



ADEL BELLS

Parish Magazine 70p

MARCH 2026



**But we have love · See Leeds making history
A love letter to the city of Oxford · Lady Day
He absolutely follows the tea brewing rules
Growing roses in Kenya · A peaceful retreat
We'd probably be expected to give up sweets**

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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 2025—2026

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Bob Holloway, Alison Howarth,
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Marjorie Cole

Illustrators

Val Crompton
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Church Open for Visitors

Monday and Saturday 1.45pm to 3.45pm

Parish Registers

Baptisms

18th January

6 of our young church members :
James, Theo, Thomas, Philippa,
Charlotte and Sofia

Funerals

13th January

Robert Johnson

29th January

John Lundy



Festivals & Feasts

15th March

Mothering Sunday

19th March

Joseph of Nazareth

25th March

Annunciation of our Lord to the
Blessed Virgin Mary



A prayer for today

Lord, help me to be honest and open
with you,
even when my false behaviour
doesn't allow me
to be as honest and open with myself
and others
as I should be.

Amen

Tom Gordon

A selection of prayers

The Prayers are drawn from Psalm 91

The Lord covers us with his feathers,
we find shelter under His wings.
Loving God, open our hearts to
understand the wonder of Your love
for us.

The Lord is a strong rock and
provides a firm footing so that our
feet do not slip.

The Lord pulls us out of deep water;
He rescues us.

We need only stretch out our hands
and the Lord is there to hold us up.

Loving Lord, we thank You for Your
constant loving-kindness and faithful
care of us.

Amen



Association for Church Editors



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

From the Editor

There is much reference in this month's magazine to the need to help people facing unimaginable difficulties. And surely Lent is the ideal time to do this. Although, as Adrian tells us on p. 20, there are various ways of acknowledging Lent, almsgiving being one of them, if we live more simply and focus our attention on caring for others we will be this person God wants us to be. And, as Alison says in her letter, we can step forward and offer help close to home in the form of Lighthouse Church. More details about this later.

Last month you read Tang's piece advising us not to buy roses as they

will have travelled right across the world. Some readers were so impressed by this article they wrote to me explaining their own thoughts on the subject, reminding us that there is always more than one way of viewing a problem. Do have a look at p. 16 and make up your own mind. As you will see I have headed this page 'Readers' Comments', so if you would like to send me any thoughts of your own about this month's magazine, please do not hesitate to do so.

I know snowdrops will be finished by the time you read this, but those in the churchyard last month (picture on cover) were so beautiful I wanted to share them with you.

Marjorie



**Sunday 29th March
at 2am
Clocks forward by one hour!**

**Magazine Editor
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**Marjorie Cole
adelbellscm@gmail.com**

RECTOR ALISON'S LETTER

Dear Friends

I wonder what the term 'church' means to you? It may be our beautiful ancient building, or the people who have worshipped there for centuries. It may be less positive; sadly, like most institutions, churches sometimes hurt the people they are there to serve. If this is you, and we might help to heal that hurt, do get in touch.

In Adel, we like to think of 'church' as a family of all ages, working out together what it means to follow Jesus. We are a parish church, so we are here for anyone who feels they need us. We meet to worship God, to learn, to be with friends, to support one another, and to have fun. We also hope to share the good news of Jesus and his love with those around us.

I suspect many other churches would give a similar description, although they may do this in very different circumstances. In Leeds we have a very special example in 'Lighthouse Church', which describes itself as 'a Christian community for those battered and bruised by the storms of life'. They are based in the city centre, using St George's church and crypt, Leeds Minster and St John's New Briggate; serving the homeless, those living in addiction, those the

world seems to have abandoned. Like most churches, they have a Sunday service, importantly followed by a hot meal. On Mondays they provide a warm space, pastoral care and help for those in addiction. On Wednesdays a drop-in session is followed by a dramatised bible reflection, healing workshops, prayer stations or holy communion. Thursdays see a communion and prayer service, and on Fridays some members attend Horsforth shed, enabling the expression of creativity by learning and practising handicraft skills through woodwork and furniture restoration projects.

However welcoming we try to be at Saint John's, we know there are people who could not access our worship and activities. What we are very excited to do though, is offer help to Lighthouse, so that they can do the work we cannot.

You will notice they have a gap on Tuesdays – they are hoping to fill this with a new venture aimed at providing one to one sessions for those who need extra support. This will require more staff, and the cost for a trial period is estimated at about £2000. It would be wonderful if we in Adel – church and community – could make this happen. More information will be available in church, when Lighthouse

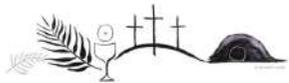
lead Rev'd Jon Swales preaches; and via Facebook and our website.

There is also the chance to be involved more directly by volunteering at one of their sessions. At Adel church our faith is deepened by hearing from each other. Ideas from different ages, backgrounds and stages of life help us to understand Jesus' words and actions. This will be enriched further if we hear from people facing difficulties few of us can imagine.

If you don't already, do come along to **your** parish church, and help us to continue developing what church means in Adel in 2026.

With love and prayers
Alison

Holy Week & Easter



Palm Sunday, 29th March

8.30am Said Eucharist with blessing of palms



14th March
9.30am in the
Churchyard

10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church, procession and blessing of Palms

Monday 30th March

7.30pm Words and Music for Holy Week

Tuesday 31st March

7.30pm Eucharist

Wednesday 1st April

7.30pm Compline

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April

7.30pm Sung Eucharist with foot washing, stripping of the altar and (optional) watch until 10pm

Good Friday, 3rd April

10am - 12 noon Family activities in the Stables

2pm Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Day, 5th April

6am Dawn Eucharist with the new fire of Easter, renewal of baptism promises and the first Eucharist of Easter (followed by breakfast)

10am Parish Eucharist with a baptism and children's Easter egg hunt.

ELECTORAL ROLL & APCM

Revision of Church's Electoral Roll 2026

The existing Church's Electoral Roll is due for revision in time for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to be held on **29th March**.

If you are already on the Roll you do not need to take any action unless you have moved house in the last twelve months in which case please let me have your new address. If you are not on the existing Roll but would like to attend the APCM then you must complete an application form, available at the back of the Church or from me from **28th February** and return it either to me or by placing it in the red box at the back of the Church. All forms must be returned by the deadline of **15th March**. After this date no new names can be added until after the APCM.

Please read the Application Form and attached notes carefully. If you have any further questions please get in touch with me or Reverend Alison. Our privacy policy relating to the Electoral Roll is available on the Church website or by paper copy from me.

Beryl Stoker, Electoral Roll Officer
Mobile: 07720864432
Email: berylstoker@yahoo.co.uk

Charitable Giving

Last year the PCC agreed to giving £250 to each of the following charities

St Anne's Community Services
US
Progress to Change (previously West Yorkshire & the Dales Council for Social Concern)
Wheatfield's Hospice
Christians Against Poverty
St Gemma's Hospice
Martin House Hospice for Children and Young People
Emmaus Leeds
The Governors of Adel St John the Baptist (Aided) Primary School
Caring for Life
St George's Crypt
Kids in Kampz
Lighthouse West Yorkshire
Zarach

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 29th March
at 11.30

in the Stables

Please come and support
Alison and the PCC

REV'D IAN REFLECTS

Might is not right

You may have seen reference to a senior US official saying that might is right and that it always has been, it's just plain realism, that's how the world works. When I read it, a chill went down my spine. But then I reminded myself that not only is this not so and it is not how the world works, and that we know this from the life and death of Jesus.



The ultimate demonstration of this truth is Christ on the cross. The Son of God through whom all things were made showed the true strength of God in weakness and giving his life, an act, with God raising Jesus from the dead, that transformed the entire universe. A

transformation brought through obedience to God, humility and weakness.

Small wonder that Paul can say, "God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong." [1 Corinthians 1:27] On the cross, Christ shows us that love is the strongest power in the universe, not human strength and that reconciliation is God's way for humanity.

This being so, what do we do in the face of proponents of might is right?

I'm not going to argue for pacifism, although I often think that I should. We proclaim what we stand for, for justice, for reconciliation, for love and against violence as the way to resolve disputes. We proclaim God's Kingdom here present. While the world appears to be taking a very unstable turn, we point to signs of God's Kingdom and of the transformative power of love.

With world events the way they are, we may be tempted by just accepting that, well, perhaps might proves to be right after all. A better response is from P D James, the renowned crime novelist who ended the final of her fourteen Inspector Dalgleish novels with this, said by a female victim of violence:

"The world is a beautiful and terrible place. If the screams of all earth's living creatures were one scream of pain, surely it would shake the stars. But we have love. It may seem a frail defence against the horrors of the world, but we must hold fast and believe in it, for us it is all that we have."

Just so. "God is love and those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them." [1 John 4:16]

Ian Johnston

IN BRIEF

Forward Thinking

We recently held an afternoon tea on Valentine's Day. It set me to thinking about how couples meet each other. I feel sure many of you have interesting stories to tell. Next year in our February edition it would be good to publish your stories. They could even be anonymous if you would prefer it that way. Please send contributions (just a few lines will do) to me at adelbellscm@gmail.com. Send them at any time and I will store them safely until it is time to start on that issue.

Marjorie Cole

Cash donations for the Food Bank

Helping the hungry by donating much-needed food and drink to the food bank has long been seen as essential in Adel Church, However, as you no doubt remember, there is another way of supporting all those families. We are accepting cash donations in church throughout the whole period of Lent, which started with Ash Wednesday on 18th February. The scheme allows us to get greater value for our money. At the same time we help people who can't carry food to our collection but would like to

contribute. A box will be available in church throughout March. Thank you for your support.

Chris Madeley

An Apology

Last month I wrote about the Leeds group of Ageing Without Children (AWOC). Unfortunately I did not spot a mistake I had made and I got the group leader's name wrong. Her surname is Basson. I apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

Marjorie

100 Club Draw for January

1 Alison Howarth	£80.00
2 Vanessa Hinton	£40.00
3 Vic Duncombe	£30.00

Erratum

In my quiz about archbishops on p.19 of last month's magazine I may have misled you. The Cuthbert who became Archbishop of Canterbury in the 8th Century was not the Cuthbert most of us know, the famous saint of Northumbrian fame, who died in the 7th Century.

Marjorie Cole

LETTER FROM LILY

Hi Everyone!

I am writing to you in a state of high dudgeon – a new phrase for me which I have been looking for an opportunity to use! My paws are wet, my tail is like an old rope, my hair has gone all curly ☹️ and that's not all: I'm having to wear *my coat!* I expect you're the feeling the same (except the paws and tail bit, obviously). I know we need it, but enough rain is enough.

Mind you, I do feel very sorry for all the animals which live outside – it must be dreadful – and for the farmers – and for children going to school – and for homeless people and . . . well, everyone. It is so hard for people who have had their homes and businesses flooded. We can't imagine the devastation caused by too much of a good thing can we? I am very thankful we live on a hill.

Be positive. Let's look at some good things to cheer ourselves up. Snowdrops and daffydeals

(I can never spell that but you know what I mean) crocus – now these are cheerful things – so pretty. Oh yes! Let's not forget the lambs! I would love to play with them and can't think

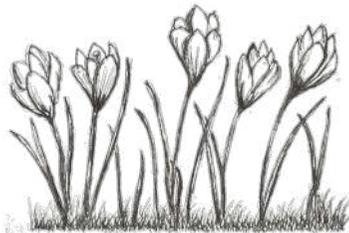
why I'm not allowed. They like to chase and run like I do and we do look very similar.

God gives us good things to enjoy

I'm feeling better just thinking how amazing it is that God gives us good things to enjoy on these dark, wet days. It cheers me up thinking of the marvels of creation and seeing the continuity of the seasons. Each one is a fulfilment of God's promise that He is always there and has good things in store for us.

In Lent, we think about our lives: what we are about, our priorities, failings, strengths, weaknesses, blessings and embrace the happy realisation that however dark life gets, God is always there, demonstrating that he loves us in so many ways.
God bless. Woofs & Lix

Lily xxx



MY DAY IN CUPS OF TEA

How do you like to start your day ?

Well, my day has to start with my morning cuppa in bed. After a working life of early alarms, my retirement mornings are just nicely indulgent, slow paced and luxurious. Ian is tasked with the tea making and delivers THE best cup of jasmine tea, due partly to Ian's absolute following of tea brewing rules; real jasmine tea leaves, water nicely to 79C and tea leaves seeped for exactly two minutes.

And where are you waking up ?

Life brought us to settle finally in Harrogate after many years moving to nomadic proportions for work and adventure. In this our "done roaming" house we find ourselves happy and content that we are blessed to have fabulous neighbours, a nice neighbourhood with nearby countryside and the city of Leeds.

And how did you end up being a priests wife ?

As I look back I see that I have wandered through quite a career path. I started out in nursing, was selected for a high powered NHS management scheme and ended my career days at the Department of Health as a senior civil servant. Then

I retired early and so was pleased to have time when Ian subsequently was ordained and I became his back room support. . . . And even though he is also now retired, his ministry and my support joyfully go on.

What is the most memorable morning tea break you've had ?

In my younger days, I was lucky enough to have a work placement in Flinders Hospital in Adelaide, Australia . And it was here that I discovered the ritual that was "morning tea" - a mid morning break at around 10.30 am which had to involve a small meal/ snack, with a cup of tea. This was common practice across Australia. Work places generally. I can recall much lemon drizzle cake, an abundance of scones and jam and assorted biscuits and I enjoyed all !

Who would you like to share a cuppa with ?

It would be my dear friend Elinor, who took me in as her nanny as my first job. A chaotic house of political medics in Cardiff; it was great fun and they taught me a great deal about life and nurtured me as I nurtured their children. On the rare occasions I have seen her since she has always been a great tea buddy, had wild stories to tell and never

disappointed. I always delighted in hearing about her writing adventures and loved the fact that her best selling book was entitled *She who embroiders the truth!*

It's afternoon tea time - do you have a best cuppa story ?

Well, my afternoons tend to rush by in my retirement as I've succumbed to an after dinner snooze. However, my best afternoon cuppa and experience has to be from the time when we lived in Singapore. My joy was to take visitors who came to see us (which was quite often) for afternoon High Tea at Raffles Hotel in The Tiffin Room, a large banquet hall, adorned in colonial splendour established in 1892 in a the bygone era. My cuppa was always chosen from the vast array of Indian brews, always taken black, and accompanied by everything on offer from an array of finger sandwiches, cakes, scones, and buffet selections of North Indian dishes, and I remember that the bread and butter pudding was amazing I was so full I couldn't eat for two days! Ashamedly decadent but I have amazing memories of these times.

Tea break - What's your favourite tea mug ?

I have two favourites that I like to use. My daughter works for the BBC as an investigative journalist and she gave me one of their team mugs and

as I sip my tea, it makes me smile thinking about what she's currently nosying into to uncover new stories! My other mug is a hang over from Covid times. It's a bit kitsch, but features a picture of Chris Whitty, with a background graph and the slogan "next slide please"! ? I seem to recollect I needed something stronger than a cup of tea to get through 5pm pandemic briefings.

How do you switch off whilst enjoying your cuppa ?

I am a real Archers fan - and now I can listen to the episodes through the BBC Sounds App at any time. At 15 minutes long, it's just perfect timing for me to drink my cuppa and get completely lost in the drama that is Ambridge. This ritual nicely sets me up for my next job, getting our dinner underway.

When do you down tools for the day ?

We are definitely getting earlier to bed. After an evening mostly of telly, we set off to snuggle in for a good bedtime read. Ian is currently reading *Weather in the Streets* by Rosamund Lehmann and I'm finishing off the *Book of Doors* by Gareth Brown, a real page turner and a fantastic thriller. I can highly recommend it. Lights out shortly after 11 pm.

Jacqueline Johnston

PLAY REVIEW

'Feelgood' by Alistair Beaton

Did this play live up to its title? Definitely, it was an evening which kept my attention and left me thinking.

Action took place in a hotel room cum office where two men worked on the Conference speech to be given by the Prime Minister (PM) the next day. Outside was an anti-capitalist demonstration. I enjoyed the interaction between the two main characters. One, amoral, opportunist, a manipulative political fixer (it would have been **Mandelson or Alastair Campbell** then) played brilliantly by Gavin Jones. The other, the speech writer, (Will Andrews) younger, with some humanity and principles.

In contrast, the PM's PA played by Jade Jeffreys was efficient and not thrown by the men's antipathy. The chemistry between the three was interesting - the men forced together against an outsider! Equality hadn't arrived! Two colourful friends of the PM arrived before the interval, the first literally - his tan shoes matched his tie, toning with a Rupert-bear yellow checked waistcoat - the flamboyant, luxury-loving country squire. Gary Jarvis played this role with aplomb! The final person to arrive was a party supporter who

wrote gags for a leading TV comedy show; Rob Colbeck was in his element! His role, was to inject humour to the speech but he was disliked by both men.

A bombshell emerged before the interval. A genetically modified (GM) field of hops had been grown on the squire's estate. This should have been destroyed but instead was sold to the local brewery. Some male customers had noticed physical changes - they now had breasts! No one apart from the squire had yet connected the two, but a female investigative journalist was asking questions. The squire, as minister, emphatically denied any GM crops were grown in Britain, and was worried about the end of his political career. This did not worry the others; he was seen as a liability, but they were dismayed at the idea of what "compulsory gender realignment" may do to the party - forecasting it being "unelectable for 150 years."

After the interval, we relocated to the journalist's room, in the same hotel, where the heavy-drinking ex-wife of the fixer, was being persuaded not to publish. The PM's speech was also being written with three approaches to GM food - against, neutral and pro. Eventually the journalist came into the room and handed the damaging floppy disc over

- the deal was done. But after a distraction, she and the speech writer were alone and he handed the disc back to her, urging her to publish.

The final scene, featured our first meeting with the PM. Always referred to as DL (Divine Light - Tony Blair then), he began by saying that he had a speech prepared but had torn it up and would speak from his heart! I had hardly formulated the thought that I was sorry for the two who had been up all night writing it, when he started word for word the speech we had witnessed being written. When it came to the GM section - it would eradicate world poverty - so the "pro" version was used, to mitigate any scandal that would ensue should the story of the hops come out. This was a tour-de-force by David Pritchard - a long

speech delivered faultlessly and with conviction. I was rather reminded of Nigel Farage! As David was also the director I think he should feel very proud of his performance and this production.

We learn too that part of the hotel had been damaged by rioters and one person was killed - the ex-wife investigative journalist! The protesters were blamed. I wonder? My mind went to the 1984 Tory Party Conference in Brighton, when Mrs Thatcher was PM and Mrs Tebbit was badly injured. The IRA were responsible and it would not have crossed my mind then to doubt that. Politics must be much harder now we are all cynics!

Ann Lightman

Watch out for their next play, 'A Month of Sundays' by Bob Larbey—22nd to 25th April.

GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY EVENT

Children, come along with your grown-ups on
Friday 3rd April, 10am to midday in the Old Stables



You will find out about the events of Holy Week, such as Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

We will be crafting and story telling, with a short time in church followed by refreshments for us all. We look forward to seeing you.

Please contact me for more information karen_baylis@hotmail.co.uk

READERS' COMMENTS

Dilemma

I always enjoy reading Tang's pieces in Adel Bells. This last one about the flowers in particular gave me more food for thought.

I love both buying and receiving roses. They are good value and last a long time, but what about the carbon footprint? I pondered on this and remembered a programme on the TV some while ago which showed where some of the roses were from. They were grown in Kenya by women who could not use the land for growing crops. The only way these women were able to feed their family was by growing these flowers.

There are always two sides to every situation: my dilemma is do I stop buying roses due to their carbon footprint and if so am I causing hardship to the women who grow them to help feed their families? I can't think of an easy answer.

However, it is good to know that Hilary Taylor has started a "Cutting Garden" just outside the Stables to help with the flowers in church. Do speak to her; she is very enthusiastic about it and will be pleased to show you how it's progressing.

Beryl Thompson

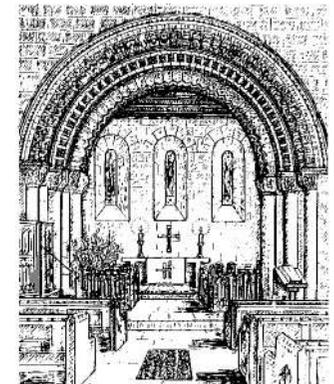
A bee in my bonnet

Excellent article by Tang. Something, as an occasional litter picker in the cemetery, that I have had a "bee in my bonnet" about for ages as the cellophane wrapping that comes with the flowers ends up as litter.

I remember when a florist/flower arranger (Jonathan Moseley) became head of the flower tent at the Yorkshire Show, I wrote asking if he could use his influence to encourage its removal for flowers destined for the cemetery - I have not noticed any reduction.

Ann Lightman

And here is a comment from another reader "Do keep printing Val Crompton's various drawings if possible, they are particularly special!" So here is one which shows flowers in the church.



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Don't let your carbon footprint run AMOC

Last year, much of the UK experienced a record-breaking average temperature of 10.9°C. Although we didn't hit the highest temperature ever in July, what stood out was how consistently warm it stayed, even overnight. Combined with below-average rainfall, the summer put real pressure on our natural environment. Early signs suggest that this year could bring another spell of intense heat.

But what does that really mean for us? While the extra sunshine might feel like a bonus, it's worth remembering that the UK sits much farther north than many people realise. The familiar Mercator world map distorts reality; for example, Greenland appears enormous, yet it could fit into Africa about fourteen times. Leeds specifically lies at a similar latitude to Hamburg, Gdansk, Minsk, and Edmonton, none of which sounds tropical. So why do we experience milder winters?

We've heard of the Gulf Stream and the Jet Stream. These maintain a warm sea and air current flowing from the tropics across much of western Europe, including the UK. This helps our climate feel much

milder than other cities on the same latitude as us. The Gulf Stream is part of the greater Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). This is a vital system of ocean currents transporting warm water to the North Atlantic, regulating the global climate. However, the AMOC is weakening due to rising temperatures and decreasing ocean salinity. Recent studies have raised concerns that it could collapse within this century. If that happens, the Gulf Stream would be disrupted or diverted, and the Jet Stream would become more erratic, leading to far more unpredictable weather across western Europe, including here in the UK. This is, of course, an oversimplified explanation. I could talk about this for ages, but I'm limited by my word count! I'm always happy to chat more about it down at the Stables after Sunday services.

So while some might imagine that global warming simply means hotter summers for the UK, the reality is more complicated. A collapse of the AMOC could actually make our climate colder, stormier, and far less stable. I've already seen noticeable changes in the UK's weather over my lifetime, so what will it look like in a hundred years' time?

Tang x

WORDS FROM JOYCE HILL

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally is installed as Archbishop of Canterbury on 25 March, the 106th archbishop in succession to St Augustine. The service is in Canterbury because this is head cathedral for the southern province of England. (For the northern province, it is York Minster, where all new Archbishops of York are installed). At the installation, Archbishop Sarah swears her oath on a manuscript gospel-book made in Italy in the sixth century and brought to England by St Augustine himself. It has been in Corpus Christi College Cambridge since the time of Elizabeth I, but it is taken to Canterbury for each archbishop's oath-taking. It was also taken to Westminster Abbey for the King's coronation, where it was carried in procession.

Canterbury rather than London is the seat of the southern archbishop for historical reasons. Augustine's mission, sent by Pope Gregory the Great, travelled overland from Italy and, having crossed the Channel, landed in Kent in 597. This landfall, obvious though it was geographically, made sense for political reasons too. At this time England was divided into many small kingdoms. Of these, the kingdom of Kent was particularly well connected with the Merovingian kingdom in the northern part of France, through which Augustine and

his companions had just travelled. So he will have known that the pagan king of Kent was married to a Merovingian princess. She was a Christian and, by the marriage agreement, had brought a bishop with her so that she could continue to practise her faith. So this made Kent a good place for the mission to start. With the king's support, Augustine established a cathedral in Canterbury, and there the ecclesiastical seat of the archbishop has always remained. In the mid-tenth century England finally became one kingdom under the kings of Wessex, whose capital had always been Winchester, and it continued to be so until London was made the capital of England by William the Conqueror. By the twelfth century the archbishops had come to recognise the benefit of being present in London, at least for part of the time, and so they established the residence of Lambeth Palace just across the river from the king and parliament in Westminster. It is here that the archbishop lives and works in his (now her) capacity as archbishop. The day-to-day business of the Canterbury diocese — as distinct from the overarching work of the archbishop — is delegated these days to the Bishop of Dover.

The date chosen for the installation is 25 March, the Feast of the

Annunciation, or Lady Day as it is sometimes called. This has all kinds of symbolic resonances. It is, of course, one of the great feasts of Mary, and so is a particularly apt day for the installation of our first female archbishop. This is a new step for the Church of England, and the service of installation is being held on the day when, nine months before the Nativity, we celebrate Jesus's conception, the most momentous new beginning of all. Furthermore, before 1 January was universally

accepted as new year's day, 25 March was often counted as the beginning of the year. In Roman times it had been the start of the tax year. More cheerfully, it is close to the spring equinox, when we enjoy the new birth of springtime and energising pleasure of enjoying more light than darkness each day. So 25 March has a great deal going for it as the date for the installation of our new archbishop.

OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP



Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Elizabeth Mulally

LET'S THINK ABOUT LENT

My primary school in the 1960s wasn't a faith school, but we did sing *All Things Bright and Beautiful* in assemblies and recite *The Lord's Prayer* together. During Lent we knew we'd probably be expected to give up sweets — though we didn't really understand why. When Lent ended, we'd enthusiastically 'catch up' by gorging ourselves on Easter chocolate — not quite the point!

So what is Lent? It's a time for deepening our faith as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, does not include Sundays, and ends on Holy Saturday. Giving something up is the most familiar Lenten practice, but at its heart, Lent is about becoming the people God is calling us to be: a time to turn more fully toward Jesus, to let go of what gets in the way, and to make space for new life in Him.

Traditionally, Lent is shaped by three practices: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Prayer and reflection draw us closer to God; fasting helps us develop self-discipline and remember our dependence on Him; and almsgiving encourages generosity, compassion, and care for those in need by donating money or goods to the poor, volunteering, or

supporting a neighbour.

In the early Church, Lent was a time of preparation for baptism and a season of penitence. Easter remains a key time for baptism today. Ash Wednesday developed as a reminder that we are mortal and in need of God's mercy. Fasting rules were once very strict, but today we are encouraged to choose personal sacrifices that help us live more simply and focus more clearly on God — whether from food, treats, alcohol, social media, etc. Fasting can also deepen our awareness of those who face hunger, hardship, or injustice daily.

Lent is more than a tradition; it is an invitation to live more faithfully, prayerfully, and compassionately. As we journey through Lent together as a parish, may it be a season of renewed trust in the God who meets us in wilderness places and leads us into new life.

So this Lent, let's ask ourselves not only what are we giving up, but why — and how might this season draw us closer to God and deepen our faith, during Lent and beyond?

Adrian Hide

TIME FOR A QUIZ

Where is Stonehenge?

How well do you know our own country? You have probably seen many of our famous landmarks, but do you know in which county they are situated? Test your knowledge here.



1. Stonehenge
2. Roman Baths
3. Scafell Pike
4. Clifton Suspension Bridge
5. Windsor Castle
6. Angel of the North
7. Minack Theatre
8. Leeds Castle
9. Housesteads Roman Fort
10. Bosworth Battlefield
11. Glastonbury Tor
12. Longleat Safari Park
13. Albert Dock
14. Beamish Museum
15. Cadbury World

Answers on p. 38

If you enjoy a quiz, put 16th May in your diary, We are holding another Quingo Quiz Evening. More details next month.

BOOK REVIEW

Guilty by Definition, by Susie Dent

Susie Dent will be a familiar name to many as the Lexicologist in Dictionary Corner on Countdown, where individuals select random letters to form longer words than their opponent, with Susie Dent checking their words for authenticity. A simple formula but one that has had years of popularity. The novel is set in Oxford. It was shortlisted for Book of the Year in the Crime and Thriller Award in 2025. 'A coded letter, a missing woman, a truth waiting to be found.'

The book starts in the offices of the Clarendon English Dictionary. Outside a guide is telling tourists that the CED is one of the greatest ongoing intellectual endeavours of our age. Inside Martha, listening through an open window, feels she could say much more; language defines us and is the slow insistent pull into the secret lives of the ordinary. It is 2pm. Simon, her colleague, hovers by her desk with a cup of coffee. Safi, the youngest editor on Martha's team, fiercely intelligent, crackles with enthusiasm. She has a folder containing enquiries that have come in the post and begins passing them out. Glamorous Alex, the fourth editor on the team, joins them. There's the usual

collection of oddities, "Ah, here's one!" says Alex, "Is there a word for peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth?" Alex finds it, "Arachibutyrophobia! There's the regular Shakespeare crank letter and various other missives. Suddenly another enquiry catches their eye. Typed on an old-fashioned typewriter that wasn't working properly, with the letter 'e' worn nearly to a shadow. Safi always passed any odd, angry letters to Martha, who read it with growing unease. There was something deeply discomfiting about it. *Dear Editors, This is not a confession, but it contains one. I have been afraid of the truth; I have kept secrets. I believe I am not the only one to do so, and so I come to you.* It carries on for several paragraphs, and is signed simply, 'Chorus'.

Thus, the intrigue begins. This is not the last letter from Chorus, each one more of a riddle as they strive to find the truth. The story is woven through beautifully written lines, each chapter headed with a word definition. My favourite is 'Apricity', denoting the warmth of the sun in winter , , , delightful! Susie Dent is a very talented writer. The book is described as 'A love letter, not only to language, but to the City of Oxford.' I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Jenny Jones

IN YOUR GARDEN

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.

-Charles Dickens, Great Expectations, 1861"

As I write this during the fourth week of virtually incessant drizzle and grey skies it is a pleasure to contemplate what I hope will come to pass during March. As proper daylight returns to the early evening, there is ever more opportunity, enthusiasm and incentive for getting out into your garden and revel in the emerging signs of spring. You will find buds emerging on trees and shrubs, a few insects out basking in any early sunshine seeking sustenance after winter hibernation. There will be bulbs galore poking out of the still cold (and probably very wet) soil with the early flowering snowdrops being joined by swathes of crocuses and then waves of daffodils as the month progresses. There should be the early flowers of hellebores, hamamelis, Daphne and forsythias, but best of all is that euphoric anticipation of all the joys that spring and summer bring - now only weeks away. So much potential about to be unleashed.

Like all gardeners you will have jobs that didn't quite get done over the

winter so it's now a good time to catch up on any of these. For me it is again clearing and cleaning the greenhouse, but it could be cleaning or sharpening tools, turning over the compost, clearing out the pond before the frogs fill it with spawn, or washing and treating the decking and all the outdoor furniture that's been tucked away for the winter.

As the weather allows, there are winter shrubs that can be cut back now. Plants such as Cornus (Dogwood) and Salix (Willow) which are grown mainly for their colourful winter stems are normally thinned now. That will give them a whole season to put on fresh new growth, for vibrant winter colour at the end of the year. Summer flowering shrubs such as Buddleia can now be harshly pruned back to a pair of buds. They will grow away vigorously and flower on this new growth. The same applies to many but not all types of clematis and to most hydrangeas. But most of all, find a few minutes every week to just enjoy the spectacle of an unfurling springtime, the hint of real warmth in any sunshine and appreciate the uplifting of spirits that comes with it.

George Turnbull

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

GUIDED WALKS IN LEEDS

Civic Trust Guided Walks

Book now.

These Walks are led by experienced volunteers and cover a range of subjects. *They are open to all.*

Leeds Dock Photography Walk:

Thurs. 16 April 11:30-13:30

The Victorian Circuses of Leeds:

Thursday 23 April 18:00-19:45 /

Saturday 6 June 14:00-15:45 /

Friday 31 July 18:00-19:45

Lost Landscapes of Headingley:

Tuesday 28 April 14:00-15:30 /

Thursday 11 June 18:30-20:00 /

Sunday 12 July 14:00-15:30

Leeds and Holbeck Photography Walk:

Wednesday 6 May 10:00-12:00 /

Thursday 9 July 10:00-12:00

Holbeck and the Industrial Revolution:

Monday 11 May 14:00-15:30

Medieval Leeds:

Saturday 16 May 11:00 – 12:30



See website for more details - www.leedscivictrust.org.uk/guided-walks-season-2026

Dr Kevin Grady gave a well-attended, interesting Public Lunchtime lecture on 4th February in Leeds Minster '1626 and All That' about 400 years of Municipal and Metropolitan Government in Leeds. See population figures for 4 of the towns.

Val Crompton

West Riding Town Populations

Town	1600	1700
Leeds	3,750	6,000
Halifax	2,500	4,000
Wakefield	2,000	3,500
Sheffield	2,200	3,500

OPAL ACTIVITIES

Having fun is important

As Winter begins to loosen its grip on Leeds 16, we can all look forward to lighter mornings and evenings. OPAL continues all our activities throughout the Winter months including our increasingly popular walking group.

The walking group meet every Thursday morning at the Welcome In café before setting off on their walk. All walks are either accessible by public transport or the group does a car share. Please speak to Ellen for more details or to join the group by phoning 0113 2619103 or emailing: ellen@opal-project.org.uk

Have fun racing round the track

Ellen is also the member of staff at OPAL who organises the popular monthly Friday scalextric session; one of our fantastic volunteers Dan and his Dad give up their time and equipment to run this fun session. All ages are welcome to come along and try their hand at this fun and competitive activity. The next session is on **Friday 27th** 10am

- 12. Time to relive your childhood memories and to make new ones with friends.

Another group that Ellen has developed is the monthly sing-a-long at the Fox and Hounds (by Horsforth train station). Members, staff, volunteers and pub regulars all come together to sing some of the well known tunes we all love.

The next session is on **Thursday 26th** 7pm-8:30pm; everyone is welcome to join us; being able to sing is not a necessary requirement, being able to have fun is more important.

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

Shelley Clark (she/her)
Project Worker

HISTORY AND WALKS

The 1152 Club meets once a month on Tuesdays, at 10am - 11.15am, during term-time.

at Abbey House Museum
Free parking near Abbey House.

Patrick Bourne. Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds LS5 3EH
Kirkstall.abbey@leeds.gov.uk
For details, 0113 378 4079
or contact Val Crompton

This is a free, friendly local history group for adults aged 55+, and includes a hot drink.

At Abbey House Museum

Tuesday 3 March 10am

Irish History Month with the Irish Arts Foundation.

Join the Irish Arts Foundation as we celebrate *Irish History Month* with a themed edition of our 1152 Club. Expect a musical introduction followed by a presentation of Irish history.

With Des Hurley and friends.

Thurs 5th March, we have our deferred Crime and Punishment Study Afternoon: **1.30-4.30**

We also have a Women and Music Study Afternoon on **Fri 20th March at 1.30**, with Kitty Ross, Curator of Social and Leeds History, 'Women and Music'.



Kirkstall Abbey

WELCOME IN WELLBEING WALKS



Every **Thursday at 10 am**, meet at OPAL, LS16 6 DJ for a one & a half Hour Wellbeing Walk.

For details, contact Ellen Stoker at OPAL, email ellen@opal-project.org.uk

YORK GATE UPDATE

During the long dark months of winter a greenhouse is a peaceful retreat, somewhere snug and dry to potter to your heart's content. It is the gardener's escape, somewhere that seedlings and cuttings are propagated for the year ahead and a sanctuary for precious, tender plants.

I don't have a greenhouse but last week I had the opportunity to visit the greenhouse at York Gate.

Twisty, twirly, spiky, furry.....

In the shelter of the greenhouse there is a forest full of wonderful specimens of cacti and succulents, some that look like they have been plucked from a prehistoric time. Growing in vintage terracotta wall pots is a collection of succulents such as sempervivums, echeveria and aeoniums and some plants are even growing from the cracks between the stones, watered by the rain running down the wall. Many of the plants will flower with blooms of many colours ranging from lemon yellow to shades of pink, red and orange.

Sybil Spencer brought a large collection of cacti and succulents from their home in Headingley and her first greenhouse next to the old farmyard. This was later moved to the present location in the garden until in 1962 it was pulled down as Sybil had been "treated by her husband to a new Hartley

greenhouse," an expensive purchase even today! Sybil's love of geraniums, now named pelargoniums, soon led to a new collection of plants dominating the greenhouse and there were tall geraniums and scented leaved geraniums, along with other exotic plants she couldn't resist! Sybil loved her greenhouse and said she'd hate to be without it.

The garden at York Gate will reopen to visitors in April. Take a peek into the greenhouse and marvel at all the beautiful, occasionally quirky, specimens growing there. Unfortunately, the steps down into the greenhouse may be inaccessible to some visitors, but you can still peer inside from the Paved Garden.

Meanwhile, as we all look forward to Spring and a new gardening year, visitors are welcome to come and see the developments taking place in the mediterranean, sand garden and enjoy a delicious lunch or afternoon tea in the Café. There is currently a display of archive photographs of the garden on the Café walls. There are also some beautiful botanical photographs taken in the garden by one of our volunteers, Sam Booth. We shall look forward to seeing you.

Gillian Smith
Heritage Volunteer

Visit Crag House FARM Garden Nurseries

to get your garden ready for Spring!



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Buy a 'Compost Bag For Life' that you can refill throughout the year with our PEAT FREE Melcourt compost.



Relax in the sunshine this year on the NEW range of top quality wooden garden furniture from 'Redcliffe'. See the full selection on display of dining & bistro sets, benches and umbrellas.

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Crag House FARM

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Otley Old Road, Cookridge, Leeds LS16 7NH • www.craghousefarm.com

WHAT'S ON

Headingley Flower Club at Bramhope

Wednesday 4th March
'A Brush with Colour'

Kay Ford

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



Adel Gardeners' Club Monday 9th March

'A tour of York Gate Garden'

By Jack Ogg

All meetings are held at Adel
Methodist Church, Holt Lane, Leeds
LS16 7NX starting at 7.30pm.

<https://adelhort.chessck.co.uk/>



Leeds & District Association of the National Trust Tuesday 10th March

A talk on an aspect of Beningbrough
Hall, a National Trust property,
followed by our AGM

All meetings are held on the second
Tuesday of the month, 10 for
10.30am in St. Chad's Parish Centre,
Far Headingley. Easily accessible by

Otley Road (A660) buses - nos. 23-
28. There is a car park.

Guests welcome - entrance fee
£7.00. Refreshments before the
meeting by donation.

Further information:
c.lightman@sky.com (Ann Lightman)



NSPCC

Saturday 28th March

Hazel's Easter Coffee Morning



10.30am to 12 noon

at

St Giles Church Hall
Church Hill, Bramhope,
LS16 9BA

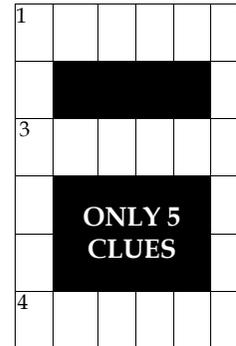
Admission £5

including coffee and hot cross bun

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS
WORTH FIGHTING FOR

PUZZLES

General Knowledge Clues



Across

1. Fastener
3. Eight notes of the scale
4. Looked after, tended

Down

1. Oral
2. With which to wink

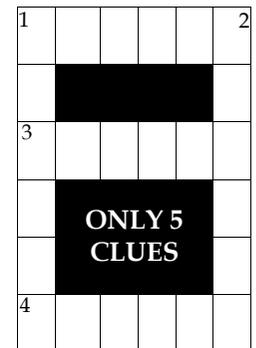
Cryptic Clues

Across

1. Briefly debate field event
3. Small drink for each child
4. Abhor refurbishment of a hotel

Down

1. Laid back about English Knight's rejection of request
2. Difficult predicament I missed in disease of sheep



Solutions on p. 38

Puzzles compiled by Marjorie Cole

BARRY ANDERSON

Lawnswood Roundabout

The latest update on the Lawnswood Roundabout work is as follows: “In the roundabout centre drainage pipes are being installed in readiness for connection to the main network. We have partially excavated for the new rain garden area, leaving 150mm of surcharge which we’ll remove during final planting.

In area 1 (outside Weetwood Hall), all the oversized pipework is now installed. Gully connections will then be made. In the roundabout centre we pushed forward with the new kerblines and laid the tegula paving that serves as a splash strip at the back of the kerbs.

We have also started works in area 9 on the southbound leg of the A660 Otley Rd, where we have started construction of the new bus stop.

We have received feedback about the lane delineation markings on the roundabout and roads leading up to it, along with requests to make these clearer. As the lanes change frequently during the project, this can create issues with the white markings showing through, which happens particularly at dusk and during night hours. This can potentially exacerbate the problem.”

Tour De France Women’s Cycle Race 2027 – Grand Depart from Leeds

On the 30th of July 2027 the women’s cycle race will get underway from the Headrow, the same location where the men’s race began in 2014. It will see Leeds making history as the first place outside mainland Europe to host the start of stage one of a Grand Départ for both the men’s and women’s events.

Regular updates will be issued and full details of the route the cyclists will follow through Leeds are due to be announced in spring 2026. The event organisers have also prepared an FAQ section on the Le Tour GB Website and have mailing lists that you can subscribe to.

Rob Burrow Marathon and Half-Marathon – Sunday 10th May

Once again Adel will be part of the route of the Rob Burrow Marathon and Half- Marathon which will use the same route as previous years. The Marathon begins at 9am and the Half- Marathon at 10am. There will be the usual road closures during the passage of the races. Adel has supported the Rob Burrow Marathon with huge numbers of residents turning out to cheer the runners on.

Traffic Enforcement – Pavement Parking

The Department for Transport (DfT) announced on 8 January 2026 that local councils across England will receive devolved powers to introduce pavement parking restrictions across or within their areas.

The announcement makes it clear that a national ban will not be imposed, and that further legislation and guidance are required. Secondary legislation is expected “at the next available opportunity” to grant local authorities the power to enforce

BILLY FLYNN

Hi everyone. By the time you are reading this it will almost be Spring.

Refuse collections – rumour and fact

There have been some mischievous rumours on social media and elsewhere about changes in refuse collection. They suggested that the number of bins per household would be increased to four and £400 fines were to be introduced for putting refuse in the wrong bin. You will be pleased to learn that there is no truth in it. There are no changes in the normal 3 bin collection arrangements, with brown bin collections due to resume again in

against unnecessary obstruction of pavements. This enforcement will be carried out by uniformed civil enforcement officers and will complement existing Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) powers.

Cllr. Barry Anderson
Adel & Wharfedale Ward
Direct Dial 0113 336 7742
www.barryanderson.org.uk
Twitter/X @barryanderson19



late March/early April and no fines imposed. What is new, however, is a pilot scheme for collecting food waste which is starting in Wetherby and Collingham this month. If successful, it may be extended to other areas. Good news on litter bins; the council is distributing 1000 new litter bins in the city and around 30 of them will be placed in our ward. Our local litter picking volunteers will select the best locations for the new bins.

Golden Acre Park – improved facilities – tea, tiffin, and dogs

You will recall the unwelcome news that parking charges had been

introduced at both car parks on Golden Acre. I now have rather better news. I am pleased to say that there are plans to extend the kitchen and the internal dining area of the park café and make the facilities more convenient and appropriate for dog and non-dog owners. The bungalow onsite, originally used as a home for staff, will be renovated for events and special occasions. Some of the money raised from the car park charges will be used for this purpose as part of the council's invest to save initiative.

Adel Square development

The development is forging ahead in every sense of the word. I see JCBs every day digging away at the Adel Beck end of the development. An open day at the care home onsite was planned for late February, and the developer may have another event for local residents when the "Woodland Walk" is opened in the Summer.

New housing estate for Holt Park

The council is auctioning off the land at the junction of Holtdale Approach and Otley Old Road in February for a housing development. It is the grassy area next to Ralph Thorseby School car park and is overlooked by that large BT signal tower. The guide price for the land is £400k so it will be interesting to see what sort of development it will be, given that

there will be no conditions placed on the buyer.

Mass transit in West Yorkshire – or lack of it in Adel

As part of the Leeds Local Plan which sets out guidance on how land is used across the district and where homes, jobs and services will be located, a mass transit system is planned across the county. You may have seen that the implementation timetable has slipped but the project is still in place. The council is now inviting comments as part of a mandatory consultation process which will be open until midnight on 12 March this year. It is important that residents have an opportunity to express their views on major and expensive projects in the city that will affect everyday life. Views can be submitted by several means as follows:

Online:

<http://yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/SDFReg18>

By email:

MassTransit@westyorks-ca.gov.uk or

By post: FREEPOST, WY MASS TRANSIT SDF JDPD CONSULTATION, WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY (no stamp needed)

If you would like further information on the items above or have questions about anything else in the ward, please do contact me. Telephone 07810 640282 or email billy.flynn@leeds.gov.uk



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"Every member of staff shows kindness, support and care."

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Guiseley Manor Care Centre Otley Road, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 8FE Tel: 0113 323 0200
Adel Manor Care Centre Adel Gardens, Otley Road, Leeds, LS16 7FP Tel: 0113 841 1000

newcarehomes.com

Only 5 Clues General Knowledge

Across

1. STAPLE
3. OCTAVE
4. NURSED

Down

1. SPOKEN
2. EYELID

Only 5 Clues

Cryptic

Across

1. DISCUS
3. NIPPER
4. LOATHE

Down

1. DENIAL
2. SCRAPE

Where is Stonehenge?

1. Wiltshire
2. Somerset
3. Cumbria
4. Gloucestershire
5. Berkshire
6. Tyne and Wear
7. Cornwall
8. Kent
9. Northumberland
10. Leicestershire
11. Somerset
12. Wiltshire
13. Merseyside
14. County Durham
15. West Midlands

Advertising

The magazine is published 10 times a year and goes out to 400 homes. It is also made available on our website so can reach a much wider public.

Full page £140 per annum
Half page £80 per annum
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For further information contact:

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0113 267 6708
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Matthew Holmes

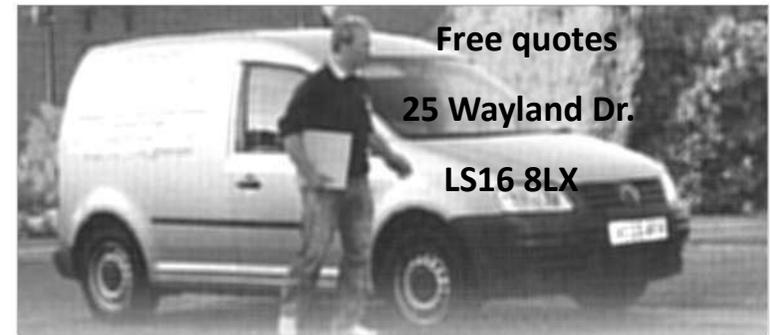
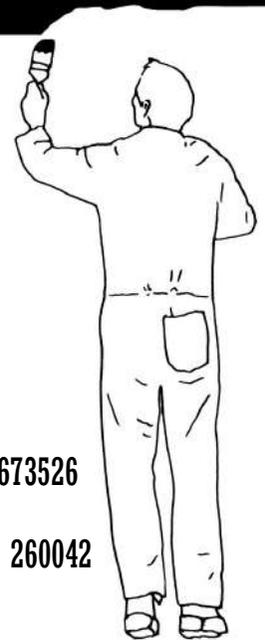
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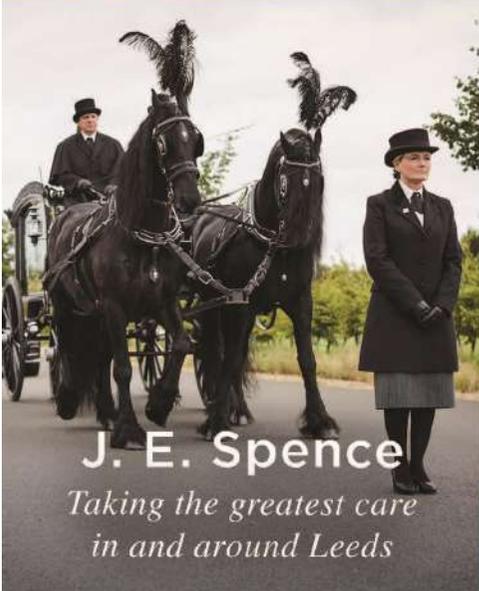
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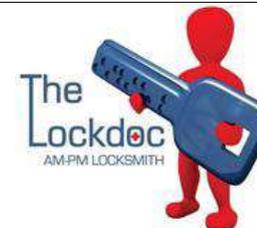
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Church Services in March

Sunday 1st	Second Sunday of Lent
	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am Parish Communion
	6.30pm Evensong
Mon 2nd	7pm Compline
Wed 4th	11am Holy Communion followed by coffee & biscuits
Fri 6th	1.30pm J Js (for the under sixes)
Sunday 8th	Third Sunday of Lent
	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am Parish Communion
	5pm ACE meeting in the Stables
Mon 9th	7pm Compline
Wed 11th	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 15th	Fourth Sunday of Lent
	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am All Age Service with Communion
	6.30pm Choral Evensong with refreshments
Mon 16th	7pm Compline
Wed 18th	11am Holy Communion
Thurs 19th	3.15pm Holy Communion in the Stables, with tea & coffee
Sunday 22nd	Fifth Sunday of Lent
	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am Parish Communion
	5pm ACE meeting in the Stables
Mon 23rd	7pm Service of Reconciliation
Wed 25th	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	Palm Sunday
	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am Parish Communion
Monday 30th	7.30pm Words & Music for Holy Week
Tuesday 31st	7.30pm Eucharist