

## Services for January 2025

### Sunday at 8am

5 Jan 2025 Holy Communion  
12 Jan 2025 no service  
19 Jan 2025 Holy Communion  
26 Jan 2025 no service in All Saints',  
we are invited to share in the Covenant service in the  
Methodist Church at 10.30

### Sunday at 11am

5 Jan 2025 Morning Worship  
12 Jan 2025 Holy Communion  
19 Jan 2025 Holy Communion  
26 Jan 2025 no service in All Saints',  
we are invited to share in the Covenant service in the  
Methodist Church at 10.30 am

### Wednesday at 10.30

1 Jan 2025 no service  
8 Jan 2025 Holy Communion  
15 Jan 2025 Morning Worship  
22 Jan 2025 Holy Communion  
29 Jan 2025 Morning Worship



All Saints'  
at the heart of the  
community

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**CHRISTMAS 2**

8am Holy Communion

11am Morning Worship for Epiphany

Readings for Epiphany

Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12



Elmete'  
Trinity Benefice



**Seasons of Grace:**

**Embracing God's Timing in the New Year**

Every year as when January comes around, I'm often drawn back to the ancient wisdom of the book of Ecclesiastes from the New Testament. Chapter 3 will be familiar to many and the words speaks powerfully into our lives, reminding us that time is not just a sequence of moments, but a divine tapestry woven by God's loving hand. "For everything there is a season, and time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NRSVA).

The passage that follows is a profound meditation on life's rhythms - a beautiful choreography of contrasts that capture the full spectrum of human experience. Birth and death, planting and uprooting, weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing. These are not random occurrences, but part of a greater divine design.

When we make our New Year's resolutions, we often approach them with a sense of personal determination. We set goals, create plans, and imagine ourselves transformed by sheer will-power. But the wisdom of Ecclesiastes invites us to a deeper perspective. Instead of wrestling against life's seasons, we are called to recognize and embrace them.

Each season, whether of joy or sorrow, growth or pruning, carries its own sacred purpose. The challenges we face are always opportunities for spiritual formation. The times of tears are as meaningful as the moments of laughter. The seasons of silence can be just as significant as periods of speaking out.

This doesn't mean we should become passive. Rather, we are encouraged to be present and attentive in each moment, trusting that God is working through every season of our lives. Our resolutions, then, become less about controlling outcomes and more about remaining open to God's transformative work.

Perhaps this year, instead of rigid self-improvement goals, we might resolve to:

- \* Be more attentive to God's voice in every season.
- \* Practice gratitude during both difficult and delightful times.
- \* Remain flexible and responsive to divine nudges.
- \* Recognise that our timing is not always God's timing.

The rhythms of life will continue - some beyond our understanding, some beyond our control. But we are not alone. The God who orchestrates these seasons walks with us, providing grace, strength, and purpose in each passing moment.

As we step into the new year, may we do so with hope, humility, and a deep trust in God's perfect timing.

Revd Jonathan

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