



"Connect 5"

Barmby Moor
Group of Churches

Weekly news connecting
church and community
across the five parishes



Crib Service

Dear Friends,

This is your final newsletter of 2025! The next edition of 'Connect 5' will be issued for week commencing 11th January 2026! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

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'On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'
(Matthew 2:11)



Church Services

Sunday 21st December - 9:15am Holy Communion at St Botolph's, Allerthorpe, 10:45am Advent Celebration Service (all-age service) at St Michael's, Thornton led by Rev'd Mark. 6:00pm Carol Service at St Catherine's, Barmby Moor.

Sunday 28th December - 10:00am Holy Communion for the benefice at St Catherine's, Barmby Moor led by Rev'd Mark.

Sunday 4th January - 10:45am Holy communion at St Michael's, Thornton & 5:00pm Evensong + St Botolph's, Allerthorpe both led by Rev'd Mark.

Wednesday services will resume on the 7th January 2026.

Live Nativity!

Boot & Slipper, Barmby Moor
Saturday 20th December
5:45pm.

Rev'd Mark will be leading the following festive services:

Christmas Eve:

- 3pm All-age Christingle at St Michael's, Thornton.
- 5pm All-age Crib Service at St Martin's, Fangfoss.
- 8:00pm First Communion of Christmas at St Edmund's, Seaton Ross.
- 11:30pm First Communion of Christmas at St Catherine's, Barmby Moor.

Christmas Day:

- 9:15am First Communion of Christmas at St Botolph's, Allerthorpe.



Thought for the Week:

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may we hold onto the most precious gift we can give, which is simply being there, being fully present, and sharing the light of God's love with those around us. This is the embodiment of the spirit of Christmas. Emmanuel. God with us.



Readings for Sunday 21st December Fourth Sunday of Advent

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant^a of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit^b of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^a took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.'²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;^b and he named him Jesus.

Readings for Sunday 28th December First Sunday of Christmas

Hebrews 2:10-18

10 It was fitting that God,^a for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father.^b For this reason Jesus^c is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,^d ¹²saying,

'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,^e
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

¹³And again,

'I will put my trust in him.'

And again,

'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters^f in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2:13-23

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'¹⁴Then Joseph^a got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,^b he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.^c ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the

prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹Then Joseph^d got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Readings for Sunday 4th January Second Sunday of Christmas

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,⁴ just as he chose us in Christ^a before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,^b having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this^c is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life,^a and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.^b

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own,^c and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^d full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,^e who is close to the Father's heart,^f who has made him known.

