

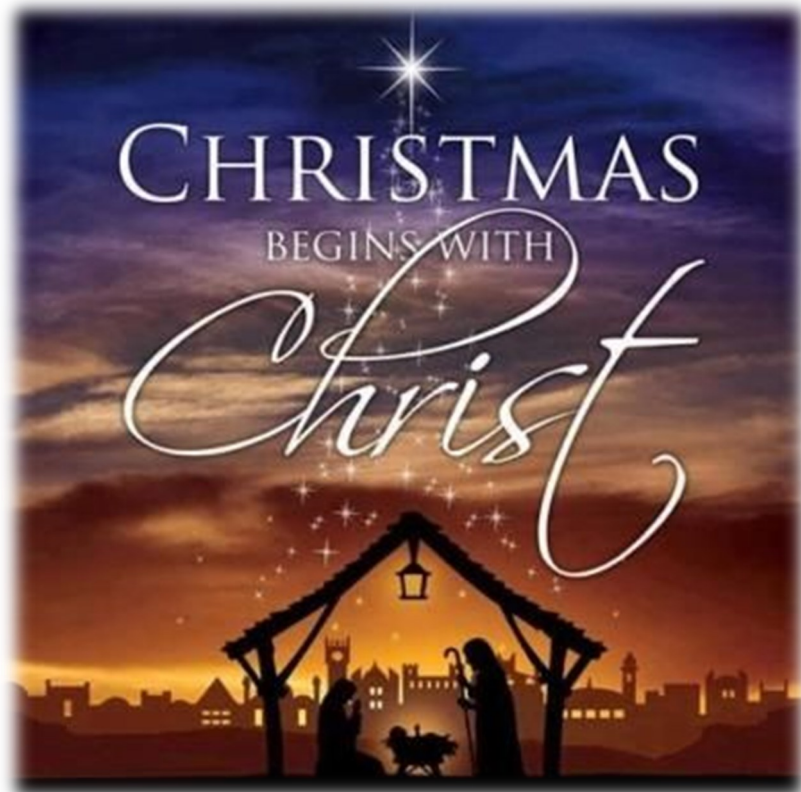
December 2025 & January 2026



UPPER EDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter

Dewsbury Rd, Rastrick, HD6 3QD



The light of the Christmas star to you.
The warmth of home and hearth to you.
The cheer and good will of friends to you.
The hope of a childlike heart to you.
The joy of a thousand angels to you.
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.
May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.

Irish Blessing

www.uebc.org.uk



fb.me/uebaptist

A hearing loop is
installed in church.





Upper Edge Baptist Church
126 Dewsbury Rd
Rastrick
Brighouse
HD6 3QD

Dear All

I wish it could be Christmas...

Do you have a favourite song for this time of year? Do you happily whistle “Last Christmas” as you walk down the street or holler “It’s Christmas” at the top of your voice? Perhaps you like to listen to Bing Crosby croon away as you potter around the kitchen or maybe you refuse to accept anything but the classic from the Pogues & Kirsty McCall? Songs have a wonderful way of evoking memories don’t they? They take us back to people and places we have not seen for years, they give us a glimpse of seasons past and the promise of futures to come.

And there is something about this time of year that strikes that chord too isn’t there? The cold wintry nights, scarce daylight hours and images of warm open fires etched into our collective consciousness. All of these lend a sentimental and thoughtful disposition to even the most cynical.

The poem “Christmas Eve” that you’ll find later in the newsletter was written by one of our church members. It recounts an experience they had as a child one Christmas. It ticks off all the things we may associate with the season yet then dramatically pulls us back into the reality of life and specifically the reality that some people face day in and day out. For as we all know, not everybody has the same experiences and for some the “Christmas spirit” may seem an alien and difficult concept.

And yet what the poem then does is bring us back to an

understanding of the true meaning of Christmas, of all that it signifies and all that it promises. It reminds us that there is always hope and that hope came in the form of Jesus. We will never know what effect that night had on the homeless man that the poet saw. We do know however the effect it had on the poet themselves and that almost 50 years later the image is still burned brightly into their consciousness.

The light of Christ shone through that man on that Christmas Eve, a spark that ignited something in a young girl and gave her a new and fresh understanding of God. How we view Jesus and our expectations of Him will vary greatly. What I would ask of you this year is that you spend a few moments each day in the run up to the 25th quietly asking Jesus to show you the light. If you call on Him, He will respond.

Know that you are always welcome in our church either at our community events or at a service. It would be great to see you over the Christmas period, please check the diary and see the events we have planned. And whether we see you or not know that we are praying for you and all in our community. Enjoy this most joyous of seasons and know that you are loved and adored.

God bless

Daryll



What’s every parent’s favourite Christmas carol? *Silent Night*

What did one Christmas tree say to the other? *Lighten up*

In what year does New Year’s Day come before Christmas?

Every year!

NOVEMBER

Sunday 30th

10.30am

1st in ADVENT TOYS AND TINS for Salvation Army

Morning Worship led by Mr Daryll Hackett

DECEMBER

Wednesday 3rd

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 7th

10.30am

2nd in ADVENT

**Christingle led by the Young Church -
come along to this lovely all-age service**



Names for Christmas lunch on the 10th – TODAY please

Wednesday 10th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

12.15 for 12.30pm

Christmas Lunch

7.00pm

Overgate Hospice Concert



Sunday 14th

10.30am

3rd in ADVENT

Morning Worship including Communion led
by Mr Daryll Hackett

6.30pm

Carols at The Rock Tavern Upper Edge



Wednesday 17th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

7.00pm

Beer and Banter @ The Four Sons Annual
Christmas Dinner



Sunday 22nd

10.30am

4th in ADVENT

Morning Worship – All Age Service
led by Mr Daryll Hackett

Wednesday 25th

10.30am – 11.00am

CHRISTMAS DAY

Short Family Service led by Mr Simon
Thompson



Sunday 28th

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mr Daryll Hackett

2026

JANUARY

Sunday 4th

10.30am

Morning Worship

Wednesday 7th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 11th

10.30am

Morning Worship with Communion led by Mr Daryll
Hackett

Wednesday 14th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

12.15pm for 12.30pm Church Lunch



Saturday 17th

8.30am

Men's Breakfast @ Toby Carvery Ainley Top

Sunday 18th

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mr Daryll Hackett

Monday 19th

7.00pm

Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday 21st

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 25th

10.30am

Morning Worship

11.45am

Church Meeting

4.00pm

Brighouse and Rastrick Churches United Service for
Christian unity @ St John's Rastrick

Monday 26th

7.00pm

Beer and Banter @ The 4 Sons

Tuesday 27th

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Theme is 'Bridging Generations',

Wednesday 28th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mr Daryll Hackett



News of and from the Fellowship

In Loving Memory of Elaine McLean

2nd April 1943 to 1st November 2025

Elaine and Alec met as young people, and fell in love. They lived in Leeds and were married in the Church of England there.



Whatever they put their hands to succeeded.

Wanting to find a suitable place to bring up their family, they visited Elland just when their estate was in its infancy. Looking round, they chose the plot they would like to have: it had a sizeable garden - they liked gardening, it had room for a garage, where Alex could do his handiwork, and Elaine could turn her hand to anything, and an open view over the fields beyond. Their neighbours were friendly and over the years they have been a wonderful source of kindness and support to the family.

Jack and Anne Heap and family, members of the church at Upper Edge, lived nearby so Alex and Elaine knew a lot about our worship and other activities of the church, though the first time Elaine came to the church was probably over 20 years ago.

Elaine had been desperately ill, and we had been praying for her. She experienced an amazing sense of God's presence in her hospital room in Elland and an assurance that she would not die. After surgery, when she was recovering, gazing from her hospital window Elaine saw a most radiant rainbow, stretching right across the valley to the church at Upper Edge. She took this as a message that she was to come to this church. So at the earliest opportunity, still weak and shaky from surgery, she arrived at our weekly Time to Reflect meeting to give thanks for answered prayers.

Even in her weakness, Elaine was a source of strength because of her great faith and prayerfulness.

She was baptised and became a member of the church, always showing prayerful concern, friendship and care for others.

She and Alex could not do enough for the church, cleaning, mending, redecorating, in fact acting as unpaid caretakers. Alex also kept the hedge at the front beautifully trimmed. If anything needed some TLC he was quick to do it without a word to anyone.

Elaine and Alex helped with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren as much as they could, even taking Kayley's children into their home for a prolonged period.

They were also interested in the families of the Young Church and got on well with all of them.

Elaine nursed Alex through his last illness keeping him as comfortable as possible, but after his death, even with family support, she herself became weaker and we saw less of her. Yet she did manage to come to church to see Charlotte and Kyle on their wedding day.

Elaine was a lovely member of our congregation and a friend to all.

We offer our deepest condolences to Joanne and Andrew, to her extended family, to Kirsty and all her grandchildren and great grandchildren, her friends and neighbours.

'A wife of noble character who can find?

She is worth far more than rubies.'

Proverbs ch. 31 verses 10- 31.

Rev Louise Armitage

Sadly we have to announce the funeral of Allan Hainsworth, a former member of our church family who has passed away.

It will be on Monday 22nd December at 3.00pm at Upper Edge Baptist Church. There will be refreshments after the service down downstairs in the Church Hall

The church family sends its condolences to the family of our friend Elaine Maclean who died recently aged 82rs. The funeral service took place on Wednesday 26th November.



We also pray for Anne Hainsworth and family on the recent passing of her dear husband Allan.

if you would like us to pray for someone then please let us know.

Father in heaven, may we share the light and life of Jesus with others today, and always.



Bible Times Exhibition

It was a joy and pleasure in the beginning of October to be able to hold the Bible Exhibition provided by the Zephaniah Trust for a full week and to welcome all who came to see it. Once again all the pupils and staff from Field Lane Primary School were able to see the marvellous display of bibles and memorabilia which John Froud has put together. There were bibles in many different languages, sizes, weight and age as well as fascinating pieces of information.



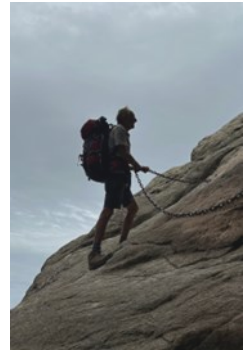
To help focus the children's minds they were given a quiz sheet and of course all the answers could be found somewhere in the displays!

Thanks to Daryll for arranging this event again and for taking over when John Froud (pictured above) fell ill. We would like to send John our very best wishes as he is struggling with his health at present.



Walking the GR20 - with Ken Inwood

Caterpillars playing follow my leader, strange recycling toilets, 6km in 6 hours, tent bases that move in the night, beating the rain to the next stop, using chains to go up/down rocks, pasta with a mushroom, walking on slabs of rock that are like ice when wet, early starts, cold water washing, amazing views, Do you have to be mad to do this walk? These are a few of my initial thoughts.



The evening started with wonderful pie/peas (thanks to all who helped) and chance to chat to lots of people (there must have been 50+ present -of all ages)

Then onto the pictures/talk. It must have taken Ken nearly as long to sort his pictures as it did to walk the GR 20!! The scenery must have been amazing because even in the photos it looked stunning. (and it was decent weather most of the time) Ken even put some pictures of plants/flowers in and he didn't ask us to name them.!

Ken managed to effortlessly tell the story of the walk, some of the places they walked could give you vertigo just looking at the pictures. The over-riding feeling watching and listening was of how tough the walk really is, and of how much they actually enjoyed doing it. It was clear that this walk is not for the faint hearted or for the under prepared.

The camaraderie in the group doing the walk was great to see, and the way they reacted when Ken told them how old he was must have been a treat to observe!

Everyone present had a great evening, seeing places and scenery that they never knew existed, and will never see first-hand.

A big thank you to Ken for an entertaining, informative, and eye-opening presentation. Keep on Walking.

Allan Bottomley

Many thanks to all who came and supported this event. It was a great privilege to be able to share my adventure with you. It was well worth the time spent sorting out the photos

A big thank you to Allan for the well written article and to all those who helped with the serving of food and the clearing up afterwards. I am pleased to report that a total of £186 was raised for Overgate Hospice.

Ken



Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, the church is bright,
The flickering candles spark;
With lights adorned, the Christmas tree,
Gleams through the wintry dark.

The priest regales the Christmas tale,
Of the baby born that night;
With shepherds emerging from the hills,
Led by the angels' light.

A girl sits quietly in the church,
Clasped closely to her dad.
Her mind is warmed with Christmas thoughts,
That make her heart feel glad.

But something cuts the atmosphere,
The opening of a door.
She turns towards the footsteps,
That trace the cold, stone floor.

A homeless figure shuffles in:
A man who's tired and frail;
His burdened frame sits slowly down,
To hear the Christmas tale.

His overcoat is mottled brown,
His hair worn thin with pain.
His hands so old and wizened,
From nights of icy rain.

It seems that life has trampled him,
He seems so very small.
The girl is touched and saddened by,
This shelterless, wandering soul.

But the priest, he speaks his message,
Of the star that shone so bright,
Of three wise men who travelled afar
To see their hopes take flight.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS in

DECEMBER

JANUARY



Francesca Hackett	4th	Ann Gilmore	1st
Mary Green	9th	Allan Bottomley	9th
Esther Church	26th	Louise Armitage	14th
Karen Thompson	30th	Allan Wolfenden	21st



Special birthday greetings to Mary Green who will be 80 years old on Tuesday 9th December.



His words, they speak of Christmas joy,
That mankind should embrace.
The story of Jesus' humble birth;
Of hope, of light and grace.

The little girl, she wonders where
That light will shine this night,
When the world is cruel and hardened to
A homeless man's dark plight.

But as the Christmas carols ring out,
Their melodies so warm,
A sudden change is taking place,
A poignant breath of calm.

The organ plays, the choir it sings,
But all the girl can hear,
Is the old man's voice so tender sweet,
Rising through the air.

The songs they flood the church that eve,
With Christmas joy so bright,
It floods the old man's weary face,
His eyes awash with light.

That Christmas eve, the girl did learn,
A lesson of love and grace,
That the brightest light is often found,
In the most unlikely place.

So remember that the light belongs,
To privileged **and** poor.
For the Christmas spirit always gives;
It never shuts the door.

Written by Jo Hackett



"Away in a Manger" is the best-known and best-loved Christmas carol, according to a survey published in December 2003. Two-thirds said they knew all the words of the carol and more than 7 out of 10 said they attended a carol service every year. "Silent Night" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem" were second and third respectively.

In a question about which person was most associated with Christmas, the same poll had Cliff Richard in fourth place and the Vicar of Dibley in tenth. They were the only people who had any kind of association with Christianity in the top ten answers.

The Trotter family came first (from Only fools and Horses) and Morecambe and Wise second.



Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

Jesus

Look at the Candy Cane, what do you see?
Stripes that are red, like the blood shed for me
White is for my Saviour, who's sinless and pure!
"J" is for Jesus, My Lord, that's for sure!
Turn it around, and a staff you will see
Jesus my shepherd was born for Me!

A Recipe for 2026

It's that time of year when we call to mind a dozen new months.

Here's a good recipe for them:

Prepare one day at a time, and into each put 12 parts of faith, 11 of patience-, 10 of courage, 9 of work, 8 of hope, 7 of fidelity, 6 of open-mindedness, 5 of kindness, 4 of rest, 3 of prayer, 2 of meditation, and 1 of well-selected resolutions.

My cookery book tells me: *add-a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play and a heaped cupful of good humour.*

Next, pour love generously into whole, cook thoroughly, garnish with a few smiles and a sprig of joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.'

Now isn't that a good recipe for a new year?



Feliz Navidad
Feliz Navidad
Feliz Navidad
Próspero año y Felicidad



I wanna wish you a merry Christmas
I wanna wish you a merry Christmas
I wanna wish you a merry Christmas
From the bottom of my heart

"Feliz Navidad" is a Spanish phrase that means "**Merry Christmas**" or "**Happy Christmas**". It is a common holiday greeting used to wish someone well during the Christmas season. The phrase is also the title of a popular Christmas song by José Feliciano, which includes the full Spanish greeting "Feliz Navidad, próspero año y felicidad," meaning "Merry Christmas, prosperous year and happiness".



Pantomimes

Pantomime originates from the 16th century Italian theatre tradition called 'commedia dell'arte, which included music, physical comedy and minimal speech. The plots followed adventures of typical stock characters such as the hero, the villain and the jester. As commedia theatre arrived in Britain during the 1700s, its traditional storylines got mixed up with fairy tales and evolved into the pantomime stories we know today, where men often play women and women play men.

Gradually, pantomimes became associated with Christmas as performances were held during the holidays. Bet you didn't know that!

(Oh yes, we did!) Oh no, you didn't!



So how many words did you make from REVELATION! I expect you nearly ran out of biro!!!!

Here are some words for you!

4 letter: aloe alto ante anti earl earn even ever evil into iota iron lain
lair lane late lean leer lent liar line lino lint lion lite live loan loin lone
lore love nail nave near neat noel note oral oval oven over rail rain
rant rate rave real reel rein rent rile riot rite roan role rota rote roti
rove tail tale tare tarn teal tear teen tele tier tile time tire toil tone
tore torn tree trio vain vale vane veal veer veil
vein vent veto vial vile vine vole volt vote

If you want the answers for 5 letter words and more email Anne treasurer@uebc.org.uk



NEXT puzzle is to make the 9 letter word from

BEEHHLMT plus as many 3 letter words and more as you can

Target: 17 good, 21 very good, 24 fantastic

There are so many words. I wonder how many you can find!

Answers in the next newsletter at the end of January



1. What day of the year was Christmas Day in 2020?
2. Which animal carried Mary before she gave birth to Jesus?
3. Which world leader celebrates his birthday on Christmas Day?
4. When do the 12 Days of Christmas start?
5. Which country annually sends a Christmas tree to be erected in London's Trafalgar Square?
6. Which monarch delivered the first Royal Christmas Day Message?
7. Which country is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition?
8. What happened in the 1914 Christmas Day truce during the First World War?
9. In which year was the first Christmas card sent?
10. What indispensable item for the Christmas table did Tom Smith, a confectioner, invent?

How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 7lb 6oz when he was born?

They had a weigh in a manger



Why are there so few men with whiskers in heaven?

Because most men get in by a close shave.



Sunday 14th December at 6.30pm

Carol Singing

led by members of Upper Edge Baptist Church

At The New Rock Tavern

Dewsbury Rd, Rastrick



Come and join us at this event. Everyone is welcome.



Support your local pub

Carols round the fire



Christmas 2

K	E	E	H	I	N	D	P	N	B	R	E	A	S
E	S	R	R	R	A	F	T	A	E	H	B	Y	B
O	E	S	D	A	I	C	H	Z	G	L	E	E	R
K	S	H	E	Y	S	P	L	A	N	E	T	O	Y
S	T	E	C	E	M	P	S	R	E	M	H	A	A
A	A	P	R	E	A	K	N	E	I	A	L	A	D
S	B	H	E	R	B	R	H	T	A	R	E	M	L
E	L	E	E	D	R	N	N	H	H	Y	H	R	D
S	E	R	G	O	L	D	M	E	E	A	E	O	A
E	D	D	O	N	K	E	Y	N	Y	Y	M	B	N
D	E	S	N	E	C	N	I	K	N	A	R	F	G
P	L	B	E	E	A	R	S	M	Y	R	R	H	E
S	M	S	Y	C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R	L
M	A	G	I	A	J	O	S	E	P	H	S	E	S

DECREE
FRANKINCENSE
DONKEY
MARY
MAGI
CARPENTER
NAZARETH
JOSEPH
BETHLEHEM
ANGELS
STABLE
MYRRH
GOLD
SHEPHERDS



Upper Edge Baptist Church, Dewsbury Rd, Rastrick HD6 3QB

For Hire

Good size room suitable for a variety of activities for all ages
plus kitchen

Disabled access and toilet facilities

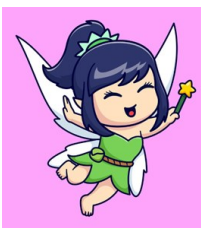
Prices from £30 per session

Contact 07814 762952 for more information

Two young girls aged seven and Eva aged four, were chosen to be Santa's fairies at the church's Christmas bazaar.

When their mother asked them if they wished to do this, Lili went into ecstatic mood, dancing around the room uttering oohs and aahs. Eva, whose days are taken up with dancing, gymnastics and music lessons, looked up from her colouring book, gave a big sigh and said:

'Does that mean that I have to learn to fly?'



1. 360th day 2. Donkey 3. Justin Trudeau 4. Christmas Day 5. Norway 6. King George V 7. Germany 8. A game of football between British and German soldiers 9. 1843 10. The Christmas cracker



Christmas Concert



for Overgate Hospice

at
Upper Edge Baptist Church, Rastrick
Dewsbury Rd, HD6 3QD

Wednesday December 10th 2025

at 7pm

Featuring



Rastrick High School Senior Choir and soloists



Conducted by Laura Turner

The Overgate Hi-notes

Conducted by Dr Eilidh Gunson

Paul Whittaker's Signing Choir

Conducted by Gail Herring



A collection will be taken during the concert
for the work of Overgate Hospice



Everyone welcome

Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served at the end in the
Community Hall downstairs



UPPER EDGE BAPTIST CHURCH Dewsbury Road, Rastrick, HD6 3QD

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