

THURSTONLAND PARISH NEWS JAN-FEB 2024



**And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”**

And he replied:

**“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”**

Minnie Louise Haskins (1875 – 1957)

A number of events took place over the Christmas period.

The first event followed a lantern making workshop with Sarah Branson. On Sat 9th Dec families met and walk walked carrying the Star into the New Mill Community garden where Kate and Milly



Gaunt supported by Aslan Ocean and Thom Udall made a perfect nativity scene—Gabriel, Joseph, Mary and Jesus all pictured below with the Star and a King. The donkey's really added a special touch to the whole event. This event will take place in 2024 hopefully with improved weather conditions.



It was also really exciting to welcome Children from Thurstonland School into St Thomas' to present their nativity service to parents, the singing and story telling was excellent and they should all be congratulated for their hard work and best efforts, giving two performances in the day.

Pictures opposite depict the Christingle Service, thanks to all who supported especially Grace Denton who played piano, and Sue and Lynda who made the Christingles.

Also the Village Carol singing was a well organised event, many thanks Robin & Angela, the musicians and all who supported making our Christmas joyful.



VILLAGE DIARY January 2024

Mon 1 Jan 2024	Happy New Year! Bank Holiday	
Thurs 4 Jan	Coffee Morning	10.30am – 12 noon
Sun 7 Jan	Epiphany/The Baptism of Christ Family Service	10am
Mon 8 Jan	New School Term starts	
Weds 10 Jan	WI meeting @SVH Memories of Holmfirth – Helen Bray Photographer	2pm-4pm Please note the time
Sun 14 Jan	BCP Holy Communion	9.30 am
Sun 21 Jan	Family Communion	9.30am
Weds 24 Jan	Mothers' Union meeting	7.30pm
Fri 26 Jan	Please note- no Community Lunch	
Sun 28 Jan	Team Anniversary Service @ St David's, Holmbridge No service at St Thomas'	10am

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Remembrance Day Service was led by Rev Dr Steve Dixon and was well attended. Those present at the service processed to the War Memorial and were joined by many other members of the local community for the laying of wreaths. The Royal British Legion were represented, the flag lowered and a bugler played The Last Post. Wreaths were laid by the RBL, the church, the TVA and the Parish Council. The RBL have thanked the community for buying poppies in church and for the retiring collection after the service which together raised to £135. The collection from whole of the New Mill area was £3400.

VILLAGE DIARY—February 2024

Thurs 1 Feb	Coffee Morning Choir Practice	10.30am-12 noon 7.30pm-9pm
Sun 4 Feb	Family Service	10am
Thurs 8 Feb	Community Cards Group Choir Practice	2pm-4pm 7.30pm-9pm
Fri 9 Feb	School break up for half term	TBC
Sun 11 Feb	BCP Holy Communion	9.30am
Weds 14 Feb	Ash Wednesday WI Meeting @ SVH History of Storthes Hall Hospital – Ann Littlewood	2pm-4pm Please note the time
Thurs 15 Feb	Choir Practice	7.30pm-9pm
Sun 18 Feb	Family Communion	9.30am
Mon 19 Feb	School re-opens after half term	TBC
Thurs 22 Feb	Community Cards Group Choir Practice	2pm-4pm 7.30pm-9pm
Fri 23 Feb	Please note no Community Lunch	
Sun 25 Feb	Joint Service at New Mill No service at St Thomas'	10am
Weds 28 Feb	Mothers' Union meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 29 Feb	Choir Practice	7pm-9pm

THURSTONLAND CRICKET CLUB

Cricket seems a distant prospect just now with Christmas on the horizon but January will see indoor practice sessions resume for both senior and junior members of the club.

The weather last season was is marked contrast to that enjoyed in 2022. July and August saw seven Saturdays out of eight on succeeding weekends having games affected by rain. The irony was that the final fixtures were played in near record temperatures for early September. Such are the vagaries of the British climate.

We said farewell to Jimmy Kain as he returned to his home in Adelaide after a second season playing for our first team. As well as doing well in games he became very much part of the club off the field thanks to his friendly approach and junior players were very much encouraged by his approach to them as part of the coaching team.

Our Under 17s and Under 13s finished in high positions in their sections but whatever the result developing to the maximum individual abilities is a key aim. Once again it was good to see several juniors playing for both our senior sides. The female section, the Thurstonland Thundercats, goes from strength to strength at both senior and junior level with participants able to choose between soft and hard ball versions of the game.

Next year sees the 150th anniversary of the club when it is hoped to celebrate being part of the community for that length of time. As we face the future positively it is good to remember all those individuals, both on and off the field, whose dedication has enabled a cricket club to thrive in a relatively small village.

Andrew Pearson

RESTORATION OF THE EAST WINDOW

St Thomas' is pleased to be able to share with you the news that, just before Christmas, we heard back from the National Churches Trust that they have awarded us a grant of £20,392!! This is fantastic news and takes the available funding to within £18,000 short of our target. We realise that there is still some way to go and we will continue with our fundraising, but feel that the end is finally in sight. The window maybe restored in 2024!

Thurstonland Community Choir News

The Choir continued it's sociable relaxed approach by including a November trip to hear the orchestra and chorus of Opera North in Huddersfield Town Hall. An excellent concert and great for the Choir to hear what a professional group of singers can do!

December, of course, was all about Christmas preparations. The work done in rehearsals paid off in both the singing at New Mill Christmas Market and then the St Thomas' Carol Service. The latter was a well attended service with some great carols from the Choir and congregation. We also provided, and decorated, one of the Christmas trees in church and donated mince pies to all the Christmas events as we traditionally do.

Our final Christmas get together was leading the Carol singing around Thurstonland together with players from HD9 Community Brass. This whole evening was rather in jeopardy due to the extreme high winds and accompanying power cuts, but thankfully, everything went as planned, there was a good turn out of villagers and no one was blown away. Truly, "the sun (well, moon in this case) shines on the righteous!".

Thanks to the help of some extremely enthusiastic young gentlemen, we were able to raise some £200 for Ruddy's Retreat which will go to help families struggling with childhood cancer have some respite and a memorable holiday.

It has always been an important part of the Thurstonland Community Choir's ethos that not only do we come together to sing, we always look to help others and still have time to socialise together as a group. Thanks to Richard, and the very diligent Reuben, at the Rose & Crown for helping us finish our year socially by supplying us with some hot soup after our carol singing.

2024 will start with a social meal together before we get down to some serious singing including working to sing at the Village's D-Day Anniversary celebrations in June. New members are always welcome



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COMMUNITY LUNCHESES, COFFEE MORNINGS AND FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEAS

The coffee mornings have now settled into their routine on the first Thursday in the month – our thanks go to all who host them. The December one was again special as we welcomed 4 of the school children who acted as waitresses for us. They really enjoyed the experience and we hope that we can do this again on a more regular basis. The next dates for the coffee mornings are Thursday 4th January and Thursday 1st February 2024.

The Community Lunches have also settled in again. The November lunch was very popular and was followed in December by our Festive afternoon Tea. 30 people gathered in the church room, were greeted with a glass of sherry and were then entertained by the school children who sang Christmas songs for them. This was followed by the tea – provided and served by our trusty team of lunch club ladies to whom we are all very grateful for their generosity. The afternoon ended with small gifts being distributed. There were 2 people unable to attend because of illness so their teas were delivered to them.

There is no charge for this event as it is supported by profits made at the Community lunches and the generosity of the team. However, we asked if those attended could bring something to be donated to the Welcome Centre. I am pleased to report that their gifts were delivered to the Welcome Centre in time for Christmas. Our thanks go to all who donated.

There will be no lunches in January or February but we very much look forward to resuming services in March.

Happy New Year! Best wishes Janet



Several villagers asked to see more old photos of Thurstonland after seeing images of the village from 1910 in the last TVA Newsletter.

Here are some of my favourites: The young scout is leaving the old Village Hall in 1954. The barn at the start of Baintley footpath is from a photo taken in 1975 before conversion. The other two date from around 1910 – the Co-op/post office has been one house since the 1960s. The shop on the corner of Hawcliff became the last site of the village post office before being converted to a house in 2014.

The TVA social get-togethers at the Cricket Club (“Monday Mornings at the Cricket Club” or MM@CC!) are proving to be popular, and the dates for the next couple of months are January 8th and 22nd, February 12th and 26th. We also look forward to celebrating the 80th anniversary of D-Day on the 6th June when the famous beacon may be a highlight again. Literally!

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



@ThurstonlandVillageAssociation
Phone: 660661 or 07989 650398



**St Thomas Parish Church
Thurstonland**

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:

Our meeting in November feels a long time ago now but it was when Julia Tum gave us her talk about the Luddites. This included members becoming various characters, many of whom would eventually be executed or transported for their efforts, who were involved in the local protests against the new machinery being installed in the textile mills because it would deprive them of their only possible means of making a living. The whole evening was fascinating and greatly enjoyed.

Since 1921, Mothers' Union, which is now in 88 different countries and has over 4 million members, has continued a 'Midday Wave of Prayer'. It represents a continuous expression of our commitment to each other and runs throughout the year so that the work and members of each and every area in which the Mothers' Union is active are prayed for at some point. Remembering that it is midday somewhere in the world every hour of each day means that our voice of prayer is never silent. Through prayer, projects, campaigns and fundraising we respond to various needs, reaching out to support family life in all its forms. Early January is a special time for branches in the Dioceses of Lesotho, Kibungo in Rwanda, Etche & Ogbomoso in Nigeria, Hanuato in Solomon Islands and **Leeds**, our Diocese here in England, for that is when the movement prays for us. Our branch will meet **just before 1pm on Tuesday 9th January in the Church Room** to play our own part in this very precious Wave of Prayer.

Our next event is our **Party** at 7.30 on **31st January**, always a grand evening.

On **28th February** we will hold our Memories evening. This year we shall celebrate **A Very Happy Day**. This can be recent or decades ago but a photo would help everyone share the joy.

Finally, may I wish all of you a healthy and happy New Year.

CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service was held on the morning of 17th December and was well attended. The service was led by the Community Choir. Refreshments of tea, coffee, sherry and mince pies were served in the church room after the service.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY AND TREE LIGHTING SERVICE

The Christmas trees inside and outside the church were lit during a lovely service on Advent Sunday, 3rd December, which was led by Sean.

The first Advent candle was lit on the wreath, and we are grateful to Irene Miller for making the wreath.

Our thanks go to Lynda, Jo and Sue who once again decorated the church windows



SCHOOL NATIVITY

The school once again held their 2 Nativity performances in church. We are grateful for their donation of £30 towards the church running costs.

CHRISTINGLE

This year the Christingle Service was held at 2pm on Christmas Eve. It was a lovely service led by Sean and was very well attended by approximately 60 adults and 30 children. The Posada was returned to church by Lottie and her family and the figures (including the "Wonky Donkey") were placed in the Nativity scene in church. Our thanks go once more to Lynda & Sue who made the Christingles for us.



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, will continue to meet in the church room on the afternoons of the 2nd & 4th Thursday in the month starting again in February. They always have a good selection of greetings cards available to purchase in the church room. Please remember that used greetings cards can be left in the box in the church porch for re-cycling. The group would like to thank all those who supported the Welcome Centre by buying cards this Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

We are once more grateful to Richard at the Rose & Crown, for letting us use one of the pods on the day of the Market, 25th November. Our chocolate Tombola, Silver & Gold Tombola and Hamper Raffle raised just over £400 for church funds. Thanks to all who supported this event and those who donated tombola prizes and items for the Christmas hamper. Please see below the results of the hamper raffle and congratulations to Debbie Griffin for winning it!

HAMPER RAFFLE –15 December 2023 PRIZE WINNERS

Ticket No	Name	Prize
572	Debbie Griffin	Large Christmas Hamper
584	Jenni Wohlman	Small Christmas Hamper
122	Trevor Pyrah	Joint of Beef (voucher) and Bottle of Red Wine
547	Rachel Duckett	Hot water bottle & ladies umbrella
247	Gilly Cummings	Tin of biscuits
211	Barbara Neale	2 Photo frames
286	Marianne Wood	Golfing Record Book and Parker Pen
594	Billington Family	Large box of Shortbread biscuits
537	Sue Todd	"Coast" book
526	Joy Sharrock	Set of coasters
541	Rachel Duckett	Baylis & Harding Gift set
546	Rachel Duckett	Small box of Shortbread biscuits
275	Vernon Horne	Body Shop Gift Basket

ST THOMAS' CHURCH SERVICES

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

January 2024

Date	Service & Time	Saying Hello	Intercessor	Reader	Reading	Coffee
7	Family Service Epiphany 10am	Vernon	Lynda	Lynda	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Jackie
14	BCP Communion 9.30am	Brian S	-	Brian S	Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)	Carole
21	Holy Communion 9.30am	Jo	Michelle	Michelle	Genesis 14: 17-20	Sue
28	Team Anniversary St David's Holmbridge	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Praying for our neighbours

During January:

Crangle Fields, Cross Lane, Stocksmead

During February:

The Village, Greenside, Bankside

February 2024

Date	Service & Time	Saying Hello	Intercessor	Reader	Reading	Coffee
4	Family Service 10am	Vernon	Marianne	Mari- anne	Prov- erbs 8: 1 22-31	Jackie
11	BCP Com- munion 9.30am	Jenni	-	Jenni	2 Kings 2: 1-12	Gilly
18	Holy Com- munion 9.30am	Jo	Lynda	Lynda	Genesis 9: 8-17	Richard
25	Joint Ser- vice New Mill	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Brass cleaning in Feb : Sue Todd

Luke 2:22-40

After Christmas, what next?

Seeking to fulfil the requirements of the law after the birth of a child, Joseph and Mary go to the Temple. There they encounter two older people who have been anticipating this moment for years, but share disturbing insights for what the future will bring.



Pray



Think about someone in a different generation to you, younger or older. Spend some time praying for them, their needs, their hopes and their contribution to your community. You might want to send them a card or a text to let them know you care and that you're praying for them.

REFLECT

What was the most amazing thing that happened for you in 2023? Have you spoken about this, and if so to whom, and how often? Are we good at celebrating the amazing like Simeon and Anna? Who could you share your grateful reflections with?

Sing

Dance around your kitchen as you sing along to some upbeat praise music, giving thanks praise to God, as Simeon and Anna did.

Bible notes



First, who are Simeon and Anna? After all, they don't appear anywhere else in the Bible. The simple answer is that they are witnesses who recognise and acknowledge the child Jesus. Simeon speaks of salvation for all people, not just Israel (vv.30-31), and speaking to Mary, his words echo the story of Hannah and Samuel, albeit with a more ominous tone (v.35). Anna does not make any pronouncements like those of Simeon; rather, in her role as a witness, she tells what she has seen and heard and spreads the word.

Second, Simeon recognises the infant Jesus is the fulfilment of the promise made by God to God's people. Promises are big throughout the Bible, beginning with the story of Noah and continuing with Abraham and Moses. They tell us that the relationship between God and creation is founded upon the truth that God's word can be relied upon.

Third, the faithfulness of Joseph and Mary underlies, indeed is critical to, the Christmas story. They are faithful to God's promise that is reflected in their keeping of the Law (vv.22a,23a,24a,39a).

In this passage, the certainty of the past is the sure foundation for going forward into a new age in the overarching story of God and creation.

First impressions

- How long do you keep your Christmas crib/decorations going?
- What can you take from your Christmas into the new year?
- Most people know about 'baby Jesus'; how might you help them know the grown-up Jesus?



A prayer of thanksgiving

Creator God,
when we don't see you, forgive us and open our eyes.
When we don't hear you, teach us to listen.
When we don't trust you, deepen our faith.
When we don't follow you, speak to our hearts,
that like we might have the peace of Simeon.
Amen.



LISTEN



Play 'Love Came Down', Kari Jobe on *Where I Find You*.
<https://open.spotify.com/track/4sJvXfAwAJftnK14Invjp?si=92493577d3464585>

Think of situations that need the wisdom of Christ in the new year. Light a tealight and pray for God's wisdom in each situation.

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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)