie Wainwright's talk about working with young people in Leeds much enjoyed by our members but also Suzie and her friend were very happy with the meal they ate beforehand at the Rose & Crown, so a good evening all round.

The Sunday before our October meeting, we were part of that morning's service at St Thomas' when Revd Canon Sean Robertshaw officially admitted Brigitte, Claire, Penny, Sue and Elaine to membership of our branch of the Mothers' Union. It is an opportunity for both new and existing members to affirm our commitment to upholding the mission and objectives of MU and for the branch to welcome and pledge to support and pray for the new members and each other.

A few days later it was time for our regular gathering for Pie, Peas and Planning. We are blessed to have a number of possible speakers to approach for 2024, all very different. Members found all of them equally appealing so we are looking forward to an attractive programme next year. Also, the food was delicious. A huge thank you to everyone who helped on the night.

In November a favourite speaker returns with a very different topic. Julia Tum, MU Area President, will tell us about a movement with strong local connections, the Luddites. I have heard from others that Julia's talk on this subject is fascinating so do try to be there on the 29th. We will not have a meeting in December but please remember contributions to the Church's stall at the Christmas market, namely the Christmas Hamper, the Gold & Silver Gifts and the Chocolate Tombola. On 31st January it will be our Party. In the meantime, enjoy a Wonderful Christmas.



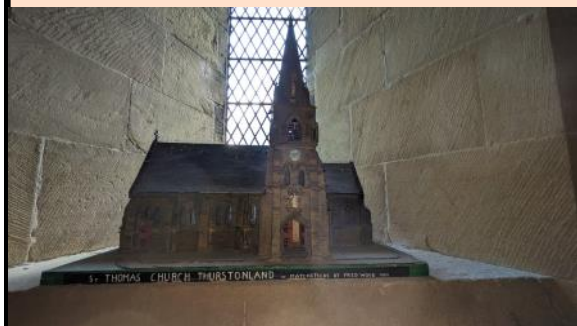
HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Many of you will remember that the church took part in the Kirklees Heritage Open Day event in September. This is the first time St Thomas' has taken part and it was a very successful event. We had lots of visitors, both local and from the wider Kirklees area who found the church heritage very interesting. We learned lots ourselves too, and were able to display items, normally hidden away, for people to look at. The old marriage, baptism and burial records proved very popular.

We intend to repeat the exercise next year so who knows what we might unearth then! However, we think that Sean was taken a little by surprise when entering the vestry to find it had turned into a baby changing and breast feeding area for the weekend!

We must mention the brilliant effort put into creating the displays by Angela, Sally & Robin, David Pitts who made the banner for outside the church and to all the members of our congregation who provided and served refreshments and acted as guides over the weekend.

A huge thank you to you all.





It's been fairly quiet in the village since the last magazine issue, with the possible exception of the gas pipe changes happening down Thurstonland Bank. The work is nearly finished as we go to press, so hopefully the new plastic pipes won't be so easy to fracture as the metal ones they are replacing

New since the last magazine are the twice monthly Community Meetings. These, organised by the TVA take place in the Cricket Club and are proving very popular. They provide a welcome opportunity for villagers to get together in a warm environment and have some tea and cake as well as play games – cards, dominos – whatever takes people's fancy on the day! Many are happy to just sit and chat and sort out the problems of the world! All villagers and friends are very welcome to come along. The get-togethers are on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, from 10.00am until noon. November's meetings are on the 13th and 27th and then December 11th.

Please remember that TVA meetings are now every three months, so the last one of the year will be in December. We will have a quiz, nibbles and wine, so it's worth coming to just for that!

The photograph of a recently acquired postcard (from a well-known online auction site!) was posted in Fenay Bridge in 1908 and is an unusual view of the church and vicarage as the photographer appears to have been standing in the field behind the two buildings. Postcards were very popular in Edwardian times as they were half the price of a letter (still one penny until 1918).

It seems Christmas and the New Year are still a long way off, but as I write the clocks have just 'gone back' and it's becoming dark at only 5 o'clock. As this is the last magazine until January, have a happy Christmas and new year from all at the TVA.

Next Meeting: 7.30pm Monday, December 4th at the Cricket



@ThurstonlandVillageAssociation
Phone: 660661 or 07989 650398



**St Thomas Parish Church
Thurstonland**

Thurstonland Community Choir News

Well, we've all started singing again, having had a well deserved holiday period. As usual, minds are on the upcoming winter and particularly our Christmas activities. Warm coats, hats and gloves are being made ready - and that's for rehearsals in Church as well as for carol singing!

We'd like to make a special invitation to all families in Thurstonland and Stockmoor to come along and join in singing carols around the village on Thursday the 21st of December. We are supported by HD9 Brass Group who make a great sound and we have a lot of fun! We start at Thurstonland First School at 6:30pm and from there go down Town Moor and then back, right up the Village, finishing at the Rose and Crown about 8pm. We start quite early to allow younger villagers to join in before their bedtime. Don't tell anyone but we usually have a short stop at the Christmas Tree on the Green for a warm mince pie too!

Everyone is invited to dress up in a suitably warm and festive manner, remember to keep together and stay safe and we hope to see lots of you then.

The Community Choir will be singing at 2:15 at the New Mill Christmas Market on November 25th, so you can hear us sing a mixture of sacred and secular Christmas favourites then.

Finally for Christmas, the Community Choir will be singing in the St Thomas' Carol Service on December 17th, which is always a great way into the Christmas celebration. See the Church calendar in this edition for details of this service.



The Christingle Service will take place at St Thomas' Church on Christmas Eve at 2pm in the afternoon.

This service traditionally supports The Children's Society. Would you please make every effort to support it.



Many Thanks.

“SPRUCE UP” SATURDAY WITH A “SAUSAGE SIZZLE”

If anyone can spare a couple of hours on **Saturday 11th November** we could use your help, please ! We are hoping to spruce up the church yard and the church by doing lots of odd jobs – clearing the paths, a bit of painting, leaf clearing, a bit of cleaning, a bit of everything really!!

You may have noticed that the church has a new compost bin in the church yard. Villagers are welcome to use the bin but please note that it is for leaves and flowers only – **absolutely no food waste or twigs please!** Our thanks go to Anthony Billington for building this for us.

Please come along from 10am to 12 noon and lend a hand (all ages welcome!) and you will be rewarded with a sizzling sausage sandwich (or ???). Please bring your leaf blower, strimmer, rake, spade, tools, etc and enjoy a morning of exercise in the fresh air for a good cause. If you'd like more information, please ring Janet (663123) or Lynda (662202) – and THANK YOU!

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

This year we are hoping, once again, to have a display in church but instead of just Christmas trees we hope to fill the church with lanterns. We will shortly be contacting the various Community Groups to ask if they would like to take part and these would be in church over the Christmas period until the New Year. There will be a workshop in church, when Sarah Branson will be giving guidance on making the lanterns, on Weds 15 November. It is hoped that the lanterns will form part of the Messy Church “Follow the Star” event at New Mill on Sat 9th December. Please see details elsewhere in the Parish News

We are having a lit Christmas tree outside the church as we did last year, using the baubles donated then. If you would like to add to our collection of silver or white Christmas tree baubles (unbreakable please) they can be left in the porch during service times, at the coffee morning or with Janet at 52 The Village. The baubles will be wired and placed on the tree in the church yard. On Sunday 3 December 2023, at the Family Service at 10am, the church will hold a tree lighting service when the lights on the church Christmas trees will be switched on.

Please do come along and join in!



COMMUNITY LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOPS



FRI 3RD NOV: 9-12 noon at Christ Church, New Mill

WED 15TH NOV: 4-6 pm at Thurstonland St. Thomas Church

SUN 26TH NOV: 2-4 pm at New Mill Club

FOLLOW THE STAR...

SAT 9TH
DEC: 4-6pm

FREE, EVERYONE WELCOME



Join in the lantern parade from New Mill Club to the local community garden. Follow the star on our journey with Mary to the stable. Here we will share the joys of Christmas through the Nativity story, carols and refreshments by the warmth of a fire.



ST THOMAS' CHURCH SERVICES

www.thurstonland.org or www.newmillpc.org.uk

November 2023

Date	Service & Time	Saying Hello	Inter-cessor	Reader	Reading	Coffee
5	Family Service Baptism – 10am	Brian S	Lynda	Brian S	Micah 3: 5-12	Carole
12	BCP Communion 9.30am followed by Remembrance	Vernon	-	Vernon	Amos 5: 18-24	N/A
19	Holy Communion 9.30am	Jo	Mari- anne	Mari- anne	Zeph— aniah 1: 7,12-18	Gilly
26	Holy Communion 9.30am	Lynda	Jenni	Barbara L	Ephe- sians 1:15-23	Richard

Praying for our neighbours

During November:

Hollowgate: Lancaster Barn: Top of the Bank:
Farms in the parish

During December:

Town Moor: The Green: East View

December 2023

Date	Service & Time	Saying Hello	Intercessor	Reader	Reading	Coffee
3	Family Service Tree Lighting 10am	Vernon	Michelle	Michelle	Isaiah 64: 1-9	Jackie
10	BCP Communion 9.30am	Jenni	-	Mari- anne	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Gilly
17	Carol Service 9.30am	Jo	Lynda	Lynda	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11	Richard
24	(2pm Christ - ingle) Midnight Mass 11:30pm	Sue	Lynda	Lynda	Isaiah 9: 2-7	N/A
25	Carols & Communion 9:30am	Jenni	Jenni	Vernon	Titus 2: 11-14	N/A

Dec 31st—Joint Service at St David's Holmbridge at 10am

Brass cleaning in December— Michelle Ellwood

COFFEE MORNINGS & COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB

The coffee mornings continue to be popular on the first Thursday in the month. The next few dates are – Thursday 2nd November, Thursday 7th December and the first in the New Year will be Thursday 4th January 2024. We are looking for more volunteers to host the coffee mornings so, if you would like to help, please could you contact Janet on 663123.

The Community lunch club has remained popular and will continue on the last Friday of each month, the next being on Friday 24th November. The cost remains the same at £5pp and places must be booked in advance due to the limited space available. There will be no lunch in December, but as usual, there will be a **Festive Afternoon Tea** on Friday 15th December and details will be sent out soon. If you would like to join the inspiring group of ladies who provide the excellent food at the lunches and teas, without whose generosity we could not continue, we would welcome your support, so please speak to Janet to see how you can help.

A big thank you goes out to all those people who supported the collection for Macmillan Cancer Support at the October coffee morning. We were able to make a donation of £45

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Many thanks go to all who supported the church collection of goods for the Welcome Centre at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. There was a trolley load of goods for which they were very grateful. Our thanks go also to the school for the retiring collection of £71.30 from the parents for church funds made when they held their service in church before the half term holiday.

Life patterns are changing and we appear to be available all the time. Life work balance can be tricky for us all so a gentle reminder. Sean, our Vicar usually aims to take Friday off work; it is not an exact science because ministry usually needs to take priority. But: please think about: content of a message or email, when and what time of day you send it, and how it might be received for instance at 8pm on Friday evening opposed to 9am on Monday morning.

If there is a genuine need or emergency do get in touch by any means possible. Respect that Sean is dealing with a wide range of issues, and people all of the time and that he will always endeavour to support you as soon as possible.

Thanks you for your understanding.

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Environment Programme

**Upper Holme Valley Joint PCC &
Team Meeting**

**7pm Tuesday 14th November.
Holy Trinity Holmfirth**



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Environmental Champion
&
Sian Taylor
Holme Valley Climate Action**

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Remembrance*

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

SAINT THOMAS'

*The Parish of Thurstonland in the
Upper Holme Valley Team Ministry
in the Anglican Diocese of Leeds*

Ministers

Rev Canon J. Sean Robertshaw	683375
Rev Dr Steve Dixon	687376
Rev Ailsa Brooke	681155

Churchwardens

Janet Wiltshire, 52, The Village, Thurstonland	663123
Richard Wood, 11, Moor Top Avenue Thurstonland	662752

PCC Secretary

Janet Wiltshire, 52, The Village, Thurstonland	663123
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PCC Treasurer

Lynda Booth, 3, Moor Top Avenue, Thurstonland	662202
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Parish Giving Officer

Brian Lightowler, 1, Norton Terrace, Stocksmoor	605526
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Mothers' Union

Jenni Wohlman 'Hudd Royd' 4 Top of the Hill, Thurstonland	663996
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Children's Ministry and Mustard Seeds contact Sean or Ailsa

Usual times of Church Services

10.00am	1st Sunday each month	A Service of the Word.
9.30am	2nd Sunday each month	Sung Holy Communion BCP
9.30am	3rd Sunday each month	Sung Family Eucharist
11.00am	4th Sunday each month	Eucharist @ Christ Church
10.00am	5th Sunday each month	Team Eucharist (see mag for info)

(See website, magazine and the church notice board for more detail)