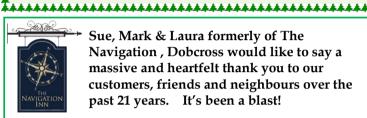
The DVC's New Year's Eve Do

This New Year's Eve event, organised by the DVC, will star Aaron Welby, with a range of classics to get us dancing. We anticipate a very high demand for tickets, with many requests already, and hence we are prioritising tickets for those who have supported DVC events / Dobcross residents. Tickets will officially be on sale from December 7th, which we have been able to keep at £15 because of Aaron's generosity. Bring along your own picnic if you would like to. Please contact:

Sue Skinner 07938 826989

The DVC would like to thank all our Dobcross Diary sponsors, the contributors, the distributors who deliver it and all who support the DVC events.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Sue, Mark & Laura formerly of The Navigation, Dobcross would like to say a massive and heartfelt thank you to our customers, friends and neighbours over the past 21 years. It's been a blast!

If you would like to, see details inside on how to join our Dobcross Crime Watch group.



Christmas & New Year **Opening Times**

Wishing all of our friends and customers a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2026!

Tuesday 23 Dec: 8:30 - 17:30 CHRISTMAS EVE: 08:30 - 13:00 **CHRISTMAS DAY: CLOSED CLOSED BOXING DAY:** Saturday 27 Dec: 08:30 - 13:00 08:30 - 11:30

Sunday 28 Dec: Monday 29 Dec: 08:30 - 17:30 Tuesday 30 Dec 8:30 - 17:30 **NEW YEAR'S EVE: 8:30 - 13:00 NEW YEAR'S DAY: CLOSED**

8:30 - 17:30 Friday 2 Jan:

Christmas Post

Tim and the team are looking forward to a visit from Dobcross schoolchildren who are coming to learn how the postal system works and to remember that the last post for letters to Santa is December 5th.

Christmas stamps are availably for your cards and posting dates are:

- First class December 17th
- Second class December 20th

After the success of the seasonal tasting morning,

there are still some festive goodies in store, so why not shop local for your festive fare? Lindt and panettone have 10% discounts for loyalty card holders and with stock running out quickly there's no time to waste.

And remember, to keep shopping very local, you can buy your trees, wreaths and the turkey from the Old Toll House on Platt Lane.

Just Phone Angela on 01457 820075 07973 493 073

This edition of the Dobcross Diary is kindly sponsored by Holy Trinity Church



Best wishes from all at Holy Trinity Church.

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the love of Mary and Joseph, and the peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas.

- † Sunday 21st December @ 6:00pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols with Dobcross Silver Band
- † Wednesday 24th December @ 11:30pm Midnight Eucharist
- † Thursday 25th December @ 10:30am Christmas Day Eucharist



A Season of Light and New Beginnings

December always seems to arrive faster than we expect. One minute we're enjoying the colours of autumn, and the next we're wondering where on earth we put the Christmas decorations last year. Dobcross begins to glow with lights in windows, wreaths on doors, and that lovely feeling that something special is coming.

Advent leads us into this season gently. It's a time of waiting, slowing down, and preparing our hearts for Christmas even if, in real life, we're also trying to juggle school plays, work lunches, shopping lists, and finding a day when all the family can be in the same place at the same time. (There's always one person who suggests a date in February!)

But in the middle of all the busyness, Christmas brings us back to a simple truth, light shines in the darkness. For Christians, the birth of Jesus is God stepping into our world with hope, peace and kindness. And whether you come to church often or only occasionally, that message is for everyone. A child born in a stable reminds us that love can grow in the most ordinary places, even in the mess and muddle of everyday life.

Holy Trinity church will be open throughout the Christmas season. Whether you want Holy Trinity Church a quiet moment from the rush, somewhere to reflect, or a place to join in joyful carols, you're always welcome. As we move into January, there's that familiar feeling of fresh starts. Some will make resolutions... others will be trying to keep track of winter coats, hats, and gloves that seem to disappear every year. But the new year gives us a gentle nudge to look ahead with hope. It doesn't matter how last year went, January gives us permission to begin again, one small step at a time.

So, as we enter this season of celebration and new beginnings, may your Christmas be filled with warmth and joy, and your New Year with peace, strength, and many moments of kindness.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a hopeful New Year. Revd. Sachin S. Awale

Dobcross Silver Band

As I write this article we are so much looking forward to the highlight of a wonderful 150th Anniversary year - the Gala Concert at the Civic Hall where we are joined by our good friends from Dobcross Youth Band and the Dobcross Brass Monkeys. This will be a truly memorable event and an occasion to showcase the wonderful range of musical talent still being nurtured in Dobcross after 150 years!

Earlier this month we had our annual Remembrance Sunday concert at the Band Club. This is always a special event, full of great music and time for reflection. It was wonderful to see another big audience able to share the occasion with us. I'm sure many of us have lost good friends and loved ones this year, in particular we remember Trevor Platt a stalwart Club member and Band Vice President.

In an entirely different mode we attended the Dobcross Beer Festival recently and played a set of popular favourites. A great initiative driven by our amazing Club Steward Adele, which will surely become a regular fixture of the Club calendar! Then into December and the Christmas music is out again! A series of carolling engagements will include groups of Silver Band players attending Oldham Hospital and a local Nursing Home.

The Showcase Brass concerts continue as well, the recent visit of Elland Silver Band to be followed shortly by National 1st Section champions Unite the Union Band. This continues to be a popular initiative especially amongst most of the elite level brass bands across the north of the country. The Club once again has the reputation for attracting the highest quality musicians. Please continue to support these concerts!

The year has flown and will live long in the memory for all associated with Dobcross Silver Band. And amazing series of Contest wins has ended with the Band as national 3rd Section champions and promoted to 2nd Section for next year. At the same time we have been able to recruit several very high quality players to complete a formidable line up. Such a lovely group of people too who are a pleasure to manage and proud to represent Dobcross.

Thank you everyone for your continued support, which in this special year we have appreciated more than ever. We would like to wish all our friends and supporters a happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Andy Black (Silver Band Chairman) on 07907 635397

Les Journees des Peintures [International Outdoor painting group]

Many of you will remember that three years ago Saddleworth hosted a group of International Artists from the United States, France, Germany and Switzerland. Next year 2026, Saturday May 9th to Saturday May 16th, we are hosting them again.

We organise painting venues each day, give visiting artists a packed lunch and organise evening meals and entertainment. After each painting day all artists go back to Saddleworth Museum and Gallery to hang their days work which culminates on Friday 15th May in a public exhibition of paintings painted during the week.

None of this is possible without your help and this is a call out for anyone who feels that they would be able to offer to be a host to one or more of our guests. This involves bed and breakfast and taking them to the Saddleworth Museum and Gallery in the morning and

picking them up after the days painting and then bringing them to the evening venue.

What we generally find is that lifts can be shared and everyone pitches in to help where needed.

Where possible hosts are invited to join in - definitely if they want to come out painting with us and to the evening meals and entertainment. One evening is given as a gift but we have to charge what it costs for the other evenings.

All hosts enjoy the experience with many making real lasting friendships.

Please contact me if you feel you would like to be a host, thank you.

Helen Campbell tel: 07858 463 410

Nature Notes

The cold snap in mid-November brought lots of hungry birds into my garden, mainly goldfinches and chaffinches to the sunflower hearts in the feeder, but also tits and an occasional nuthatch or greater spotted woodpecker. On the ground there were the usual dunnocks and a wren foraging among the fallen leaves , but also three male blackbirds and two mistle thrushes which were picking up the rowan berries which had been dropped when they stripped the tree a few weeks ago. Hunger makes them bold; one of the blackbirds was very close to the house when he saw me watching. He hesitated for a moment but decided he had time to grab another berry and swallow it, before flying off over the fence. They may stay around the area for weeks, because even though the rowan

berries are almost finished, there are still plenty of others on the holly, ivy and cotoneasters.

Last winter there was a female blackbird which became very tame. She would feed on sunflower hearts within a few feet of my feet, and on one occasion took an energetic bath while I was close enough to get splashed!

It's worth remembering that if there are lots of birds congregating in a small area, then just as with humans, viruses can easily spread between them. Feeders should be kept clean and uneaten food removed. Also, since birds need to drink, and some like to bathe even in cold weather, they will appreciate the provision of fresh water in frosty weather.

Athene Noctua

DOBCROSS BOWLERS

We are now in the quiet season as far as outdoor bowling goes but we are continuing with indoor bowling in the main band room on the two special mats that we have. Not an easy game with a block of wood in the middle of the mat to bowl round! We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1pm to 3pm. £2 per session and open to everyone. We will have a short close-down over Christmas and New Year and we will confirm the dates later.

We will now be registering our 13 teams for 2026 and later, the captains will be picking and registering their players.

The maintenance of the green does not stop, and the initial autumn treatment has been carried out by a contractor and the photo shows how easy they make it look to spread top-dressing.

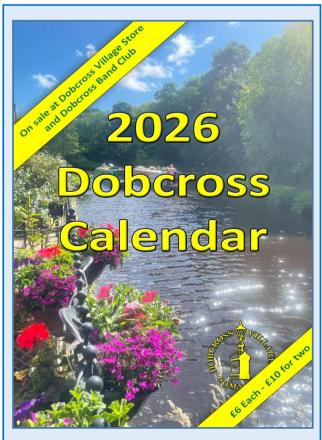


We will be holding our AGM in the Club on Sunday 11 January 2026 at 2:00pm. This is an opportunity to plan and confirm events and competitions for the year ahead. In particular, the committee is recommending that we continue with the inter-team competition that was trialled successfully this year. The committee is also proposing that the Bowling Section should adopt a formal constitution for running its affairs, but more importantly, I am standing down as Chairman in the hope that 'younger blood' might take over, so this might be my last article. Watch this space!

After the AGM formalities there will be the presentation of trophies to those who won them during the year, and merit prizes for those who were the best Dobcross players and runners-up in the Divisions they played in. In the meantime, we look forward to another successful season in 2026, and I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Kevin Lawton - Chairman 07929 892 657





Look out for the 2026 Dobcross Calendar, on sale in the Post Office and the Band Club. It's great value at the usual price of £6 (or two for £10) and makes a great present for yourself or your friends.

PROPOSED PERMANENT CLOSURE OF MOORGATE LEVEL CROSSING, UPPERMILL – PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY 209 SADDLEWORTH

As part of the TransPennine Route Upgrade (TRU) Network Rail has submitted an application to the Secretary of State to permanently close the crossing with a promise to upgrade an alternative path number 244 as on the copy publicity leaflet. The white line is the proposed closure, and the orange dashed line the alternative as pictured below.



I am part of a campaign group involving Wednesday Walkers, Ramblers, PNFS, Sadd Peds, Saddleworth Parish Council and a local resident, wanting a replacement footbridge and I will be submitting a formal objection on behalf of Wednesday Walkers. We have accepted the closure of the crossing on the grounds of rail safety which will arise following the upgrade and electrification of the line but are opposing the closure of this historic route.

The proposed closure is included in a draft Transport and Works Act Order, and we have until 16 December to submit representations. I hope that as many local residents as possible will feel that they would like to object. There are particular requirements for objections, and these are that they must be a) received by the closing date, b) be in writing – post or email, c) state the grounds of objection, d) indicate the name of objector, e) state your postal address, and f) state in a heading: 'Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle TWA Order'. The objections are to be sent to: transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk. Petitions are counted as one objection as are signed standard letters, so we are encouraging individual responses.

The issues involved with this closure are quite complex and I have spent many hours on research over the last 12 months, so I give below a summary of the key issues, and I would be happy to supply more information to anybody who would like it. The most comprehensive information is in my objection submission which is currently in draft as it will be updated as more

information comes to light before December.

If you would like to study the NR application, and there are hundreds of pages because it includes formal paperwork and details of all the works to stations, bridges, highways, compound areas, land acquisition and planning consents from Stalybridge to Diggle, then it can be accessed by googling: Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle (Saddleworth) Scheme. Then click on 'TWAO application documents' and open up as many as you wish! I am currently focusing on the Moorgate crossing but there may be other aspects you might wish to object to, and we have been told that the road bridge at Greenfield Station is to be shut for 16 to 20 weeks whilst a new bridge is constructed!

The key points we are concerned about are:

- Path 209 is an ancient named highway of local historic significance as part of a network of inter-regional routes from at least the 16th C. A NR survey has shown the path to have a very high pedestrian usage and by vulnerable people
- A footbridge was favoured by NR in 2022, when it was recommended in their Diversity Impact Assessment and NR had planning consent for one
- Footbridge abandoned by NR in 2024 due to cost increase from £1.2m to £4.5m which has not been substantiated and is way in excess of the cost of other bridges currently being built
- NR failed to get approval from Oldham Council in July 2024 to permanently close path 209 and obtained the current temporary closure using false information
- NR has refused to discuss revised construction access arrangements which will save cost
- Misleading public consultation with no option for a footbridge
- Majority of responses to the consultation were against the use of 244 as an alternative
- Use of 244 with 65 steps and an unsafe exit on to Oldham Road where there is no footway is not an acceptable alternative to 209 which does not have these issues
- The alternative route does not meet the test of being 'suitable and convenient'
- Public Sector Equality Duty has not been complied with as the impact on mobility impaired people has not been considered and no risk assessment of using 244 has been carried out.

Please feel free to use as many or as few issues as you wish and phrase the response in your own words or contact me for more information.

Kevin Lawton
Footpath Secretary
Wednesday Walkers
07929 892 657 lawtonho@btinternet.com

A Big Thankyou

DVC would like to thank all of those that came along to the Madonna Event. The evening raised £829, which will be spent on Dobcross related things. At the point of press, we have the DVC Quiz ahead of us, with around 100 people expected to attend, so hope this will be a good fundraiser too. DVC would like to thank the following for providing raffle prizes for these events: the Swan, the Old Toll House, Weaver and Wilde, the Old Bell Inn, Dobcross Village Store, Saddler Gentleman and Face & Body in Grotton. And most kindly the Old Original for stepping in to fill a gap at the last minute. Thank you all so much."

Dobcross Youth Band

Our group of Duke of Edinburgh Bronze medal candidates have now 'buddied up' with a member of the Training Band to help their development, as part of the D of E volunteering section. These youngsters are enthusiastic and are already displaying commitment in helping their young Buddies.



Sunday 9th November dawned sunny, if a little chilly, for our Remembrance Day Parade. Our wreath was carried by Norman, proudly wearing his medals, and our tribute to the silent soldier was carried and presented by Harry from the training Band. The ceremony at the garden was special with Graham's dedication of the memorial and the beautiful playing of the hymn 'Eventide' by the joint Youth and Training Bands, with a lovely contribution by our soloist Tegan on Soprano cornet. The service in church felt very emotional, when we laid our tributes, along with policeman Connor and members of the congregation. The Last Post and Reveille were played faultlessly by Beth, principal cornet. The final piece 'On Flanders Field' featured solos played beautifully by Freya and Freddie.

As I write we are looking forward to Saturday 22nd November and our joint concert with Dobcross Siver Band and the Brass Monkeys, to celebrate 150 years of the Silver Band. It promises to be an enjoyable evening and we hope to see lots of our supporters there.

Following on the heels of our concert at Boarshurst Band club on Sunday 30th November when I have no doubt James will have included something Christmassy in the programme to herald the festive season as a precursor to our December schedule. We start the ball rolling with the Training Band appearing at the Santa Dash and a group of volunteers playing at our Community Wardrobe Oldham for their Grotto. A carol service at Hyde Methodist Church, entertaining the residents of Warburton Court, our own Christmas Concert , the traditional Torch light Carols and new this Christmas; the Delph Christmas Whit Friday Competition. Bands entering will produce a 15 minute Christmas programme to be performed at The White Lion, The Swan and The Bell Inn Delph. Let's hope it's a fine evening, but it is different and should be great fun.

Please look out for the Band performing around the village on Christmas Day morning to raise funds for our designated charities. Please remember these youngsters give time on Christmas day to bring festive cheer to our village. Please support them and donate to Parkinson's UK, Breast Cancer Now and Our Community Wardrobe Oldham.

Finally, we thank you for your continued support, and wish you all, wherever you are this Christmas, a joyful and special time and a happy and peaceful 2026.

Sue Crook, Chairman

Please be careful at this time of year...

Don't leave Christmas present packaging in view, lock up securely and stay with your car if you're warming the engine up before you leave the village.

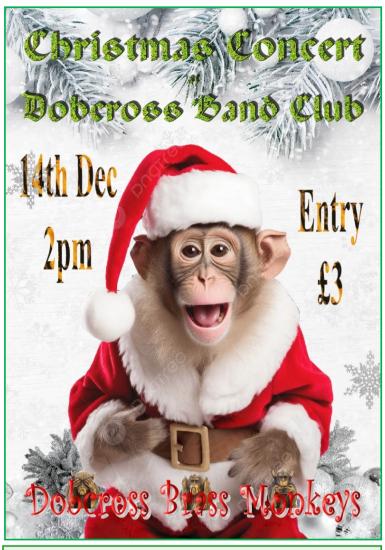
We are also lucky to have an active Crime Watch Group.

This is a WhatsApp group formed as a community network across Dobcross, to alert each other of any suspicious activity or crimes, raise awareness and promote vigilance, and to deter criminal activity.

There are some rules for the group:

- 1. CONTEXT messages should only be in the context of our Crime watch group.
- 2. PRODUCTIVE keep messages short, concise and constructive.
- 3. FAIR Abusive language, bullying or harassment will not be tolerated.
- 4. GRAMMAR We are not the spelling or grammar police.
- 5. MEDIA posting CCTV, images etc is encouraged but DO NOT share outside our group, other than with the Police.
- 6. RESPECT Our members are encouraged to share relevant information :- there should be no irrelevant "opinions".

Any Dobcross resident who is interested in joining the group can send the details by email to diary@dobcross.com and they will be passed onto the administration team. Please send details of your name, address, mobile phone number and whether you have CCTV.



Saddleworth Gardening Club

2025 December 8

Coach trip to Christmas at Arley Hall Fantasy Florals in the Hall with each room depicting a classic fairy tale. There will also be a choir singing in the Hall.

> 2026 Jan 12 Christmas Party

1.30pm at the Civic Centre Uppermill

An afternoon of singing and dancing with music from the 60s/70s provided by the Satellite Centre Uke Group.

Refreshments/ Bring and Buy sale.

Members £2/Guests £3

Guests are always welcome, You don't need to be an active gardener, just have an interest in or love of garden related topics

Queries - Lesley 07784793410



1.00pm-4.00pm, Free Admission





200 CLUB H†D

November's winner!

The winner of this draw with share number 56 is:

Vivian Mather.

Christmas winner!

The winner of this draw with share number 36 is:

Thelma Dent.

December's winner!

The winner of this draw with share number 82 is:

Daniel Phethean.

Promoter: Mr Peter J Whiffin, 22 Nudger Green, Dobcross, Oldham, OL3 5AW

What's on in December

<u>Until Wednesday 3rd Jan</u> Hansel and Gretel Panto. Millgate Arts Centre, Delph.

<u>Saturday 6th</u> 10.00 -12.00 Coffee Shop. Dobcross Band Club. Donations to Oldham Food Bank welcome.

Sunday 7th 1.00 - 2.00 Dobcross Band Club Half yearly Meeting.
 5.00-8.00 The Live Lounge Open Mic Event. Call Chris Bell on 07840 219401or email him on

Chris.ct.bell@gmail.com if you are interested in performing. Looking forward to welcoming new acts. Band Club.

Monday 8th 7.00 DVC Meeting. Holy Trinity Church. All welcome.

<u>Tuesday 9th</u> **7.00 Dobcross Ladies -** Christmas contribution supper at Holy Trinity Church. Members only.

<u>Wednesday 10th</u> 12.00 - 3.00 Elderberries Christmas Lunch. Band Club.

Saturday 13th Denshaw Cinema. 'The Ballad of Wallis

Ireland' (12A). Dedicated booking number. Please text (preferred) or phone 07845698551

<u>Sunday 14th</u> 2.00 - 4.00 Brass Monkeys Christmas Concert. Band Club. £3

<u>Friday 19th</u> **7.00 - 9.30 Youth Band Christmas Concert.** Band Club.

Sunday 21st 8.00 Silver Band Christmas Concert. Band Club.

<u>Saturday 27th</u> Denshaw Cinema. 'The Railway Children'. (U) 1970. Booking as above.

What's on in January

Saturday 3rd 10.00-12.00 Coffee Shop. Dobcross Band Club.

Donations to Oldham Food Bank welcome.

Monday 5th 7.30 Saddleworth Film Society 'Holy Cow'.

French. Millgate Arts Centre, Delph.

Sunday 11th 2.00 - 5.00 Bowling AGM & Presentation Afternoon

Monday 12th 7.00 DVC Meeting. Holy Trinity Church. All welcome.

Tuesday 13th 7.30 Dobcross Ladies AGM. Holy Trinity

Church. New members welcome. Contact Sue Skinner 07938 826989 for further information.

Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th National Theatre Live: 'Hamlet'.

Millgate Arts Centre, Delph.

Weekly events

Wednesday 7-8.30pm Creative writing, in The Swan. Contact Cathy for more info: cathycrabb@gmail.com

Tuesday 1-3 Indoor Bowling at the Band Club

Natasha's Morning Classes at the Band Club: 07852 576 107

£8 per session (£14 for 2, if taken in the same week)

Pilates:

Monday Thursday 9.30-10.15 10.30-11.15

10.30-11.15



Band Club Christmas & New Year Opening Times

December

Wednesday 24th 4pm-11pm Christmas Eve
Thursday 25th 12pm-3pm Christmas Day at the Club
Friday 26th 3pm-11pm Boxing Day
Saturday 27th 3pm-11pm
Sunday 28th 3pm-10pm
Monday 29th/Tuesday 30th 5pm-11pm
Wednesday 31st New Year's Eve 4pm-Late

Thursday 1st 2026 New Years Day-4pm-11pm Friday 2nd 4pm-11pm Saturday 3rd 3pm-11pm Sunday 4th 3pm-10pm

Events..

January

Saturday 20th December 7.00 Madame Claude & Sugar Crease Christmas Knees Up! Tickets will be on sale from 1st December. A limited number of tickets will be available to purchase in the band club for £10.00, also available to buy online at www.skiddle.com for £10.00 each plus £1.50 booking fee. T&C....Festive Spirit a Must!

<u>Saturday 24th January</u> Burns Evening Event at the Club. Details coming soon.

This Diary is distributed free to every home in Dobcross and also available via email. It is now also available to read on the Dobcross Shop website, together with a welcome pack:

dobcrossvillagestore.com We try to include all village events. If you have any articles for the next issue, please contact Patricia on 01457 878814 or by emailing diary@dobcross.com.



Advent & Christmas Services & Events at Holy Trinity Church December 2025



Thursday 11th December @ 7:00pm - Saddleworth 'Sing For Pleasure Choir'

The 'Sing for Pleasure' choir visits Dobcross for another Christmas celebration. They will be joined at this concert by Holy Trinity School Choir. Light refreshments available. Admission £8, children free.



"Ding Dong! Merrily on high"

Sunday 14th December @ 9:30am - Nativity Story

Come and hear the wondrous story of the Nativity with Sunday Club.

"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed ..."



Sunday 21st December @ 6:00pm - Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Come and enjoy those well-known readings and carols at this community celebration, where we are joined by The Right Reverend Prof. David Walker, Bishop of Manchester, Dobcross Silver Band, and our own church choir.

"O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant ..."



Wednesday 24th December @ 11:30pm - Midnight Eucharist Come and welcome the birth of Jesus at this beautiful atmospheric service.

"Christians, awake! Salute this happy morn"



Thursday 25th December @ 10:30am - Christmas Day Eucharist

We rejoice with the whole world that Jesus Christ was born today in Bethlehem.

"Yea, Lord we greet Thee ..."





Christmas Concert

Musical director Dorian Kelly, Accompanist Gordon Jackson

with special guests **Holy Trinity Dobcross School Choir**

Proceeds to the Church Restoration Fund





Holy Trinity Church Services

December

Sunday, 7 th	09:30am	All Age Eucharist (CW)
Sunday, 14 th	09:30am	Nativity & Crib Service
		Morning Praise (NPW)
Sunday, 21 st	09:30am	Advent Eucharist (CW)
	6:00pm	Festival of Nine Lessons
		& Carols with Dobcross
		Silver Band
Wednesday, 24	th 11:30pm	Midnight Eucharist (CW)
Thursday, 25 th	10:30am	Christmas Eucharist
		(CW)

Sunday, 28th No Service at Holy Trinity

Benefice Christmas Eucharist - at

St. Mary Greenfield

January 2026		
Sunday, 4 th	09:30am	Epiphany
		All Age Eucharist (CW)
Sunday, 11 th	09:30am	Morning Praise (NPW)
Sunday, 18 th	9:30am	Epiphany
		Eucharist (CW)
Sunday, 25 th	09:30am	Churches Together in
		Saddleworth (CTiS)
		at Holy Trinity Church

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity