

Contact

JANUARY 2026



Dear Friends,
Happy New Year!

And so, here we are at the beginning of another new year. And this is the seventieth letter I have written for Contact since the inception of the 'new style' newsletter back in September 2019. And apart from a couple of month last year, it's also nearly three and half years since we've had a permanent minister! It's hard to believe how quickly time passes but it certainly is true - time really does fly!

The expression 'time flies' seems like an understatement. The phrase often carries a note of surprise — perhaps even regret — at how fast the weeks and months go by. We find ourselves asking, where did the time go? Life can feel like a blur of activities, responsibilities, and changes. In all of this, it's easy to lose track of what really matters.

As a very young child it seemed as though a year was almost an interminable period of time. The school year, especially, seemed as though it would never end. Through our teenage years, time continued to drag. At eighteen or nineteen it seemed as though we would never get to twenty one but once we finally made it, the years seemed to go even more quickly!

We live in a world where time is an incredibly precious and powerful resource in our lives, guiding us through moments of joy and sorrow, growth and change. We all experience moments when it feels like time is slipping through our fingers, much like sand. In our busy lives, we become caught up in the daily hustle and bustle and we sometimes forget to pause and reflect on what God teaches us about time.

As we navigate through the passage of time, we often find ourselves preoccupied with the future or burdened by the past. Psalm 90 reminds us: *'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.'*

Time may fly, but it is not meaningless. As Christians, we are called to use our time wisely and are encouraged to fill our days with purpose and intention for the glory of God.

The Bible reminds us that each day is a gift from God and an opportunity to experience his love, grace, and joy. Time is not something to be wasted or taken for granted but to be cherished and it's crucial that we focus on the present moment and make the most out of it.

Let's not allow time to slip away unnoticed this year. Instead, may we protect our time and cherish each day and live with purpose, with thankfulness, and with the joyful expectation that God is present — not only in the big milestones, but in the quiet, fleeting moments too.

Yes, time flies — but we can fly with it, guided by the Spirit, anchored in faith, and always looking towards the hope we have in Christ.

With all good wishes for a very happy new year! -
Liz

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY

Churches Together in Lees and District
will be holding their joint service for
Christian Unity at Springhead at 3pm on
Sunday 25th January.

It would be great to have a presence from
our own congregation at the service, so
please join us if you possibly can.

DIARY – January 2026

Sunday 4th January	10.30am	Christingle service Lunch
Monday 5th January	7pm	Deacons
Sunday 11th January	10.30am	Family service led by Yvonne Campbell Church Meeting
Wednesday 14th January	12 noon	Scoffs
Sunday 18th January	10.30am	Family service led by Colin Carson Cake Sale
Sunday 25th January	10.30am 3pm	Family Service led by Liz Dean inc. communion Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at Springhead

Regular Activities

Sunday

Toddler Sundays 10am – 11.30am

Monday

Exercise Group 2pm

Wednesday

Scoffs 12 noon (2nd Wednesday)

Thursday

Rainbows Toddler Group 9.30am

Friday

Badminton 6pm

Offertories

7th December - £73.75

14th December - £58.75

21st December - £199.52

28th December – No service

Standing orders - £959.00

Total £1,291.02

Other Income

Christmas Day Offertory - £31.54

Christmas Eve Social - £241.00

Raffle - £48.04

Tea/Coffee - £13.20

Royton Trust - £953.65

Gift Aid - £3,280.18

Scoffs Donation - £500.00

Room Hire - £75.00

Flower Rota

JANUARY 2026

4th January - Jean

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's church members' AGM will be held immediately after morning service on Sunday 8th February.

We currently have three members of the Diaconate who are willing to be considered for re-election, as well as the current Church Treasurer. If any church member wishes to propose or second them, please pop your name on the nomination form on the church noticeboard in the hall.

We also have two vacancies on the Diaconate, so if anyone is interested, please contact either myself or Justine for further information. Anyone who has been a church member for at least a year is eligible to be nominated for election to the Diaconate.

Your support at this meeting would be appreciated.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Huge thanks to Gill and Cath and to everyone who helped out and supported the Christmas Fair. It was a wonderful day and thanks to your generosity we raised £2,880.95 for church funds.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 4th January at 10.30am
Following the service, lunch will be available for a small donation.
Please stay and join us.

CHURCH MEETING

The next quarterly church meeting will be held immediately after the service on Sunday 11th January. Everyone is welcome to stay and attend the meeting.

CAKE SALES

Cake sales will continue to be held on a monthly basis during 2026 so any donations of cake would be gratefully received.

The next sale is following the service on Sunday 18th January.

THEMED LUNCHES

During 2026 we will also be continuing with our lunches after the service on the first Sunday of each month.
Please add your name to the list on the noticeboard in the hall if you are able to provide food for any of the themed lunches.

FLOWER LIST

There are still some gaps on the flower list, so if you wish to provide flowers during 2026, please add your name to the list in the hall.

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