

# Parish of Sandal Magna Newsletter



The lost are found, the found grow and the lonely are enfolded

December  
2021



## Vacancy Update

The closing date for applications has now passed and applications have been received. The pace has increased and Ed and Viv, our representatives are going to be busy. They are now sifting through lengthy application forms and in a few days they will pass their views to CPAS and to the Archdeacon and candidates for interview will be chosen. The next task will be to finalise the interview arrangements. In January's Newsletter I will explain more about the interview process.

Don't forget that details of the applicants are confidential and so Viv and Ed are unable to divulge any information. A leak could result in unforeseen circumstances for the candidate and would reflect poorly on our parish. Continue to pray about the vacancy, our representatives, and the rest of the recruitment team. But more importantly, that God will identify the right candidate and allow the recruitment.

I know some of you like to play "spot the candidate", no doubt unsuccessfully, and so a word of caution. Cath Moxham was working at The Spring and noticed a customer wearing a dog collar. She engaged him in conversation and ascertained that he was the padre at Becketts and a regular customer rather than a secret applicant. You have been warned!

*Brian Pratt, Churchwarden*

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## Wakefield Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre

### News from Sarah Cutts

It is with a little sadness I have decided to step down as Centre Manager for the Wakefield CAP Debt Centre. It has been an incredible God filled 9.5 years. I have had the privilege of working with some amazing people who have found themselves in extremely difficult circumstances which has resulted in them asking for our help.

The Wakefield Centre was established in 2012 and has been supported by an army of people and organisations. We have run as churches together to love our community, with St George's, Lupset, New Life Christian Centre and Sandal Methodist being involved. WE have been financially supported faithfully by local people, churches and The Spring.

Dozens of people have helped befriend our clients, come on visits, pray, buy and deliver shopping, run events, deliver hampers and clothes. We have blessed our clients with Christmas Lunches, cream teas, pampering events, magic shows, sharing our testimonies, client holidays, white goods, school uniforms, Christmas presents, children's presents and lots more.

I have laughed and cried and hugged and loved our clients as well as compliment, empower, challenge and encourage. Most importantly, I have been the hands and feet of Jesus, sharing God's love and praying for clients.

In this time we have seen 109 people go debt free and 56 make a response to the Gospel message.

God has called me to move on and focus my time in Portobello. I am thrilled that we will be advertising for a new CAP Debt Centre Manager soon. I thank God for the blessings I have had in this role and can I ask for your prayers for the right person to fill this role in 2022.

*Sarah Cutts, Wakefield CAP Debt Centre Manager*

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## Tear Fund Quiz Night

An excellent quiz night organised by Margaret Walker and her team was held on 20th November and over £600 was raised. The food, pork pies and mushy peas, was delicious.

The questions provided by Tear Fund and quiz-master John Manners were suitably taxing and he proved to be an amiable host.

Just one slight hiccup regarding when the Titanic sank, but thankfully that soon melted away. Modesty prevents me from naming whose team won this challenging and hard-fought battle.

*Brian Pratt*, Churchwarden.

## Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre Manager Vacancy

Sandal Magna Parish is recruiting a new CAP Debt Centre Manager. The role will be 15 hours per week working from Portobello Community Centre. We are looking for someone who is passionate about their faith and helping people in debt. Full training will be given. If you are interested in this role and would like a full job description and application form please contact [sarahcutts@capuk.org](mailto:sarahcutts@capuk.org) or for further information please give Sarah a call on 07799 534702. Closing date for applications is 3 January.

## News from The Spring

Huge thanks to everyone who supported our first ever Craft Fayre in November - we had a great response from both stall holders and visitors and I can be pretty confident that it will be something we do again in the New Year. Well done to Jackie Gabriel for organising such a successful event which raised over £700.



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## News from The Spring continued

**Spring Volunteers:** Following a difficult year for us all we are now looking prayerfully to a more settled 2022, and we are in need of some more Volunteers, in the Cafe especially. We are in need of some **hands that do dishes** on Tuesdays 10-2, Wednesday 12-4 and Thursdays 10-2. In return we offer fellowship, community, the gift of serving one another, some great food at lunchtimes and of course our Volunteers Tea Party at the end of the year!! If you feel you have some time to give on a regular basis, or just wish to go onto our Reserve Emergency List, then do contact me for further information on 075339962656, via the email at [thespring299@btinternet.com](mailto:thespring299@btinternet.com) or call in and see me or a member of The Spring team.



**Sunday Lunch** - we are once again operating a Roast Lunch on the first Sunday of the month, dates of which are listed below and we are now open for bookings. Sunday 6th February, Sunday 6th March and Sunday 3rd April. We will then take a break from May to September and re-commence on Sunday 2nd October, Sunday 6th November and Sunday 4th December.

**Christmas Lunches** - start on Tuesday 7th December and whilst we are no longer taking reservations we do have some on the day availability for our regular menu and Christmas Lunches. We are delighted to say that we will be pausing once again throughout the Christmas Lunch Season for some Advent Reflections - an opportunity to be still just for a moment and give thanks for Jesus.

**Christmas Day Lunch** will be held in The Spring and anyone interested in either helping or attending should contact Mark Buckley on 01924 256966.

**Spring Closure** - we will be taking a break from Saturday 18th December and will re-open on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 10.00am.

*Cath Moxham, Manager at The Spring*

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## Report from the Choir

Autumn is always a busy time for choirs in churches and chapels throughout the country. This has been much the case at the Traditional 9.30am services at St. Helen's Church.

The singing of an Introit before the beginning of the service has now become well established. Hopefully, this sets the right kind of atmosphere before the formal act of worship.

The Annual St. Cecilia Day Service gave the opportunity to widen the repertoire of the choir but also to 'robe' for the first time since we were first locked down because of Covid – one way of keeping warm when the temperature falls! The choir has also led the singing for All Saint's Day, the Memorial Service and Remembrance Sunday.

Our Thursday Choir Practices now focus on the Carols and Hymns to be sung at the Carols by Candlelight Service which is to be held on Sunday 19th December at 10.30am. This will give the congregation ample opportunity to heartily sing well-known Christmas Carols and to listen to a range of old and new numbers sung by the choir.

A word of thanks to the visiting choristers who are joining us for this service when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

*John Arnold, Organist*



## Womens Fellowship

The next meeting of the Women's Fellowship will be held in the Emmaus Room at 10.30am on Monday 6th December. Our speaker will show us that 'Maths can be fun and mysterious'. All are welcome – no previous knowledge required! Scissors and pencils will be provided!! We hope to discover the connection between the weights which were used in a butcher's shop, the pipes in a church organ and how a jacquard loom works to weave patterns in silk.

Mince pies, Christmas cake, tea and coffee will follow. We look forward to seeing you for an enjoyable Monday morning.

The return of our meetings this Autumn saw a change of time from the traditional evening session to its new slot of 10.30am on the first Monday of each month, although please note the next meeting will be on 10th January. This has proved to be most popular with the members .... of course, new members are always welcome.

*Gill Heap*

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## News and thanks from Rupert and Sally

Dear Friends,

Well it is exactly six months today that we had our last Sunday worshipping in Sandal Magna Parish, and said farewell to you all. It has been a big wrench to leave sisters, brothers and friends. Being replanted takes time after our whole lives were shared for so many precious years. We think of you and pray for you all in the present, and for the future leaders to be ready and called. Thank you for each and every person as you continue to love and serve the Lord Jesus where you have been placed and planted. It isn't always easy, but with the Holy Spirit "love wins".

This six months has been a building project!!! More than we anticipated but we are so pleased we were here. My Mum's cousin offered us their loft bed-sitting room and shower space and it was such a gift. So we came to work each day here in Hotwells. We did what we could do, stripping wallpaper and decorating and were available to make decisions about what our wonderful builders did. The photos tell some of the story!!!! We moved in on 7th September and we were ready for the family to stay from October half term which was so lovely. We want to thank you again for your amazing gift to us which is just about to be used on our balcony/decking/garden area. We will always remember you through this too. A huge THANK YOU x

We are worshipping at the church which sent us out from Bristol in 1991; Holy Trinity Hotwells with St Stephens. Both are near the docks. We are a couple of minutes from the water and love the area. Our neighbours have been so welcoming, a couple of them still here which is lovely. Somehow coming back to the home where our early Christian faith was nurtured, where we had all three children, where Rupert was called and trained at Trinity theological college, has helped the process of leaving you all. And we know this is where God has placed us for the next season which is a blessing. We send our love and peace at this advent time to each one of you. We pray that whatever colour your world feels like in this season Jesus will step in with light, hope and love. It is not an easy time for so many but one of our favourite verses is: In quietness and trust is your strength. Isaiah 30:15

May God bless you through this Advent and Christmas time into a New Year full of promise.

With love and deep appreciation of your love, friendship and prayers,

*Sally and Rupert xx*

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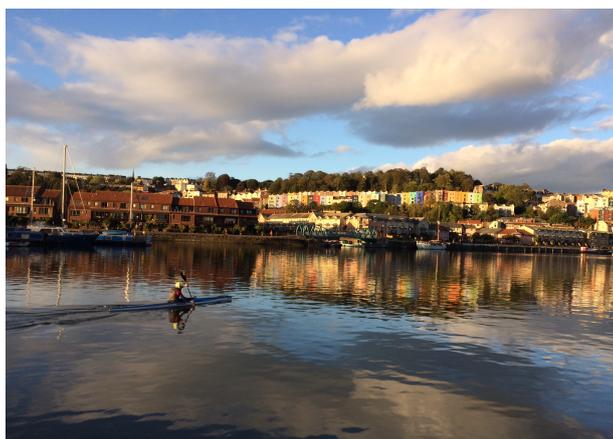
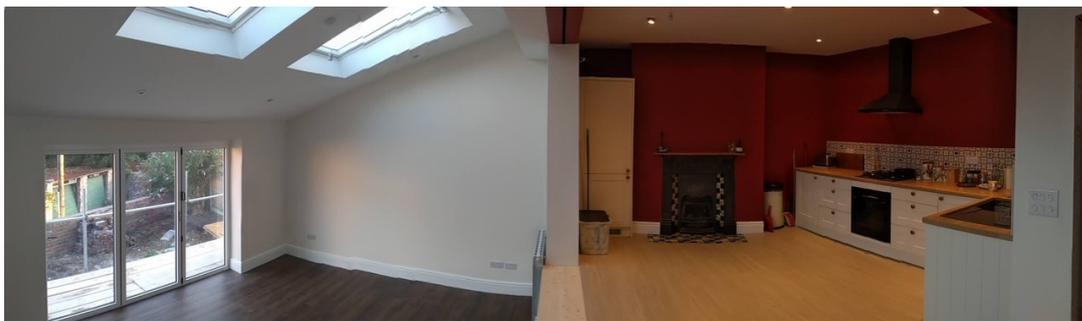
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With love this Christmas  
from Bristol to Wakefield

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**Opening Up almost beyond COVID**

Many of you have been wondering why some of our church activities have yet to open back up. In particular, people have asked about our Youth Project, Sunday School and Boogie Woogie Tots. They have wondered why there has been a delay. Actually there has been much activity being the scenes to ensure that all our systems are refreshed, up to date and in place. During lockdown the diocese improved its policies and procedures, particularly with regard to safeguarding.

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Gerard Kiely Jones, has been enhanced. It is his role, along with group leaders to ensure that all volunteers who need one, have the appropriate DBS check. All other volunteers have to complete a new self-disclosure form. In addition, everyone has to undertake the on-line safeguarding training provided by the Diocese.

New risk assessments have had to be completed and due regard has also had to be paid to Health and Safety and GDPR concerns. Consequently the youth leaders and safeguarding team have worked extremely hard to get to this point. Similar procedures will be coming to a church group near you soon! Don't panic, it will not be too onerous. The good news is that the youth work is up and running and Sunday School and Boogie Woogie Tots will return in January. This exercise, and others in the pipeline, will ensure - we hope- that our new vicar will inherit a church with good systems building on what Rupert and Sally had already started.

*Brian Pratt and Ed Brindley, Churchwardens.*

## Opening up (literally) the Churchyard Gate

We have now fitted a combination lock to the back gate in the garage car park; the combination code is held by the Garage, The Parish Office and myself, Neale Clark. There is a large sign on the gate giving all 3 contact telephone numbers so that people wanting to gain access just need to ring one of the numbers to be told the code. The combination will be changed every 3 months on the 15th day of the month and the 3 custodians will be notified of this by email.

There is also a sign at the front entrance of the church directing you to go to the garage car park to gain access to the Tree of Life, it includes a QR code that when opened gives you a map of how to get there from the car park or via the churchyard. It is hoped that these arrangements will make it easier for people to gain access to the Tree of Life whilst maintaining security . *Neale Clark*

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## Christmas Services at St Helen's and St Paul's

### December - Christmas Services

Sunday 12th December

- 11.00am Carol Service at St Paul's
- 9.30 and 11.00am Services at St Helen's as normal

Sunday 19th December

- 10.30am Carol Service at St Helen's
- 11.00am Holy Communion at St Paul's
- 4.00pm Christingle at St Helen's
- 8.00pm Evening Contemporary Carol Service at St Helen's

Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve

- 11.15pm Midnight Service at St Helen's

Saturday 25th December, Christmas Day

- 9.30am Holy Communion at St Helen's
- 11.00am Holy Communion at St Paul's

Sunday 26th December, Boxing Day

- 11.00am Morning Praise at St Paul's



## Parish Office access and Christmas Holiday

Access to the Parish Office is by a somewhat hidden door on the far side of the church from Barnsley Road - keep on walking round the church along a narrow path at the far end. There is usually someone in the office every morning Monday to Thursday. Please ring first on 01924 259966 if you need the office team.

The office will be largely closed from Friday 17th December, until Tuesday 4th January 2022. However, answerphone messages will be checked from time to time and someone will get back to you. For urgent pastoral matters, please contact Margaret Walker on 07799 217904 or Andrea North on 0777 578 3900

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