

YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH NEEDS YOU

There are lots of ways you can support St Peter's. You can help with making coffee, handing out service books, reading lessons, arranging flowers or cleaning. If you can help in any way, even if it's only on the odd occasion, we'd be very grateful. Please contact a churchwarden or complete the chart below and drop it into church.

Name..... Contact No.....

Month	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
Coffee				
Service Books				
Readings				
Flowers				
Cleaning				

Cleaning December.... D Cameron, E Wilson, G Cameron.

Flowers December....2nd Wedding. 23rd. Christmas

Taken place in St. Peter's

Funeral

Stewart Maxwell Northall.... (16th November)

To arrange:-

A Wedding first contact, Alison Kennedy at- alisonmkennedy777@gmail.com

A Funeral or Baptism contact Rev. Jenni Lane Tel 01325 377918

Deadline for notices - please submit by 11th of the month to be included in next

Months Newsletter space permitting. **Email to—m.horseman711@btinternet.com**

If anyone would like to or prefer to receive their Roundabout by email please let Margaret Horseman know. This is a quick and cost effective way of getting the newsletter to you and you can forward it on to friends who do not get it delivered. Many thanks.

Roundabout

DECEMBER 2018

St Peter's Church, Croft on Tees

St Mary's Church, Eryholme

Rector. The Reverend Jenni Lane. Tel. 377918

Licensed Reader. Mrs Viv Waugh. Tel 720489



ADVENT SERVICE

With Polam Hall School Choir will be held in St Peter's on Sunday 2nd December at 6pm. Refreshments will be served after, in the Croft Hotel. If anyone would like to contribute mince pies for this please leave in the Church before the service.

A COFFEE MORNING

Will be held in St. Peter's on Friday 7th of December 10-12 noon. This is so that everyone can come and see the new kitchen extension. There will be stalls, raffle etc. and it is hoped that if this is successful and plenty of people attend it may become a regular monthly event. Admission £1.

A CAROL SERVICE

Will take place in St. Peter's on Friday the 21st December at 7pm. Refreshments after. Please come and join in the singing .

ST PETER'S CHURCH CHOIR

Will be singing in Middleton Lodge on 20th December at 6.30pm



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Cleasby...Holy Communion 9.30am. Croft...Family Service 10.am.

Eryholme...Holy Communion 11.am.

A Christmas Tail, by a rectory canine.

I like to think that Christmas promotes love and inclusion. Christmas adverts portray family and encourage generosity to those both near and far, loved and unknown, and rightly so. Christmas is after all the celebration of a human family and the birth of the Christian family. The connection between people is memory; it doesn't take long for someone to say "Do you remember when...." And so, today I am going to tell you a great remembering of the canine clan, one which has been passed from snout to snout throughout the annals of hounds, ever to be re-membered and embellished over the years....

Once upon a time, a very long time ago in the history of a canine, there was a white wirey Jack Russell terrier called Hardy. He was cunning and very infrequently abashed by anything. He was a master of thievery, could excavate the back lawn faster than you can say "do we have moles?", and could hunt out a sausage sandwich within a 2 mile radius.... Which leads me to the tale of Hardy and the Christmas Lunch Incident.

It had snowed heavily on the edge of the Pennines. The biscuit-buyer had taken to conducting services in her wellies, and the younger members of the canine pack argued over who should sit closest to the fire. The back garden was under several terrier depths of snow, which made using the facilities a cold, if not dangerous expedition. But Hardy, was hardy. He fearlessly launched himself out of the back door, diving into snowdrifts and would disappear, only to reappear 10 minutes later looking like the abominable snow dog. He would then fly into the lounge and shake off the accumulated white stuff which eventually melted into very cold, wet puddles, for the stocking-footed biscuit-buyer to tread in. In truth they were happy times and a source endless amusement.

Christmas morning brought the expectation of a traditional Victorian Christmas, as the snow crashed lemming-like from the sky and the church bells called the faithful to a chilly celebration of Christ's birth. The snow muted the sounds of modern life, but failed to completely eradicate the curses from the biscuit-buyer as she attempted the 200-yard trip from vicarage to church in a cassock and muck boots.

Eventually the promising aromas of Christmas lunch began to fill the vicarage. Thoughts of food, cooked by a Responsible Adult who could produce food from the oven as it should taste like, cheered the heart of the biscuit-buyer who was de-frosting in the study, and fascinated the snouts of expectant canines..... Christmas had arrived.

Unfortunately, Christmas hadn't arrived soon enough for one canine. Hardy was hungry. And when Hardy was hungry, Hardy hunted, raided and usually achieved his goal. However, on this particular Christmas morning, Hardy had been banned from the kitchen whilst the Responsible Adult nursed the oven and the gin bottle. And so, muttering the words "I am just going outside and I may be some time", he disappeared off into the inclement weather.

Two gin and tonics later as the biscuit-buyer's socks steamed in front of the fire, she muttered, "Where's Hardy?" The canine fraternity feigned ignorance. The Responsible Adult scuttled back to the kitchen. The biscuit-buyer sighed, briefly considered forgetting the absence of Hardy, but decided that although Hardy was hardy he wasn't that hardy. Pulling on her wellies, she disappeared into the garden repeating the same words as her quarry. Following the path through the snow, she reached the garden wall and looked at the quickly disappearing trail as the snow fell.

To cut what is already a long story short, legend has it that Hardy came trotting back, wagging his tail about an hour later, still white and covered in snow, apart from his snout: *it* was covered in gravy. The aroma of roast turkey mixed with soggy doggy infused the air as he settled in front of the fire. No-one knows whose Christmas lunch Hardy filched. And the biscuit-buyer? She doesn't like to talk about it.....

Wishing you love, joy and peace this Christmastide.

November Church Draw this month was won by:-

£100 Pauline and Mike Bailey

£75 Sally Peart

£50 Joan and John Green

A reminder that the annual subscription of £52 is due at the end of December. If anyone else would like to join the draw please contact Barbara Leggott.

December Church Services.

Venue	<u>2nd</u>	<u>9th</u>	<u>16th</u>	<u>23rd</u>	<u>30th</u>
Croft	8am Holy Communion	4pm Candle Service	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	10.30 Joint with Wiske Benefice At <u>East Cowton</u>
Eryholme	11am Holy Communion		6pm Carol Service		

Other Services.

Middleton Tyas...2nd December Carol Service 3pm... 24th Dec. Crib Service 4pm

Barton...9th December Christingle 3pm.... 23rd Dec. Carol Service 11am

Barton...24th December Midnight Communion 11.30pm

Cleasby...23rd December Carol Service 6pm

Manfield...24th December Carol Service 6pm

Moulton...24th December Carol Service 6pm

At Croft Christmas Trees..12th December Carol singing and Nativity Tableaux for the family at 6pm. Refreshments will be available and children are invited to come dressed as nativity characters, with a prize for the best presented.

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St Peter's Pastoral Care Lunches

Next Lunch ...December 13th-Christmas Lunch. (**please note date.**)

This will be a special lunch with carols and singing.

Future dates for 2019...17th January...21st February...21st March. We then return to alternate months.

Please come and join us, home made soup and lots of delicious puds. If you can help the team in any way please contact Viv Waugh.