



ILLINGWORTH MESSENGER

Where Church and Community meet together:
Illingworth Moor, the former St Mary's & St Malachy's



WISHING YOU
A MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY
AND PEACEFUL
NEW YEAR



DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

Printed & Distributed free by the Illingworth Messenger Trust
for the Churches and People in Illingworth

**JOIN US ON OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH AT ANY
OF THE SERVICES**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

ST. MALACHY'S CHURCH

Times of Mass at St. Malachy's:

Saturday (Vigil Mass) at 5 pm and

Sunday Mass at 9 am

HOLY NATIVITY CHURCH

the Church of England Parish of Mixenden and Illingworth

Sundays at 10.00 am

All Age Eucharist, everyone welcome

**PREACHERS AT ILLINGWORTH MOOR METHODIST
CHURCH IN DECEMBER**

All services commence at 10.30 am unless otherwise stated

3rd December	Local Arrangement Toy Service
10th December	Mrs Linda Guy
17th December	Rev. Paul Welch Carol Service at 6 pm
24th December	Mrs Wendy Tolson
25th December	Rev. Paul Welch Christmas Day Service at 11 am
31st December	—

**Saturday, 16th December CAROL & CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
at 2.30 PM AT MOUNT ZION HERITAGE CHAPEL led by
Rev. Kathie Heathcoat (see further details on page 6)**

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2024

7th January	Rev. Paul Welch Covenant Service
14th January	Dr. Michael Fryers
21st January	Rev. David Briggs
28th January	Mrs Susan Watson



MESSAGE FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

As we enter the season of Christmas it is always good to remember the reason why we celebrate it.

While it may be good to have a good excuse to see friends or family or receive and give gifts, the reason for celebrating is remembering the time when Jesus came to earth. We may have very different views about this event in history and all that went on around it, however, the reason why we celebrate Christmas is around the birth of Jesus.

For many, Christmas is a happy time, while for others it may be a sad or indifferent time.

We perhaps should be aware of the current climate in which we find ourselves not only in this country but all over the world, where Christmas or 25th December will look very different than last year or preceding years. Whatever Christmas 2023 looks like, whether spent with others or not, there are people who will be struggling in many ways.

As it is the season of good will, then perhaps we might want to do something to help others in some way. People seem more generous at Christmas time and the gift of giving is greatly appreciated by those who are blessed by the generosity of regardless of how large or small that generosity is.

I hope that this Christmas you are reminded of the gift of love offered to all by God through Jesus. May you be blessed and may it be full of peace and love.

Every Blessing,

Rev Paul Welch

From 3
hours per
week



Keep active and engaged in life with a Companion from Home Instead

A Companion is someone who visits every week to provide friendship and support.

- Helps reduce loneliness and isolation
- Company on social outings
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All our Companions are carefully matched to you, DBS-checked and have their own transport.



For an informal chat about companionship, home help or any other care needs:

Call 01422 292424

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www.homeinstead.co.uk/calderdale



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WORDSEARCH CLUES

The story of 'Silent Night'

This much-loved **carol** comes from **Austria**, where it was **first sung** as **Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht** on **Christmas Eve**, 1818. It was written by **Father Joseph Mohr**, a **young priest** at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he

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asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a **melody** for his carol. Gruber was **organist** in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the **midnight mass**. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the **version** sung by **Bing Crosby** the **third** best-selling **single** of all time.

Mount Zion Heritage Chapel Carol & Christingle Service

Led by Rev'd Kathie Heathcoat- first service as Mount Zion's Minister

Refreshments served after the service in the cottage including:

Christmas Cake & Mince Pies and Fairtrade Tea & Coffee

EVERYONE WELCOME, FAMILIES ENCOURAGED!



Date: Saturday 16th December
Time: 2:30pm Service
Chapel Open from 12:00pm
Address: Per Lane, Ogden, HX2 8XG

EVERYONE WELCOME to join Mount Zion Heritage Carol & Christingle Service on Saturday, 16th December at 2:30 pm.

The service will be led by Rev'd Kathie Heathcoat - first service as Minister of Mount Zion. Christmas Cake & Mince Pies, and Fairtrade Tea & Coffee will be served after the service in the cottage where John Wesley and his brother Charles Wesley often stayed when preaching in Halifax.

Even if you have never been to church before, we would encourage you to take the opportunity to visit our beautiful Grade II* Listed Building, listen and sing to carols accompanied by our Anneessens Organ - only one of a few remaining in the world. We will be livestreaming the service for everyone across the world to join in. We will also be opening from 12 noon - a fantastic opportunity to look around Mount Zion's Chapel, Cottage and Grounds at your leisure.

Explore our Mount Zion Library where you can either borrow a book or find a comfortable spot to enjoy reading, play board games, and work on jigsaw puzzles with Fairtrade tea, coffee and biscuits. Take a look at our graveyard, including the recently restored grave of Simeon Priestly, known as Mount Zion's longest chapel keeper and sexton.

Would you like to get married at Mount Zion?

Please don't hesitate to contact our Church Steward, Matthew Townsend via email, at townsendjmatthew@outlook.com with any queries.

WHAT'S ON AT ILLINGWORTH MOOR

'GOOD AS NEW SHOP'



Open on **FRIDAYS ONLY 10 am till 3.30 pm**

Why not drop into our **"Cosy Corner"**?

No need to buy! Just sit and watch the world go by in warm and pleasant surroundings. Enjoy a cuppa, from the Cafe, or read a magazine, or just relax.

CAFE AT THE MOOR (Tel: 07879930492)

Our Chef, Sarah, makes a range of meals on four days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 9 am to 1 pm.

Why not pop in for a coffee, a piece of home made cake, a bowl of home made soup, a sandwich (*either to eat in or take away*).

Or have a full meal from Sarah's tempting menu?

BOYS' BRIGADE - MONDAYS



Anchor Boys: 5 - 7 years (arrive 6.15 pm to start at 6.30 pm until 7.30 pm)

Junior Section: 8 - 10 years (arrive 6.15 pm to start at 6.30 pm until 8.15 pm)

Company Section: 11 - 18 years (arrive no earlier than 7 pm for a 7.15 pm start - ending at 8.45 pm)

If anyone can help out, even if only occasionally, please get in touch with Captain Andy on 07833910698.



GIRLS' BRIGADE - WEDNESDAYS

Explorers: 5-7 years (5.30 pm to 7.15 pm) small number of places available;

Juniors: 7-11 years (6.45 pm to 8.30 pm) now full with a waiting list;

Seniors & Brigaders: 8-18 years (6.45 pm - 8.30 pm)

For more information contact Janice Crowther on 07745529385

SUNDAYS

Sunday Worship & Sunday School at 10.30 am

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US AT ANY OR ALL OF THE ADVERTISED EVENTS

LOCAL HISTORY

Editor: This month's Local History is taken from the Halifax Courier of December 1979 when Eve Chapman wrote about

THE LOST MAGIC OF CAROL SINGING

As soon as one has torn off the November page on the calendar the annual nuisance begins. You have tuned in to a favourite programme, or settled with a book (or are even making the Christmas cake) when young voices begin tunelessly bawling the first few bars of a Christmas carol.

Then the singing stops, to be followed by a thunderous knock and, in my case, a fanfare on the bell they had just discovered.

It was difficult to ignore them, but after being reasonably polite to the first two sets I felt I had to strike a blow for freedom from premature carol singers.

I opened the door.

"We wish you a merry Christmas," they said in unison, better unison than they had shown in their singing, and they stood expectantly.

"Thank you, I hope you have a happy Christmas too." I made as to close the door.

Consternation rendered the older boys speechless, but the youngest and least sophisticated said indignantly, "Aren't you going to give us nothing?"

That was precisely what I did propose to give them, nothing, but it was hardly the time for a lesson in English grammar.

"Why should I give you money" I requested reasonably, and the intrepid infant, little more than six years old I should think, said, "Well, we singed for you."

"Right, sing it all through, and I'll give you tenpence."

The leader, aged about eight, took over. "Don't know no more," he muttered in a surly tone.

I suggested they went away and learned it, then came back. Of course they didn't and for the next half hour I caught echoes of them pestering my neighbours.

Carol singing, properly organised, can bring great joy. There will be choirs collecting for worthy causes, or just visiting housebound people of their particular church, even as we did in our youth.

Many who are now among the elderly receiving visits will recall with joy when they were among the carefree lads and lasses setting off to sing carols. What fun we had, but subject to discipline of the choirmaster who made us practise on Sunday evenings after service, and on the singing night itself kept us in tune with his tuning fork, and in time by using a small torch as a baton.

He tried to give the people what they wanted. "While Shepherds Watched" was perhaps top of the pops, but the tune varied. While some were happy with the set tune "Winchester old," others plumped for "Cranbrook," which you probably

knew better as “Ilkley Moor Bat’at ‘at.”

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” was another much in demand, and if some of them sang an unorthodox version bringing in a remark about Beechams Pills, well, boys will be boys and they sang it softly enough to escape the notice of our leader.

There is only one possible tune to “Christians Awake,” it is as firmly anchored as the National Anthem, but few of the Christians needed to be wakened, they were alive and alert awaiting our arrival.

Occasionally really elderly people might be in bed and a window would open and a voice say “Thank you.” We didn’t knock: whenever it could be afforded a donation to our charity would arrive in a few days.

But most people were up and offering refreshments. If we had been allowed to take all we should never have completed our round. After four or five efforts we were allowed to go inside a farmhouse and thaw externally by a huge fire, and internally with hot mince pies and ginger wine.

Out into the starlight, giggling our way between stops, and if the lads and lasses split into pairs - well, we were young and it was Christmas.

One special thrill was the carol “Good King Wenceslas” variously pronounced in spite of much coaching. After the first strongly united verse we split into boys being the legendary king while we girls piped the response of his page, uniting again in the final verse of triumph. This actually was the only true carol, the rest were Christmas hymns.

The final call was often at my own home where mother gave us cocoa and ginger biscuits, rightly deciding we had had enough rich stuff for one night, and remembering there was Christmas day tomorrow.

Then my mother’s choice, the quiet “Silent Night, Holy Night” before the rest were bundled into overcoats, scarves and gloves, and escorted down the rough lane by my father with his hurricane lamp. We were sent protestingly to bed, but perhaps we didn’t protest too much. We were tired and, after all Christmas had only just begun.

With the arrival of Santa Claus at the stores in mid November, and the immediate follow up of unorganised carollers, some of the meaning has gone out of Christmas.



ST. MALACHY'S NEWS

Our Parish Priest is Mgr Michael McQuinn

ST. MALACHY'S NURSERY St. Malachy's School, Cousin Lane.

There is a place for your child so why not give your child the best start? Apply for a place now and come and see what we have to offer. Contact St. Malachy's School on 01422 244628.

ST. MALACHY'S WALKS



If you would like to join us you will be made most welcome. Walking boots and suitable clothing are essential. For more information please contact Philip or Pat at 01422 751542 or e-mail us at p29.moran@gmail.com

Sequence & Ballroom Dancing

at Forest Cottage, Cousin Lane, Illingworth, HX2 8DA



Everyone Welcome - Singles and Couples

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.45 pm to 4 pm

£2.50 per person includes tea and biscuits

For more information ring 01422 248080

ILLINGWORTH MOOR METHODIST CHURCH

THE GOOD AS NEW SHOP

Open every Friday from 10 am to 3.30 pm

Donations always welcome.

Opens 3rd Saturday of each month
(16th December and 20th January) 10 am -12 noon



**HOLY NATIVITY CHURCH, THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PARISH OF MIXENDEN AND ILLINGWORTH**

Sunny Bank Road, Mixenden, HX2 8RX.

www.holynativity.co.uk

Family Communion every Sunday at **10 am.**

Communion Meal every 2nd Sunday of the month at **6 pm.**

The communion meal is an opportunity to worship whilst gathered around the dinner table. Food is provided.

Rock Mass every 3rd Sunday of the month at **6 pm.**

The Rock Mass is a service for people who like to worship **LOUD!**

Vicar: Revd Robb Sutherland, 01422 353929 email
robb@priest.com

Church Wardens: David Capon 07500860715 and
Michelle Strange 07810560289

Church Pantry: Mondays 2 - 3.30 pm. Providing food and essentials to people from the Parish in need.

Church Youth Group: Tuesdays 7 pm -8.30 pm

For baptisms, weddings & funerals contact the Vicar or Church Warden



Illingworth Moor Methodist Church

every Friday, 12 o'clock start

Where can you get (*for instance*) cottage pie, carrots, cabbage, a pudding and a cup of tea, together with good company for £5.50 ? Cafe number 07879930492

The **Access Bus** picks up some of our regulars so if you need transport just ring 0113 3481902 to register with Metro.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STORY

A well-known atheist was once interviewed on Radio 4. When asked how he spent Christmas, and he said that he went to Midnight Mass at church. ‘But you’re an atheist’, his interviewer protested. ‘Yes’, he replied, ‘but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told’.

That ‘beautiful story’ tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes, beautiful. And that is the story that will be rehearsed again this Christmas, in children’s Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.

Most of us are familiar with probably the best-known statue in the world, Christ the Redeemer, towering over Rio de Janeiro, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough. His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, ‘the most beautiful story ever told’. Enjoy it again this Christmas.

BIG BEN

Do you stay up until midnight on New Year’s Eve? If so, this year will be special – it is 100 years ago, on 31st December 1923, that the BBC first broadcast the chimes of Big Ben to welcome in the New Year.

For it was not until 31st December 1923 that the chimes of Big Ben were ever heard outside of Parliament and Westminster. But then the BBC got permission to broadcast them to the nation, and history was made.

That first year, the BBC engineers were not allowed into Parliament, and so had to access Big Ben from the roof of the Palace of Westminster. This meant that their microphone picked up not just the chimes, but a lot of traffic noise as well. But a tradition had started, and by 1924 the Big Ben bongos were being broadcast every day. By then the BBC had installed low sensitivity microphones very close to the bells, so that they missed the sound of the clock mechanism.

The nation quickly came to love the sound of Big Ben, and during the Second World War the chimes were broadcast across occupied Europe – encouraging millions in their struggle against the Nazis.

The Big Ben daily time signal on the BBC is still cherished today, and Big Ben rings live for important events such as Remembrance Day and New Year, when the BBC sends the sound right around the world.

NO MORE 'POSTCODE LOTTERY' RECYCLING

Life is going to become simpler when it comes to recycling.

From 2026, the national recycling laws are to be standardised, with Councils across the UK all having to collect the same glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, food waste and garden waste. It is expected that the plans will lead to packaging that is clearly labelled 'recyclable' or not, without the need for households to check local provisions.



“Simpler recycling will help us all recycle more easily, doing our bit to help save the planet and make the best use of precious resources that we use every day,” said Therese Coffey, the Environment Secretary.

“Alongside weekly food waste collections, we are ending the postcode lottery of what you can put in your bin, so that wherever you live in the country, you will be able to recycle the same products with confidence.”

CUBE CHOIR PRESENT

ROCKIN' AROUND THE

CHRISTMAS TREES

SATURDAY, December 2nd

HALIFAX MINSTER 7.30 pm

**Musical Director: Laura Durrans Accompanist:
Jenny Sheldon**

TICKETS AVAILABLE

£12 or £10 concessions

www.halifaxminster.org.uk



TIPS TO PROTECT THINGS FROM FREEZING

This may look silly, but it works: cover your windscreen wipers with old socks, to stop them sticking to the windscreen on a freezing morning. The RAC warns that if windscreen wipers cannot move, there is a risk the circuit will overheat and blow a fuse. If you are cycling to work, try wearing a swimming cap under your cycling helmet – Cycling UK recommends it as a good extra layer, to keep warm. If you need to be outside for long, wear several thin layers instead of one big chunky one. The UK Health Security Agency says that the air which gets trapped between the layers also helps keep you warm.

COLD WEATHER TIPS FOR PET OWNERS

Check your dog's paws for road grit salt after every walk – the stuff may clear snow and ice, but it is toxic to dogs.

Protect your rabbit and guinea pig hutches from snow, winter rain and cold draughts, and check that their water bottles are not frozen.

Don't leave your dog outside a shop in extremely cold weather – it is very stressful for them.

Don't leave your cat outside all night in freezing weather.

CHRISTINGLE - A GENEROUS PRESENT FROM THE MORAVIANS

It is the Moravians whom we have to thank for bringing us the Christingle. Especially one Moravian clergyman: John de Watteville.

No one knows for certain when the word 'Christingle' was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word 'Christingle' comes from. Some people say it is from the old Saxon word 'ingle' (fire), meaning 'Christ-fire or light'. Another theory is that it derives from the German 'engel' (angel), meaning 'Christ-angel'.

In any event, the symbolism of Christingle gradually developed, until today the Moravians in the British Province use an orange, representing the world, with a lighted candle to

represent Christ, the Light of the World. Nuts, raisins, and sweets on cocktail sticks around the candle represent God's bounty and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth. Red paper, forming a frill around the base of the candle, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.

In Moravian churches, the Christingle Service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. The website for the Moravian Church says: "We are glad that the Moravian Church has been able to make this contribution to the wider Christian world."



Editor: There is a Carol and Christingle Service on Saturday, 16th December at Mount Zion Heritage Chapel (see advert on Page 6)

THE FIRST-EVER NATIVITY SCENE

This Christmas, thousands of Nativity plays will be held around the UK. Ever wonder who staged the very first one?

It was St Francis of Assisi, and it was 800 years ago, in Greccio, Italy, on 25th December 1223.

Francis had been born into a wealthy family, but abandoned his noble inheritance when he became a Christian. Instead, he had turned to a life of great simplicity, in service to Christ's church.

Francis spent many hours meditating on the stories of the life of Christ, and even travelled to the Holy Land in 1219 and 1220, to see the various holy sites of Jesus's life. The sites deeply moved him, as they brought the Bible stories to vibrant life.

Back in Italy, in November of 1223, Francis was in Rome, and he had an idea. Why not share something of the inspiration of the Holy Land with his people here in Italy? Barely 50 miles to the north, in Greccio, he knew many people to whom he had been ministering for years. He could at least show them something of the simplicity of the birth of Jesus. And so it was that, two weeks before Christmas, Francis asked his friend, the Lord of Greccio, Giovanni Velita, to prepare a nearby cave with live animals and a hay-filled manger.

That cave, beside some rocky crags, became the venue of the very first ever Nativity scene. On Christmas 1223, when the people of Greccio attended Christmas Mass as usual, they were invited to 'come and see' the simple scene.

According to his biographer, Brother Thomas of Celano, Francis wanted people to see what Jesus had "suffered for lack of the necessities of a new-born babe, and how He lay in the manger between the ox and ass."

According to eyewitness accounts of the moment, fires lit the dark scene while crowds arrived at the spot carrying candles and torches. There were also accounts of miracles happening that night. Some people had a vision of a real infant in the empty manger, and others reported miraculous healings.

All in all, the Nativity scene was an instant success, and soon other communities were staging their own.

Today, you can still visit the cave and rocks where the first Nativity was staged. It is now a Franciscan hermitage and sanctuary. Every year at Christmas, the people of Greccio stage a live, historical re-enactment of St Francis and the first Nativity scene. Pope Francis has visited the spot two times: in 2016 and then in 2019, when he signed an apostolic letter on the importance of Nativity scenes.



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THE DAISY CHAIN CAFE

ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER AND

WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY

AT BLACKBURN HOUSE, NURSERY LANE

FROM 1 PM TO 3 PM

Working towards a Dementia Friendly North Halifax

For more information ring 03005550266 or

01422 252209

ANSWERS

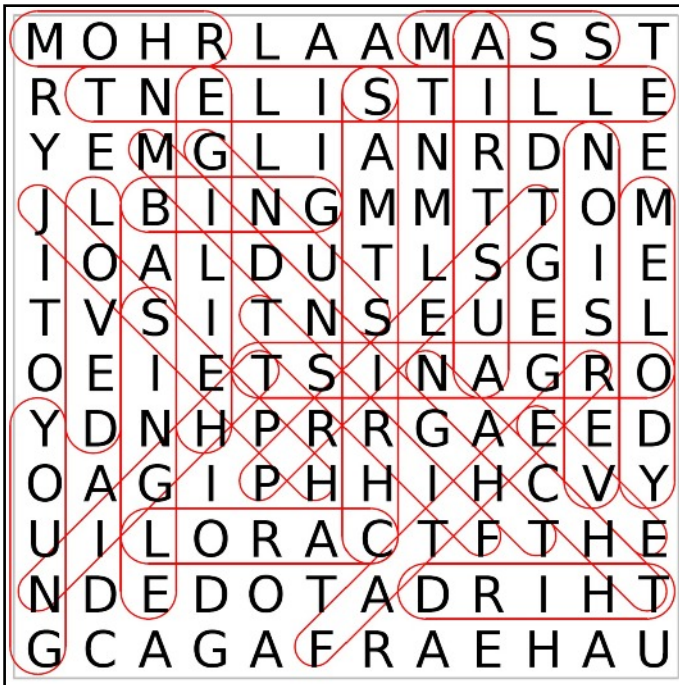
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WORDSEARCH



ALL IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

It was:

800 years ago, on 25th December 1223 that St Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene, in Greccio, Italy, after visiting Jesus' birthplace in the Holy Land. It proved enormously popular and inspired other communities to stage their own nativity scenes.

250 years ago, on 16th December 1773 that the Boston Tea Party took place in Massachusetts. American patriots boarded ships and threw chests of tea belonging to the British East India Company into Boston Harbour, as a protest against the British tax on tea.

200 years ago, on 23rd December 1823 that the poem *The Night Before Christmas* was first published (anonymously) in the Sentinel newspapers in Troy, New York. It was written by Clement Clarke Moore.

175 years ago – on 19th December 1848 that Emily Bronte, British novelist and poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 30. Best known for her only novel, *Wuthering Heights*.

100 years ago, on 6th December 1923 that Ramsay MacDonald became the first Labour Prime Minister. The General Election had resulted in a hung parliament, and the Labour party had formed a coalition with the Liberal Party.

Also 100 years ago, on 31st December 1923 that the BBC broadcast the chimes of Big Ben for the first time, to welcome in the New Year. The tradition continues to this day.

80 years ago, on 22nd December 1943 that Beatrix Potter, children's writer and illustrator, died.

75 years ago, on 10th December 1948 that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Also 75 years ago, on 24th December 1948 that the first Midnight Mass to be televised was broadcast from St Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

65 years ago, on 5th December 1958 that Britain's first motorway, the Preston Bypass, was officially opened. (It is now part of the M6 and M55.)

60 years ago, on 21st December 1963 that the Daleks made their first appearance on the British science fiction TV series Doctor Who.

40 years ago, on 10th December 1983 that Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. (It was accepted by his wife, as he feared he might not be allowed back into Poland if he travelled to Norway to accept it.)

30 years ago, on 10th December 1993 that Monkwearmouth Colliery in Sunderland closed down. It marked the end of more than 800 years of coal mining in the region.

20 years ago, on 1st December 2003 that using a handheld mobile phone while driving became illegal in the UK.

Also 20 years ago, on 13th December 2003 that during the Iraq War, former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was captured by US forces, who found him hiding in a hole at a farmhouse in ad-Dawr, near his hometown of Tikrit.

10 years ago, on 5th December 2013 that Nelson Mandela died. This anti-apartheid revolutionary and politician had become President of South African 1994-99. He served as President of the African National Congress (ANC) 1991-97. Winner of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize.



ILLINGWORTH ARLFC

**Be part of the best sport in the world and
join the rugby league family.**

**Why not contact us using our social media
platforms and find out if you or your family
members can join our ever growing club.**

Boys and Girls welcome!

HAVE FUN - GET FIT - CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Facebook Page: Illingworth ARLFC

Instagram: illygirlsrugby OR Illingworth ARLFC

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pages/callback-request](https://yorkshiresmokefree.nhs.uk/pages/callback-request)



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Beechwood Road Library are
looking forward to welcoming
old and new members to visit
them during any of the
following opening hours:

Monday 10 am - 5 pm

Thursday 10 am - 5 pm

Friday 10 am - 5 pm

Saturday 10 am - 1 pm



We are now on the verge of Winter but preparation for next season proceeds at pace with buildings and grounds to maintain and the playing surface to nurture and encourage to grow and machinery to fettle ready for next year. There is no end of tasks for our volunteers to do.

We have just celebrated our wonderful playing season with our Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation Night at Halifax Golf Club and what a terrific night it was, superbly organised by our Chairman, Stuart Thompson. A full clubhouse enjoyed a superb meal and celebrated the successes of the 2023 playing season, both club and individual, with a visual re-run of the 2023 highlights in film clips on the big screen and dancing well into the night to the music of Admiral Bloom.

Despite the glorious weather of 2022 not being repeated we still played a lot of cricket and we returned a successful season of league winners, promotions and cup final appearances as well as celebrating the outstanding efforts of members and volunteers, male and female who do so much to keep the club running so well. As Chair Stuart Thompson said in his programme notes for the Presentation Evening “I believe we remain the envy of almost all clubs in the area not only with our facilities, but also the atmosphere and spirit we have across all teams” and that includes the team of volunteers whose endless hours of work do so much to keep the club thriving.

A continuing feature of our Annual Dinner was the donation of food parcels in support of the Holy Nativity Food Pantry which does so much valuable work in the area.

Our junior set up also continues to grow thanks to the continuing efforts of coaches, members and parents. We are always looking to encourage more cricket being played both at the club and in the local schools. We will again be holding senior and junior cricket training sessions over the winter starting in February. Anybody is most welcome to join us – just get in touch. Look out for details on our website or in these pages.

The club is also available during winter for private functions. So do get in touch if you would like to use the club’s facilities. Our web site address is www.illingworthcc.co.uk

To quote Stuart Thompson again “2024 will inevitably bring the usual challenges of club finances and fund raising, but I am sure we will all pull together and deliver another successful year. The club will also proudly host the Halifax League Parish Cup Final in August, a further opportunity to celebrate everything that is Illingworth St Mary’s CC.”

We take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Andrew Smith

Club President

School Uniform **FREE**
Illingworth Moor Methodist Church

Shop opening days
Every Friday
10.00am till 3.30pm

Check Facebook
 for up to date
 information

Look for the rail in the entrance during
 cafe opening times.
Tuesday to Friday 9am till 1pm

FREE

If we don't have what you need then contact Tracy
 Email: immctracy@gmail.com
 Phone, Message, WhatsApp: 07748271570

GOOD AS NEW SHOP
 Open
 Fridays

WHAT SORT OF A CHRISTMAS CARD PERSON ARE YOU?

The time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again – time for our annual gasp at the cost of cards, and sheer disbelief at what the Post Office charges to send them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers, and the selective givers.

Abstainers write ‘Happy Christmas everyone’ on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying...

However you decide to do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: ‘Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.’ Proverbs 25:25. They will enjoy hearing from you!

STOP MIST ON YOUR WINDSCREEN

If you will be out in your car a lot this Christmas, here’s an easy way to stop your windscreen from misting up:

Simply clean it with shaving foam. It provides a protective barrier which stops mist forming. Ice hockey players use it to stop their face masks from steaming up while they’re on the ice.

It’s easy to do. Put a good dollop of shaving foam onto a clean towel, and then wipe it all over the windscreen. Then take a second clean towel, and gently wipe off the shaving foam. This leaves a protective barrier, but it will need to be regularly reapplied, to continue to work.

This tip can be found on the RAC website: www.rac.co.uk

SMILE LINES



Christmas in my heart - Christmas is in my heart twelve months a year and, thanks to credit cards, it's also on my Visa card statement twelve months a year.

Sums up Christmas - Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: 'Peace on Earth'; 'Goodwill to Men'; and 'Batteries not included'.

Red - What's red and white, red and white, and red and white? Father Christmas rolling down a hill.

Stronger - Statistics prove we're all getting stronger. Fifty years ago, you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. Twenty-five years ago, it took two people to carry £30 worth of Christmas groceries - now a five-year-old can do it.

Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

Snowman - What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

Wise - A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!" "What part?" asked his mother. "I'm one of the three wise guys!"

The Christmas stars = Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.

Runs over - A father gave his daughter a young puppy for Christmas. An hour later, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. "Look Dad," she said, "My pup runneth over!"

What would you like for Christmas? - A little girl went to visit Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and the question of what she would like for Christmas.

The little girl gasped and stared up at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

What do you get Dad? - December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

Church rules

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

Christmas gifts - Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange."

The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR
CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SANTA'S CROTTO
 (FREE BUT BOOKING REQUIRED)

CHRISTMAS MARKET
 (COME & BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS)

FREE CRAFT STALLS

FREE FESTIVE DRINKS & TREATS

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2PM - 4PM

FREE ENTRY

ILLINGWORTH CHILDREN'S CENTRE
 (TOP DRIVE - WHITEHILL COMMUNITY ACADEMY SCHOOL, OCCUPATION LANE)

Sponsored by:
 Charity 1st

BOOKINGS:
CROTTO:
 To book a place/gift for your child, please contact Carol 07790778257. Booking required by Friday 10th Nov.
STALLS:
 To book a stall, please message CHALLENGES on Facebook or visit the Charity 1st Shop (Illingworth Road).

'WALKING THE WAY' which is a monthly Reflective walk around Calderdale which takes place on the second Sunday of the month starting at 2pm.

For more information, here is the website Calderdale Walking the Way

<https://www.calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk/about-us/walking-way.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/walkingthewaycalderdale>



WALKING FOOTBALL

at Forest Cottage, Cousin Lane, HX2 8AD

Tuesdays at 12 noon All welcome

For further information contact
 revpwelch@gmail.com



OSCA FOUNDATION (based at Forest Cottage, Cousin Lane, Halifax, HX2 8DA)

Activities to be held in DECEMBER & JANUARY

Monday: 6.30 pm to 8 pm Taekwondo

Monday: 6.30 pm to 9 pm (except Bank Holidays) **ANDY'S MAN CLUB**

Tuesday: 12 noon Walking Football (outside)

Tuesday: 2 pm to 4 pm Old Tyme / Modern Sequence Dancing

Tuesday: 6.30 pm to 8 pm Taekwondo

Wednesday: 6.30 pm to 8 pm Taekwondo

Thursday: 9.45 am to 10.45 am Keep Fit

Thursday: 2 pm to 4 pm Old Tyme / Modern Sequence Dancing

Thursday: 6 pm to 9 pm Youth Club 13 years -19 years

Thursday: Halifax Gateway Club 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm Enderby Hall

Floodlit All Weather 5 a-side football 3G pitch available for hire seven days a week at competitive prices.

Halifax Panthers Rugby League Open Age Ladies Team are now based at OSCA Foundation @ Forest Cottage. Fixtures will be held on Sunday afternoons at Four Fields on the OSCA Site.

Ovenden West Riding Junior Football Club at OSCA Foundation, Cousin Lane. Kick off times from 9.30 am through till 12 noon. Teams from u/7 through to u12 for both boys and girls. New and old players welcome. Contact Steve on 07727860731

Ovenden West Riding Girls' Football section are looking for new Lionesses to join their u/10 girls training squad. Girls need to be under 10 before August 31st 2023. More information about training contact Heath on 07961209093 or Nial on 07922089240.

Ovenden West Riding AFC are looking to start a third team for U/11 boys/girls, the team will play in the Huddersfield Junior League on Sunday mornings, all players of any ability are most welcome. Please contact Daniel on 07947702934.

PUBLIC BAR OPENING HOURS Friday 7 pm - 10 pm /

SATURDAY CLOSED / Sunday 12 noon to 6.30 pm

Children allowed under parental supervision.

Function rooms along with various rooms are available for hire at very competitive prices. Receptions, Funerals, Parties, any form of event can be catered for at very competitive prices. **For further**

information on all activities give Steve a call on 07727860731.

The OSCA Foundation would like to point out that despite the new development in the grounds of Forest Cottage all activities are continuing normally. The work is expected to last for around 12 months.

HAIRY POPPINS

DOG WALKING & GARDENING

Regular, occasional and one off walks
Puppy visits to feed, play and toilet
Cats, rabbits, fish etc. cared for



Lawns mowed—regularly or occasional

General Gardening

Phone Andrea on 07886527537

Email: hairyppins15@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook

Fully Insured



CAR BOOT SALE &

TABLE TOP SALE

AT OSCA FOUNDATION,

Forest Cottage, Cousin Lane, HX2 8AD

On Sundays, 10th December & 7th & 24th January

Sellers from 8 am

Buyers start 9 am

Book your £10 table with Neil 07530874386. If you prefer to sell outside you must provide your own table.

Light refreshments will be on sale



**FESTIVE
BREW & BAKES
at Beechwood Road Library**

Thursday 14 December 2023
10:30am - 12 noon

**Come and join in our
Christmas sing-along quiz
and enjoy
Festive refreshments**



**CREW Heart
Support Group**

CREW is a local registered charity

"Aiming to keep Calderdale fit and healthy"

We have an exercise class at Forest Cottage
every Thursday at 9.45 am

We have walk-it health walks of 60 - 150 minutes

**Monday 1 pm Beechwood Medical Centre
4th & 18th December and 15th January**

**Monday 1 pm Keighley Road Medical Centre, Illingworth
11th December and 8th and 22nd January**

**Every Friday 10 am Illingworth Moor Methodist Church
Approx. 4 miles**

All of our information is on our website

www.crewheartsupport.co.uk / crewpartners.hsg@gmail.com



The Local Activities (LA) Group in Illingworth and Bradshaw was formed specifically to improve the health and wellbeing of **people over 50 in this area of Halifax**. If you are interested in meeting new friends and doing new activities please get in touch:

Join us on Facebook: Illingworth & Bradshaw Local Activities Group /
Ring the Secretary on 01422 249070 / attend one of the activities

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES RUN EACH WEEK AND TAKE PLACE AT ILLINGWORTH MOOR METHODIST CHURCH, HX2 9LL

TUESDAYS

KEEP FIT from 10 am to 11 am £4.00

Not too hard, but not too easy!

This is a fun aerobic exercise class to get you fit and keep you healthy

NEW AGE KURLING from 11.15 am – 12.15 pm £2.00

Both the above activities are suitable for a range of abilities

SITTING DOWN PILATES from 11.15 am – 12 noon £3.50

WEDNESDAYS

CRAFTY CLUB from 10 am - 12 noon £2.00

Join the friendly group for knitting, sewing & card making .

Refreshments available from the Church Cafe

THURSDAYS

INTERMEDIATE PILATES CLASS from 9.45 am – 10.45 am £4.00

BEGINNERS PILATES CLASS from 11 am – 12 noon £4.00

To improve core stability and strength

THE FIRST SESSION AT EVERY CLASS IS FREE
*****NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME AT ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES*****

CHURCH CONTACTS

Holy Nativity Church, the Church of England Parish of Mixenden and Illingworth

Minister: Rev Robb Sutherland
Tel: 01422 353929
Address: Holy Nativity Church, Sunnybank Road,
Mixenden, HX2 8RX
Web: www.holynativity.co.uk
Facebook: [holynativitymix](https://www.facebook.com/holynativitymix)
Twitter: [@holynativitymix](https://twitter.com/holynativitymix)

St Malachy's

Parish Priest: Mgr Michael McQuinn
Tel: 01422 361682
Email: office.stmalachy@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
Address: St Columba's Presbytery, Highroad Well
Lane, Halifax, HX2 0QF

Illingworth Moor Methodist Church, Keighley Road, Illingworth, Halifax, HX2 9LL

Minister: Rev Paul Welch
Tel: 01422 244418
Address: The Manse, "St Ives", 160 Whitehill Road,
Illingworth, Halifax, HX2 9UH
Web: www.illingworthmoor.org.uk
Facebook: Illingworth Moor Methodist Church
Facebook: Illingworth Moor Church Good As New Shop
Centre Manager: immccentremanager@gmail.com
Children & Schools Worker: immctracy@gmail.com

*The last day for contributions to be included in the
FEBRUARY 2024 edition is Friday, 19th JANUARY*

Items can handed in to your Church representative or sent direct to
the Editor: Irene Mulhall at greenwoodtree7@gmail.com
Tel: 01422 249070