

Parish of Sandal Magna Newsletter



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

February 2022

Vacancy Update

Regular visitors to the church yard will have noticed white smoke billowing from the church chimney! This is not however the Yorkshire branch of the Vatican and we have not appointed a new Pope, rather something even more special, a new Vicar. Hannah Smith is currently the incumbent of an East Leeds Parish serving the Halton and Osmondthorpe. She will be inducted as our new Vicar on 31st August.



Hannah was appointed unanimously by the recruitment panel and was much liked by all who met her. She will naturally have to work her notice with her present parish and help them prepare for their own vacancy. She is then taking a short sabbatical to help her prepare for her move to Sandal Magna. Clergy are allowed to take a sabbatical after ten years in ministry. We will learn more about Hannah in subsequent vacancy updates.

This is really good news and we should give thanks that our vacancy has not been as lengthy as it could have been and that the recruitment team were able to be unanimous. We thank them for their hard work. We pray for Hannah and her current parish as she prepares to leave and gets ready to join us. We have reason to rejoice and look forward to the next stage in the church's journey with God.

Brian Pratt, Churchwarden

Post Covid Update

Everyone will by now have spotted that the Covid Plan B no longer applies and so many of the restrictions may end. However we still need to be vigilant and mindful of the needs of others. This is how we hope to proceed.

- We are free to wear masks at Sunday worship if we wish for our own protection and that of others. We can hand sanitise as well if liked. Masks will be available.
- Our buildings will be heated and ventilated.
- We will no longer take names but the QR Code facility will still be available for those with the necessary technology.
- We are free to sing as part of the congregation without masks. continued over page...

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Post Covid Update counted..

- Refreshments can now be enjoyed after the service and Cafe Church will offer coffee and cake.
 - Communion will continue as before with the use of wafers and now wine. This will be reviewed as the situation develops.
 - Funerals, weddings and baptisms can take place with no restrictions.
 - Our youth work will open up further in accordance with the National Youth Agency Guidelines. It is hope that Sunday School/creche may operate from the end of March
- Once again, thank you for your continued support during these difficult months.

Brian Pratt, Churchwarden

Janet Crossman 27/04/1949 to 31/01/2002

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you of the death of Janet at 19.30 hours on 31st January.

Janet was a stalwart member of our church family at St Helen's and St Paul's for 20 years. She was our Treasurer and it is thanks to her that our Churches have survived and prospered on the financial front. She was fearless and meticulous in protecting the Churches accounts and would stand up to anyone if she felt it was necessary to preserve our ability to stay on budget and pay the salaries of our employed personnel every month.

Janet worked quietly behind the scenes in many ways, she helped and guided new staff in the Parish Office and she and Allan, her husband, always provided food for the Families @4 service each month, and for Alpha courses every year. She helped with Baptism preparation courses and was a member of the Women's Fellowship. Janet was a member of the Sacristan Rota and made sure that all the Purification cloths and Altar cloths were regularly washed and red and in immaculate condition for the next communion service.

Her passing will leave a large hole in her family and our church family; we count ourselves blessed to have known such a faithful active member of our congregation.

Dr Neale Clark

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Confirmations at St Helen's

It was wonderful to celebrate the confirmation of Tim, James, Jasmine and Tracey at St Helen's on Sunday 9th January. Thank you to Bishop Tom and to all who were able to attend despite the blustery weather and Covid restrictions. As a church let us continue to pray for them as they continue their journey with Jesus.

Angela Elphick, Lay Minister



Farewell from Angela

As many of you know I was re-deployed to work as a nurse in Intensive Care during the first wave of the Covid pandemic. This was an incredibly challenging time, emotionally, physically and spiritually from which I am not fully recovered. I have had to make some difficult decisions. The biggest has been my decision to leave nursing. God has been amazing in his faithfulness and has opened and closed doors in ways Richard and I could never have anticipated.

From the end of February this year we will be moving to North Yorkshire and working as Campsite wardens. This is a completely new (ad)venture for us and we are both nervous and excited. We are very sorry to be leaving St Helen's and St Paul's but we know that this time away will be a time of healing and restoration.

Please would you pray for us, for healing but also that God will continue to use us in ministry and for new opportunities, when the time is right. Likewise, we will continue to pray for the Parish of Sandal Magna as a new and exciting season begins.

Angela Elphick, Lay Minister

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Would you like Tea and Cake with the Vergers?

What is a verger anyway? It sounds pretty out-dated! When I googled it I discovered *"The history of the verger dates back to the middle ages when the verger was the Protector of the Procession. He would lead the way, making room for the procession to enter the church from the town square, and with his verge (mace) in hand would literally clear the way if necessary."*

Thankfully nothing like that is needed at St Helen's St Paul's nowadays. The vergers are a small team of people who help out at occasional services such as weddings, funerals and baptisms. The role can include welcoming at the door, handing out service sheets, directing people to the toilets and generally making sure everything runs smoothly. This is even more important during our time of vacancy when all the ministers at these services are visitors.

The vergers are planning to get together for tea on Saturday March 5th at 3pm in the Emmaus Room. So please come along and join us for cake and a brew and find out more. We are going to discuss what we do, what we get out of it, and whether there is anything we might do differently. Coming to the tea in no way obliges you to join the verger team - but we would be delighted if a few more people felt they could serve in this way.

Please contact Ruth in the Parish Office 01924 259966 or sandalmagna@gmail.com if you would like to come.



Foundation Governors at our School

We are short of Foundation Governors at our school, Sandal Castle V.A Community Primary School. It's a matter of attending 3 full governors meetings each year plus sub committee meetings. It's really good to be involved in our local primary school, where staff ensure around 600 children have the best learning experiences possible.

They really need our support.

Please contact Julian Finn or Brian Pratt who have a booklet on the subject. You can get in touch via the Parish Office 01924 259966 or sandalmagna@gmail.com

Julian and Brian

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News from The Spring

After producing almost 500 Christmas lunches in 10 days and preparing 28 Christmas Day lunches we all enjoyed a well earned rest and we would like to thank everyone who supported the Spring in December and made it such a wonderful and safe place to be in 😊

Now as we look to the coming year ahead here are just a few highlights to look forward to -

Sunday 13th February - Cafe Church from 11am - informal worship and fellowship with coffee and cake 🍰

Saturday 19th February - our local florist Hollie @ Alchemilla Floral Design will be holding a Workshop from 3-5pm on making a Dried Flower Hoop - all bookings via Alchemilla direct please.

Tuesday 1st March - is Shrove Tuesday so you can expect to see some pancake treats on the menu that day from 10am - 4pm.

Wednesday 2nd March - Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, and a time of reflection for us. Perhaps see it as an opportunity to start doing something rather than the usual idea of giving something up.

Sunday 6th March - Sunday Lunch at The Spring - and I think we still have some places left.

Sunday 13th March - Cafe Church from 11am - informal worship & fellowship

Saturday 26th March - a Spring Flower Wreath Making session hosted by Alchemilla Floral Design - all bookings direct with Alchemilla please.

Mothering Sunday Treats - a choice of a Cream tea or Full Afternoon Tea, individually boxed and available for collection on Saturday 26th from 2-3pm and Sunday 27th March 11am - 12 noon. Pre Orders only.

Sunday 10th April - Cafe Church from 11am, Informal Worship & Fellowship

Wednesday 13th April - Closing at 2pm for Holy Week and re-opening on Wednesday 20th April at 10.00am.

And just like that we are heading into the lighter nights and longer days - we look forward to welcoming you in the days to come. 😊

Cath Moxham - The Spring, Manager

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Christians Against Poverty Wakefield Debt Centre Manager Vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a CAP Debt Centre Manager at St Helen's Church. If you are passionate about people and like to share your faith this could be the job for you. The ideal candidate would need great people skills, can work 15 hours per week (can be really flexible) and have a heart for the poor. You do not need a financial or debt background, as you will get thorough training in this. This is a great opportunity for someone wanting a part time job that makes a difference in people's lives. If you want more information please email Sarah on sarahcuttspcf@gmail.com or give her a call on 07799 534702 Sarah Cutts Portobello Community Forum Tel: 07799 534702
Sarah Cutts, Portobello Community Centre Manager

Portobello Community Centre

We are thrilled that most groups have now returned to the Community Centre after the covid lockdown. They are all meeting in a covid safe environment. We would love to encourage members of the church and the community to support these amazing groups. Some of the groups are run by professional artists and crafters, who volunteer their time to run the groups. Portobello is part of our parish and it's wonderful to be part of this. The centre is available to rent for one off events and regular bookings at a competitive rate. I know that many people may not have visited the community centre. If you want to drop in and find out more please give Sarah a call on 07799 534702. Always happy to show people the place and have a cuppa - or come along on a Thursday to our drop-in. Coffee, food and a smile will welcome you!
Sarah Cutts, Portobello Community Centre Manager



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Grace Space - a new venture at Portobello Community Centre

So what does this look like, coming out of a community centre? That through prayer and trusting God, we believe it's about creating a space to meet, gather and grow in Christ. To be a community, the way Jesus showed us how. Very simply - walking, sharing, reaching out and praying together.

So together as a team, we would love to invite you to Tuesday mornings (term time) at the **Portobello Community Centre** starting on the 1st of February from 9.30 - 11am. We would love to see you there.

1st Tuesday - Walking in Nature

Gentle walks around the area (Pugneys Country Park, Sandal Castle) with time to reflect and pray. Let's put our best foot forward with God as our guide.

2nd Tuesday - Breakfast & Reflection

Healthy breakfast, catch up and scripture/prayer reflection.

3rd Tuesday - Community Outreach

A time to reach out to the community together. Our vision is to link in with TLG Make Lunch, sending invites out and crossing paths with families on our way.

4th Tuesday - Worship and Prayer

A peaceful time to relax in worship and pray together.



Dates

1st of Feb - **Walking in Nature**

8th of Feb - **Breakfast & Reflection**

15th of Feb - **Community Outreach**

22nd of Feb - **Half Term**

1st of March - **Walking in Nature**

8th of March - **Breakfast & Reflection**

15th of March - **Community Outreach**

22nd of March - **Worship and Prayer**

29th of March - **Community Outreach**



5th of April - **Walking in Nature**

12th of April - **Half term**

19th of April - **Half term**

26th of April - **Thanksgiving Worship**



Prayers would be much appreciated too as we start this women's outreach ministry in the heart of Portobello, Thank you x Love and blessings, Joyce Bloomfield, Laura Truter & Sarah Cutts



You can follow us on: **Portobellogracespace**

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Enquiries: Sarah Cutts, Centre Manager, 07799 534702 email: sarahcuttspcf@gmail.com

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE - WHAT'S ON

Sewcial Sewing Club

A lovely informal sewing group. Come along and learn and share your skills with others.
£3 per session

Monday 10am to 1pm

Senior Youth Club

For ages 11-19. Term time only.

Monday 5pm to 7pm
Free

Kung Fu

Want to get fit, meet people, learn new skills? Kung Fu is the total package for mind, body and soul.
1st session free - £8 per session

Monday 7.15pm to 9.15pm

Grace Space

Faith based group run by St Helen's Church. 1st Tues: Walking with prayer; 2nd Tues: Breakfast & Reflection; 3rd Tues: Outreach in community; 4th Tues: Worship
Donations welcome.

Tuesday 9.30am to 11am

Craft and Photography Group

Bring your own crafts and learn from others.

Tuesday 12.30am to 2.30pm
£2 per session

Fusion Youth Group

A group for youth with autism/aspergers for ages 13+. For more information email fusionasyouth@hotmail.com.
£3 per session

Tuesday 6pm to 8pm

Junior Youth Club

A youth group for 7-11 year olds. Term time only.

Wednesday 4.15pm to 6.15pm
Free

Merrie City Singers

All welcome to join a friendly community choir.

Wednesday 7pm to 9pm
£4 per session

PCF Drop In

Need someone to talk to? Come along for a chat, an activity and a light lunch.

Thursday 11am to 1pm

Donations welcome

Alcoholics Anonymous

Get help with your drinking problem at this friendly and supportive group. For more information please call Graham on 07951 922311 or just come along.

Thursday 8pm to 9pm

Sewcial Knitters and Modellers

Bring along any craft you want. We have knitters, modellers, sewers and crafters.

Friday 10am to 1pm

£3 per session

Karate Kyokushin

Fitness and condition training based on self defence karate. Adults and children age 10+.

Friday 7pm to 9pm

£4 per session

Strong Tower Christian Centre

Sunday 10am to 12.30pm

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Over Christmas volunteers ran a Holiday Lunch Club at Portobello Community Centre where families came and received a hot meal, enjoyed creative activities and went away laden with food and goodies ready for Christmas. The families thoroughly enjoyed their time and the volunteers were blessed too.

We have worked with Sandal Castle Primary School and we blessed local families with a Christmas hamper, which included a £25 Aldi food voucher on 23 December and then the following week we delivered a further food hamper to families to help them in between Christmas and the new year. The families were so grateful and we received smiles and thanks as we delivered.

Since Christmas we have also been able to support families in other ways with clothes and furniture and just being a friendly, hope filled voice.

We have put a plan together for 2022 for all our Holiday Lunch Clubs and hope to increase the number of families we can help. We are hoping to link families to other activities at Portobello Community Centre and build relationships further with these beautiful families.

If you would like to be involved with Make Lunch or any of our other activities at Portobello: Grace Space, PCF Drop-in, Toddler Group or you would like to run anything at the Community Centre please let Sarah Cutts know on 07799 534702.

Sarah Cutts

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