



ILLINGWORTH MESSENGER

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



DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026

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 & JANUARY**

All services commence at 10.30 am unless otherwise stated

7 th December	Parade & Toy Service led by the Girls' Brigade (Donations of new toys for Bradford Refugees)
14 th December	Rev David Briggs Communion
21 st December	Rev Tony Morling Carols & Christingle Service at 4 pm
25 th December	Rev Tony Morling Christmas Day Service at 11 am

***There is a Carol Service at Mount Zion Heritage Centre, Per Lane, Ogden,
at 2 pm on Sunday, 14th December with Rev Tony Morling***

2026

4 th January	Cluster Service at Highgate Methodist Church at 10.45 am
11 th January	Mrs Pamela Hale
18 th January	Mrs Caroline Stead
25 th January	Rev Tony Morling Communion



*The North Halifax Churches Together
will be Carol Singing outside Morrison's
on Saturday, 20th December from 12
noon, collecting for two local charities.
All welcome.*

DECEMBER / JANUARY MESSAGE

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

This is one of the central truths of the Christian faith — God’s eternal Word, became flesh and blood in the person of Jesus Christ. This mystery is at the heart of what we believe about who Jesus is.

For ancient philosophers, the concept of *Logos* — or “the Word” — was an abstract rational principle that held the universe together. John takes this idea and gives it radical new meaning. The Word isn’t just some distant concept; it’s a person. Jesus is the Word made flesh. Jesus is the God who spoke the *universe* into *being*, now living among us as a *human being*.

God becoming human is a radical, mind-blowing idea. Why would God do such a thing? The answer lies in God’s love for us. God didn’t want to remain distant or far away. God longs for relationship with us and so enters into our world — not as a king in a palace, but as a humble baby, born in a stable. Jesus’ entire life, from birth to death upon the cross, was a powerful act of love. God was not content with merely telling us of their love, Jesus demonstrated it as the Word made flesh.

What does all this mean for us in 2025? It means that God is not far off and distant. God draws near. Jesus, shows us God’s very nature through his acts, his loves, his care for the broken, the sick, and the lost. If you want to know what God is like, look to Jesus.

The Word incarnate, Jesus Christ, invites us into a new way of living. We are called to reflect that same love for the world through our lives. To love others and live shows grace to an expectant world. Jesus shows us the way of God, and his life challenges us to follow in his footsteps.

This Christmas, experience God’s presence with us anew and demonstrate his love to those we serve here in North Halifax.

Rev'd Robb Sutherland

Vicar of Holy Nativity Church
Area Dean of Halifax and Calder Valley



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SUDOKU EASY

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WORDSEARCH CLUES

DID THE OLD TESTAMENT EXPECT JESUS TO COME?

Yes indeed! Here are just some examples of Old Testament prophecies:

HE WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN. 'The *virgin* will conceive and give birth to a Son and will call Him *Immanuel*.' (Isaiah 7:14)

HE WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM. 'But you, *Bethlehem* Ephrathah, out of you will come for me one who will be *ruler* over *Israel*...' (Micah 5:2)

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HIS LINEAGE WOULD BE OF THE LINE OF DAVID. 'I will raise up for *David* a righteous Branch, a *King* who will reign wisely and do what is *just* and *right* in the land.' (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

HE WOULD BRING HEALING. 'Then will the eyes of the *blind* be opened and the ears of the *deaf* unstopped. Then will the *lame* leap like a deer, and the *mute* tongue shout for joy.' (Isaiah 35:5-6)

HE WOULD BE CRUCIFIED. They *pierce* my *hands* and my *feet*. All my bones are on display; people stare and *gloat* over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. (Psalm 22)

HE WOULD RISE FROM THE DEAD. 'You will not *abandon* me to the *realm* of the *dead*, nor will you let your faithful one see *decay*...' (Psalm 16: 8-11)

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

Sunny Bank Road, Mixenden, HX2 8RX.

<http://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 **vicar@holynativity.co.uk**

Church Wardens: David Capon 07500860715 and
Michelle Strange 07592187020

Community Cafe and Food Support: Mondays 12 noon - 4 pm
during term time. Pay as you can cafe, warm space and emergency food support. With support from other agencies such as Healthy Minds. Come and have lunch, chat with friends, play a game or charge your phone.

Holy Nativity Parent and Toddler Group: Meet with other parents on Thursday mornings from 9.30 am

Church Youth Group: Tuesdays 7 pm -8.30 pm

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

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>



WHAT'S ON AT ILLINGWORTH MOOR

'GOOD AS NEW SHOP'



Open on FRIDAYS ONLY 10 am till 3.30 pm during Abbey Park School term time.

During school holidays Thursday 6 pm to 8 pm and Fridays 10 am to 2 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: 07748271570)

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?

Illingworth Moor Methodist Church

BOYS BRIGADE MONDAY NIGHTS



Anchor Boys: 5-7 years and Junior Section: 8-10 years

Arrive 6.20pm to start at 6:30pm until 8 pm

Company Section: 11-18 years

Arrive 7pm to start at 7:15pm until 8:45pm

More info contact Captain Andy on 07833910698.

GIRLS BRIGADE WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Explorers: 5-7 years Starts 5:45pm-7:15pm

Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders: 8-18 years

Starts 7pm-8:30pm

More info contact Claire Hough
on 07799646692



We have spaces - come and join the fun!

SUNDAYS

Sunday Worship & Sunday School at 10.30 am

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

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Mathew Mulcuck MCFHP MAFHP



At Illingworth Moor Methodist

Church on

Thursday, 11th December at 3.30 pm

**(All children must be accompanied
by an adult)**

*With New Year's
Resolutions in mind, here
is John Wesley's rule of
conduct:*

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.

**CHURCH of ST. JOHN the EVANGELIST
PARISH OF BRADSHAW AND HOLMFIELD**

THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2 pm in the Community Centre of
St John's Church, Bradshaw, Pavement Lane, HX2 9JJ.

Each month a different speaker comes along to talk for about 45 minutes /1 hour,
followed by tea/coffee and a chat. Cost £2.50 per person including refreshments.

2nd December Mini Christmas Party with Mini Quiz, Secret Santa, Raffle and
Light Buffet.

6th January - Cat's Eyes and Uncle Percy with Glenda Shaw

3rd February - Waterhouse Alms Houses with John Bassinder, Former Clerk
to the Charity

For more information please contact John Kiddle 07746953527

ALL WELCOME

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FULL RE-ROOFS

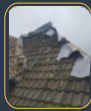
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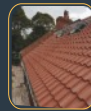
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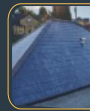
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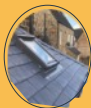
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ST. MALACHY'S NEWS

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 contact Evelyn Farrar on 01422 255284 or email her at evelynfarrar8@gmail.com



ILLINGWORTH MOOR METHODIST CHURCH

Where can you get (for instance) Chicken Casserole, mashed potato, Yorkshire pudding & vegetables, a pudding and a cup of tea, together with good company for £6.00?

Cafe number 07748271570

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



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](#)

Illingworth Sports and Social, Mason Green, Halifax, HX2 8HG

LOCAL HISTORY

*Editor: I have taken this account of Christmas from Arthur Porritt's book
'It Happened Here' published in 1959*

A VERY QUIET CHRISTMAS

The last Christmas of 1899 was said to have been very quiet, and there were two reasons to account for it. One was the South African War, which was demanding a flow of men to swell the ranks of the Volunteers, and which, we are told, "eliminated a lot of the usual jubilation and hilarity." Another was the snow for it was a real snow-white Christmas - the most severe for a number of years. Snowbound and icebound, the people of Halifax had their blood quickened by the icy winds; the streets were traversed with difficulty, and in the outskirts there was nothing visible but snow. The hills were lost to view.

But all this does not seem to have deadened the life of the town, nor to have prevented the population from attending the many entertainments provided during the "quiet" Christmas festival. The brass bands played about the town and the carol singers braved the snow. At the new infirmary, the fever hospital and the workhouse the sick and the poor were cheered and entertained and given their Christmas dinner; and the places of worship had their carols and their "Messiah."

There was a circus in the new Public Hall, with its series of sensational equestrian turns, twice daily on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The Drill Hall, too, was crowded on those two days, and on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, for the "finest entertainment yet given" by the Aeolian Opera Company on their many annual visits. Twenty talented artistes presented gems from the comic operas, assisted by some popular Northern humorists. At the Mechanics' Hall a Grand Christmas Carnival opened on Boxing Night for the week. The show included the latest life-size living pictures - the new animated pictures that became the cinematograph. There were the usual nightly performances at the Mitre Music Hall in Market Street, with three afternoon shows on Monday and Saturday.

And while these lively entertainments were flourishing so were the two Halifax theatres. At the Grand Theatre and Opera House the Moody-Manners Operas Company on the Sunday, which was Christmas Eve, presented a sacred concert, its best principals being the soloists. On Christmas Day the company gave a special performance, including a full costume selection from "Maritana."

The pantomime "Aladdin" had opened there on the 20th, following a week of the play, "The Orphan Heroine," several well-known artists entertained at a carnival concert on Christmas Day, and a dramatic play occupied the rest of the week.

Such was the quiet Christmas of 1899. One is left wondering what those festive days would have been like if they had not been quietened by the wartime limitations!

IMMC TINY TOTS



At Illingworth Moor Methodist Church



**We are back on
Wednesday
7th January**

8.45am till 10.30am

**We have spaces available:
from babies to school age.**



**Cafe open
for drinks
& snacks.**

Contact Tracy for more details

Email: immctracy@gmail.com

Phone/WhatsApp/Text:

07842411236

MEN'S CURIOUS RELUCTANCE TO ASK WHERE THEY ARE GOING

If you are travelling far this Christmas, pray that your satnav works, or that there is a woman in the car. Research has found that men are so reluctant to ask directions that they waste hours and miles every year. Over a lifetime of travel, it can work out to a wasted journey from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Very few men will ask for help or check a map to avoid unnecessary travel. They prefer to wander hopefully until they find their route on their own, regardless of how long it takes them.

Which of course has inspired the joke: Why did the Children of Israel wander in the wilderness for 40 years? Because Moses was a man and wouldn't ask directions...

ARE YOU DREADING SOME CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

Do you expect to like all the presents you will receive this year? Not if last year was anything to go by... It seems that many of us expect to unwrap at least one item that we do not want this Christmas.

What do you do with those weird gifts? Some of us admit to dumping them – straight into the bin. (Yet we are very polite about it – and pretend delight so that we do not hurt anyone's feelings.) A better way of getting rid of unwanted presents is to donate them to charity.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

250 years ago, on 16th Dec 1775 that Jane Austen, novelist (*Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion*) was born. Over 30 million copies of her books have been sold, 7,000 of them in her lifetime.

175 years ago, on 4th Dec 1850 that William Sturgeon, physicist, electrical engineer and inventor died. He created the first electromagnets and invented the first British electric motor.

150 years ago, on 6th Dec 1875 that Evelyn Underhill, writer and pacifist was born. Best known for her books on religion and Christian mysticism.

80 years ago, on 27th Dec 1945 that *The World Bank*, the *International Monetary Fund*, and the *International Bank for Reconstruction and Development* were founded. They had been created at the Bretton Woods Conference in July 1944.

75 years ago, on 25th Dec 1950 that the Stone of Scone, the coronation stone of British monarchs, was taken from Westminster Abbey in London by four Scottish students. They transported it to Scotland but broke it. It was later returned to London and used in the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Since 1996 it has been kept in Edinburgh Castle, with the agreement that it will be transported to Westminster Abbey when needed for coronations.

70 years ago, on 1st Dec 1955 that African American civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery Alabama. This violated the city's racial segregation laws, and led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott (5th to 20th Dec 1956) and the birth of the modern American civil rights movement.

Also 70 years ago, on 20th Dec 1955 that Cardiff was proclaimed the capital city of Wales.

65 years ago, on 9th Dec 1960 that the first episode of the TV soap *Coronation Street* was broadcast on ITV.

60 years ago, on 22nd Dec 1965 that Richard Dimbleby, journalist and radio-television broadcaster, died. The BBC's first war correspondent, he was one of the greatest figures in British broadcasting history. Father of the TV presenters David Dimbleby and Jonathan Dimbleby.

40 years ago, on 2nd Dec 1985 that Philip Larkin, poet, librarian and jazz critic died.

Also 40 years ago, on 7th Dec 1985 that Robert Graves, poet novelist, critic, translator and classical scholar died. Best known for *I, Claudius*, and *Goodbye to All That*.

30 years ago, on 22nd Dec 1995 that the British 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was jailed for six and a half years in Singapore for fraudulent financial dealings which had led to the fall of Barings Bank.

Also 30 years ago, on 8th Dec 1995 that Headteacher Philip Lawrence was stabbed to death outside his west London school while trying to protect a student who was being assaulted by a gang of youths.

25 years ago, 13th Dec 2000, that George Bush finally claimed the US presidency, 36 days after the election was held. The results were delayed by disputed votes in Florida.

15 years ago, on 16th Dec 2010 that Ireland was granted a 67.5 billion Euro bailout from the European Union to rescue its banks and other financial institutions from collapsing.

10 years ago, on 19th Dec 2015 that Jimmy Hill, football player, manager and host of the BBC football TV series *Match of the Day* (1973-88) died.



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COMMUNITY SHED



The aim of the Shed at the Moor is to provide a safe place, particularly for people who experience social isolation, who seek friendship, and may like to learn a new craft, hobby, or just chill and enjoy friendship and companionship.

The Shed is for the local community to use.
Why not make a suggestion, we all like to learn something new or just come along for a brew and be part of a new project.



Open Fridays 10 till 1pm

Contact- Geoff Widdop 07837 942336



THE DAISY CHAIN CAFE

Tuesday, 2nd December Daisy Chain at St Columba's Church
Hall, Pellon, HX2 0QF, 1.30-3.30 pm,
Entertainment with Tony Austin Guitar Vocals

Wednesday, 10th December Daisy Chain at
Blackburn House, Ovenden, HX3 5SJ, 1-3 pm,
Entertainment with Jed & Maggie Guitar Vocals

Wednesday, 17th December Daisy Chain & Men United
Christmas Party at Halifax Rugby Union Football Club,
Ovenden Park, Keighley Road, HX2 8AR, 12-5 pm
Entertainment with Jed & Maggie Guitar Vocals
(Please contact Peter 07599524471 if you would like a menu
or further information).

Wednesday, 14th January Daisy Chain at
Blackburn House, Ovenden, HX3 5SJ 1-3 pm

Working towards a Dementia Friendly North Halifax

CHALLENGERS INVITES YOU TO THEIR CHRISTMAS FAYRE

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SOME UNIQUE
CHRISTMAS
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SANTA'S
GROTTO**
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REQUIRED
BY 17TH NOV

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STALL**

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RIDES**

**SATURDAY
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2PM 5PM**

**FREE
ENTRY**

Join us for a festive afternoon filled with Christmas cheer, delightful treats and activities that will get you into the Christmas spirit

ILLINGWORTH FAMILY HUB
TOP DRIVE ■ TRINITY ACADEMY WHITEHILL, OCCUPATION LANE, HX2 9RL

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GROTTO:
To book a place/gift for your child, please contact Carol on 07780 778257

Booking required by you

STALLS:
To book a stall, please message CHALLENGERS on Facebook or contact Carol on 07780 778257

ANSWERS

SUDOKU EASY

9	3	4	6	2	1	8	5	7
2	7	1	5	8	9	3	4	6
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SUDOKU MODERATE

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9	6	2	7	8	3	5	1	4

WORDSEARCH



Sequence & Ballroom Dancing



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 Cricket Club

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 Mamil Café Bar in Halifax and a great night it was, well organised by our Chairman, Stuart Thompson. Over 60 people enjoyed a lovely buffet and celebrated the successes of the 2025 playing season, both club and individual, with a visual re-run of the highlights in a superbly illustrated programme and the evening was really well rounded off by local comedian and old friend of the club Lea Roberts.

It was a great chance to celebrate the fantastic season for the club at all levels. Two major cup finals with the 1st XI winning the Halifax Parish Cup for the sixth time, the 2nd XI once again dominated the Premier Division lifting the title with four weeks to go with a Crossley Shield appearance, too. It was not to be on the day as we came up against some strong opposition, but a glimpse around the crowd, swelled by over 80 Illingworth followers suggested the great overall position of our club. Our 3rd XI, despite relegation, maintained its quest of providing opportunities for all and will continue to do so as our bank of younger players get ready.

Our junior set up goes from strength to strength with a league title at U9s and a Collinson Cup victory at U11s too. The U13s really stepped up in their games as well with skills on show that have been the backbone of our coaching philosophy.

And a first season with our Women's team. A most welcome addition to the club and a side who grew with each game.

Our leaders on the field of play have already been chosen for season 2026.

1st XI Captain – Gary Fellows Vice Capt- Jack Hargreaves

2nd XI Captain – Jamie Moorhouse Vice Capts -Noman Hussain and Khurram Shazad

3rd XI Captain – Louis Smith Vice Capt Asif Ali

We are also pleased to announce the signing of opening bowler Taureeq Ahmed from Copley CC.

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.

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. Illingworth.play-cricket.com](http://www.Illingworth.play-cricket.com) You can contact us by email comms@illingworthcc.co.uk and on Facebook you can find us @illingworthcc

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

Andrew Smith

President

Some people use religion like a bus – they ride on it only while it is going their way. - Anon

ILLINGWORTH WARD FORUM

The Ward Forum meetings are a chance to meet your local Ward Councillors, the local Police team, Together Housing and the Fire Service, on Wednesday, 3rd December starting at 6 pm in the Community Room at Illingworth Fire Station, Keighley Road, HX2 8HA

For more information contact Daniel Hood on 07771387410 or daniel.hood@nhpltd.org.uk

ELDERLY AND DEPRESSED THIS WINTER? GO TO CHURCH.

Older people with depression can see a bigger improvement in their mental health if they start going to church than if they engage in charity work or sport.

Research from the London School of Economics found that joining a religious organisation is the best way of combating depression. It may be both that having a faith gives benefit, and also because meeting up with other people of faith gives a sense of belonging. The LSE also found evidence that membership of some political and community organisations may have a poor impact on an older person's mental health.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR REAL CHRISTMAS TREE

If you want your tree to last as long as possible this year, the following should help:

Cut off about half an inch from the bottom of the trunk. This opens the pores of the tree. Then place it outside in a cool shaded place, standing in water until required.

Once you have brought it in, place it in a water-holding stand, well away from direct heat such as radiators. Top up the container every day – you will be amazed how much water the tree drinks. These ideas come from the British Christmas Tree Growers Association (BCTGA)

SAFE DRIVING THIS WINTER

The temperatures are dropping now, and it is a good idea to nurture your car battery. Cold, damp weather can make it as reluctant as you are to get going in the morning.

The RAC recommends the following to take best care of your battery: Before you switch off your engine at the end of a journey, turn off the lights, wipers and heaters. This prevents any unnecessary drain on the battery next time you start the car.

Check that everything is switched off before you turn on the ignition. Avoid using the heater longer than necessary, as it puts high demands on the vehicle's battery.

Check that you don't leave interior lights, satnavs or phone chargers connected. If possible, park in a garage.

BEECHWOOD ROAD LIBRARY

The Staff at 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



Yorkshire Smokefree Service THINKING ABOUT STOPPING SMOKING?

Did you know we now offer **VAPES** as well as nicotine replacement therapy?

We're here to help you through your quit journey

If you're ready to stop smoking give us a call to make an appointment to suit you!

01422 262373 (local number)

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

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: hairypoppins15@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook

Fully Insured





**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, 1st December and 5th & 19th January
Beechwood Health Centre at 1 pm**

**Monday, 8th December and 12th January
Keighley Road Medical Centre at 1 pm**

**Wainstalls (all walks start & finish at Wainstalls turning circle)
Wednesday, 17th December and 28th January**

**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

Cube Choir presents

GLOW

Saturday 6th December - 7:30pm

**Join us at Halifax Minster as we sing
festive songs in the glow of the
Christmas Tree Festival**

Ticket Prices:

Adult - £13

Child (under 16) - £10

Tickets available at:

**halifaxminster.org.uk/events
or the Minster shop**

**Musical Director - Daniel Felipe Rodriguez Tijaro
Accompanist - Lizzey Ross**

SMILE LINES



True story The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from 'house' to 'house' knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get 'no room' answers, a little voice called from the back of the church: "You should have booked!"

Who was the Real Virgin?

A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

Well known pilot At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures to illustrate a biblical story. The teacher was startled to see one little boy was drawing an airplane. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy explained. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the figure in the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."

Actual children's versions of Christmas Carols:

"...sleep in heavenly peas"

"Joy to the world, the Saviour rains!"

"Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plane..."

"While shepherds washed their socks by night..."

"Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly..."

"We three kings of porridge and tar..."

"On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me..."

Know what? As we were putting out cookies for Father Christmas one Christmas Eve, I accidentally dropped one. I picked it up and dusted it off before placing it back on the plate. "You can't do that," argued my four-year-old. But I assured him that Father Christmas would never know.

He shot me a dubious look. "So, he knows if I've been bad or good all year, but he doesn't know if you dropped his cookie on the floor?"

When children tell the Christmas story...

~ When the three wise guys from the East Side arrived, they found Jesus in the manager.

~ When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

~ Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

Footballer's carol A football supporter's favourite Christmas song? 'Yule never walk alone'.

Big part A little boy rushed home from school: "I got a part in the Christmas play!" His mother asked which part it was. "I'm going to be one of the three wise guys!"

Let's play Four-year-old to her two-year-old sister: "Let's play Christmas. I'll be Father Christmas, and you can be a present and I'll give you away."

Weird Christmas Christmas is weird – at what other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat sweets out of your socks?



**CAR BOOT SALE &
TABLE TOP SALE AT
OSCA FOUNDATION**



Forest Cottage, Cousin Lane, HX2 8AD

on Sundays, 7th December and 4th and 18th January

Sellers arrive from 8 am Buyers start 8.30 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.

WALKING FOOTBALL

**at Forest Cottage,
Cousin Lane,
HX2 8AD**



**Tuesdays at
12 noon**

All welcome

**For further information
contact**

laynopete@hotmail.com

/ 07808059929

**ANDY'S MAN CLUB
#ITSOKAYTOTALK**



**Meets every Monday from
7 pm (exc. Bank holidays)**

**At Halifax Rugby Union
Football Club,
Keighley Road, Ovenden,
HX2 8AR**



**The Service for the Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity will be held at
Holy Nativity, Mixenden, at 6 pm on
Sunday, 18th January 2026.**

**All welcome but please note that
there will be strobe lights during
the service.**

**Charity 1st and Challengers invite you and your family & friends
to join us at our Christingle**

**Festive fun, food and carols
with performances by Challengers kids club**

Sunday 14th December: 4.30pm onwards

**Trinity Academy Whitehill, Occupation Lane
(Bottom Hall)**

**Free hot turkey sandwich
with all the trimmings**

All the family are welcome to come and join us

For more info, please see Carol (07780 778257) or message Charity 1st or Challengers on Facebook



OVENDEN ARLFC ARE BACK

After a gap of ten years or more Ovenden ARLFC are looking for players for a new u/9

Team for the 2026 season which will commence in March. Training for the new u/9 teams will commence on Tuesday, 6th January and Thursday, 8th January at Forest Cottage, Cousin Lane, 5 pm until 6 pm and every week thereafter.

A FUN DAY will be held on **Saturday, January 24th** at Forest Cottage, Cousin Lane, Ovenden starting at 12 noon to launch the return of the club.

Indoor games, bouncy castles etc will be on site, also the chance to play some rugby.

For more information ring Josh Sandland on 07706405183.





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

Activities to be held DECEMBER & JANUARY

MONDAYS From 4.30 pm Victoria Jade Performance Ballet, Tap, Singing Drama, Musical Theatre, Street & Jazz. Jade's phone no. is 07868022405

6.30 pm to 8 pm Taekwondo

Yorkshire Darts Association – top quality darts tournaments every week enroll from 6.30 pm on the night.

TUESDAYS 12 noon Walking Football (outside)

2 pm to 4 pm Old Tyme / Modern Sequence Dancing

From 4.30 pm Victoria Jade Performance Ballet, Tap, Singing Drama, Musical Theatre, Street & Jazz. Jade's phone no. is 07868022405

6.30 pm to 8 pm Taekwondo

WEDNESDAYS 10.30 am to 11.30 am Chi Chi Fit Musical Dance Class – for people with learning disabilities and their carers. After class join us for a free tea or coffee and a chat £2.50 per session. More info/book your place 03000120416

From 4.30 pm Victoria Jade Performance Ballet, Tap, Singing Drama, Musical Theatre, Street & Jazz. Jade's phone no. is 07868022405

6.30 pm to 8 pm Taekwondo

THURSDAYS 9.45 am to 10.45 am Keep Fit

11.30 am to 12.30 pm Ladies Netball

2 pm to 4 pm Old Tyme / Modern Sequence Dancing

From 4.30 pm Victoria Jade Performance Ballet, Tap, Singing Drama, Musical Theatre, Street & Jazz. Jade's phone no. is 07868022405

6 pm to 9 pm Youth Club 13 years –19 years

6.30 pm - 8.30 pm Enderby Hall Halifax Gateway Club

FRIDAYS From 4.30 pm Victoria Jade Performance Ballet, Tap, Singing Drama, Musical Theatre, Street & Jazz. Jade's phone no. is 07868022405

7 pm onwards Pool and Darts Night

SATURDAYS Three Ovenden West Riding Girls football teams in the West Riding Junior Girls League aged u/10, u/11 & u/13. New girls welcome. Contact Nial Toolin on 07922089240

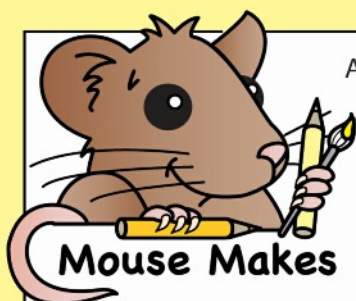
SUNDAYS Thirteen Ovenden West Riding mixed gender teams in the Huddersfield Junior League from u/7 through to u/15. New players welcome contact Steve 07727860731

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

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.

For further information on all activities give Steve a call on 07727860731



Mouse Makes

A baby needs clothes
to keep warm like
a snuggly sleep suit
or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

.....
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs
somewhere
to sleep like
a crib or a cot.
*What did you
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

.....
read Luke 2:7

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God's Son and our Saviour
coming into the world as a baby,
and we look forward to the time
when Jesus will come again,
not as a baby but as the
King of kings and Lord of lords!

read

John 14:3

A baby needs somewhere
to be born like at home
or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born
in a stable in

.....
read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs
a name.

*What name were
you called?*

Jesus was given
a special name
that had a
special meaning.

read

Matthew 1:21-23



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ★ NOLLAIG CHRÏDHEIL ★ NOLLAG SHONA
JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN



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 via one of the following ways:

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

The Bowling Section of the LA Group meet every Monday at 10 am at Holmfield Bowling Club, Holmfield 1st April until 30th September

We run day trips to the seaside or places of interest & have other social events throughout the year.

**ALL THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE HELD AT
ILLINGWORTH MOOR METHODIST CHURCH**

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 to 12 noon £3.50

WEDNESDAYS

CRAFTY CLUB from 10.00 am - 12 noon £2.00

Join the friendly group for knitting, card making and other crafts

Refreshments available from the Church Cafe

THURSDAYS

INTERMEDIATE PILATES from 9.45 am - 10.45 am £4.00

BEGINNERS PILATES from 11 am - 12 noon £4.00

To improve core stability and strength

***** NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME *****

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 Tony Morling
Tel: 01422 768092
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
Tracy Brennan: 07842411236

*The last day for contributions to be included in the
FEBRUARY 2026 edition is FRIDAY, 16th JANUARY 2026*

Items can be sent direct to the Editor: Irene Mulhall at
greenwoodtree7@gmail.com Tel: 01422 249070