***VINE LEAVES from***

 ***ST. LEONARD’S***

 ***WORTLEY***

***DECEMBER 2024***

***‘DATES FOR YOUR DIARY’***

**December Sunday Services**

**1st December at 11am Communion Service with Rev. Chris Herbert**

**8th December at 6.30pm Communion Service with Rev. Chris Herbert**

**15th December at 11am Communion Service with Rev. Chris Herbert**

**22nd December at 6.30pm 9 Lessons & Carols with Thurlstone Brass Band, Ian Watson**

**Wednesday 25th at 10.30am Christmas Day Communion Service with Rev. Chris Herbert**

**29th December at 10.30 am Joint Benefice Communion Service with Rev. Chris Herbert**

 **Tankersley St. Peters**

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**Monday 2nd December 5-6.30pm Open drop Session with Rev. Chris Herbert**

**Saturday 14th December at 7pm Bolsterstone Choir Christmas Concert**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY** **1-3pm** **Tea & Chat group in Church (not on 25th December)**

**Our historic Church is open for everyone to visit and to explore every Wednesday between 11am & 3pm**



***CHURCH CHAT***

It seems a long time ago now but at the end of October ) after the last issue of the Vine went to print, St. Leonards received an unforgettable visit from a group of pupils from Wooley Wood Special School in Sheffield, nine children with their teacher and her assistants. Fortunately, the weather was sunny and warm as they negotiated their rather complicated route from The Wortley Arms car park to the Church – they needed ‘dropped’ curbs as three were in wheelchairs – and of course no one relishes crossing the road near Wortley’s notorious corners. After a short explanation from their teacher Basia of how the church is used the children showed genuine interest in St. Leonards’ coloured windows, organ and carved figures. Rev. Chris, Joan and I enjoyed their visit as much the children appeared to!

**We will repeat our CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL DONATION scheme again this year. So, *until the middle of December*, there will be a box at the back of the church ready to receive your gifts of non-perishable items - packets, bottles and tins etc. As before these will be delivered to ‘FareShare Barnsley’ in good time to bring a little extra Christmas cheer to a few folk in Barnsley.**

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**A NEW CHALLENGE!** Beginning in January 2025 Rev. Chris is initiating a new venture where-by each of the three churches in the Tankersley Benefice will provide a permanent collection point for anyone who is able to add a few extra non-perishable food items to their regular grocery shopping list. These gifts will then be collected together and forwarded for distribution.

**Our Annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols with Thurlstone Brass Band will be held of Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm**

**Join us for mulled wine and a mince pie afterwards**

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Saturday 14th December at 7pm

Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir Concert

**with Thurgoland School Choir**

**Our popular annual concert of seasonal music with a scrumptious light supper included**

***Tickets £9, under 14yrs £4 available from Church, choir members, Wortley P.O.***

***or pay on the door.***

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**Regular open drop-in Evenings held at St. Leonards on the first Monday of each month between 5 and 6.30pm** for all who wish to see Rev. Chris to discuss arrangements for baptisms, weddings, other church functions and business.



 **EVERY WEDNESDAY - TEA AND CHAT GROUP**

Open to all, you can come each week or just occasionally - whenever you can,we promise a warm, friendly welcome, tea, cakes and relaxed conversation with our happy group. Come and join us **any Wednesday between 1 and 3pm**

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**CHURCH WARDENS JOAN AND ANN AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF ST. LEONARDS’ PCC WISH EVERYONE A PEACEFUL AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD**



**EDITOR’S NOTE All contributions to Vine Leaves at St. Leonards gratefully received: please send to** **anncampbell288@gmail.com** **or give to any PCC member or leave in Church contributing interesting or informative items for us all to enjoy**

**NEWS FROM THE BELFRIES**

**OF ST. LEONARD’S and ST. PETER’S**

**WORTLEY TOWER NEWS**

**Wortley Tower News – Merry Christmas from the ringers at St Leonard’s.**

**Remembrance Ringing on our New Muffles**

On Remembrance Sunday churches with change ringing bells always ring them half-muffled. A leather pad is fitted on one side of the clapper ball. When the bell is rung full-circle it strikes the bell normally on one stroke then strikes the bell with the muffled side on the return stroke. This produces a loud and soft sound alternating sound. It is reserved for solemn occasions and remembrance.

Earlier this year we purchased a new set of muffles helped by funding from the Penistone Ward Alliance. Our old set had to be tied on to the clappers and took some time and effort to fit. They used to slip round the clapper and spoil the effect. Our new ones are specially made to the dimension of each clapper and the weight of the bell. That makes the sound very even and balanced. They are attached with two lengths of industrial strength Velcro fastening. This makes fitting very quick and easy, and they don’t slip. The bells sounded amazing ringing out in the darkness before the evening service. All eight bells were rung, all our team were there to ring them. We enjoyed the service afterwards with Rev Chris. Afterwards the muffles were removed, again a quick and easy task although it does still need someone to climb the tower and get up close with our beautiful bells.

**AGM**

We held our Annual General Meeting on 7th November. It never seems like a year when it comes round. Our officers stand down and are either re-elected or someone else is proposed. No changes this year, Lynn is Tower Secretary, Dawn is our Steeple Keeper, Alice our Social Media editor and Martin looks after our Information Technology. We reflected on the last twelve months and made plans for the coming year. It has been a successful year for ringing at Wortley. We got involved in many enjoyable events and you will have read about them through these news articles. The tower generated some income for church funds through donations from ringers, peal fees, open days, and weddings. We remembered our ringing friend Jay who passed away in early 2024 too.

**Ringing in the New Year**

You may remember last year we started up an old tradition that hadn’t been done for a long time. Ringing the bells at midnight on New Yer’s Eve to welcome in the New Year. We will be doing it again this year. On Tuesday night 31st December our ringers will be ringing St Leonard’s bells from 11.45pm up to two minutes to midnight. Then after the twelve strokes of midnight have sounded the bells will ringing out again to welcome 2025. Many churches do ring in the new year. Bells have been historically used to mark significant events, and their sound is associated with joy and celebration. The poet Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote a poem about it in 1850 called Ring Out, Wild Bells. The first verse is “Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.”

**Christmas Peal**

A peal will be rung on Wednesday 18th December. 11am to 2pm by members of the Sheffield Cathedral team. A peal is a minimum of 5000 changes, non-stop.

**TANKERSLEY TOWER NEWS – Merry Christmas from the ringers at St Peter’s.**

We were pleased to welcome a new recruit this month. Sue has joined the Sunday Morning Service chiming team. She had seen one of our advertisements for new ringers to learn and contacted us. After meeting up one Tuesday morning and after a training session with Lynn and Andrew, Sue made the decision to join our band. This is good news; we need more people learning to chime our bells at St Peter’s. We hope that after settling in and gaining experience she might like to learn to ring the bells full circle. We do that at Wortley because the bells at Wortley are easier to ring and more suited to teaching new ringers.

**Learn to ring with us. At either Wortley or Tankersley – Telephone Andrew our tower captain on: 07733005526, email:** **wortleytower@gmail.com** **or** **tankersleytower@gmail.com** **There are Facebook pages for Wortley and Tankersley bell ringers, Instagram feeds for both and Wortley ringers have a Twitter account now just called X, @Wortleytower. Andrew will reply to you and arrange a visit, tower tour and training sessions.**