

- lowers spring to life
- arly signs in the churchyard
- ring hope of better days
- ain may still be around
- mbrellas a necessity
- s Valentine's Day begins
- emember it is also Ash Wednesday
- ou can respect both



February 2024

Revd Alison Battye 25 Church Lane Adel LS16 8DQ Rector alison.battye@leeds.anglican.org 267 3676 Churchwardens Anne Andrews 32 Ancaster Road LS16 5HH 275 5585 anne.andrews@ntlworld.com Alison Howarth Apt1, Garmont Court LS7 3RU 262 4622 ahowarth@hotmail.com **PCC Secretary** Andy Neal 468 Otley Road, LS16 8AE 07415 424 964 adelpccsecretary@gmail.com **PCC Treasurer** Bob Holloway 10 Adel Pasture LS16 8HU 267 9360 bob@hollowayassociates.co.uk Safeguarding Officer James Moxon 07984164782 Planned Giving Helen Hallett 217 8845 Chris Cunliffe Choirmaster 267 6767 **Funeral Verger** lain F. Welsh 267 9364 **Assistant Funeral Verger** Lucv Best-Shaw 217 2963 Flower Rota 2611941 Hilary Taylor **Environmental Officer** Thang Tang adel.eco.church@hotmail.com Wedding Verger Sue Smith 261 0349 Assistant Wedding Verger Gillian Batcup 267 7223 **Local History Enquiries** Val Crompton 225 9142 27 Wayland Drive LS16 8LX email: vjcrompton@ntlworld.com Adel St John School Head Teacher Mr Peter Dalrymple 261 1804 Loveday Loveridge 07974 321466 Marjorie Cole 261 0069 267 3875

Parish Hall Bookings Adel Bells Editor **Magazine Advertising** Bervl Thompson 10 New Adel Gardens LS16 6BD beryl890@btinternet.com Distribution: Sandra Lavery Website: Trevor Cole

Adel Bells

(Please email copy by 10th of the month)

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Church Website

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adelbellscm@gmail.com

adeloldstables@gmail.com

www.adelparishchurch.org.uk

Adel Parish Church



261 2008

The Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Adel

Enquiries including Home Communions, Baptisms, Confirmation, Weddings, Funerals; please look at the church website www.adelparishchurch.org.uk

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Adel PCC Members 2023—2024

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Leanne Winfield

Magazine Editor Marjorie Cole

IllustratorsVal Crompton

Church Open for Visitors

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Monday and Saturday 1.45pm to 3.45pm

Parish Registers Baptisms

25th November

Grace Louise, daughter of Helen and Paul Hallett

26th November

Amada Luna, daughter of Rebecca and Alexander Woodhead

Thomas Timothy Bowden, son of Laura and Henry Clarke

Burial of Ashes

I5th November Jean & Arnold Rossiter

16th NovemberCatherine Andrews

16th DecemberDavid Seton

23rd December
Graham Walker

Funerals

28th NovemberBill Loveridge

29th November Will Thorburn

IIth December Nicola Houseman

12th DecemberPhilip Sumner

20th December

Roger Brook

29th DecemberMarjorie Baylis



Festivals & Feasts

14th February Ash Wednesday

A Prayer for February

Lord, may we bring joy to your heart in sharing Your presence and love, giving freely to one another as we have received from You, expecting nothing in return.

Amen







Part of Christ's family, welcoming everyone, sharing God's love and being a voice of hope



Adel Bells is reaching out to far flung corners of the world, as evidenced by contact from readers living in New Zealand and Canada. See pages 24 and 31 for details. Since Lockdown encouraged us to develop our Facebook page, we have been followed by ever increasing numbers of people; there are at present in the region of 500 followers. Was Adel church ever quite so famous?

I asked Jenny Jones to give us a personal account of what Adel Church's Christmas Experience, as we have called it for several years, was really like. I think she hit the proverbial 'nail on the head' when she summed every experience up with the words "It's their church". We do indeed, as it says at the top of this page, welcome everyone, share God's love and we are a voice of hope. Do make sure you read Jenny's piece on page 22.

If you pick up a copy of this on the church doorstep, please note that it contains a lot of community news and at the cost of only £6 per year to have

it delivered to your door it represents value for money and keeps you up to date with events in Adel. See page 9 for more information.

To be recommended this month is the concert in church on Saturday 24th February. Our Rector Alison Battye is generously giving of her time ,together with her friend Heather Woodhead, in order to raise money for the much needed work to be done on our churchyard. This event is open to all without need to book. Please see the advert on page 17. We look forward to seeing you there.

You may, of course, be reading this online. If so, we welcome you! We are glad that our news spreads so easily around the world. If you feel so inclined, you might consider making a donation to our church funds. Details of how to do this are on our website. You might also consider writing a small piece for a future magazine, telling us how you became interested in news of Adel Parish church.

Marjorie Cole adelbellscm@gmail.com

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Rector Alison's Letter

Flowers or ashes?

Dear Friends

The church year, not aligned with the secular year, often gives us strange combinations. Last year we had a Sunday which was Advent 4 in the morning – but Christmas Eve after lunch. This year, with Easter being early, Ash Wednesday coincides with Valentine's Day.

It's perhaps a challenge for some church goers. Do we treat our loved one to a romantic candlelit dinner, or take them to church to have a cross of ash put on their foreheads with the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return; turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ"?

At first glance the two days appear to have very little in common; but if we look closer, they are more similar than we might think.

The exact identity of the Valentine we celebrate on February 14th is not clear. Probably he was either or both of two priests killed by the Romans because of their Christian faith. The connection with love is even more hazy; possibly arising as a Roman spring celebration of new growth and fertility was Christianised.

However they began, valentine

messages of romantic love can be dated back to the 15th century, and commercial cards were available by the late 1700s. In fact the verse, 'Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet and so are you', can be found in a book from 1784, and owes its origins to Spencer's 'The Fairie Queene', written in 1590!

We may dislike the commercialism of Valentine's Day, but a reminder, an excuse, to acknowledge our love for each other is no bad thing.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the time when Christians prepare to remember Jesus' death and resurrection in a season of 'penitence and fasting'. The ashes remind us both of our mortality and sinfulness, and our need to say sorry. It doesn't sound a very loving thing to be asked to do!

But we can only dare to recall our wrongdoings because we know that whatever we do, God, through Jesus has already forgiven us. We are able to face up to our mistakes because we know they will be dealt with in love.

In the marriage service, couples declare their love by promising to be there in the good times and the bad. On Ash Wednesday we remember God's faithfulness through the worst of times.

Whether your 14th Feb involves a romantic meal, time remembering a loved one, an Ash Wednesday service, or your normal Wednesday routine, I hope you will know that you are loved.

If you want to learn more about God's love, there will be various opportunities this Lent at Adel Parish Church. We have our Lent discussion course, in person and on Zoom; Compline (night prayer) on Tuesday evenings; and of course, the Ash Wednesday services. There is one at I I am in addition to the evening service, so you may be able manage the ashes **and** the candlelit dinner! With love and prayers

Alison

Confirmation at St John's

On April 14th, some of our congregation will be confirmed by Bishop Arun at a Leeds Episcopal Area confirmation service in Otley.

Confirmation is an important step on the Christian journey. It takes place at a special service where people confirm the promises made for them by their parents and godparents at their baptism.

It is a chance to commit yourself to following Christ and recognise your place in the local and worldwide Anglican Church. If you have not been confirmed but worship with us regularly, it may well be something to consider. If you are not baptised, you can be baptised and confirmed within the same service.

In preparation for Confirmation there will be a chance to spend some evenings together exploring the Christian faith and deciding whether Confirmation is right for you at this time.

If you are interested in being confirmed, or would just like to know more, then contact Alison – in person, by phone or by email.

Lent Discussion Course

Beginning week commencing 19th February, "We believe . . . an exploration of our creeds", either in person in the Stables or on Zoom. Please let Alison know if you would like to take part.

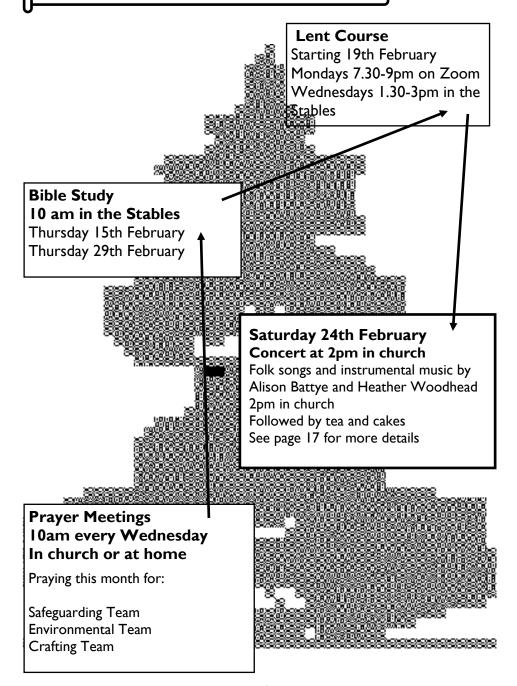
Monday

7.30pm - 9pm on Zoom

Wednesday

1.30pm - 3pm in the Stables

Also in February . . .



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If you are a postal subscriber, please send your payment of £14 to Beryl Thompson,

10 New Adel Gardens, Adel, Leeds, LS16 6BD, Tel: 0113 267 3875

If you do not yet subscribe:-

A. You live in Adel

Perhaps you picked this copy up outside of church and would like to have a copy brought to your house each month. This can only happen if you live in our area, and it would cost you £6 per year.

You can pay online by using the link tinyurl/Adel Social. You would also need to email us with your address and let us know the date you paid, in order to ensure the deliverer knows about you. You can send a cheque through the post, but please email and I will supply you with an address.

Email: adelbellscm@gmail.com

B. You do not live in Adel

If you live farther afield you could have it posted to you at a cost of £14 per year.

Please send a cheque to **Beryl Thompson**,

Praying for...

Safeguarding Team

hen Alison asked if I would take on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) just over 3 years ago, I was about to retire from my role as an NHS GP and this seemed like an ideal opportunity to tackle a new, hopefully less taxing, but still fulfilling, role.

These were difficult times during the pandemic but it felt like a good way to help and still use some of the knowledge and skills I had acquired during my career.

Alison kindly agreed that the role could be split, with Kate Clarke ably taking on the role of DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) administrator. This is a very important role ensuring that all those working, or being responsible for working, with children or vulnerable adults in the church setting have had the appropriate checks to ensure they are safe to work with those groups. I am extremely grateful to Kate for taking that on, as I soon found that the rest of the PSO role was more than enough to keep me busy!

Much of what Kate and I do is administrative with the biggest job involving keeping track of Safeguarding training requirements and DBS checks for all of the church officers and volunteer staff. It has been a fairly steep learning curve made ever more complex by the arrival of a computerised system to replace the excellent paper records I inherited from my predecessor.

The other part of my role is as the main point of contact for anyone in the Parish with safeguarding concerns. While safeguarding might seem to relate only to those vulnerable groups, it is important to make it clear that this is an issue for everyone in the parish. Whether it be reporting something you are suspicious about or simply just being more aware of the signs of possible abuse to look for, we can all play a role which could just turn out to be vital for an intended victim. So, my 'team' really includes all of you.

It is a great privilege to be able to serve the Church and the Parish of Adel St. John the Baptist in this way. It has already proved to be more of a challenge than I might have imagined and I am very grateful for the help and support I have received from Alison and Paul, from the Churchwardens and from the Safeguarding team at the Diocese who have always been ready to give sound advice when needed. Perhaps the biggest challenge of all has been to balance the rather clinical nature of the policies and procedures with the compassionate, caring

approach that I always tried to follow as a family doctor and best reflects my Christian values. It has not always been easy, but I will continue to strive to make the best decisions I can with God's and all your help.

Please let me know if you have any concerns. My contact details are on page 2 of this magazine and on the church website.

James Moxon

Environmental Team

This is a fairly new team. Thang Tang took on the role of Environmental Officer last year, but a team was formed recently when he was joined by Sue Degnan and Lucy Best-Shaw. They are still getting to grips with a vitally important, yet difficult, concept. Recognising that something needs to

be done about worsening climate conditions is easy, but deciding on how to go about it is much harder. You can learn just what the challenges facing them are on page 13, as Sue explains the team's hopes for our own church. Meanwhile, you are encouraged to pray regularly for this small but dedicated team as they make plans for the future of our beautiful world.

Crafting Team

It has been very enjoyable being part of the crafting group for the past few years. Making Christmas angels, poppies, prayer bears and more recently the 'cross in my pocket' has kept my hands busy. I'm sure I have missed out some of the activities but hope there will be more to participate in in the future.

Sue Lawson

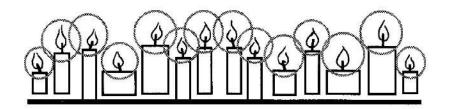
The 100 Club

The November Draw

Ist Barbara Wright £80 2nd Beryl Stoker £40 3rd Emma Hobson £30

The December Draw

1st Keith Madeley £80 2nd Sharleen Hamilton £40 3rd Iain F-Welsh £30



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Through a Child's Eyes

A Plea for Future Winters

Don't ever let me say "its only snow". If the season comes when I no longer watch wide-eyed at windows, when I stop listening for each footstep crunch and never run arms-wide into blizzards, if one day, these Christmas card mornings cannot make me a child again, throw a snowball in my face. Take me sledging in Bingham Park on that red toboggan with yellow handles. Tell me the name of every snowman I ever built. Remind me how we squealed When the first flakes fell, how it tasted to catch wonder on my tongue.

Beth Davies

This poem was read out by Hilary Taylor at the church's craft activity session, which took place on the Advent Quiet Day on 9th December.

Hilary was about to teach a group of us how to create a Christmas wreath and, to get us into the right spirit, she read the poem out to us, reminding us pretence-of-understanding/). Beth has of our childhood days when we responded with more excitement than both the 2022 Magdalena Young we do now. However, at the end of the session, we were excited enough to take our creations home with us to hang on our doors.

It was written by a new poet, Beth Davies, a friend of Val Crompton's daughter Zoe.

It is from 'The Pretence of Understanding', her debut pamphlet. The pamphlet won the 2022 New Poets Prize and was published by The Poetry Business (https:// poetrybusiness.co.uk/product/thealso been awarded second place in Poets' Prize and the 2021 Dead Cat Poetry Prize.

More information about her work can be found at bethdaviespoet.wordpress.com

Environmental News

Eco Church 2024

The PCC have agreed that we at Adel Church should aim to achieve the Bronze Eco Award in 2024 and hopefully go on to Silver and Gold.

The awards, run by the Christian charity A Rocha, will reward churches for expressing their care for God's world in their worship and teaching, in how they look after their buildings and land, in how they engage with their local community and global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of their congregation.

These awards provide a useful way of focusing our minds upon what we can do, however small, to help combat climate change and help the Church of England achieve its pledge to go carbon neutral by 2030.

We are required to show progress over 5 areas:

Worship and Teaching – Alison is committed to this mission and already has shown a lead.

Buildings - Understandably, there are limitations in having a listed building, but there are things we can do: the lightbulbs we use, green energy supplier, the cleaning materials used.

Land – our Churchyard is a wonderful



example of environmentally managed green space and provides a breathing space for the whole community.

Community and Global

Engagement – We need to link up with other initiatives locally and globally. Did you participate in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch? Is anyone already working with likely partnership groups – Climate Action Leeds? (there are active hubs in Horsforth and Alwoodley), Greenpeace has a local Leeds group. Do you know of people we should be working with?

Lifestyle – There are numerous online ways of checking your carbon footprint, World Wildlife Fund website for example, but there are others.

If anyone is interested in being actively involved in working towards the Eco Awards at Adel Church please have a word with either Thang Tang, Lucy Best-Shaw or myself.

Sue Degnan

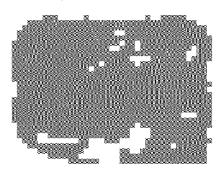
(You will find me most Sundays sitting with the choir at the 10am service.)

My True Story

My name is Val and I was born in 1936 and grew up with my two sisters, in Manchester. Dad, Harry Buckley, was a Master Plumber and Mum, Alice, a Secretary. I loved outdoor activities -hockey, tennis, climbing and long walks in the Peak District. In 1952, I started work at Metro-Vicks, a large engineering factory, in Trafford Park. There were 500 apprentices and I was the only girl engineering apprentice. Good at maths and drawing, I was interested in design and how machines worked.

One winter evening, I went with friends for the first time to Manchester Ice Rink. I fell over on the ice and was picked up by a slim young man with blue eyes and brown, curly hair. He had seen me before, in the factory. He knew that I was Val, the girl apprentice - but had never spoken to me. He told me that he was John Crompton, from Leeds, and that he was one of the Mechanical Engineering College apprentices at Metro-Vicks. John taught me to skate, found out that we were both interested in natural history and history of old buildings.

We arranged to meet up. John brought photos of Leeds that his father, Harper Crompton, (a member of Leeds Photographic Society) had taken. I was amazed at Harper's photos of Adel's Norman Church! I was invited to visit Leeds and to stay overnight at John's parents' house in Oakwood. We went early Saturday morning by train to Leeds, then on the top deck of a tram to Roundhay and explored Roundhay Park before lunch at Oakwell Oval. Then John took me, via the Buckstones, through Adel Woods. We walked across the Seven Arches, climbed on Adel Crag and went on, via Stairfoot Lane and York Gate, to Adel Church.



I still feel a sense of wonder when I step down today into the Norman Church and look up at the amazing chancel arch. I started finding out more about the history of Adel but it wasn't until years later that I wrote 'History of Adel'.

John took me to Kirkstall Abbey. We both loved the Abbey and Abbey Park, Abbey Mills and the tree-lined walk along the river Aire. Leeds seemed so green, the shopping centre so compact to me, after growing up in Manchester.

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After this first visit, we often spent weekends in Yorkshire, climbing the gritstone outcrops - Almscliffe Crag, Caley Crags, Ilkley Quarry and the Cow & Calf. In 1959, we were married in Manchester. It wasn't until 1965 that an opportunity arose for us (now with three small children) to move to Leeds, where (part-time) I worked with John, at Crompton Designs Ltd (a small Jig & Tool drawing office, in York Place, LSI). I was one of the first Open University Leeds students in 1971, attending evening tutorials at Leeds Uni. I completed a B A Hons degree and appreciated using the Brotherton Library. I then did a PGCE at Leeds Uni and taught Maths at Allerton High and later taught Computer Studies and BTEC, at Allerton Grange High School.

We, as a family, enjoyed Leeds concerts, Leeds City Museum, Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds Playhouse, Leeds Urban Wildlife Group and Roundhay Aquarists Club. The Crompton family included dogs, cats, fish, birds, snakes, geckos, bearded dragons etc.

John was Secretary of the Yorkshire Herpetological Society. We loved Kirkstall Festival. I was on the Festival Committee and edited Kirkstall Matters – as well as illustrating and editing Adel Parish Magazine, I was a trustee for OPAL. I'm still an active member of OPAL, Adel Parish Church, Adel Gardeners' Club, Holt Park Library Writers' Group - and Kirkstall 1152 Club.



Val, holding a cobra, which grew so big it had to be sent to Chester Zoo!

In 2009, we enjoyed our Golden Wedding Service in Adel Church with family and friends. Sadly, John died in 2021. I live near York Gate Garden (and have enjoyed being part of the Heritage Project, writing 'Heritage of York Gate'). I still walk in Leeds green spaces, sometimes with my three grown-up children and three grandchildren – we all love Leeds!

In 2023, Leeds Unofficial Year of Culture, 1001 True Stories were collected from people, over 60, who had lived or worked in Leeds. I was asked, at OPAL, to send in my story. They are still collecting stories.

Val Crompton

My Day in Cups of Coffee

Morning, Loveday! How do you like to start your day?

Mornings are pretty hectic in our house with three teens to coax out of bed and to school! I then take my cavapoo Lottie out for a good walk in Adel before sitting down for work. I'm lucky enough to be based from home so, as for many these days, my kitchen table doubles as my work desk.

And where are you waking up?

Adel; we moved from Alwoodley in 2018 as our three children were at Adel St John Primary and we wanted them to be able to walk to school.

Tell us a bit about your work?

I've been in executive search for all of my career. It sounds more exciting than it is! I basically spend all day sourcing candidates and try and persuade them to change roles. I speak to many fascinating people, but it can take over 100 conversations to find that elusive person who is ready for a new job.

I also manage the Stables bookings so can get calls at any time of day, usually from people who have walked past the Stables and are enquiring about a party booking.



Kettle's on what do you fancy?

As soon as I sit down for work it's always with a pot of fresh coffee.

Do you like to take a break with your cuppa?

Everyone who knows me will say that I never stop and my day is always about multi-tasking! I usually don't sit down and have a break until 9pm when my work and Mum duties are usually over!

Who would you like to share a cuppa with?

Always my fabulous group of local friends who I met at the school gates at Adel St John Primary. It's always loud and full of laughter when we do get a rare cuppa together.

Loveday Loveridge

Concert

Saturday 24th February at 2pm in Adel Church given by

ALISON BATTYE and HEATHER WOODHEAD

Listen to a mix of folk songs, original compositions and instrumental music on guitar and flute

£5 per person, children free Pay on the door

Followed by
Tea and cakes
in The Old Stables

Funds raised will go to the Churchyard Restoration Fund

A Letter from Hilary

Dear Reader.

If you have read the inside cover of this magazine you may have noticed that I am now organising the flower rota for Adel Church. I am writing this in December having just finished working on the Christmas Church decorations. You are reading this in February – can you remember the Christmas decorations? Would you like to be involved in 2024? Would you like to learn how to help? Many years ago I sat and watched as a group of people made the wall swags and now I am making them myself. You could do this too.

We have flowers in Church each week except in the seasons of Lent and Advent. When there is a wedding in Church, flowers are often provided by the couple but if not we just put in an arrangement as usual. Could you do an arrangement in Church? Would you like to have a go? My phone number is on the inside of the front cover but you could also call into Church on a Monday afternoon when I Church sit. Come and have a chat.

The flowers usually cost between £10 and £15. You will be reimbursed for the cost or you may choose to give the flowers as part of your giving to Church. Receipts are usually necessary. Oasis floral foam or wire



netting is provided and access to Church is arranged with me.

Festivals require additional help. Christmas, as you have seen recently, is very special. Easter is always stunning, and then there is the Patronal Festival followed by Harvest when we make up individual Harvest Baskets which are taken round the Parish. We do a special arrangement for Remembrance Sunday

We have people who do not attend Church who come and arrange for us because they love to do large arrangements. It would be nice to have more members of Church arranging with us. Could this be you? Come and have a chat one Monday if you are interested.

Hilary Taylor

Words from Joyce Hill

Feasting and Fasting

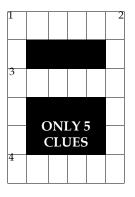
sh Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls this year on 14 February, which is also St Valentine's Day. This is a fairly unusual coincidence: its dates are determined by the date of Easter, which this year is 31 March. The calendar date of Easter is different each year because the Crucifixion and Resurrection took place at the time of the lewish Passover, a feast whose date is set by the lunar calendar. Our familiar calendar, with its fixed dates, is a solar calendar. Mapping the lunar cycle onto our solar calendar means that Easter. varies each year. Saints' days, however, are dates within the solar calendar, just like Christmas Day and our own birthdays.

So how, this year, do we cope with these two feast-days being on one day, given that Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a period of austerity and self-denial, while the modern world uses St Valentine's Day as an opportunity to indulge ourselves. Slightly tongue in cheek, I suggest that there is a possible solution for anyone who wants to do both things. Following on from the Jewish practice of regarding a holy day, such as the Sabbath or Passover, as running from sunset on the previous day to sunset on the day itself, the Christian church has always allowed a feast-day to be celebrated on the preceding evening.

So St Valentine's Day could be celebrated on the evening of 13 February. This year, that happens to be Shrove Tuesday when, ahead of the rigours of Lent, many societies celebrate by eating the kind of food that then disappears from the diet. That's why, in this country, it is Pancake Day -- good food and perhaps some fun with pancake tossing and pancake races.

But even in Lent itself there are moments when we can ease back a little. Sundays are never fasting days. And the Fourth Sunday in Lent, also known as Mid-Lent Sunday, came to have a particular association with relaxing the rigours of self-denial. In medieval times the people were seen as having been in sorrow, and they were urged to take consolation and enter God's house with rejoicing — a suitable theme for this special day, when everyone felt ready for a breather before facing up to the increased demands of Passiontide and Holy Week as the climax of Lent. Another common name for the day was Refreshment Sunday. Less common, but still quite well attested, is the name 'The Sunday of the Five Loaves' because the Gospel reading was the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. Mid-Lent Sunday is also Mothering Sunday this year, 10 March, when mothers are given treats and often a celebratory meal.

Puzzles



Across

- I. What felon does with melon
- 3. Stick with a Scottish island
- 4. Last to finish cure, getting rid of cold

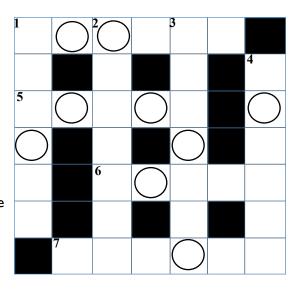
Down

- I. Engineers only repair part of platform say
- 2. Settled accommodation for horses.

Jumble Crossword How to play

Look at the clues. In brackets after each clue is an anagram of the answer.

When you have completed the puzzle, study the circled letters and solve the anagram to find the answer to the final clue.



ACROSS

- I. Small, slender, trim (TIPTEE)
- 5. Gulf, abyss (MHSAC)
- 6. Thrown (GFNUL)
- 7. Type of pastry (LCEIAR)

DOWN

- I. basket (CIPCIN)
- 2. Congestion (ACTIFFR)
- 3. Type of fried food (METUPAR)
- 4. Lean (GMERAE) (American spelling)

Final Clue

These come in African and Asian varieties

Solutions on p 47

And the Castaway was...

In the minutes before the 6th castaway together, enjoyed music together and was interviewed by Marjorie Cole, there was a quiet expectation among the many friends gathered in the Stables, because this time the castaway was the well-known Chris Cunliffe.

As we listened to the introduction, we saw on the screen, professionally controlled by Trevor Cole, the desert island on which Chris would live alone with his records, thoughts and memories.

Chris talked of his early childhood, having moved from Lancashire to Yorkshire when he was 2. His love of music was nurtured at home and at school, particularly by Margaret Steel. His first music choice, Bach's Sonata No 4 in E Minor, was a very powerful choice with booming sounds and the images were almost overwhelming with swirling clouds.

The rest of the evening followed the traditional format of this event with Chris reminiscing about his past life, interspersed with seven more varied music choices.

The Cunliffe family had a dreadful shock when Chris's father suddenly died; he was in the 6th Form, and after leaving school he studied in Sunderland and had the opportunity to indulge his love of music. He then lived and worked in Newcastle for 10 years, where he and Ruth spent time

they eventually got married in Leeds.

As both Chris and Ruth had parents living in Leeds the Cunliffe couple, now with baby Anna, moved from the NE back to Yorkshire. Relatively quickly the twins arrived and the grandparents helped with child-care.

Chris played the piano in Church and, after our organist Daniel Gordon left, Chris became Choirmaster. Not surprisingly, their daughters were encouraged to develop their musical skills and we saw a video of Zoë performing with the National Youth Folk Ensemble.

Music was the subject of the rest of the evening; Ruth first, then Chris joined the Augmented Choir. Sophie Swinson suggested that Chris join the Leeds Guild of Singers, whose music the large audience was warmly invited to come to hear at Christmas. The final topic was opera which Chris and Ruth developed an interest for in Newcastle.

This was a wonderful evening. I very much enjoyed listening to the music. For those of us who moved to Adel later in life it was good to hear about his growing up here. Many thanks for the evening and I'm looking forward to the next!

Siân Batchelder

Christmas in Adel Church

One thought always comes to me as we prepare for Christmas at church, that during December we get to see nearly all the people who live in Adel. Even people who profess not to be churchgoers come to church this month. This is because we have so much to offer everybody; it's everybody's church.

Outside the church there is a crib scene, with all the usual people arriving: Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, animals, and, eventually, the Wise Men. "I'm not a churchgoer, but I love the crib scene on my daily walk through the churchyard". It's their church.

"I enjoy the carol service, but I'm not really a churchgoer" It's their church.

On Advent Sunday when the children lit the first candle in the Christmas wreath and received Advent calendars to the Sunday when the school choir sang for us. It's their church.

ACE met in the Stables and enjoyed a variety of activities, with a great deal of noisy fun, then finished as usual with Holy Communion in church. It's their church.

On 8th December the pre-school children of our ||s group met, and had gifts from the Christmas tree. It's their church.

At Junior Church on several Sundays in December, the children made wall ornaments in secret to decorate the interior walls of the church. It's their church.

There was a cold day when we had a church packed to the rafters, with mainly local people, for a wonderful concert by the Leeds Guild of Singers, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. It's their church.

As well as the 10am service, there were quieter, more intimate services, 8.30am each Sunday, and I I am each Wednesday, Holy Communion in the Stables followed by a cup of tea, for those who find the long path a challenge, and Blue Christmas for those who find Christmas hard. It's their church.

We had the Carol Service, with beautiful treble voices from the school choir singing the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City" with everyone packed in and lifting the roof with singing. It's their church.

Suddenly we're up to Christmas Eve; as well as the 10am service, this is the day of the Crib Services. We had one at 3pm, and another at 5pm. The latter should have been held outside but the wind and rain were offputting, so we jammed them in. Those who brought dogs stood on the doorstep, extra chairs were put out,

and children sat on kneelers round the When I asked him if he would like one base of the font. About 500 adults and children came to the two services where the children helped tell the story, bringing knitted figures up to fill the crib scene. It's their church.

Topped off by Midnight Mass and a joyful service on Christmas morning, we all can truly say, "This is our church!"

Jenny Jones

The joy the angels brought

In July a friend who lives locally arrived with a large box of angels to be distributed round Adel at Christmas time.



In December Marjorie brought me a bag of angels to put in people's gardens. One day I was in the supermarket and met a lady who was deciding which mince pies to buy. As she moved off, I realised that she had put them in my trolley. When I caught her up and gave them to her, she said what a stressful time it was, so I gave her an angel. She wanted to give me something in return and put a small Christmas cake in my trolley, forgetting that I would have to pay for it! However, she soon caught me up and gave me some money for the cake.

Later that week a young man was delivering my groceries and he noticed the angels which were near the door.

for his Christmas tree he said he would give it to his wife who has cancer. He seemed touched when I said that I would say a prayer for her.

The following Sunday I was at St Chad's in Bradford and gave one to a visiting priest from Pateley Bridge who had made it through the snow to take the service.

I gave some to people who have Home Communion and are unable to get to church. They were thrilled with them. My last angel has gone to Zambia with a friend who is taking it for her mother who has not been too well.

Many thanks to all the knitters and the friend who has knit so many angels for us; she does not come to church but is very generous with gifts for our stalls at events and enjoys reading Adel Bells.

The smiles on the residents faces made a big impression when Barbara distributed the angels after the Crib Service at Adel Manor Care Home.

I hope Marjorie Cole knows how much joy the angels have brought to so many people since she first had the idea some years ago.

Best Wishes for 2024 and my thanks to those of you who have supported my stalls and raffles. I do appreciate it.

Beryl Thompson

Letter from Canada

Helen not only watches our services online, she also follows Adel Church on Facebook and frequently makes comments. Although she has lived in Canada for many years, her love for Adel and its church is very clear. If you follow Facebook, you will more readily identify her as Helen Forbes Prescott Reynolds. I asked her to let us know about her life.

As I sit at my window, I see snow everywhere until March-April. My mind goes back to my early roots and am so fortunate to have been raised in Adel in such a loving home and church family. I fell in love by chance, on a trip, with a wonderful Canadian and 'cupid' did the rest! Have been home multiple times so am very lucky.

As we just passed through another Christmas season, it brought to mind so many wonderful memories you may be interested in sharing. My roots and heart will always be in Adel as my connection is deeply imbedded and

such a huge part of my life. After the war my parents lived in Church Lane, and in 1947 I was born and was christened in the existing font at the entrance to the church, an art form like none other. The rector

was Canon Philip Simpson who had a big influence on my life.

The church yard was a place of safety. In those early days most walked to church. (Cars were a definite luxury).

On entering the gate, passing the horse mounting step, not too many graves were visible. One thought to be a Roman coffin was very tempting and as kids we just had to try it out! The pathway had two full flagstones that my parents swung me over so I would not step on a crack! The doorway to the church had restorative work done later but preservation was definitely needed. I was saddened to see that the sanctuary knocker had been stolen years ago, I hope it shows up some day.

The grounds and church were tended by a wonderful man, Joe Wood, who could always be seen in his black cassock, whether around the church or working in the churchyard. He and his wife lived in a cottage next to the old church school. (A stone's throw from the blacksmith's shop). How everything looked so immaculate for only one man's labour was amazing.

The church itself was magical in its age. Families had their regular pews, ours being on the second right from the front! The heating was scanty and hot water pipes were in that area and it

could get pretty toasty as it ran under those pews ahead. Others were always warmly dressed for the cold of the church. At that time, people who wore fur coats were lucky, definitely not accepted in today's world! The altar was carved wood and adorned with a brass cross and candlesticks. Beautiful brass candelabras with multiple candles hung over the choir and organ areas. Before the service, one of the choirboy's duties was to light them, quite a chore, but it was nothing compared to the job of cleaning and polishing those 'antiques'. Few volunteers wanted to tackle that job! However, the church ran smoothly and had a lovely supportive community, as it has continued to date.

As I child, I attended a very active Sunday school held at the old Church school. We always received lovely pictorial Christian story books during the year, which I treasure and read to my grandchildren today! There were Brownie and Girl Guide groups that I belonged to which were held in the Stables. There is no duck pond in front of the Stables anymore, but for many they have great memories of feeding the ducks and cherish those times. I do enjoy the posts through Facebook and the many pictures people are kind enough to share. Thank you.

Helen Reynolds

MELODY & MIRTH

A concert in aid of

Breast Cancer Research Action Group

given by



Saturday 3rd February at 2.30pm

at Horsforth Golf Club Layton Rise

Tickets £7 including refreshments Available from Beryl Chadwick 0113 267 4507 Or Pam Kennedy

O113 256 3269

Tickets can be picked up on the afternoon, but it would be appreciated if we were told in advance how many were coming.

OPAL Activities

ell, the darkness of Winter is receding and here at OPAL we are looking forward to longer days and hopefully a beautiful Spring. We have continued all our activities throughout the dark days of Winter and they have helped our members stay active and social when it is very easy to stay in and not go out.

One of the additions to our existing busy timetable is an additional Memory Support Group (which will mirror the existing Memory Support Group which runs on alternate Tuesdays), this will be held fortnightly on Mondays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. This is a group for anyone who is living with memory issues and their carers (if applicable) and aims to provide support and advice in a friendly and social setting. If you think this is something that you could benefit from please call OPAL on 0113 2619103 and ask to speak to Sally-Anne for further details and to book on to the group.

Our craft group which meets in the Heather Room at the Welcome In on **Wednesday** mornings is increasingly popular and so it will now run every week instead of fortnightly until March 2024. This is the perfect opportunity to come along and work on a craft project you already have or maybe try a new craft. Members of the craft group are always willing to show off their craft skills and help new

members learn a new skill or practise their existing skills. Maybe 2024 is the year you learn a new hobby or rediscover a long last pastime.

A trip to the Royal Armouries

Our trips continue throughout the year and the next one will be to the Royal Armouries on 13th February, why not book on to this and experience the amazing collection of artefacts from around the world. We tailor our trips according to the normal weather expected so look out for more outdoor trips later on in the year when we will hopefully have beautiful weather.

If you are interested in any of the activities OPAL offers or if you would like more information, please contact us on 0113 2619103, email admin@opal-project.org.uk or call in to see us at the Welcome In Community Centre (55 Bedford Drive, LS16 6DJ)

Shelley ClarkProject Worker

York Gate Update

As someone with a January birthday, the snowdrop is one of my favourite flowers and so it is with great pleasure that I look forward to York Gate opening its gates this month for the annual Snowdrop Days.

Snowdrops are to be found all around the garden, in pots or hidden in a corner, beneath a tree or along the iconic Nut Walk. There are many different varieties for you to discover – see if you can spot snowdrops with unusual markings, colours, shape or size.

Snowdrops originated in Europe and the Middle East and the first recorded cultivation in England was in the 16th Century, although many believe they were brought over much earlier by Norman monks. They were grown in churchyards for Candlemas Day and in Abbeys as a medicinal plant for the treatment of "mal à la tête" or problems of the head.

The fact that snowdrops are often found in cemeteries or churchyards has led some people to think that these lovely flowers symbolise death so bringing them into the house is considered unlucky. However, there is another legend which dates back to the Garden of Eden. After God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden, Eve grew tired of the long winters. An angel then came to her and created snowdrops from the snowflakes that were falling and

showed her that winter doesn't last forever. Thus, snowdrops came to symbolise hope as the first flowers to appear after the snows of winter and are a harbinger of spring.

For me, I shall consider myself blessed to see snowdrops blooming on a beautiful winter's day whilst walking in the garden at York Gate or through the Adel Churchyard.

Snowdrop Days.

This year the Garden will be open for special Friends Only Preview Days from Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th February from 10am to 3pm and then the following week from Wednesday 21st to Sunday 25th February it will be open for all visitors, again 10am to 3pm. Plant Sales will also be open during these times with snowdrops and spring flowering plants available to buy and, of course, the Café will be open for refreshments.

The Garden will reopen for the season on 3rd April 2024 from 10am to 3.30pm.

Snow fell last night on York Gate site, A light white blanket covers all, Small snowdrops, patterned paths and maze.

Snow highlights other raised-up shapes By dressing them in winter drapes. **Val Crompton**

Gillian Smith Heritage Volunteer In the Granary Restaurant



In Your Garden

"February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March."

- Dr. J. R. Stockton

↑ hilst bright colour might be at **VV** something of a premium in the February garden there is always some colour somewhere. It might be subtle and typically modest but now is the time to appreciate the snowdrops and crocuses that will increasingly appear through the month, the pastel shades of the various hellebores starting to flower, the spidery flowers of the witch hazels and the red and green hues of the dogwoods that are now at their best. If you are very lucky you might also catch the luxurious scent of a Daphne. If you don't have any of these plants then you might want to engage in some garden planning.

Few gardeners are ever entirely happy with their gardens. Some plants grow, thrive and spread whilst others compete less well with inevitable casualties along the way. Often your own needs change as, for example, children grow older and no longer need the sandpit and the swing, so that over time all gardens evolve. If you want to make changes, then it will require both a plan and some action, in that order. If you are considering significant changes, or even a revolution, it is well worth getting input from local professional garden designers. Their input, local knowledge and advice will help you to get the

best out of your plot, as near to what you want as your individual site, location and budget will allow. Smaller scale planning can take many forms. You will need to decide which plants you would like, where you are going to plant them and what soil preparation is required, then source, order and plant them at some point over the following months. It is the same for all the bulbs that are now just showing themselves and are still to bloom. Bulbs are typically ordered around August time and planted in the autumn. Those fantastic displays of bulbs that are now just around the corner are the results of successful planning in previous years.

As well as all the feeders that I keep topped up and the fresh water that is available, I grow many plants that help sustain birds and encourage them to linger a little longer. Berry-rich shrubs such as cotoneaster and pyracantha and trees like rowan, hawthorn and holly provide food and shelter. Even the humble ivy, when allowed to mature and flower will provide nectar for early and late insects, fruit for birds and then shelter and nesting sites. February and March is when the natural food supplies of birds are most diminished so any assistance will be gratefully received.

George Turnbull

enquiries@adelgardencare.co.uk www.adelgardencare.co.uk

Nature Notes

What do you get for the birdwatcher who has everything?

Well, according to the The Times today: a pair of binoculars that not only helps you to see the bird, but will also identify it and tell you its name. They are not in the shops yet (will they ever be? I wonder) and the price quoted for the USA is 4,800 dollars, so I'm not expecting to receive a pair any time soon.

Rare Birds at St Aidan's



The nature reserve in East Leeds run by the RSPB, has been host to many rare birds in its short life and recently three Glossy lbises turned up there to set the pulses racing. We don't get lbises very much in this country so I had to look in the bird book to see what they look like. The Glossy lbis is dark brownish with long legs like a Heron and a down-curved beak like a Curlew. They nest round about the eastern end of the Mediterranean and winter mostly in Africa. How three of them could mistake East Leeds for Africa, I cannot imagine.

Although there is some alarm about the loss of birds from the countryside, birds that live in wetland habitats seem to be doing well. Spoonbills have bred in Leeds for some years, and Little and Great White Egrets can be seen in wetland areas. It is birds that live in the same areas as us that seem to be most at risk, particularly birds with a diet based on insects.

Bird Flu

This is still with us and seabirds that nest tightly packed together in large colonies on cliffs and small islands are very much at risk. It is still a few months until seabirds return to the breeding colonies, but numbers will be anxiously counted once they are back.

Yew Trees

I have been reading an article on Yew trees from which I learned several interesting things: the Yew is one of our four native conifers; trees are either male or female, but some trees can change one branch to the other sex and sometimes the whole tree changes sex. Yew was the preferred wood for the longbow and so many Yews were used that there were hardly any left on the continent, and I wonder if the planting of Yews in churchyards was an attempt to ensure that there would always be a supply of Yew staves for longbows.

Peter Larner

Adel History

The Hainsworths of Adel Mill

We still have Hainsworths in Adel-cum Hi Val -Eccup, but many years ago, some of the younger Hainsworth sons, from Adel Mill Farm, went out to farm in Canada, or in New Zealand. See email from Stephen Hainsworth.

You may remember Stephen's cousin, Chris Hainsworth, who is an Organist in France. He visited Adel 8 years ago, and we enjoyed an Organ Recital by Chris, in Adel Church.

Val Crompton



In 1715, the Arthington family built Adel Dam to provide water to power Adel Corn Mill wheel.

The Hainsworth family, for over 150 years, were the tenant millers and farmers. You can see their graves in Adel Churchyard.

Email from New Zealand

Best wishes for the Christmas season. It is far too long since I last contacted you. I spent some time reading the latest Adel Bells last week to discover that the parish seems to be thriving with activity and in good health - despite the challenges we all face in the world. I sent a link to Chris in France and he was also impressed with activity in Adel. I do hope that personally you are managing at home. Chris asked for your email address today so you may well hear from him.

My news is that I am retiring from teaching, end of March 2024. I will be nearly 68 by then. We plan to visit Yorkshire, perhaps July-August, and of course spend a few days at least in Adel and visit my cousins in Guiseley. Nothing is confirmed as yet, but I thought you should know and perhaps advise whom we might contact in Adel before we visit; it would be nice to meet you personally regardless.

For now I would like to wish you the best whatever your situation and I look forward to finally visiting my ancestral home at last. I will contact you in May to let you know we are on track to visit later in the year and any change of plan.

Merry Christmas to you and the congregation at Adel Kind regards

Stephen and Maryann Hainsworth

What's On

Headingley Flower Club at Bramhope Friday 2nd February **AGM**

7pm Guests are welcome at all meetings. A guest fee will be charged. Bramhope Village Hall, Old Lane, Bramhope. LS16 9AZ Contact Mrs Jean Money Tel 01924 468714



1152 Club **Tuesday 6th February** I0am

'The Power of Persuasion'

(Exhibition talk) Kitty Ross

The Club now meets in the Gate House at Abbey House Museum Contact Patrick Bourne Kirkstall.abbey@leeds.gov.uk 0113 3784079 Or ring Val Crompton 0113 225 9142



Adel Gardeners' Club Monday 12th February

'Clippings - making topiary and how to use it in the garden' Darren Lerigo Zoom into homes

The talk is a mix of some basic and some nuanced ideas on pruning, and will look at tools, technique, plants and an 'eye for design' when making topiary and hedges, and we will also discuss pruning roses, wisteria, fruit trees and clematis - so hopefully can give some helpful advice!https:// adelhort.chessck.co.uk/



Leeds & District Association of the National Trust **Tuesday 13th February**

'Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy (1833— 1918)'

Mary Holmes

Learn what this former pupil of Fulneck Girls School did for the rights of women. Is she a "feisty feminist?" Mary is an engaging speaker who puts Elizabeth's story in the context of the times and places she lived.

St Chad's Parish Centre.

Far Headingley

Talks begin at 10.30 am with coffee etc. served from 10.00 am. Association members £4.00. guests £5,

Refreshments by donation



Barry Anderson

University of Leeds woodland (Gair Wood)

\ \ \ ou may be aware of the creation of Gair Wood at the site of Clonmore Farm, In December I received an update from the University on the progress being made. They said: "The planting was completed at the end of February (2023) and the trees are doing quite well. We were fortunate to have a wet spring. Our immediate priority is to ensure they get established in the coming years. The site has been secured with new gates and signage. We will be adding more informative signage shortly providing additional information about the site. There have been some repairs to the stone walls by the gates on Black Hill Lane. We are in discussion with Leeds City Council about the first permissive path which runs along King Lane. This will open in 2024. Following test pit trials we should be able to construct the ponds in 2024."

Welcome Spaces

The Council have advised on this winter's "Warm Spaces" – The project for this winter will be known as "Welcome Spaces". Welcome Spaces will be delivered mainly by the third sector and faith-based organisations, as well as Leeds City

Council Community Hubs and Libraries. We expect that every organisation will have the following key things in place before they open their doors: A warm, welcome and safe space; Up-to-date Safeguarding Policy; Public Liability Insurance; Up-to-date risk assessment; Staff/volunteers with basic knowledge of local signposting.

Zero Waste Leeds – Winter Coat Appeal 2024

Alongside Welcome Spaces, the Leeds Winter Coat Appeal aims to collect and redistribute donations of great quality, second-hand winter coats. This year the appeal will run to the end February 2024. Requested items: Coats for adults, children, and babies: Waterproofs; Fleeces; Baby cot sleeping bags; Snow suits for babies and young children; Pram footmuffs to keep babies and children warm in their prams and buggies; Hats, scarves, and gloves. Selected Community Hubs, Libraries, Welcome Spaces, and community groups will be operating as distribution and collection points.

Lawnswood Arms to become a "Hickory's Smokehouse"

You may already be aware but the Lawnswood Arms will become a new restaurant called "Hickory's Smokehouse" from early next year.

Please support our advertisers and mention Adel Bells

The new manager has advised me as follows: "we are planning to embark on refurbishment works to completely transform the **Lawnswood Arms** public house into an exciting new family friendly restaurant venue for your Ward and the surrounding area. The work will not commence until early next year. As operators of high service level venues, we shall also be creating a good number of full and part time jobs; and we always prefer to recruit locally.

Fraud Alert

I have received a fraud alert as follows: "A fraud has successfully targeted two elderly ladies in the Dewsbury area costing thousands of pounds. The scam starts with a professional sounding automated message explaining there has been activity on their bank account and for the recipient to press I or 2 on their phone if this was not recognised. The pressing of the button then transfers the unsuspecting victim to a human caller who in turn takes details and 'transfers' them onto another 'department'.

The essence of the calls, which may

vary slightly, attempts to convince the victim that their money is at risk from the local branch. They convince the victim to withdraw money and send it off in the post or have someone collect it. You may think that you would never fall for something like this, nor did the victim's family. Please speak to your nearest and dearest about this and any other scams/frauds. Banks will NEVER ask you to withdraw money.

Consultation on Community Hubs and Libraries Opening Hours

The Council are currently consulting on savings proposals regarding Community Hubs and Libraries, and are reviewing the opening hours. If you would like to take part in the consultation there is an online version here https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/E3NDLX/. The Consultation will be live until 12th February 2024. Cllr. Barry Anderson Direct Dial 0113 3367742 www.barryanderson.org.uk
Twitter @barryanderson19

Billy Flynn

Happy New Year

I would like to wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year. Only a few weeks more and it will be Spring!

Adel Community Garden

You will recall that the organisers of the community garden were waiting for a formal licence to be issued by the council highways department. This was finally granted on 22 December, meaning the garden is now "legal" subject to the stringent conditions mentioned in earlier reports. On a slightly lighter note, I learnt recently that Highways had announced that it was highly unlikely that new trees would ever be allowed, but another council department had agreed that a local resident could sponsor a 5 metre high tree on the site! Left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing?

Road maintenance - or lack of it

Apart from the general disrepair many of our roads suffer from. I've had many complaints over the last few months about the condition of Church Lane from Back Church Lane to Black Hill Rd. I know that many of you despair at the awful state of the surface. Most the damage is laid at the hall of course, so it will be interesting door of HGVs, many of which are servicing the work at the golf course in King Lane. We share this geographic area with ward colleagues in Alwoodley and work closely with them. Our joint complaints were sent to enforcement officers but the outcome was less than satisfactory. Essentially, the conditions cannot be enforced, which begs questions about the conditions attached to most planning applications. If they can't be enforced for whatever reason what is the point of imposing them?

Fallen leaves

The leaf clearing team have made several visits to Adel but there are still a number of areas requiring attention,

some in the vicinity of the church. I've asked then to call out again to clear parts of our area. It's getting near to the end of the clearing season so if you know of any specific area with a major leaf problem, please me know.

Planning application for a new dwelling off Adel Lane

I received notification of an interesting outline planning application for a 2-bed single storey dwelling on land at the southwest corner of Adel Lane adjacent to its junction with Long Causeway. You may recall that the Horsforth Gospel Hall Trust applied to build a meeting hall and car park at this location back in 2017. That application was turned down. The present application is for a relatively small dwelling rather than a meeting to see how the application proceeds. If anyone would like to keep an eye on the application it can be accessed on the council's public planning portal, quoting reference number 23/05379/OT.

If you would like further information on the issues above or anything else in the ward, please do get in touch.

Telephone 0113 4694785

07810640282 or email billy.flynn@leeds.gov.uk

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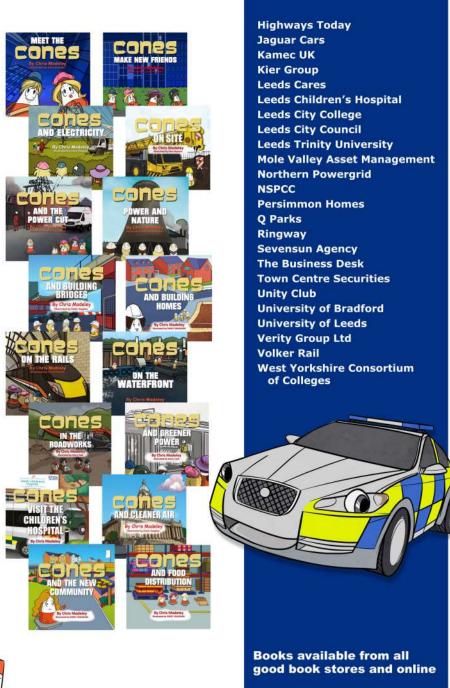
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Part of New Care, the two Yorkshire facilities provide expertly designed home-from-home environments, with residents benefiting from individual peson-centred care. They feature private bedrooms with en suite wet rooms, stylish communal lounges and dining rooms, a hairdresser and nail salon, plus beautifully landscaped gardens. A chef prepares nutritional meals daily whilst the wellness team coordinate stimulating activities

This what some of our residents and relatives had to say: "Excellent!"
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"Every member of staff shows kindness, support and care."

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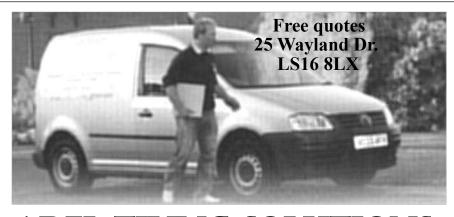
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- I RHYMES
- 3. STAFFA
- 4. ENDURE

Down

- I. RESOLE
- 2. STABLE

Jumble Crossword Across

- I. PETITE
- 5. CHASM
- 6. FLUNG
- 7. ECLAIR

Down

- I. PICNIC
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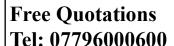
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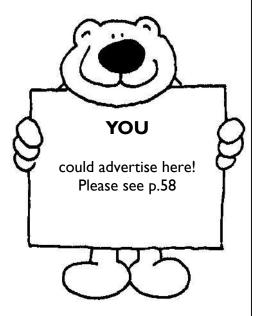
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Church Services in February

Fri 2nd 1.30pm J Js (for the under sixes)

Sunday 4th Second Sunday before Lent

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong

Wed 7th 11am Holy Communion

Followed by coffee and biscuits

Sunday 11th Sunday next before Lent

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion

5pm ACE meeting in the Stables

Wed 14th Ash Wednesday

11am Holy Communion with Ashing 7.30pm Communion Service with Ashing

Thurs 15th 3.15pm Holy Communion in the Stables,

with tea & coffee

Sunday 18th First Sunday of Lent

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am All Áge Service with Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong

followed by light refreshments

Tues 20th 7pm Compline

Wed 21st 11am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th Second Sunday of Lent

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion

5pm ACE meeting in the Stables

Tues 27th 7pm Compline

Wed 28th 11am Holy Communion

Junior Church is held during term time, but not on the 3rd Sunday when there is a 10am All Age service, with communion, and children are welcome for the whole of the service in church.

ACE is a group for school year 4 and above. We meet in the Stables to discuss our faith and play silly games.