



Church Services for January 2016

Sunday 3rd	SECOND OF CHRISTMAS / EPIPHANY	
	NO 8.15am Holy Communion Service	
	9.30am Parish Communion (CW)	
	NO 6.30pm Service	
Wednesday 6th	10.00am Toddler Praise	
Thursday 7th	10.30am First Thursday Holy Communion (BCP)	
Sunday 10th	BAPTISM OF CHRIST / FIRST OF EPIPHANY	
	8.15am Holy Communion (CW)	
	9.30am All.together Service	
	6.30pm Holy Communion (CW) with Healing Ministry	
Thursday 14th	10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	
18th to 25th January	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY	
Sunday 17th	SECOND OF EPIPHANY	
	8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)	
	9.30am Parish Communion (CW)	
	3.00pm Messy Church	
	6.30pm United Service for Christian Unity at the Methodist Church	
Thursday 21st	10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	
Sunday 24th	THIRD OF EPIPHANY / CONVERSION OF PAUL	
	8.15am Holy Communion (CW)	
	9.30am Service of Confirmation with Holy Communion	
	Bishop Paul Slater	
	6.30pm Choral Evensong	
Thursday 28th	10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	
Sunday 31st	FOURTH OF EPIPHANY / CANDLEMAS	
	8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)	
	9.30am Parish Communion (CW) with Healing Ministry	
	6.30pm Choral Evensong	
FEBRUARY 2016		
Wednesday 3rd	10.00am Toddler Praise	
Thursday 4th	10.30am First Thursday Holy Communion (BCP)	
SUNDAY 7th	SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
	8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)	
	9.30am Parish Communion (CW) with Healing Ministry	
	6.30pm Choral Evensong	



St Giles Review

January 2016

Confirmation Service

Conducted by Bishop Paul Slater

24th January 9.30am



O Come Let Us Adore Him



Also this month:
 News and events
 Epiphany
 British Museum
 Saint Paul
 Getting to know you
 Nathalon
 Agatha Christie
and much more

Priest in Charge: Rev Janice Smith
 Tel: 0113 203 7523 email: revjanice.smith@gmail.com
www.stgilesbramhope.org.uk

St Giles Directory

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	Mrs Joanne Dawdry Tel 203 7182 email: joannedawdry@gmail.com
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17 Jan Karen Giles
Norma Watkinson
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Prayer Schedule for Bramhope

We pray weekly, in conjunction with the Methodist Church, for all people living in our area. If you know of anyone who especially needs prayer please pass the details on to Janice or any of the Lay Assistants who will arrange for them to be included on the Prayer List.

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SIDESPERSIONS' ROTA

Sunday	8.15am	9.30am	6.30pm
1st	Bill Cunliffe Steve McGraw	Margaret North Philip Kendall-Smith	Margaret North
2nd	Mike Brown Joyce Shephard	John Grahame Neil Simpson	Margaret North
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Mr Bernard Williams
Mr Jonathan Slater*
(*ex officio*)

Deanery Synod Reps:

Dr John Grahame
(*ex officio*)
Mrs Joy Smith

Ministry Leadership Team

All indicated by *
Mr Bryan Bunday
Mrs Sue Osborne

As I write this note there are still over 2 weeks until Christmas. The tree is awaiting construction both at home and in the hall, a job I am going to attempt tomorrow with the CATS children! The band concert in church has kick-started the December events and we look forward to the Toy Service, 9 Lessons and Carols, Christingles and more. Autumn at St Giles has been busy. Probably

more busy than usual. I hope you've found an opportunity to visit. January is quieter but I don't suppose for long. Do take this opportunity to have a read of our pages and if you've any suggestions for future articles, please let us know.

May we all pray for a peaceful new year.

Gill

(*Marion's on holiday!*)

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On hymns – ancient and more ancient

From: The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So your church does not bother with hymnbooks, but uses one of those hideous screens which are invariably strategically placed to obscure the altar. I suppose I am bothered, as wherever you placed it in your converted cinema, it could never spoil its architectural aesthetics.

In my - fortunately limited - experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but wrong verse, or the right hymn and right verse, but all upside down. In any case, the turnover from one verse to the next always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started. This means that the congregation, having been silenced for lack of words, is then faced with the challenge of singing two lines at double time.

When we decided to move from 'Hymns More Ancient' to 'Hymns Slightly Less Ancient' some years ago, our Sunday attempts to 'make a

joyful noise unto the Lord' threatened to get lost in the noise of battle.

Colonel Wainwright was happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. Very keen on smiting is the Colonel; under his command, the Midianites wouldn't have stood a chance. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies wanted those they had sung at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped 'thine's or 'wouldst's. Then a vicious rumour started that the new hymnbook might even offer hymns written in the last 50 years. At this, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village (and church).

Eventually we reached the perfect solution: we did nothing. Instead, Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. But there was still a crisis to come: her young (and radical) niece decided to add a note in the front of every copy. It suggested that if the page for

the hymn you wanted was missing, then you could share with the person sitting next to you. Of course, no one has done that yet; it would be an experience almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace.

And so we struggle on with our 'Hymns More Ancient', whenever we can find the words. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

I think you'll all agree our screen at St Giles is operated by brilliant operators and provides a successful addition to services when used! Ed

THEREFORE,
IF ANYONE IS IN
CHRIST
THE OLD
HAS GONE
THE NEW
IS HERE!

➡➡➡
2 Corinthians 5:17

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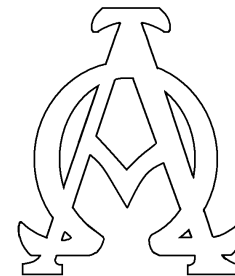
From the Vicarage

Hello Everyone

May I personally wish you all a Happy New Year, whatever that happiness may be to you. Perhaps a year of less troubled times, or a year of family happiness, or a year of job satisfaction, or business success or good health the list is endless of what makes our personal happiness.

What I hope and pray for everyone is that this year will be the year that your faith increases, that you follow Jesus more nearly and have faith that God is by your side no matter what your circumstances.

What I hope and pray for the church is that it



will be relevant to you, the community in which we live; that it will proclaim the message of Good News of salvation to all people; that it will repeat the angels message of 'Fear not' in these troubles times; that it will be an oasis of calm and peace in the frenetic world in which we live.

Keith and I would like to thank the community in which we worship for their help, support, love and kindness on the death of Keith's mother. Thank you so much for all that you did on the day of the funeral and the cards, flowers and messages of support and understanding at a



difficult time. Dora was much loved, both in our family and in the church, where she worshipped every week until her health began to fail.

What I hope and pray for our new Bishop Paul Slater is that he will have a year of support from our parishes, that his ministry will be blessed and that he will be called on many times to welcome new Christians into the church.

Bishop Paul will be coming to our church on 24 January to confirm and welcome 4 young people and 2 adults at our 9:30am service. It is a time for thankfulness to God, a time to celebrate and a time to reflect on our mission here in Bramhope. Everyone is warmly invited to the service.

A New Year focuses our thoughts on what we wish for the coming year. In faith perhaps we should take Hebrews 12 to heart and say

'let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end.'

May your New Year be as hopeful on the first of January as it is on the last day of December 2016 – Alpha and Omega.

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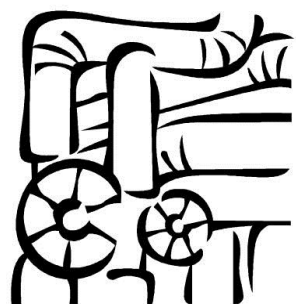
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The lady who gave us Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple

Dame Agatha Christie, the crime novelist who is probably as widely known as any modern writer in English, died 40 years ago, on 12 January 1976. Not least among her achievements is her play *The Mousetrap*, still in the West End after more than 26,000 performances. In its 64th year, it is the longest running show of any kind in the world.

But most people encounter Dame Agatha as author of one of her many detective novels, often featuring either Hercule Poirot or Miss Marple. She also wrote a series of six romance novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott, and 19 plays. Thirty of her detective novels were turned into films, and she wrote over 80 books in all.

Her detective novels have been described as both moral and theological, in that guilt and justice are at their core. It has also been pointed out that hers was a profoundly Christian world.

She was baptised into the Church of England and kept a copy of *The Imitation of Christ* at her bedside – as did

her amateur sleuth, Jane Marple. Her outlook was conservative.

Born Agatha Miller in Devon in 1890, she lost her father at the age of 11 and went to finishing school in Paris. She married Archibald Christie, an aviator, in 1914, but by 1926 he wanted a divorce and Agatha disappeared, abandoning her car on a cliff. She was found 11 days later at a Harrogate hotel, registered under the

name of her husband's mistress.

The couple divorced in 1928 and Agatha took to travelling. She met her second husband, archaeologist Max Mallowan, a big fan of hers and considerably younger, at a dig site in Ur. She married him in 1930 and they remained happily married. His work inspired many of her subsequent plots.

Parish Pump

New Year 2016

If we put our hand in God's hand
As we enter this New Year
Not knowing what the future holds
But that our Friend is near.

We shall not fear what lies ahead
If He is by our side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If He will be our guide.

The Sinless One from heaven came
To dwell with us on earth,
He sought and bought us with His blood
And offered us new birth.

Now as we travel through this year
He knows the things He's planned,
So let us trust and know just this -
Our times are in His hands.

Megan Carter

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Parish Registers

Baptism

13th December

Nicholas George Scott
Goodwin

Funerals

19th November

Jessie Wood

20th November

Richard Perkin

Baptism Anniversary

Spencer Gabriel Dodds

Diary for January 2016

5	Tues	Circle Dancing 7.45 pm
6	Wed	Toddler Praise 10 – 11.00 am
6	Wed	Luncheon Club 12.15 pm
13	Wed	PCC Meeting 7.30 pm
13	Wed	CATS 9.15 – 11.30 am
13	Wed	Mothers' Union New Year Lunch 12.00 for 12.30 pm
14	Thurs	Men's Supper Club 6.30 for 7.00 pm Ken Cothliff "History of Yeadon Airport"
17	Sun	Fair Trade Stall 10.30 am
17	Sun	Messy Church 3.00 - 5.00 pm
19	Tues	Circle Dancing 7.45 pm
20	Wed	CATS 9.15 – 11.30 am
20	Wed	Open House 2.00 – 4.00 pm
20	Wed	Women's Fellowship New Year Party 7.30 pm
24	Sun	Activities for under 7's during 9.30 am Service
27	Wed	CATS 9.15 – 11.30 am



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funerals should be made to

Rev Janice Smith

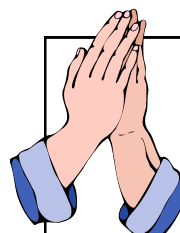
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Epiphany Prayer

Father of all, Thank you for the revelation you gave to those
travellers from the East so long ago. Thank you that
everyone who truly searches for you will find you, in Jesus.
Show us your Son afresh, we pray, so that, at the start of this
New Year, we can go forward hand in hand with him, into
whatever the New Year might hold for us, knowing the security
which only he can give.
Give us confidence and peace and strength to live each day with
that assurance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daphne Kitching



Please ask your friends or relations to let us know if you wish for
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New exhibition looks at 1200 years of Christianity, Islam and Judaism

The British Library has lent one of its greatest treasures, the world's oldest Bible, to the British Museum for an exhibition exploring 1,200 years of Christian, Islamic and Jewish faith in Egypt after the pharaohs.

The Codex Sinaiticus is considered to be one of the most important books in the world. It dates back to the 4th century AD. Handwritten in Greek, not long after the reign of the Emperor Constantine the Great, it contains the earliest complete manuscript of the New Testament.

The Codex was bought in 1933 by Britain from the Soviet government of Joseph Stalin, desperate to raise cash for the second five-year plan. Remarkably, more than half the £100,000 cost was raised by public subscription. Experts now believe the Codex was the work of four scribes, known as A, B1, B2 and D (the existence of a C has now been disproved by modern scholars). The Codex was the prototype for every subsequent Christian Bible.

In the British Museum exhibition, the Codex is displayed alongside two other founding texts of the Hebrew and Muslim faiths: the First Gaster Bible, also being loaned by the British Library, and a copy of the Qur'an from the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

They are part of what is the first major exhibition to explore, in its 1,200-year entirety, the transition of Egypt from a pharaoh-worshipping society to a majority Christian and then majority Muslim society, with Jewish communities periodically thriving throughout. The exhibition argues that the transitions, from a society worshipping many gods to a society devoted to one God, shaped the modern world we know today.

* Egypt After The Pharaohs is at the British Museum, 29 October-7 February, supported by the Blavatnik Family Foundation.

'He gave us eyes to see them'- The Church Door: St John's Adel

Rev Michael Burgess begins our procession through the Church, starting at the Church Door of the glorious Norman building of St John's Church, Adel, near Leeds in West Yorkshire.....

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St Paul - the first Christian intellectual

This month, on 25th January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions - what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to organise a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and it replied, 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced him that Jesus - crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier - was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of

instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name by which history has recognised him, Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD.

Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially his death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing. He's not always easy to follow. Even the New Testament admits that: 'there are some things (in his letters) hard to understand' (2 Peter 3:16).

But at the same time he gave the new faith a foundation and credibility which have stood it well down the centuries.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. He was, of course, a man of his time and culture, in days when women were disregarded in terms of status and leadership.

But read his letters, and see how large a role women play in them and how much scope he gave them to lead and teach in the Church. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal!

I think the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25th January.

Canon David Winter



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We three kings of Orient are... ?

"A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey, in. The way's deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off, in solstitio brumali, the very dead of winter."

It was 1622, and the Bishop of Winchester, Launcelot Andrews, was preaching a magnificent sermon to King James I.



Reckoned one of the best preachers ever, Launcelot Andrews' words were later taken up by T S Eliot and transformed into his wonderful poem 'The Journey of the Magi'. What a vivid picture – we can see it all! The camels' breath steaming in the night air as the kings, in their gorgeous robes of silk and cloth-of-gold and clutching their precious gifts, kneel to adore the baby in the manger.

Yet the Bible does not give us as much detail as some people think. Tradition down

the centuries has added a great deal more. For instance, we know from St Matthew that the magi were 'wise', or learned men of some sort, but we do not know if they were kings or not. The Bible tells us there were several; tradition has decided upon three, and even named them: Balthassar, Melchior, and Caspar (or Gaspar). But the Bible does tell us that the magi gave baby Jesus three highly symbolic gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Gold stands for kingship, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for anointing – anticipating his death.

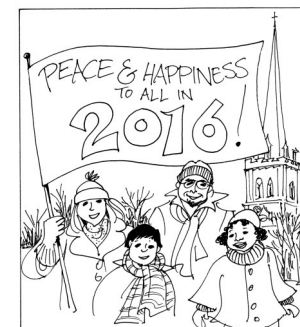
There is a lovely ancient mosaic in Ravenna, Italy, that is 1,500 years old. It depicts the wise men in oriental garb of trousers and Phrygian caps, carrying their gifts past palm trees towards the star that they followed... straight to Jesus.

Parish Pump

Nathalan - an early Scottish farmer

Many saints have fed the poor, but not many were interested in actual food production. Nathalan (died c.678) was, so perhaps he might be the patron saint of anyone who produces food – and gives most of it away to those in need.

Scotland in the 7th century must have been a hungry place, especially as far north as the Aberdeen district. According to his Legend in the Aberdeen breviary, he was a nobleman who decided to cultivate his land as a way of serving God. He wanted to feed the people in times of famine. It is not known what food he managed to grow so far north, but Nathalan was well-loved for providing what he could.



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Getting
to know.....

Sheila and Bernard Williams with Ben, the dog!

Bernard was born and bred in Ferryhill, Co. Durham and educated at Spennymoor Grammar School before gaining his degree in Electrical Engineering at Liverpool University.

Sheila was born in Hartlepool, Co. Durham and was educated at Jarrow Grammar then Spennymoor Grammar School which is where she met Bernard, ahh! She went to college in Madeley, Cheshire to train as a Domestic Science teacher.

Sheila and Bernard write:

'After marrying in 1971 we lived in Sheffield where Bernard was employed in the computer industry. He decided he wanted a change in direction and decided on a career in Social Housing instead. This he thoroughly enjoyed, becoming Director of Housing for Middlesbrough and Chief Executive of a Housing Association at Middlesbrough before retiring in 2008.

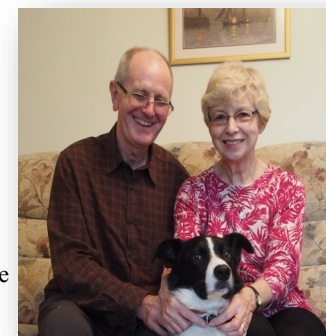
Sheila gave up teaching to be a home mum for our children, Mark and Joanna, returning to teaching for 7 years before retiring in 2001.

We moved to Bramhope in 2010 to be nearer our family - Joanna, who lives in Weetwood, Leeds and Mark who lives at Hebden Bridge.

We soon became part of the congregation at St. Giles. Bernard is treasurer of St Giles, which keeps his brain active!! He also has a faithful companion, Ben, who keeps his legs active!! Sheila is a member of the Mother's Union, NSPCC and the Church Social Committee and helps with the monthly Lunch Club - all activities that involve food and drink!

Bernard enjoys gardening, walking with Ben and doing DIY when the children call him in! Sheila enjoys creating anything with needles; sewing, knitting or patchwork as well as baking, and we both enjoy getting away in our motor home.

Sheila Williams



We have always been involved with local Churches. Bernard was a Methodist but we went to the local parish church in Sheffield where he became treasurer. On moving to Washington New Town, alas not the USA, we attended a very successful Ecumenical Church made up of Anglican, Methodist and URC denominations. It can work! On moving to Maltby we joined the nearby Methodist Church - the local parish church was closed. Here Bernard was treasurer and steward in the Stockton Methodist Circuit.

We have moved house many times, (Sheila 16 times!) We can honestly say the Bramhope move was the best move we made. We have been made to feel very welcome, particularly within the St. Giles family and have made some true friends.'

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Events Group News Notices.... Events....

to sing and dance to a carol. It doubles the intention!

We wish everyone a very happy and healthy and hopeful New Year.

Joan Peart

Children's Society

Many thanks to all who supported the Box Opening on November 14th. The total raised from the stalls and sale of soup was £303.71 and the boxes raised £1573.28. This was a slight decrease of about £160 on last year's total but still an excellent amount considering all the other worthy charities and worldwide catastrophes that demand our financial support and the Children's Society thank you all most sincerely.

My personal thanks as ever to the very efficient and jovial team of counters Ken, Neil, Jim, Dave, John and Philip and to Kirsten and the amazing coin sorting technology!

Anne Marshall

Musings on Messiah

Re this article in

December's SGR. Believe it or not, the alto soloist at St Aidan's happened to be Hannah Mason, who also sang in St Giles Choir at the same time as Sarah. Her father was the Choirmaster and organist at the time. Hannah is now a professional singer spending most of her time in London. She has a little boy and lives in Harrogate. The performance played to a 'full house'.

Gill Pinches

Sultans of Swing

Getting us all into the 'Christmas spirit', the brass band concert on 5th December in the church was a great success. As we go to press we are awaiting the final total which is going to be match funded by Barclays. Thank you to all who supported and helped at the event.

STOP PRESS: with Barclay's generous match funding £1,636.00 was raised!

Women's Fellowship

We had a very interesting talk in November by

Margaret Thompson about Dogs for the deaf. Margaret was a wonderful speaker and her aim was to bring awareness to people that 'Hearing dogs' exist.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Market, a change from our annual carol service, and do hope that it is well attended. Thanks go to all those who have helped to organise this new event.

Next month we have our New Year Party on Wednesday evening 20th January. Hope to see you there.

Janet Cunliffe

Rydal Hall

Please can we remind everyone that the balance is now due for those going to Rydal Hall as we need final numbers.



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The Way I See It: Keeping connected

When you think about it, life revolves around keeping connected. From the moment we are born we instantly connect with mummy (think of the pictures of the royal baby!). Then we begin to connect through our family, then our school friends, colleagues at work and those we connect with through interests, hobbies or neighbourliness. Then, for many people, there is a major and life-long 'connection' with a partner. Our lives are made meaningful, colourful and fulfilling largely because of our 'connections'. My mother used to speak of people we knew (posher than us) who were 'well-connected'. Even at nine years old I knew what she meant.

The modern world expects us to be connected in other ways, too. Someone was complaining in a recent newspaper article that BT had left them disconnected for a month when they moved house - disconnected, that is, from phone, email and internet. People who can't Twitter or do Facebook feel disconnected from the 'social media', as they are

called. Nobody likes to be 'cut off'.

Loneliness is a fearful fate, and at its worst it is, of course, total disconnection - not from the human race, but from our significant connective people (friends, family, even neighbours). It is the invisible plague in our midst, to be truthful: top of the list of disabilities for many older people.

So, how can we improve our 'connections'? My great-niece is a GP in the Midlands. She told me that many of her older patients don't have any specific medical condition. They are simply lonely, and that brings on worries and mental niggles that eventually become a crippling handicap. At one level it's

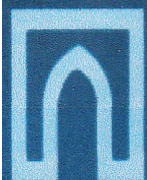
the inevitable consequence of time and mortality, of course, but it's exacerbated by a life-style that tends to be immersed in itself. Couples tend not to be 'joiners'. 'We've kept ourselves to ourselves', people say. But there's often a price to pay in the end.

'Why don't you try church?' my young relative asks. 'But I'm not religious', they reply. To which she counters, 'You don't have to be religious to go to church. They need everyone they can get!' I don't know how effective this particular piece of evangelism has been, but it's certainly true that church is, or should be, one place where you'll be warmly welcomed - and quickly make 'connections'.



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Events Group News Notices.... Events....

Mothers' Union

We welcomed Advent with our annual Advent Service, conducted by Janice. It was a lovely service made all the more special because we formally admitted 5 new members! Welcome to Judith (Jude) Jones, Edwina (Edie) Whitehouse, Christine Smith, Jenny Platt and Sally Wilkinson.

Our next meeting is our New Year lunch on 13th January. If you haven't put your name down please ring June Pickles (284 2109) to book a place. The cost of the lunch is £10.50p.

Gill Pinches

Lost Property

In the cloakroom off the hall is a box labelled 'Lost Property'. PLEASE will everybody have a look in here and reclaim items belonging to them. What remains unclaimed will be given to charity. Thank you.

Krystyna Novak

Men's Supper Club

At the time of writing we are still looking forward to our Christmas Meeting on

December 10th, eating our Christmas Meal and hearing our invited speaker, the Revd Gordon Dey, talk about his 'Holy Land Experiences'. Gordon intends to highlight the sights and sites that are associated with the ministry of Jesus. He visited Israel and Palestine only last September with a group that included a small party from St Giles'.

As is traditional at the Christmas Meeting, we will also sing a few carols, led by John Smith on the piano.

The first meeting of 2016 will be on Thursday 14th Jan. when we welcome Ken Cothliff, whose topic is "The History of Yeadon Airport".

Please contact **Derek Owram (0113 284 3301)** by Sunday 10th Jan. **at the latest** if you need to clarify whether you are attending or not.

Fred Archenhold

Magazine Subscriptions

Subscriptions will be due for 2016 immediately after Christmas when your deliverer brings the January magazine. Thank you for

supporting St Giles Review.

Joanne Dawdry

Circle Dancing

I wonder how many of us will realise when singing all the beautiful Carols during the festive season, that the word "Carol" actually means DANCING IN A CIRCLE? It comes from the ancient Greek 'choros' and from the Old French word 'carole', meaning a song to accompany dancing. In the Middle Ages, carols were dances accompanied by singing. It is thought that these dances were introduced to England from France. Over the years, the word carol changed its meaning, referring only to certain kinds of songs, particularly Christmas Songs.

With this in our minds, we shall be doing the Shepherds Dance, which is still done in Brittany, with all the villagers dancing through the streets with lanterns and candles, in a long long line. We shall also be dancing to Away in a Manger, We Three Kings, and In the Bleak Midwinter. It's really good