

# YOUTH TELL US!



Calling young residents  
of Sadberge...

Do you want:

- A group run for you, by you?
- A chance to have your say in the village?
- A chance to vote for things that interest you?
- A chance to get together with friends and make new ones?



If you are aged 12-17 and are interested, email [susanemac@outlook.com](mailto:susanemac@outlook.com)



The Buck Inn is grateful to the Whitehouse family (who live in the Old Rectory) for arranging a session of favourite **Christmas Carols** played by the **Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band**.

Join them outside **The Buck Inn at 7pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. Carol sheets will be provided, but bring a torch (hand or head) so you can read the words you don't know already!



## And finally .....

The clergy, churchwardens and members of the congregation of St Andrew's Sadberge send you all good wishes for Christmas 2023, and for a happy and productive New Year in 2024. As always, we are grateful to everyone in the village of Sadberge and beyond for their friendship and support during the last year.



Thank you to everybody who came to watch the amazing Firework Display on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at the Village Hall. Over 400 people attended and we hope you all enjoyed the show.

A few more thanks are in order - firstly to the Parish Council for funding the event and secondly to the Village Hall for the use of their facilities. Huge thanks must also go to Dud and Lee who painstakingly set the Fireworks in order to create such a fabulous display.

Our buckets collected the grand total of **£540.71** which is an a-ma-zing amount. The money will go back to the Parish Council to be reinvested in community projects within Sadberge.



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm sees the welcome return of the **Thorpe Thewles Pop Choir** who will bring us a concert of Christmas Music to set our toes tapping. Please spread the word and bring your friends. Church will be warm, but just in case it's cold outside your £5 entrance ticket will give you a glass of wine. Catherine Knaggs is looking for helpers on the night (☎07811 595938).

## St Andrew's, Sadberge



### And now for the Good News!

I'm writing this in a season of war and ongoing tension in our world following the battles between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza, the ongoing (out-of-the-news) fighting in Ukraine and other parts of our world. We've seen devastation due to the powerful forces of nature with volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods and fires this year. Crises and incidents hit us in our newspapers and on our televisions almost daily, and these are caused by catastrophic natural and man-made events across the globe. It all seems such bad news, and many have exclaimed, "If there is a God, how and why does he allow such suffering?"

There isn't a simple answer to that question, but I don't think that the fact that there is suffering should lead us to believe that God doesn't care, or that he doesn't exist. Much suffering in our world is caused by human action and choice, and that comes down to the 'free will' that human beings are given. If God were to intervene, then we'd not have 'free will' and we'd be more like robots programmed to act in certain ways, and no longer be human.

But what about the natural disasters – earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions etc? Does God not care? Could he not prevent such things? This is one of the deepest of philosophical questions that has taxed much bigger and better brains than mine. But I don't think that God's apparent non-intervention necessarily indicates that he doesn't care or doesn't exist. Many, many individuals will point to 'super-natural' or extra strength that they've been given through great difficulties. Most of life's important lessons are learned not when things are going well for us, but when we face, and journey through, great difficulties.

And now for the Good News! God has demonstrated his care and love for human kind and our world! Two thousand years ago he entered into our broken and messed up world in human form as baby Jesus. If God didn't care, why did he make himself so vulnerable, to the point of experiencing human frailty and ultimately suffering human cruelty in his physical death? Surely this shows a far greater love and care, to stand with us in our pain and struggles, than to be aloof and wave a magic wand? It very much reminds me of the Search and Rescue helicopter, which comes to people's aid in the storms of life - whilst the elements still rage around, the winch-man carries out a seemingly miraculous rescue.

May we, and all those who are facing a bleak future, find God standing with us in a new way now, through this Christmas, and for eternity!

**The Rev'd Mark East**  
Rector, St Andrew's Haughton & Sadberge

## Roundabout Newsletter Christmas 2023

Rev'd Mark East

(Rector)

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## Services and Events at Saint Andrew's Sadberge during December 2023

	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6pm	<b>Music and Readings for Advent</b> (no morning service)
	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	<b>A concert of Festive Music</b> with the <b>Thorpe Thewles Pop Choir.</b> Admission £5 (payable at the door, including a glass of wine)
	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Holy Communion with <b>Archdeacon Rick Simpson</b>
	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b> followed by mince pies and mulled wine (no morning service)
	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve	9.15am	Holy Communion with hymns
		4pm	<b>Christingle Service</b>
		9pm	<b>First Communion of Christmas</b> (sung)
	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Day	9.15am	Holy Communion (said)
	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	9.15am	Service of the Word
Sunday Services in January will all be at the normal time of 9.15am			

A huge thank you to all the people of Sadberge who have supported St Andrew's foodbank at Haughton le Skerne over this last year. We have so much appreciated the regular donations that have come to us and the wonderful amount sent from your Harvest Festival. We are hugely grateful for your Christmas donations which are now arriving to support the ever-increasing number of families needing our help and it is a real privilege to be able to provide a bag of food and light refreshments for all who come to us. Thank you for helping us to support our neighbours in need.



Sue Robson (on behalf of St. Andrew's foodbank)



## Sadberge Village Hall Children's Christmas Party

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

3pm - 5pm

Tickets cost £4 per child which includes a small gift

Santa will arrive around 4pm and the disco and games will continue after he has left.



We will be selling hotdogs, burgers, small margarita pizzas, and there will be a bar (for parents, of course).

Tickets are available from the Village Hall Coffee Shop from 9-2pm on weekdays (except on Thursdays - 9-1pm).

You must pay cash for tickets at the Coffee Shop, or contact Jenny Hill (0788 629 1628) to arrange a BACS transfer.

This issue of *The Roundabout* covers December and January.  
The next issue will be published on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2024  
Please send items to [rblood@ntlworld.com](mailto:rblood@ntlworld.com) before 20<sup>th</sup> January