



ADEL BELLS

Parish Magazine 70p



**A warm welcome awaits you
behind this door**

December 2024/ January 2025

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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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 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**
 Diocese of Leeds



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Parish Registers

Wedding

12th October
 Amy Parkinson and Robert Charles

Burial of Ashes

19th October
 David Dowson



Festivals & Feasts

25th December
 Christmas Day
26th December
 Stephen, deacon, first martyr
27th December
 John, Apostle & Evangelist
28th December
 The Holy Innocents
1st January
 Naming & Circumcision of Jesus
5th January
 Epiphany
12th January
 Baptism of Christ
25th January
 Conversion of Paul



Heavenly Father,
 as we prepare for Christmas, help
 us to find time in our busy lives for
 quiet and thought and prayer, that
 we may reflect upon the wonder
 of your love and allow the story of
 the Saviour's birth to penetrate
 our hearts and minds.
 So may our joy be deeper, our
 worship more real, and our lives
 worthier of all that you have done
 for us through the coming of your
 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Let us come together in prayer.
 AMEN



Association for Church Editors

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

From the Editor

As I write this it is a beautiful autumnal day here in Adel. It is hard to believe how close we are to the cold, dark nights that usually accompany Christmas. Staying in the warmth of our own home on these dark nights may be tempting, but please do not forget that there is a place for you in Adel Church. However you may be celebrating Christmas, I hope you will all find the peace you are seeking.

You may have noticed last month and also in this edition that we have a slightly new look to Adel Bells. We have found a new printer! We do not know the full story, but the printer we have used for many years has been erratic this year and we have experienced real problems in terms of communication. Reluctantly, we decided it was time for a change. Not only are we glad to have a colour picture on the cover, but the printing in general throughout the magazine is much clearer. Long may this continue!

Last month's Remembrance Day Service was very well attended with a

record number of young children attending Junior Church and making their own poppy wreaths to lay at the feet of our own poppy displays. We listened to the names of our local heroes, read out, as she does every year, by Mary Larner and thought of the debt of gratitude we owe to them.

The previous day a group of people from our community had attended a talk in the Stables by a volunteer for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. What was particularly liked was his making local references: to our own Draper family and to Lawnswood and Bramhope Cemeteries. Both he and Rector Alison spoke that weekend about Fabian Ware, thanks to whom all fallen combatants were treated as equal due to the uniformity of the smooth white gravestones. He laid the foundations of an organisation which was later to be renamed the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. You can read a little more about the work they do on page 11. The speaker himself, a local man, prefers for me not to mention his name here.

Marjorie Cole

Rector Alison's Letter

Dear Friends,

Autumn 2024 has been one of the loveliest I can remember for quite a while. The leaf colours have been stunning, and the lack of gales and torrential rain kept them on the trees. I love Autumn, from blackberries to crunchy piles of leaves, and it has been good to have time to properly enjoy it.

This is not always true of the other commemorations and events which run alongside the autumn season. There was a very odd week or two when it was almost possible to see pumpkin lanterns, fireworks, poppies and Christmas lights simultaneously in the same streets.

Of course, this is driven mostly by the commercial possibilities of these festivals, but it does distort our seasons. Anyone hoping to buy a pumpkin to carve on 31st October finds the shops have already moved on; those less keen on fireworks have to endure them for weeks; and we have the strange situation in our supermarkets where 'Christmas' foods have 'use by' dates in November!

With busy lives we do have to prepare in advance, and looking forward is part of the pleasure of these times. But I wonder if we risk the anticipation becoming more

important than the event itself. When spread over such long periods these are much less of a communal celebration than they used to be. The power of countrywide Remembrance is now often overshadowed by arguments about whether public figures are wearing poppies, weeks before the day itself.

This mismatch between anticipation and event is especially true of Christmas. There is inevitably lots of preparation: buying gifts; making travel plans; preparing meals for visiting family. But it is also easy to arrive at the day itself as if it is an ending not a beginning.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of a baby. New babies require lots of preparation, but they also require us to wait. We know roughly when they are expected, but they arrive when they are ready. As a church, we call that Christmas waiting 'Advent'. It is a time to think about what it means for God to love us enough to become one of us.

The other thing about babies is that they are not a one-off event. If a baby arrives safely, it is a great relief; but then follow weeks of friends and relatives visiting, months of learning how to care for a child, and years of getting to know them as they develop as a person.

Perhaps that's one reason why Christmas for the church is a season, not a day; and why we have many different services for people to mark the occasion in a way that suits them.

Everyone is welcome to join us as we try to wait in Advent, and to take our time greeting Jesus and pondering what it means to welcome Emmanuel, God with us.

Whatever your Christmas looks like, I hope you find time amongst the busyness to properly enjoy the season.

With love and prayers

Alison

Awareness and other special days in December

3rd Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday was created as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the last decade, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

3rd International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Promotes an understanding of disability issues and mobilises support for the dignity, rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities.

2nd – 8th National Grief Awareness Week

To raise awareness of the myriad ways in which individuals cope with loss.

10th Human Rights Day

On Human Rights Day, observed every year on December 10th, we acknowledge the importance of human rights.

18th International Migrants Day

Highlighting the urgent need for safe migration governance rooted in solidarity, partnership, and respect for human rights.

20th International Human Solidarity Day

A day to celebrate our unity in diversity, to remind governments to respect their commitments to international agreements, to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity.

21st National Robin Day (not the former journalist and presenter!)

See p. 8 for a short article about robins.

Robin, Facts or Fiction?



Everyone loves a robin, but why are they on the front of so many Christmas cards? It probably arises from the fact that postmen in Victorian Britain wore red jackets and were nicknamed 'Robins'. In 1861 the postmen's uniform was changed to blue, but red has remained as the traditional colour of the Royal Mail, reflected in its vans and post boxes.

However, there are several legends that actually link the robin to the Christmas story. One of these is that Mother Mary was worried baby Jesus would get cold as the embers were dying in the fire. The other animals didn't help but a plain, brown coloured robin assisted by flapping his wings so the embers glowed again. He then picked up some dry sticks and tossed them into the fire, however, as he did so a flame suddenly burst forth and burned the little bird's breast a bright red. Mary praised the robin for all he had done, saying 'From now on, let your red breast be a blessed reminder of your noble deed. You

will be known throughout the universe as the messenger of the Christ child, the true herald of Christmas...and you will be part of the message of Christmas until the end of time and will always be known as the Christmas Robin'.

Interesting Robin facts:

- Males and females are similar in coloration.
- Nearly 75% of robins will die before they are a year old, but after that their life expectancy increases.
- Male robins exhibit highly aggressive territorial behaviour, many ending in fatalities.
- In the 15th century the bird became known as Robin redbreast, (rather than just redbreast), when it was popular to give human names to familiar species.
- The robin has twice been declared Britain's national bird, the first time in 1960 and the second in 2015, but it's not yet been made official.
- There is an increase in robin numbers during the winter months with migrants from Scandinavia, Russia and Europe.

Sally Churchus

Association of Church Editors

Christmas 2024



Sunday 15th December

3 pm Festive Christmas Concert

The Leeds Guild of Singers are presenting a heart warming selection of Christmas choral works. Tickets £15 (students/under 18s free). Seasonal refreshments to follow. Pay on the door, cash or card.

Wednesday 18th December

7pm Blue Christmas

The joy of Christmas can be hard for many reasons: a bereavement: loneliness: anxiety about the state of the world. This is a short, peaceful service that reminds us Christmas is also a story of hope in the darkness.

Sunday 22nd December

6.30pm Community Carol Service, followed by wine & mince pies

Tuesday 24th December

3pm Crib Service in Church with Readings and Carols

5pm Outside Crib Service with Carols by Candlelight
(Bring a chair if you wish and your own candle in a jam jar lantern)

11.30pm Midnight Mass in Church

Wednesday 25th December

10am Parish Communion (Sung)

Throughout December

You are invited to come to the churchyard and see the crib as it develops.



www.adelparishchurch.org.uk

In Brief

PCC Decisions

You might be interested to learn about some ideas discussed recently at PCC meetings.

Patronal Festival 2025

There was a discussion as to how to make next year's festival more successful than this year's in terms of how many people it might attract. There were several ideas including a 'Green Fair', a stall with eggs from Cragg House farm, and other stalls. There was a favourable response to having an open church with flower displays, and a flower trail in the churchyard, with donation buckets. We would hope not to clash with a fair at the Adel Memorial Hall.

Work in the churchyard

You will no doubt have noticed recent work carried out in the churchyard: work on trees and the removal of a rotten seat; a quote is being prepared to replace the seat. Dead trees have been felled and various dangerous branches removed.

Social Events

It was reported to the PCC that with no younger people coming forward to join the committee, it was becoming harder to do the events. The present committee is very small and thought needs to be given as to how we can

continue to provide the sort of events our community wants. A break will be taken in January while we plan what we can sensibly offer next year.

Environment

Alison had met with Thang and Sue about community involvement as part of bronze award accreditation. She suggested that further work could take place with the school's "Eco Committee" for initiatives such as bug hotels in the churchyard. There was also a printer recycling box that could go in the back of the church with any minor profits going to a brownie pack.

Lighthouse Church

We are also thinking of a congregation-wide project for Lighthouse Church, with a suggestion of children doing a Bake Sale. Rector Alison would co-ordinate and preach, and there might be a social event.

100 Club Draw for October

1st	Peter Hunt	£80
2nd	Carole Smithies	£40
3rd	Thang Tang	£30

The Cost of War

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

As another year draws to an end, there is still a war in the Ukraine and conflict in Gaza, and one can only wonder at the disappointment that would be felt by many of the 1.7 million that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) commemorate that the world cannot order its affairs better. The CWGC works tirelessly to show the cost of war by keeping the memory of those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The CWGC has established a Foundation, which has created a UK-wide network of trained volunteer speakers to deliver inspiring talks and workshops about the work and history of the CWGC. The CWGC Speaker Network aims to educate and inspire the public to discover more about the history of the world wars and their communities through researching casualties local to them.

Additionally, the Eyes On, Hands On Project has enabled the thousands of CWGC headstones scattered throughout the UK, primarily in local churchyards, to be visited by small teams to be inspected and cleaned, and condition recorded. Where issues are reported, such as legibility of the inscription or damage, these will then be reviewed for action.

For Evermore - Stories of the Fallen is an initiative that was started in order to preserve the memory of those who died. This digital platform on the CWGC website allows individuals, communities, families, and researchers to contribute stories and photographs. This will ensure the stories will be kept for perpetuity and read by a large audience.

The CWGC are committed to making the archive material accessible to as wide a range of users as possible, assisting interested parties in their research whether that is for a book or an individual's family tree.

The annual public awareness campaign, War Graves Week, will take place in May 2025 and members of the public will be invited to delve into the work of the Commission in the UK and worldwide. The activities will include talks, tours, demonstrations, hands-on experiences, and collaborations with various organisations, such as archaeologists, tourism boards and museums.

If anyone is interested in any of the items mentioned or wish to join, donate or leave a legacy to the Commission's Foundation please visit the CWGC website—www.cwgc.org.

My Church Journey

I think I would feel more comfortable calling this my journey with God. Sometimes church has been important in that. Sometimes it has not. I read somewhere that the old meaning of church was a gathering of God lovers. That is very different to a building. I was born and raised in West Lancashire as a Roman Catholic. My parents were both very active with the Young Christian Workers' movement, so retreats and YCW days were part of growing up, as was the Roman Catholic convent school.

In my teens, I discovered Eastern religions, and meditation through the Transcendental Meditation movement. Bar six years at university, I have had a daily meditation practice ever since. The God I encounter in these periods of silent prayer is a universal God, indescribable, but of infinite love, mercy and compassion-for all beings, not just those that profess a particular set of beliefs. I have been privileged to meditate with Buddhists and Sufis as well as with Christians, and those of no faith. There are lovers of God everywhere.

As someone inclined towards universalism and mysticism, I also find poetry can provide a direct line to my soul. The Persian mystical poets-Rumi, Hafiz, the Canadian poet Mary Oliver, Yorkshire's David Whyte, Ireland's John O Donohue and the poets of the



psalms can reach the parts otherwise too deep to speak to.

We moved back to Leeds seven years ago, after twenty-five years up in the Northern Lake District, where I worked as a doctor in palliative medicine, with a strong interest in spirituality and compassion in end of life care. A good friend of ours up there, also an Anglican priest, had done much to establish a very active Christian Meditation network in Cumbria. We held a house meditation group each month, open to those of any faith and those of none, and found it a strong rhythm to our lives.

I still host a weekly zoom Christian Meditation group, here in North Leeds, where I am a group leader with

the World Community for Christian Meditation.

Contemplative prayer and meditation might seem unusual in the Protestant tradition, but we recently spent two days with Sarah Bachelard of Benedictus, a contemplative church in Australia. Contemplative Fire was founded by a Protestant priest. Paul Maybury at Leeds Minster has instituted a monthly "Still" day.

I started attending Adel Church soon after we moved back to Leeds, as it was recommended to us by a number of people. We also tried other churches over those first few years, but returned most often to Adel St John the Baptist. I have grown to love it deeply. There is an echo of the prayers of centuries in the stones. I love its welcome and inclusivity. I love its message, again and again, of a God of infinite love, mercy and compassion. I love the way it honours the different seasons of the church's year, and finding God everywhere, including in the "Book of Nature", the whole of the Creation, and here in our own hearts, and our innermost being. I love the simplicity of the services and preaching. It uplifts me. I still honour and love all that I have grown from. I pray that I continue to grow. I serve in

the small ways I can-reading sometimes or helping with Compline. Amazingly, having had an MS like illness that meant I was in a wheelchair for five years, I have defied doctors' expectations (!) and can now walk with two sticks. A small, slow miracle maybe?

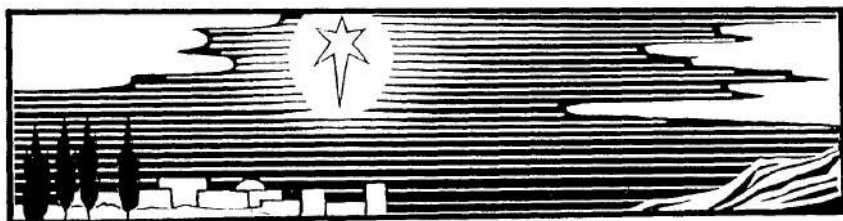
Life is a mystery. As a doctor, mother and more recently grandmother it is also a miracle. And as my mother used to say "How many summers do I have left, and what do I most want to do with this one?" What matters most?

"Awake my soul, awake". Psalm 57, vs.8

I will finish with some lines of poetry, taken from Gethsemane by Mary Oliver in *Devotions: Selected Poems of Mary Oliver* (2017) Corsair Poetry London

Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did, maybe the wind wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move, maybe the lake far away, where once he walked as on a blue pavement, lay still and waited, wild awake.

Eileen Palmer



Environmental News

Nature's Resilience

As winter settles in our churchyard, a lone robin bobbing along is a joy to behold, highlighting the beauty of nature and reminding us of our duty to protect it.

In mid-December, you can register with the RSPB and join in the Big Garden Birdwatch 2025. Taking place over the weekend of January 24-26 this annual event, which has been running for over 45 years, invites people of all ages to spend an hour observing and recording the birds in their gardens or local parks. Don't forget to put this weekend in your diary and sign up at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>.

This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with nature and contribute to important scientific research. By participating, you'll not only enjoy the beauty of our feathered friends but also help the RSPB monitor bird populations, which are excellent indicators of environmental change due to their sensitivity to factors like habitat loss and pollution.

Here in Leeds, we are fortunate to see red kites regularly taking to the

skies, but these majestic creatures nearly disappeared entirely from the UK. As recently as the 1930s, there were only 2 known breeding pairs in Wales! Thankfully with careful protection they are now thriving.

While on the topic of comebacks, St. Aiden's RSPB nature reserve, formerly an open cast mine, has been reclaimed by the RSPB and turned into an 877 acre nature reserve. This site is now the home of thousands of birds as well as an important stop for many migrating birds. It's only half an hour away in good traffic and a great day out to explore, watch birds, do nature trails, hike, bike or even ride a horse. It is also home to a giant "walking" dragline excavator, Oddball, the last remnants of its industrial history. On open days, you can even climb this monster.

Nature is resilient and, much like our community here in Adel, it thrives when we all work together. Without us, the habitats and wildlife around us could cease to exist but we can look after it for future generations.

I'd like to wish everyone in Adel a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tang, Julia and River x x x



Letter from Lily

Hi Everyone,

Are you all looking forward to Christmas? I'm very excited as I was too young to remember it last year so I don't know what is going to happen. I do know that we are going to be with our family on Christmas Day, which I always enjoy as I get lots of cuddles and I give my friend Elvis a good chase – several in fact – around their garden. I will be very interested to hear what you get up to!

Meanwhile, we have been away to see our family in the south-west again. We went on the beach which Penny loved – and I can understand why! I couldn't have a run as there had been a big motor bike event and everything was in a mess, but just wait until next time we go, I will certainly make up for it. We had a sad few minutes as well. My Mum and Dad have been scattering Penny's ashes in the places she loved and the beach was the last place where she had fun.

I got to go on a steam train again, such fun and not frightened at all this time! But, and this was great fun, I got to do another 'first!' When we got to what I thought was the end of our journey, we carried on and boarded a ferry to cross the River Dart! It was a lovely day so I could have a good look round. When we landed it was lunch time, always of interest. Another first! I had never

tasted crab before, and I hope I do again very soon. I wasn't keen on an actual crab – those claws look painful, but the meat is lovely!

I have been to church! Yes, actually to church. On the Friday night of our visit we went to the Quiz and fish-and-ship supper, which I loved. On the Sunday I was *invited* to come to church – they already have a lady who goes with a guide dog, who sadly I didn't meet. My Mum told me I had to be good and quiet. We sat on the back row and I settled down. When everyone sat down after the first hymn finished, I did as I was told and sat quietly and still on my Mum's knee and I enjoyed every minute. I now understand why it is important to so many of you.

My Mum has told me I had misunderstood when I said in my last letter about our visit to another church, "I'm sure this is where people find God." My Mum sat me down and explained that, although church is somewhere we find God and can be close to Him, God wants us to find Him and be close to Him *everywhere*. I think this is beautiful as I very much enjoy myself everywhere.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas.
Woofs and lix,
Lily xxxxx

Words from Joyce Hill

Stories of Jesus' nativity are found only in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. They are surprisingly different in their detail and emphases and they are differences that we often overlook, because the traditional narrative of the nativity, which is embedded in our imaginations and our visual culture is a conflation of the two accounts, commonly embellished with detail that isn't in the gospels at all.

For example, the ox and the ass, which first occurs in the Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew, probably from the eighth century, imaginatively drawing on a phrase in Isaiah chapter 1 verse 3 'The ox knows his owner and the ass his master's crib'.

This year I'm inviting us to take a step back and think about the differences between the two accounts. It's Luke who gives us most of the preparatory narratives: the story of the annunciation of John the Baptist, the annunciation to Mary, her meeting with Elizabeth, Mary's song, which we know as the *Magnificat*, the birth and circumcision of John the Baptist, and the information about the Roman census, explaining why Mary and Joseph had to travel from Nazareth, where they lived, to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room for them in the inn.

What Matthew gives us, by contrast, is simply an account of how an angel appeared to Joseph to assure him that he should go ahead and marry Mary, to whom he was betrothed and who was already pregnant. As Joseph learns from the angel, Mary will give birth to Jesus, who will save his people from their sins.

It's an annunciation of a sort, but very different from what we have in Luke; there are no other preparatory narratives and no reference to a Roman census or to a stable. Rather abruptly, Jesus is reported as having been born in Bethlehem, but you would have no idea from this that the accommodation was in any way unusual, or why they were in Bethlehem.

The differences continue. Luke has the annunciation to the shepherds; Matthew does not. Matthew has the visitation of the magi, their encounter with Herod, their exotic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, their advice from an angel to return by a different way and for Mary and Joseph to flee into Egypt to escape Herod's jealous massacre of the tiny children in Bethlehem. None of this is in Luke. But what Luke does have, and Matthew does not, is the circumcision of Jesus and the presentation in the temple, which gives us, through Simeon, the canticle we know as the

Nunc Dimittis.

These are all major narrative differences, but they are also differences of emphasis and focus. Luke has Jesus' birth announced to the lowly and homely shepherds while in Matthew it is revealed to the learned magi from far away, who are rich enough to bring exotic gifts.

Similarly, the scene in Luke is set in a stable with the manger used as a crib,

whereas in Matthew the magi enter a house to see Jesus. And there is also a contrast in the fact that, in Luke, the annunciation is to Mary directly, a mere woman, whereas in Matthew it is to Joseph who, as a man, is of higher status than Mary and is in control of the social compact between them.

These are not the only differences. Have a look and see for yourselves.

Festive Christmas Concert



Sunday 15th December

At 3pm in church

Get into the festive mood with a choral concert delivered by The Leeds Guild of Singers under the musical directorship of Ben Kirk. The choir is praised for its "wonderful purity of tone and clarity of diction" and is one of the region's best chamber choirs. Their Christmas Concerts at Adel Church have been sell-outs and they are back again this year with an exciting seasonal programme of the new and not so new.

Enjoy a diverse selection of choral works from composers like Dame Judith Weir, Sir James Macmillan, and the rousing "Wassail!" by choir member Alistair Wood. Tickets are £15 for adults (students and under 18s free), with proceeds supporting church funds. Pay at the door, cash or card. The concert will be followed by seasonal refreshments in the Stables. Don't miss this delightful tradition!

QE Corner

Here it is again, Quite Enlightening Corner. You all know that I like trivial information, so for your enlightenment I am presenting you this month with another miscellany of "facts(?)"

The words 'Exchequer' and 'chess' are related: 'Exchequer' comes from the Old French for 'a chess-board' and was first used to describe a chequered 'reckoning cloth' or 'counting board' used to calculate revenue accounts.

*Rechnung auff der lincken
gemacht durch Adam Kisten vom Stauffen
Keyn/ in massen man es pflegen lein in allen
rechen schulen grundlich begriffen anno 1518.
vleyssiglich vberlesen/ und zum andern mal
in teug vortaget.*



*Druckte in Leffode zum
Schwarzen Horn
1525*

The 15th-century Earl of York wrote a list of all acceptable names for a hunting dog. They include Jolybronde, Pratte, Halibutte, Wastepayne, and Rude.

In 1926 a monkey jazz band escaped from Notting Hill. One chimp managed to get as far as Rugby, reportedly by taking the train.

Electoral law in India requires there to be a voting booth within 2km of every single voter.

In the 14th century it was fashionable to own a pet squirrel. Isabeau of Bavaria, Queen of France, dressed hers in a collar decorated with pearls and a gold buckle.

In Iceland, you are not allowed to name your baby Viking.

For years Boris Becker could never understand how Andre Agassi was so good at guessing where his serve would land. After they both retired, Agassi revealed that Becker stuck his tongue out in the direction he was serving.

Ancient Romans believed toothache was caused by a worm.

The University of Coimbra in Portugal has a colony of bats in their library. It keeps their books safe by eating bugs.

The Louvre has a dedicated postbox for letters to the Mona Lisa.

The earliest recorded use of the word 'computer' is from 1613.

Please note these "Facts(?)" are all from the internet, so don't blame me if they are not correct!

Trevor Cole

Christmas at Crag House FARM

FESTIVE FOOD ORDERS

We are now taking your festive meat orders. Order your turkeys, duck, pheasant, pork, beef, pork pies and don't forget the pigs in blankets! Pick up a food & hamper order form in the Shop. Meat orders to be placed by 13th Dec



CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

£17.95 Per Person

Enjoy your Afternoon Tea with a Christmas twist. It comes with a selection of Sandwiches, Pastry, Cakes, Scone with Jam & Cream, unlimited Tea or Coffee (Prosecco extra). Pre-booking essential, for 2.15, 2.30 or 2.45pm online at www.craghousefarm.com

GIFT HAMPERS

Our hampers are filled with luxury food items, many are award-winning artisan Yorkshire products. Choose from 3 pre-made hampers in a range of prices.



CHRISTMAS WREATHS FROM JUST £15

Handmade Christmas Wreaths for your home, made in our Garden Nurseries. Plus seasonal plants including Poinsettia and Cyclamen!



CHRISTMAS TREES FOR CHARITY

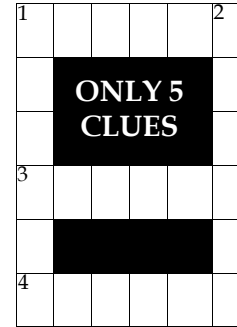
On sale 29th November. Choose your top quality Nordmann Fir non-drop Christmas Tree! Cut or potted trees, in a range of sizes and prices.

Wishing you a Happy 2025!

Crag House FARM

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

Puzzles



Mystery Word

Each pair of words shares 2 middle letters. The first has been filled in for you. Complete the remaining words to find the 10 letter mystery word reading from top to bottom.

IN	VE	RT
RE		AL
UR		NT
DI		ST
RE		IL
IN		CT
EM		EM
CA		ES
FL		HY
DR		SY

ACROSS

- A rise in addition (2,4)
- Part of rarely seen French palace

- Failing, change sides

DOWN

- Went along with a deadly sin
- Bemoan lieutenant having the last word inside



Solutions on p 32

In Your Garden

“Every gardener knows under the cloak of winter lies a miracle – a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream.” — **Unknown**

The best place to be doing your gardening at this time of the year is in the imagination. The days are at their shortest and the weather is highly unpredictable and likely to be dubious at best. Now is the time to enjoy the glories of the cerebral garden. So sit back and let the weather do what it will, whilst you recall all the treasures from the last year, all the gaps that need filling and remember the plants that may have succumbed during the year and the opportunities these now provide. Then there is the leisurely deliberation over what to do about it all! Take your time. It could be weeks before you can get outside again!

The internet is now full of places to view plants, planting schemes, plug plants, seeds, spring and summer bulbs and places to buy them, so in that sense it has never been easier to get hold of whatever it is you would like. Seed and plant catalogues also abound. Reputable suppliers will always give you advice on when and where to plant your choices. It might be good idea to have a list ready for any family or friends who enquire about suitable Christmas presents!

If it is trees or hedging plants you need then they can often be

purchased and despatched straight away. They are mostly dormant during the winter and can be transplanted in bare root form, which is much cheaper than pot grown equivalents. You will, of course, have to brave the outdoors and plant them soon after they arrive!

If you really want to get out into your garden then how about putting out food for the birds. With such short days our birds need to take advantage of all of the available daylight to feed as quickly and efficiently as they can. As our winter progresses, their natural food supplies diminish, so any supplements will be gratefully and greedily received. Keep your eyes open for those regular winter visitors from Scandinavia, the redwing and the fieldfare, and if we are very lucky a few waxwings may join the party.

I always give my greenhouse a thorough wash with warm soapy water to get the glass nice and clean again. Most years I will also dig in a few wheelbarrows full of well-rotted compost from my compost heaps to keep the soil as fertile as possible. There is a special pleasure in working in the greenhouse on a foul day, pottering about whilst listening to the rain pelting the glass.

George Turnbull
enquiries@adelgardencare.co.uk
www.adelgardencare.co.uk

Adel Players Review

Accidental Death of an Anarchist

As recent arrivals to Adel, and relatively new to theatre, my wife and I decided to give the Adel Players a try. This opening night was a delightfully welcome surprise, especially given the dreary weather outside. With a good size midweek audience, ample parking at AWMH, reasonably priced drinks, and choc ices during the interval, this evening was a real treat—and so much better than a night in front of the TV!

Adel Players staged Tom Basden’s modern adaptation of *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, originally written by Dario Fo and Franca Rame. This classic satire, inspired by the tragic real-life death of Giuseppe Pinelli in 1969, has been updated to a British setting, where a suspect’s suspicious death in police custody raises questions and darkly humorous accusations against the officers involved. Basden’s version keeps the biting humour of the original, laced with pointed references to issues within the Metropolitan Police.

The central figure, known as the Maniac (portrayed by William Andrews), is an unpredictable con artist with a penchant for impersonation. After being taken in for questioning, he finally, with props and wigs, transforms himself into an investigating “judge”.

While Inspector Burton (David Lancaster) quickly suspects him of madness, the other officers (Robert Colbeck, Gavin Jones and Gary Jarvis) are thoroughly taken in by his performance, allowing him to turn the tables. With quick wit, the Maniac leads the police in chaotic circles, forcing them into an absurd web of lies. As the Maniac manipulates their every move, the officers spiral into farce, even contemplating suicide, before a journalist (Hazel Walshaw) arrives, adding yet another layer to the unfolding fiasco. The balance of dark humour with the very real topic of police misconduct kept us laughing yet reflective, throughout.

Dianne and David Newby’s direction elicited fine performances from the whole cast, with Will Andrews truly standing out. His stamina, sharp delivery, and memorization of a demanding script made him mesmerizing to watch. Also, much credit goes to the back-stage crew for preparing and presenting such a high-quality set. Adel is fortunate to have this talented troupe, and if you haven’t seen them yet, I highly recommend!

Upcoming Production: *A Fine Bright Day Today* by Philip Goulding, directed by Alan Foale, running **22-25**

January 2025

Adrian Hide

A Bus Service for Golfers

The first Adel/Leeds motor bus was thanks to the Headingley Golf Course! I read about this recently as I was researching John Baillie Hamilton who was General Manager of Leeds City Tramways 1902-1925. He had a workforce of 8,000 employees and towards the end of his career the administration of Temple Newsam estate was added! In 1925 he died in post at the age of 69. Since he had huge national responsibilities in WWI, and a very difficult job in Leeds after the privations of the war years, I am not at all surprised.

He was appointed to the post of General Manager of Leeds City Tramways on 1st April 1902, aged 46. Before taking up the post, he had done a tour of USA & Canada, looking at their transport schemes. He had been Assistant Manager of Glasgow Tramways, one of few men at the time who was experienced in running an electrified system – which Leeds was by then. As he was a council employee, his wage and job came under public scrutiny, not always favourably, but he was well supported by the Chair of the Leeds Tramways Committee, Robert Alfred Smithson.

These men, both keen golfers became firm friends. Smithson joined Headingley Golf Club on 4 January 1902 and Hamilton joined on 15 November 1902 – a few months after

being appointed to Leeds. The golf course, founded in 1892 at Moor Grange Farm, Spen Lane, was convenient for both men, with Stevenson, an accountant, living at Grosvenor Road, Headingley (20 North Grange Road at his death) and Hamilton at Hotham House, Kirkstall Lane, then Kepstorn, Kirkstall.

The course on Spen Lane was restricted to 9 holes and soon, the players there wanted it expanding to 18 holes. As the site was constricted it was decided to move to Adel – officially opened in February 1906. The Golf Course requested a bus service for players and they guaranteed to cover the losses incurred – and Hamilton as Captain of the Club and Chairman of the Club Committee was in a position to grant the request. The bus service (by all accounts unreliable and using Long Causeway) was opened on 21.3.1913 – coinciding with the extension of the tramway to Lawnswood Cemetery. There were no complaints recorded from Adel people nor the Golf club members at the cessation of the service.

If ever, you like me, have seen the foundation date of 1892 at the Golf Course and thought the buildings didn't seem to fit that date – this helps explain the discrepancy!

Ann Lightman

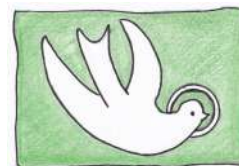
Local Winter Activities

Help the Woodland Creation Team

In November, the Team were tree planting in Tannery Square, Meanwood.

On Thurs 5th Dec 10am-Noon there is a chance to help Woodland Creation Team plant trees at West Park Playing Fields, Kepstorn Road, LS16. You are asked to wear suitable clothes **and Wellies!** Email if you are interested: woodlandcreation@leeds.gov.uk.

A White Dove for Robin Spencer



After Fred and Robin had both died, Sybil Spencer continued with York Gate Garden—and was still an active member of the Adel Sewing Group. New kneelers were needed in Adel Church and were made by members in memory of loved ones. Many of these are now in need of repair!

At Christmas Services, I often sit, near the font, on Robin's kneeler, a white dove on a green background, chosen by Sybil for Robin.

Val Crompton



The 1152 Club

**on Tuesdays
at 10am - 11.15am,
during term-time.
Abbey House Museum**

Free parking near Abbey House.

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

No booking is needed.

Patrick Bourne. Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds LS5 3EH

Kirkstall.abbey@leeds.gov.uk
For details, **0113 378 4079**

or contact Val Crompton

3 Dec 2024 is **Workhouse Stories** with Belinda May (puppeteer)

14 Jan 2025 is **Edwardian Ice Skating Rinks in Leeds** with Catherine Robins (Project Curator)

OPAL Activities

This is the most wonderful time of the year and here at OPAL we are making merry memories with our members. We have the annual Christmas banquet at Ralph Thoresby High school for a hundred of our members which signals the start of the festive activities for OPAL. This is always a fantastic event put on by the staff and pupils of Ralph Thoresby High School: lots of beautifully prepared food, songs and even special gifts for the members. Every year Ralph Thoresby High School provides a warm welcome to our members and our staff and we thank them for all the hard work they put in to make the event such a success.

Don't miss our Christmas Fayre

Our annual Christmas fayre is on **14th December** and we look forward to seeing lots of members as well as the wider community enjoying this fun day. We will have many last minute gift ideas as well as a special visitor, who is kindly taking time away from his busy toy workshop to visit us at The Welcome In Community Centre. Take a look at our newsletter for details of all our festive events and maybe this is the perfect time for you to come see us, you may even see the staff in Christmas fancy dress around the building throughout December.

The New Year will see the start of a new group at OPAL. We are launching a Book Club and if you would like more information, please contact us and ask to speak to Ellen. Come along and maybe find a new author you like or just enjoy talking about the book the group is reading with a good cup of tea and new friends.

The New Year is also the perfect time to look back at all we have achieved and to say an enormous thank you to all our amazing volunteers. We could not put on so many of our activities without the support and help of our volunteers.

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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Shelley Clark
Project worker

York Gate Update

Sybil Spencer 29/3/08 – 14/12/94

This month marks the 30th Anniversary of the death of Sybil Spencer, châtelaine of York Gate and a great plantswoman. Her funeral was held in Adel Church on 21st December 1994 and her ashes are buried here in the Churchyard. She was Chair of Adel Horticultural Society for many years and organised flower arranging at the church. She also channelled her passion for the garden into raising money for charities with Garden Open Days and, an expert needlewoman, she even formed a knitting circle to make blankets for Oxfam.

Her contribution to gardening was marked in the following obituaries.

The Telegraph

Sybil Spencer, who has died aged 86, helped to create one of the most celebrated small gardens in Britain. Her guiding principle was that when plants are allowed to grow naturally, they make a harmonious picture and result in a garden filled with tranquillity.

A woman of great presence, Sybil Spencer would receive visitors to York Gate with aplomb. On summer evenings she would walk visitors around the garden, pausing to discuss the merits of a new plant and then lead them to the summer house for a glass of home-made lemonade.



The Times

Sybil Armitage, as she was born, had originally hoped to become an actress and trained at RADA. She left to marry Frederick Spencer but retained a slightly theatrical bearing and the garden was her stage, where visitors were given entertaining guided tours.

Sybil's skill was to create an atmosphere for each room (in the garden) with the planting, so that, even a few feet away in the next area, a completely different atmosphere prevailed. The planting was remarkable and – always the mark of a good garden – maintained throughout the year so that the garden in winter was as dramatic as in summer.

There was some concern that the garden would disappear when Sybil died but it

has been left in trust and will remain open to the public.

Some of you will remember Sybil and find that the above words paint a wonderful portrait of her – I think she would be very pleased to think that her beloved York Gate was still giving pleasure to so many people today.

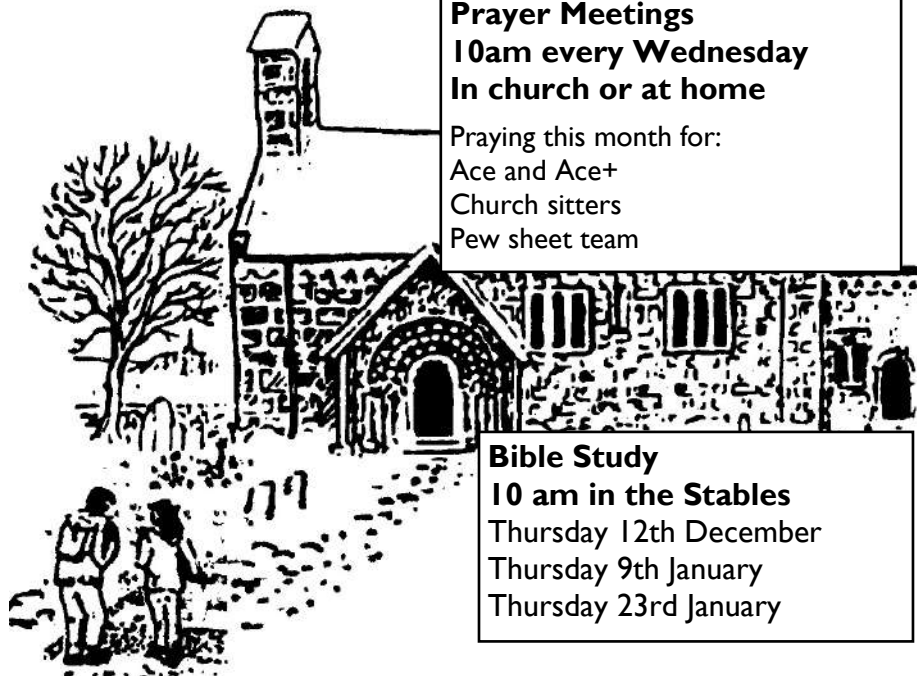
As we approach the Christmas season, on behalf of everyone at York Gate, may I wish you all a peaceful and joyous time.

Gillian Smith, Heritage Volunteer.



The Garden is now closed but we hope to see you all again for the 2025 Snowdrop Days. The Café and Gift Shop are open as usual until **Saturday 21st December**. The Café will reopen in **January 2025**: please visit the website for full opening times.

Also in December & January . . .



Prayer Meetings
10am every **Wednesday**
In church or at home

Praying this month for:
Ace and Ace+
Church sitters
Pew sheet team

Bible Study
10 am in the **Stables**
Thursday 12th December
Thursday 9th January
Thursday 23rd January

What's On

Headingley Flower Club at Bramhope

Friday 6th December

'Santa Claus is coming to Town'

Sara Barrow (National Demonstrator)
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



AWMA

Sunday 8th December

A German Christmas Market with an Adel Twist

11am – 4pm

This is a **Special and Free event** in the Bar Lounge and Marquee of the AWMA.

Stalls Holders will be offering perfect gifts for you and your loved ones this Christmas. Also available will be Festive foods, German beers, and mulled drinks.

At Adel War Memorial Association, Church Lane, LS16 8DE, next to Adel Parish Church.



Adel Gardeners' Club

Monday 9th December

'Golden Days at Golden Acre'

Martin Walker

Join us for a social evening with cakes and mince pies

Monday 13th January

'Heritage Vegetables'

Sally Nex

Learn the history behind our oldest vegetable varieties.

Both meetings in Adel Methodist church at 7.30pm



Leeds & District Association of the National Trust

Tuesday 10th December

'Memories of the 1960s'

Each year of the decade is represented by a piece of popular music and themes from the songs are enlarged upon. A light-hearted look back at a decade many remember fondly!

Talks begin at **10.30** am, coffee served from **10.00** am. Guests £7



Adel Players

Wednesday to Saturday

22nd to 25th January, 7.30pm

'A fine Bright Day Today'

by Philip Goulding,

directed by Alan Foale

To book tickets, please email boxoffice@adel-players.org.uk.

Barry Anderson

Happy Christmas

Caroline and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas when it comes. I hope you get to spend some time with your families.

Nuisance E-Bikes

Residents are rightly concerned, as am I, about the number of electric bikes and riders around the streets, on pavements, with drivers' faces covered, coming towards pedestrians out of the blue, on the wrong side of the road and without lights in the dark. I was asked what was being done about this, particularly in the city centre pedestrianised areas where people with sight issues are very fearful. The response I received was: "It's something we are certainly aware of and rather than being a change in any bylaw, this is driven by the growth in people's use of delivery apps, and the increasing 'electrification' of bicycles. Every now and then the Police carry out an operation to seize illegal e-bikes. This has resulted in seizures of bikes and criminal proceedings where relevant. We are talking corporately to Deliveroo and the other delivery companies about their role in this, and they are supporting with messaging to riders. We hold Rider engagement days every so often where we have a chance to speak to riders about their behaviour. We plan to install signage around the pedestrianised areas to ask riders to slow down or dismount. We are hoping to get these in before Christmas."

Farrar Lane/Church Lane/Otley Road Crossroads

I get lots of requests for some pedestrian crossing time at these crossroads, and I have been working with Highways for years to try and find a solution and funding. I have now received an update from Highways to advise that "The Council did receive this year a contribution from David Wilson Homes towards upgrades to the Otley Road/ Church Lane/ Farrar Lane signal junction. We are currently awaiting the return of traffic surveys at the junction, the data from which will allow colleagues in Urban Traffic Management Control to undertake a model of the junction and allow us to understand what improvements can be achieved, including the introduction of formal pedestrian facilities and whether this is achievable with an 'all-red' phase on the signals (whereby all traffic arms are held at red and pedestrians are given a green) or whether this adds too much time into the sequence and would result in unacceptable congestion. If this is the case, then further consideration will need to be given to how to achieve the pedestrian crossing aspect on the junction, whilst maintaining acceptable traffic flow."

Household Support Fund

The Council has been allocated £7.1m from the Household Support Fund to help those in need with the costs of food, fuel, and other essentials

between October 2024 and 31st March 2025. £3.2m will be allocated to residents in receipt of Council Tax Support (CTS). All households in receipt of CTS who are working age and pensioner households eligible for a Winter Fuel Payment will receive a direct cash award of £40. Pensioner households in receipt of CTS but ineligible for a Winter Fuel Payment will receive a direct cash award of £150. Cash awards will be made via the Post Office. Letters containing a barcode will be sent directly to households and can be exchanged for cash at the Post Office upon provision of identification. £1.65m will be made available for Third Sector organisations/charities to support vulnerable households not engaging with the council and £230k will help support the city's Welcome Spaces Network ensuring vulnerable households are able to access a warm space alongside other sources of support. If you qualify for these payments but you have not received it please let me know.

Storm Lilian

You may recall that in the summer Storm Lilian impacted Leeds significantly. The recovery from Storm Lilian remains a major challenge for the Forestry team, with our Storm Lilian incident log currently including 430 enquiries. On the day of the storm, the authority dealt with over 1000 phone calls and council officers have prioritised visiting damaged trees subsequent to the storm. As a

consequence of Lilian, there has been an increase in identified operational works and there are approximately 260 outstanding jobs, ranging from emergency work with a short timeframe for completion, to work that will be undertaken in the next six months.

Winter Coat Appeal

This year's Winter Coat Appeal has started and donations can be made at any of the 40 locations across Leeds and, from 4 November 2024, coats are available for collection for anyone who may need one.

In our area coats, fleeces and snowsuits (babies through to adults) can be brought to: Holt Park Active (Leisure Centre) and "The Calf Shed" which is currently a children's nursery located on the old Weetwood Police station site. For other locations you can find those on the website. www.zerowasteleeds.org.uk

Cllr. Barry Anderson
Adel & Wharfedale Ward
Direct Dial 0113 3367742
www.barryanderson.org.uk
Twitter @barryanderson19

Billy Flynn

Indian Summer

Hi again. Despite my pessimism last month that the Indian Summer we were enjoying then would not last, it has. I am writing this in early November, and it is unseasonably mild, almost like Spring, but with fallen leaves! On leaves, given the carpet now inches deep around the ward, I have asked the leaf clearing team to expedite their programme to clear the area from the ring road to around the church, including Adel Lane.

Adel Square development

As you will have noticed, the highways work associated with the development have at last been completed. The footpath on Sir George Martin Drive has been extended and the pedestrian crossing installed. Had Advent been allowed to carry out the work originally as they wished, the entire job would have been finished months ago. Advent have also kindly agreed to donate a bench for the footpath in due course. Welcome to the wonderful world of council inspired inertia!

Holt Park Village 50th anniversary - Library and community hub

The 50th anniversary of the original "Holt Park Village" is being celebrated at the library on Friday 29 November and library staff have extended an invitation to the community to help celebrate the occasion with coffee and cake. An unbeatable combination, particularly as it includes an

opportunity to explore some archive news clippings and photographs from 10.30am -12.30pm. There will be a heritage themed Digital Drop In from 1.00-2.00pm with a librarian on hand to introduce you to Ancestry which can be accessed for free in our libraries. This is a particularly useful time to remind people about other services offered at the library. It is not just about borrowing books, it also is used as a council business hub for council housing matters, temporary parking permits, reporting anti-social behaviour and free use of computers and Wi-Fi. Staff would also like to start a Holt Park quiz if possible. Ellie, one of the librarians would love to hear your memories of Holt Park Libraries over the years. If you have a story, photograph, or best wishes to share, or any other ideas for the day please send them to Ellie at Ellie.Maudsley@leeds.gov.uk. Attendance at our libraries has sadly been falling over the years and it is vital that the community supports this invaluable service. Like many other vital community assets if we do not use them, we are in danger of losing them.

If you would like further information on any of the issues above or have questions about anything else in the ward, please do get in touch with me.

Telephone 07810 640282
or email billy.flynn@leeds.gov.uk

Only 5 Clues

Across

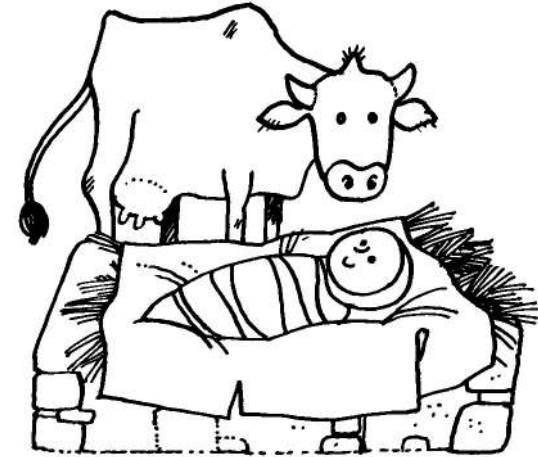
1. AS WELL
3. ELYSEE
4. DEFECT

Down

1. AGREED
2. LAMENT

Mystery Word Solution

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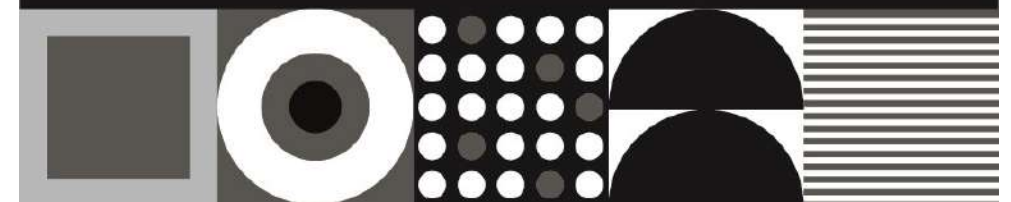
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Adel Manor Care Centre Adel Gardens, Otley Road, Leeds, LS16 7FP Tel: 0113 841 1000
newcarehomes.com



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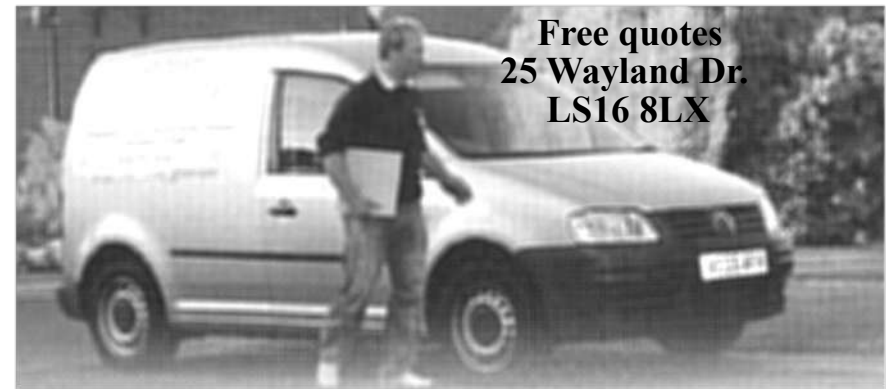
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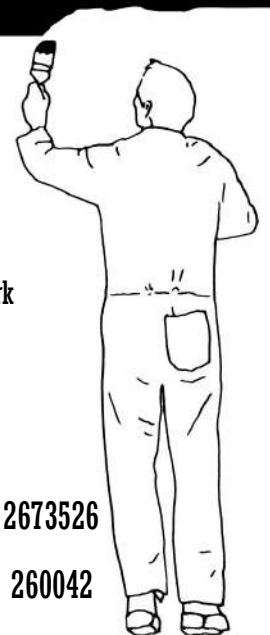
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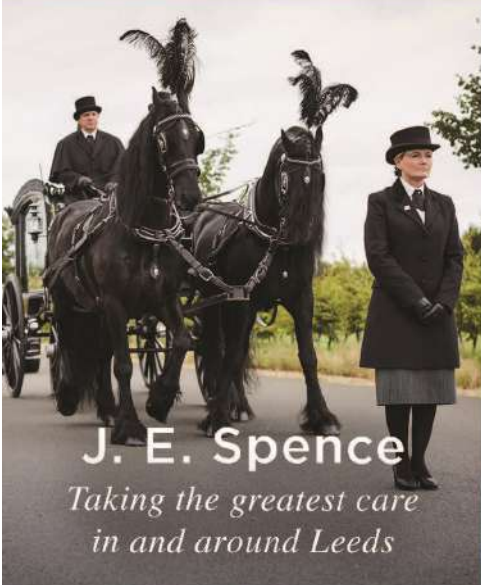
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Church Services in January

Wed 1st 11am Holy Communion followed by coffee & biscuits

Sunday 5th Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong

Wed 8th 11am Holy Communion

Fri 10th 1.30pm J Js (for the under sixes)

Sunday 12th Baptism of Christ

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Communion
5pm ACE meeting in the Stables
6pm ACE+ starting in church

Wed 15th 11am Holy Communion

Thurs 16th 3.15pm Holy Communion in the Stables, with tea & coffee

Sunday 19th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am All Age Service with Communion
6.30pm Choral Evensong followed by light refreshments

Wed 22nd 11am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Communion
5pm ACE meeting in the Stables
6.15pm ACE+ meeting in the Stables

Wed 29th 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 in term time to discuss our faith and play silly games. Ace+ start s at 6pm on 2nd Sunday of the month in church (at the Ace communion) and 6.15pm on 4th Sunday of the month in the Stables

Church Services in December

Details of Christmas events and services on page 9

Sunday 1st 1st Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong

Wed 4th 11am Holy Communion followed by coffee & biscuits

Sunday 8th 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Communion
5pm ACE meeting in the Stables
6pm ACE+ starting in church

Wed 11th 11am Holy Communion

Fri 13th 1.30pm J Js (for the under sixes)

Sunday 15th 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am All Age Service with Communion
6.30pm Evensong

Wed 18th 11am Holy Communion

Thurs 19th 3.15pm Holy Communion in the Stables, with tea & coffee

Sunday 22nd 4th Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Community Carol Service followed by wine & mince pies in the Stables

Wed 25th Christmas Day
10am Parish Communion (Sung)

Sunday 29th 1st Sunday of Christmas

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Communion