PARISH NEWS

December 2026 - January 2027



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WELCOME to the December 2026 – January 2027 edition of the Parish News. The Christmas season is upon us and we wish everyone our warmest seasonal greetings and best wishes for 2027.



Across our five parishes we have had positive feedback for this magazine to continue, however no volunteers have come forward to support its production. Hopefully some will step forward in 2027. Do not hesitate to contact any of the team below if you are interested.

THE PARISH NEWS EDITORIAL TEAM

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We welcome all articles but reserve the right to shorten or amend them. Whilst we are happy to publish unedited articles, in the spirit of freedom of speech, any views expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish News Editorial Team. Please send your articles for the next issue to Mark Stageman by Thursday 10th January 2027.

FARMING NEWS

All drilled up and nothing to do on the arable farm. Potatoes and sugar beet lifted. Crops growing in fine fettle. Well not exactly, we finished the autumn sowings on 20th October. This was much later than expected after such a long dry spell, but the land in some fields was too hard and cloddy to get the seed covered in the ground, and it would not have germinated anyway until the rains came. Rooks are now doing their best to pull out the later emerging seedlings on the sandier soils, so to that end we deployed a couple of silent kite bird scarers which are having some effect. We try not to use the gas guns, to which close proximity animals and non-farming humans can be sensitive to. Other jobs at this time of year are manure leading to various fields and spraying crops for aphids and manganese deficiency.

The income from the sowings of course will not be forthcoming until after next year's harvest at the earliest. Does one sell some or all of the crop forward to fix a price, use the futures market, use a pool system with a merchant to get a season average or sit tight wondering what will happen to the prices if Russia is still in Ukraine and/or the Iran war flares up again, both of which will no doubt affect farming produce margins.

Autumn has seen the usual plethora of ploughing matches around the country and this year has been no exception. There's something tremendously evocative about a ploughing match. It might be the smell of freshly turned earth combined with diesel fumes and the faint whiff of distant tobacco. Perhaps it's the array of brightly coloured tractors standing out vividly against the stubble, and the multiple lines of arrow-straight furrows stretching off towards the horizon. Maybe it's the chinking of heavy horse harness and the purring of engines that still sound as sweet as the day they were put together. The actual ploughers and spectators themselves are the most interesting: flat capped weathered-faced older gentlemen, boisterous toddlers shouting "tractor tractor", and a self-assured young farmer with his name on his Ford 8630's bonnet and a plough with more modifications and gadgets than James Bond's Aston Martin.

English Whisky makers are celebrating after Defra confirmed their product has been granted Protected Geographical Indication status. There are now

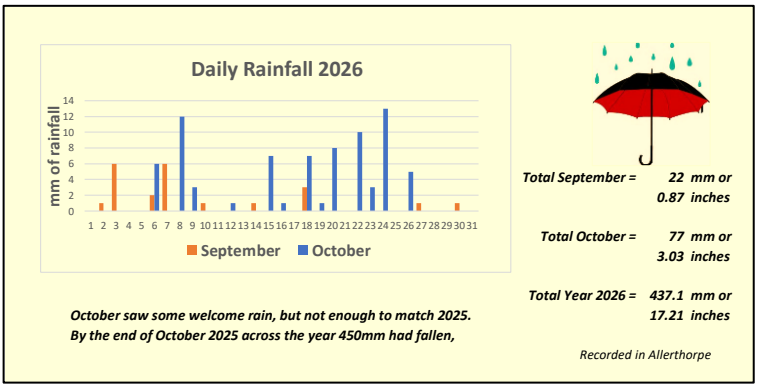
more than 70 distilleries producing English whisky, with bottles exported to more than 30 countries across the globe. Growing demand for the home country whisky should in turn benefit our barley growers.

The farming industry has many challenges. Environmentalists want to re-wild; vegans want to clear the countryside of animals; ramblers want to walk anywhere they want (with or without dogs); the Government wants to build houses anywhere and everywhere; Greens seem to want more solar panels and wind turbines; fertiliser goes up in price and wheat goes down.

Last month's Government budget was a disappointment to many farmers and was greeted by the opposition as "Is that it?". The extension of the cut in road fuel and red diesel duty from December to next July is however welcomed. We were hoping that it would be permanent given that rural drivers spend an estimated £465/year more on fuel than their urban counterparts.

We all seem to want more energy from elsewhere to enable us to run our lives, be it from gas, oil, sun, wind or waves. We humans have been given the power through our bodies to lift, push, jump and do all sorts of things to get us through the day. It strikes me that all the energy used in gyms by fit people to propel cycle machines etc. that don't go anywhere just goes up into the ether. This cycling apparatus could be wired up to the gym's own electrical system to power their building's lighting and/or heating. It seems to me that the God-given ability of the human body just goes to waste in these places. Just saying!

G. O. Farmer





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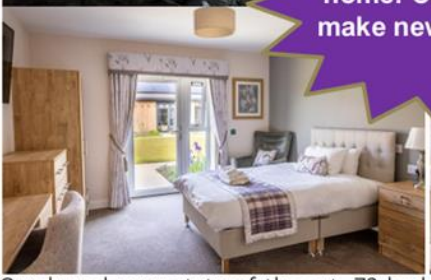

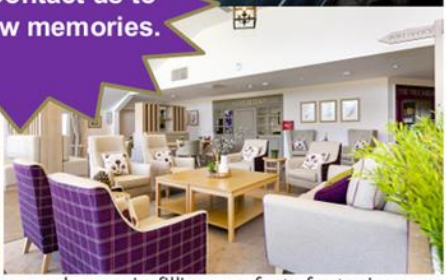

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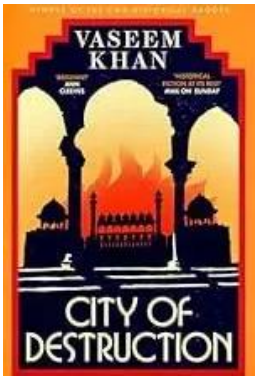
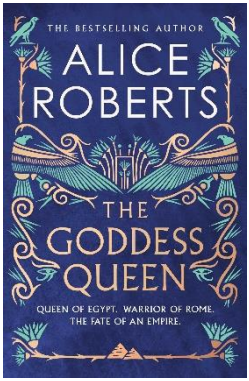
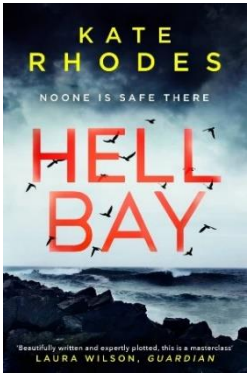
BOOK REVIEWS



City of Destruction, by Vaseem Khan
Bombay 1951 - A political rally ends in tragedy when India's first female police detective, Persis Wadia, kills a lone gunman as he attempts to assassinate the divisive new defence minister - a man calling for war with India's new post-independence neighbours. When her seniors relegate her to the sidelines, she is then given a second case, the burned body of an unidentified white man found on a Bombay Beach. History and mystery mixed with brutal slapstick, thwarted romance and sly humour, with an eye for detail that transports us to the turbulent world of post-partition India.



The Goddess Queen, by Alice Roberts
The Roman Republic is crumbling, torn apart by rivalries. Egypt is a wellspring of wealth but its rulers have squandered their advantage. Now a woman, as Pharoah, has a chance to reclaim what Egypt has lost, and a disgraced Roman commander has his chance to reclaim his sword and wield it to build an empire unlike anything the world has seen. The author is a respected academic specialising in anthropology, archaeology and history, and has made over 200 TV programmes on these subjects and written several non-fiction books. This is her debut novel for adults, drawing on her detailed knowledge to bring historical characters alive for us.



Hell Bay, by Kate Rhodes
DI Ben Kitto has returned to the tiny Scilly island of Bryher where he was born, after 10 years working for the murder squad in London. A traumatic event has left him grief stricken and his bosses persuade him to take three months leave. He plans to work

in his uncle Ray's boatyard, hoping to mend his shattered nerves, but his plans go awry when the body of 16-year-old Laura Trescothick is found on the beach at Hell Bay. Absorbing and complex, it weaves a sense of place and character into a tense and intriguing story. It kept me guessing until the final pages.

Felicity Beaumont

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MICHAEL HILDRED



Born on 27th January 1938, Michael Hildred spent his early years in Selby, moving with his parents to Tadcaster after the devastating floods of 1947. He attended Tadcaster Grammar School, from where, in 1956, he gained entry to Leeds College of Art, eventually specialising in fine art, drawing and painting. The four-year course at Leeds coincided with an extraordinary flowering of art and design. In June 1960 he was awarded the National Diploma in Design, Fine Art, and a year later, gained his teaching qualification in Leeds.

For the next ten years, he taught art and design in Sheffield, leading to his appointment as Head of Department of Art and Design at Rowlinson School, during its evolution from selective boys' secondary school, to mixed comprehensive and then pioneer community school. Throughout these years, Michael frequently exhibited his paintings and participated in several two-man shows. He became a member of the selection panel for the Annual Open Exhibition at the Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield.

In 1969 Mike won a place on a rigorous one-year, full-time course for experienced art educator at Leeds University Institute of Education. Having been awarded the Diploma in Art and Design Education at the end of the course, Michael moved to Edinburgh in 1971 to take up an appointment as lecturer in the Department of Visual Arts at Moray House College of Education. His chosen topic of research for the qualifying dissertation was art appreciation. He lived and worked in Edinburgh for 20 years, training teachers for all walks of education life but specialising in secondary education with art graduates.

In 1986 he published 'New Ways Of Seeing', a very successful practical approach to art appreciation, based on six years' work with secondary pupils of varying abilities in three schools in the Lothian Region and Fife. The research was published through the National Society for Education in Art and Design on whose committee he served and led to him giving many lectures throughout Britain.

Drawing and painting were constant factors throughout the years. In 1991 Michael took early retirement and returned to Yorkshire to be a full-time artist

and performance poet. After spells of living in Leeds and Harrogate, it was only after moving into the Pocklington area and settling in nearby Bolton, that he was able to establish the rhythm and continuity to pursue his personal development, first and foremost as an artist. Pocklington Arts Centre hosted a retrospective exhibition of his work, and he performed his poetry amongst the paintings and drawings.

Michael had been writing poetry since he was a pupil at Tadcaster Grammar School, but this blossomed on his arrival in Bolton, inspired by his love of nature and the beautiful landscape of the county. He gave numerous recitals to a variety of groups in Leeds, Market Weighton, York, Pocklington, Selby, Haxby, Beverley and Bridlington, amongst others. In 2011 he published his first collection of poems "Late Flowering" which was a great success. At the time of his death in 2026 he had collated the poems for his second volume "Mushrooms and Meteors" which will be published in due course.

Michael died at home on 9th May 2026 after a short illness. He was the much-loved husband of Fiona, father to Lauren and the late Patrick, as well as loving grandfather to Russ, Reu and Luke, and dear friend to Vicky. He will be greatly missed by all who loved him.



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Construction update

Major milestones have been achieved on the installation of the solar site in the past couple of months. Neighbours and walkers on the public right of way will have noticed panels being installed at a good pace across site.

Timelapse shots from Field H, in the centre of the site, can be seen here.

Community support this Christmas

Statkraft have a policy to donate to a local foodbank operating near all of its construction projects each Christmas. In previous years we have contributed to Pocklington Pantry and Holme Helpers, whose work locally we would like to highlight this year.











www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

WINNING RECIPE

Sticky Date and Crispy Coconut Cake

Cake:
1 cup chopped pitted dates
1 cup water
1 teaspoon baking soda
3 tablespoons butter
Dash of salt
1 ½ cups self-raising flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 large egg, lightly beaten
Cooking spray

Topping:
⅔ cup packed light brown sugar
½ cup desiccated coconut
2 ½ tablespoons butter
2 teaspoons milk

Method:

1) Preheat oven to 175°c.
2) To prepare the cake, combine first 5 ingredients in a small saucepan; bring to a boil, stirring occasionally.
3) Remove from the heat and let it stand for 10 minutes or until the dates are tender.
4) Combine flour, baking powder, and ½ teaspoon salt in a bowl. Stir in date mixture, granulated sugar, vanilla, and egg until well combined.
5) Pour batter into a 9-inch spring form pan coated with cooking spray / your cupcake cases.
6) Bake at 175°c for 20-25 minutes, until not wobbly in the centre.

To make the topping:
1) Combine brown sugar and remaining ingredients in a small saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 1 minute.
2) Pour brown sugar mixture over cake; bake at 175°c for an additional 10 minutes or until darker/caramelised in colour.
3) Cool completely on a wire rack.

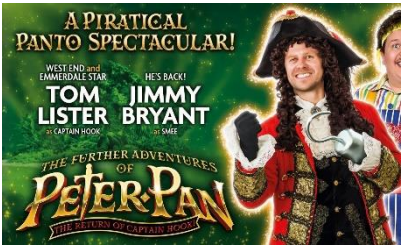
Eat and enjoy!

AUTUMN THEATRE SEASON IN YORK

It's That Time Of Year Again…(Oh Yes It Is!)

Time flies as quickly as Tinker Bell; yes, it's come round to that time of the year again.

Flying into York for Panto Fun is York Grand Opera House's Piratical Panto Adventure ***The Further Adventures of Peter Pan - The Return of Captain Hook***. Saturday 5th December to Sunday 3rd January 2027.



Join Peter Pan, Tinker Bell and Smee for a brand new adventure packed full of action, gravity-defying flying scenes and laugh-out-loud comedy. Musical theatre and TV star Tom Lister (Emmerdale, 42nd Street) stars as Captain Hook. After delighting audiences as Buttons in last year's Cinderella, family favourite Jimmy Bryant is back as Smee. Holly Atterton (Mamma Mia, Rocky Horror) is Tinker Bell, with West End star Joe Sleight (Blood Brothers) as Peter Pan. Get ready for stunning choreography, show-stopping songs, mind-blowing special effects and jaw-dropping stunts that will bring Neverland to life like you've never seen it before.

To book tickets please visit: Atgtickets.com/York

Seniors Offer: £2.50 off; Friends and Family Offer: £25 per ticket (min.3 / max.8 tickets per booking); Local Heroes Offer: 25% off.

York Theatre Royal and Evolution Productions

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs 4th December to 3rd January 2027

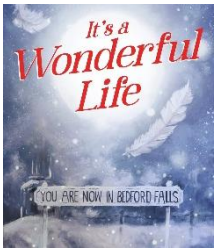


"Mirror, Mirror on the Wall - York Theatre Royal's 2026 pantomime will be the most magical of all… *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is set to be a festive fairytale extravaganza. With lavish costumes, stunning sets, hilarious jokes, and dazzling special effects, this will be an unmissable treat for the whole family.

Starring Children's TV legend Richard David-Caine (Horrible Histories and Swashbuckle), along with York favourite Robin Simpson who is back as Nurse Nellie and Tommy Carmichael returning to York Theatre Royal to play Muddles.

Also featuring Dean Whatton (Game of Thrones) as Sarge, and West End Star Jenny Gayner (Chicago and Gangsta Granny) as the Wicked Queen.
Family tickets available for all performances - with savings up to £61!
Box Office: 01904 623568; Website: yorktheatreroyal.co.uk

Or perhaps you might prefer to experience a Theatre@41 Community



Production of the classic Christmas Story ***It's a Wonderful Life*** at Theatre @41 York this coming festive season. 10th December to 23rd December 2026.

Director Eija Gibson sums up the show:
"At a time of year that brings people together, *It's a Wonderful Life* is a joyful reminder of the importance of community, connection and kindness. Filled with festive magic, music and heart, this uplifting production is the perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit and celebrate the people who make life wonderful."
Tickets can be booked online at : 41monkgate.co.uk
£18, plus booking fee

Julia Pattison





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SCAN ME

PERFECTLY IMPERFECT

I'm not very good at leaving things unfinished. I like things to be done properly, preferably first time, and if I'm honest, I have a tendency to strive for perfection. I'm not sure whether that's a virtue or a character flaw, perhaps a bit of both! But it does mean that I sometimes need reminding that not everything has to be perfect.

Christmas can be a particularly good test of this. I want the house to look right, the food to be just so, the presents to be perfect and everyone to have a wonderful time. I can put myself under an extraordinary amount of pressure to create the perfect Christmas. And yet, when I look at the first Christmas, perfection is nowhere to be seen. No comfortable accommodation, no carefully prepared nursery, no ideal circumstances. Just an ordinary young couple, an uncertain future and a newborn baby in a dirty and borrowed stable.

And that's precisely the point.

The Christian message of Advent and Christmas is not that God waits until the world is in perfect shape before getting involved. Quite the opposite. God comes into the messiness, uncertainty, and imperfection of human life. He doesn't wait for us to get everything right. He meets us where we are. We don't have to be the perfect parent, the perfect partner, the perfect friend or even the perfect Christian. We really don't need a perfect life, a perfect home or a perfect Christmas.

The Christmas message is that God joyfully and unconditionally enters into our real and messy lives, with all their ups and downs, their joys and disappointments, their successes and failures. Not the lives we wish we had, or the lives we think we ought to have, but the lives we actually live. The manger of our hearts, just as they are, is the only place God wants to be this Christmas.

And perhaps that's more than enough reason to celebrate.

Wishing everyone across our five parishes a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your Vicar, Mark

DECEMBER CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Date	Parish	Time	Service or Event
6th December Second Sunday of Advent	Thornton Allerthorpe	10.45 am 5.00 pm	Holy Communion Evensong
11th December	Thornton	7.00 pm	Carol Service
13th December Third Sunday of Advent	Fangfoss Barmby Moor	9.15 am 10.45 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer
20th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	Allerthorpe Thornton Barmby Moor	9.15 am 10.45 am 4.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Seven Lessons and Carols
21st December	Allerthorpe	7.00 pm	Carol Service
24th December Christmas Eve	Thornton Fangfoss Barmby Moor	3.00 pm 5.00 pm 11.30 pm	Christingle Crib Service Midnight Mass
25th December Christmas Day	Allerthorpe	9.15 am	Holy Communion
27th December First Sunday of Christmas	Fangfoss	10.00 am	Holy Communion for the Benefice

We welcome into the Church family by baptism:
Elsie Primrose Friend and Lyla Rose Tipping, baptised on 27th September, both at Barmby Moor.

We say a sad farewell and offer condolences to the family of:
Peter (Bill) Simmons, service at Allerthorpe on 9th November.
Dick Watson, service at Thornton on 9th November.
Alice Sleightholm, service at Allerthorpe on 11th November.

JANUARY CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Date	Parish	Time	Service or Event
3rd January Second Sunday of Christmas	Thornton Allerthorpe	10.45 am 5.00 pm	Holy Communion Evensong
10th January First Sunday after Epiphany	Fangfoss Barmby Moor	9.15 am 10.45 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer
17th January Second Sunday after Epiphany	Allerthorpe Thornton	9.15 am 10.45 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer
24th January Third Sunday after Epiphany	Fangfoss Barmby Moor	9.15 am 10.45 am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
31st January Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Barmby Moor	10.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion

Every Wednesday there is a service at 10.00 am at St Catherine's, Barmby Moor.



NEWS FROM ALLERTHORPE

Grasscutters Supper

Our thanks to Deborah and John Bird for again hosting the supper. An excellent evening was enjoyed by all who managed to come. If you would like to join the grass cutting rota please contact Mark Stageman.

Quiz and Curry Night

On Friday 13th November there was yet again another very successful and enjoyable evening. Participants wrestling with the ticklish questions posed by this year's Quiz Master Mike Sutton and enjoying a fine spread of food. Thanks to all who organised the event.

Village Planters

Angela Batty and Margaret Murray have replaced the summer planter display with tulips and narcissi bulbs, and also a selection of colourful flowers which will hopefully brighten up our darker days of winter. Many thanks to Sue and Paul Mercer who manage the planters by the benches near the pub. Thanks also to Gill Loftus and Angela Batty for all the planter watering and maintenance.



Christmas is Coming

Now we have finally reached December it really is time to think about all things Christmas. Please come to as many of our village events as you can.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 5th December in our Village Hall – 10 am to 12 noon.
An opportunity to buy a selection of homemade cakes and bakes including some delightful miniature Christmas cakes, jams and chutneys. There will also be Christmas wreaths on sale in the car park area to be arranged by Laura Brennan.

All proceeds will be going to Crisis at Christmas. This charity opens up churches and other spaces to help provide a hot Christmas dinner and safe place for those people who otherwise would be homeless or alone at this time. So please come and have a very festive morning while helping us raise some money for this very worthwhile charity.

Village Christmas Dinner
Once again Susanne Gilbert has very generously stepped up to organise this very enjoyable occasion. This year it is taking place at the Plough, our village pub, on Friday 11th December. Once the menu is planned your invitations will be posted through your letterbox with all the details.

Christmas Carol Service
This will take place in St Botolph's our village church on Monday 21st December at 7pm. Bring your friends, children and grandchildren, you will all be welcome. This is always a happy occasion heralding the start of Christmas and is a chance to sing all your favourite carols. After the service you are warmly invited to the Old Vicarage for some seasonal refreshments.

Food Bank
While many of us are looking forward to lots of delicious food, there are others who will be struggling, so please try to include some small treats like nice biscuits or chocolate. Prices have risen so much, that these things are no longer affordable for a lot of people. Suggested items could include biscuits, savoury foods like crisps and cheese crackers, and of course drinks like instant coffee, packets of teabags and hot chocolate drinks that can be made easily. Please ensure everything is within date. No fresh food is permitted. All items must have a long shelf life, such as dried foods, packets and tinned products,.

Allerthorpe 100 Club Winners
September: £25 – Brian Bennett (176), Violet (Williams) (7).
October: £25 – John Bird (92), Sue Giles (48).

Jams and Chutneys
New varieties are now available at the back of church, £3 a jar or £5 for two.

Event Space - Village Hall
If you are looking to host an event our recently refurbished village hall is available for hire and has its own car park. Please contact Jane Smith 07810 835300, or email allerthorpevh@yahoo.com



Bill Simmons 1947 – 2026



Bill was the second of four sons and grew up in Petts Wood, Kent. He always loved learning and at 17 he left Bromley Grammar School and went on to gain a BA in Economics at Exeter followed by an MSc at the London School of Economics.

In 1969, Bill married Penny and they settled in Southampton where he began work as a university lecturer and embarked on a PhD. He wrote a book for students which was published in 1974, and in 1975 was awarded a research scholarship and spent two years in Belgium at Louvain University. In 1977 he was appointed to a readership at York University and his eldest son Tom was born.

The family moved to The Vines at Waplington and younger son Toby arrived. Life was good for the family at Waplington, together creating a wonderfully productive garden and carrying out renovations at their home, briefly interrupted by the family spending 1980-81 at Columbia University, New York. After returning to York, Bill became a professor of Economics and his greatest pleasure grew to be in research and supervising PhD students. At home, the garden continued to provide him with a place to tend his vegetables and grapevines. He spent many hours driving his sons all over the Wolds, Toby to football matches, acting as a roadie to Tom and his band to play noisy gigs, and he was a governor at Woldgate School for several years. European travel was a feature of the family holidays and seeing La Traviata in Verona sparked a life-long love of opera. Later, he loved being a grandpa, happily adapting the garden into exciting playscapes for everyone to enjoy.

Bill never really wanted to retire from his work in academia, continuing to work on his laptop keeping up with his research and the life of the department as long as he could, whilst still managing to produce trays of seedlings and plants for the annual Allerthorpe village plant sale. Hosting the plant growers' lunch on a fine day this summer was a real highlight, even as his health was failing. Bill leaves behind a remarkable legacy: a loving family, lasting friendships, and a garden that brought pleasure to so many. He was a much-loved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend, teacher and colleague, who will be sadly missed.

NEWS FROM BARMBY MOOR

St. Catherine's News

The Remembrance Day Service

Many people gathered in St Catherine's and then at the Commonwealth War Graves on Remembrance Day to honour those who gave their lives in service to their country. It was a pleasure to welcome our friends from the 102 Squadron (Ceylon) Association, whose kind donation enabled us to purchase new orders of service.





Representatives from the Pocklington School Combined Cadet Force, members of 102 (Ceylon) Squadron, the British Legion, the Parish Council and the Local Council joined our community in a shared act of remembrance, alongside Major Gavin Anderson, an instructor with the Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury. Together we paid our respects with solemn gratitude, mindful of the enduring debt we owe those who did not return. Our thanks also go to everyone who provided the poppies and flowers, which were warmly appreciated by those attending.

Coffee, Cake and Christmas Cheer!

Fancy a coffee and a catch-up?

St. Catherine's Café will be open on Saturday 5th December, serving all your regular menu favourites. Pop in, pull up a chair and join us!

On 19th December, our last café before Christmas, we're adding a little festive sparkle! Join us for mince pies or shortbread and the usual coffee and tea - all free of charge. To our lovely regulars: come along so we can wish you a Happy Christmas and say a big thank-you for your support over the past year. Never been before, or new to the village? Pop in and say hello—you'll be warmly welcomed. The more, the merrier! New Year, same warm welcome! The full menu returns on 2nd and 16th January, when we look forward to seeing you for a catch-up and coffee.

Beer and Banter

This benefice-wide informal group has enjoyed excellent beer and delicious sandwiches. Thank you to the landlords of The Plough at Allerthorpe, The Boot and Slipper at Barmby Moor, The Melbourne Arms at Melbourne, The Feathers at Pocklington and the Gait Inn at Millington. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2027.

If you would like to join this group, you would be most welcome. We meet on the last Thursday of the month. Contact Den Gardham on 07740 171269.

Lunch and Laughter

We meet for lunch at the beginning of every month, visiting different eateries. If you would like to join us for one of these lunches, please contact Jan Gardham on 07599 070113 for further information.

Chatty Craft

Thank you once again to the ladies of Chatty Craft. As l look at the poppies on the church gates and inside too, l remember all the knitting done by the ladies in the village over the past few years and think of their achievement. We would like some more made for next year if you have the time, which is a great community effort from everyone. Please come along; we meet every Monday 10 am to noon in St. Catherine's and always welcome new members.

Audrey Stockdale

Mother's Union

Nearly another year has passed and our Mother's Union Group goes from strength to strength. Our recent meeting was well attended, mainly because the subject matter attracted quite a few of our Chatty Craft members as well. Mary Ballard gave us a wonderful account of her crafting journey. From small beginnings, when she really needed something to concentrate on, to ending up with an extensive knowledge of so many different aspects of crafting. If you want to know anything about anything relating to crafting, then Mary is your go to. What's more she is always willing to help. Even those who came to the meeting unsure of the subject matter became more engaged as the afternoon went on.

Our group is really friendly and welcoming so if you fancy joining us, the door is always open. And as you already know there is always a cup of tea and a biscuit afterwards.

Fiona Anderson

St. Catherine's Gardening Group

A huge thank-you to our amazing gardening volunteers, the churchyard's very own dream team! You have been busy building a dry hedge, mowing the grass, spreading yellow rattle, weeding the gravel, planting new hedging and strimming around the graves. You have also picked up discarded items, straightened some leaning gravestones, put up owl boxes, grown plants for the plant stall and planted a whopping 700 daffodil bulbs. That's quite a gardening workout! We are so grateful for the time, effort and gardening equipment you have shared with us.

We hope everyone in the village, and all those visiting the graves, will enjoy this beautiful space. Here's to birdsong, spring colour and a well-earned cuppa for our green-fingered team!

St Catherine's Church 100 Club

Congratulations to our monthly winners, the numbers are drawn at the first coffee morning of the month

October: £25 - Jeanette and Alan Thompson (315), £20 Lynda Pollitt (227), £15 - Anne Argyll (343).

November: £25 - Janet Britton (182), £20 - Duncan Ward (162), £15 - Gordon Fallowfield (79).

A reminder that the new year for the 100 Club starts in January 2027 and we hope you will continue to support our club.

St Catherine's Christmas Services.

The Big Carol Sing	Saturday 5th December 6 pm
The Live Nativity at the Boot and Slipper	Saturday 19th December 6 pm
A Service of Seven Lessons and Carols	Sunday 20th December 4 pm

Speedwatch

The Barmby Moor Speedwatch team has been very active on the Main Street for over 7 years. We are all qualified to do the sessions and use the police speed gun which records accurately the vehicles speed. The data is sent to the police. The team has managed to slow down traffic but we need help to do more sessions. We decide on a weekly basis when we are available for the week's sessions. Please phone 07711 137680 if you would be interested in joining us. Thank you.

Barmby Moor Community Group

Let the Christmas sparkle begin! - Our Christmas celebrations are getting under way, and we're bringing a generous helping of festive cheer to Barmby Moor! From finding that perfect present to meeting Father Christmas and coming together for our annual live Nativity, there's plenty to look forward to. We're starting with our ever-popular shopping event — because Christmas shopping is much more enjoyable when there's cake involved. Bring your family, gather your friends and join us for a season of treats, sparkle and community spirit. Saturday 28th November 10 am – 2 pm at the Boot and Slipper Pub, St Helen's Square, Barmby Moor. Our Christmas Market is the perfect excuse to swap the shopping screen for a proper festive browse. Explore stalls selling sweets, pies, cakes and treats, jewellery, handmade gifts, cards, candles, honey, flour, accessories and lampshades. There are dog treats too — because the family's most enthusiastic snack inspector deserves a present. Pick up a freshly made wreath and don't forget those all-important freshly cut Christmas trees: the centerpiece of Christmas, and the annual test of whether you really did measure the ceiling. Try your luck at the Friends of Barmby Moor School bottle tombola and our raffle, with hampers to be won. Whether you're ticking off your gift list or simply following the promise of cake, come along and enjoy the festive atmosphere.





Saturday 12th December 12 noon – 2 pm at The Boot and Slipper Pub, St Helen's Square, Barmby Moor. Father Christmas is taking a break from his busy schedule to visit us for another year — clearly even the North Pole knows where to find a warm Barmby Moor welcome! Book a slot with Lauren at the Boot and Slipper for time with the big man himself. Children can write a postcard to the elves and Mrs. Claus with their Christmas wish and receive a personalised letter in reply from the North Pole. That's proper festive post: rather more exciting than a gas bill. For £5, the experience also includes a gift bag of goodies from Santa to take home on the day. A chance to share a little Christmas magic, whisper those all-important wishes and enjoy a special

festive moment together. Please book your slot with Lauren at the Boot and Slipper.

Saturday 19th December from 5:45 pm at The Boot and Slipper Pub, St Helen's Square, Barmby Moor. Our annual live Nativity play returns, curated by Revd Mark Poole, with animals from the Purple Pig Company. Join us for a festive celebration for all the family and an opportunity to come together as a community. We are also inviting children of all ages to take part as our younger actors on the evening. To request a part in the play, please complete a slip with Lauren at the Boot and Slipper. Whether you're taking part or coming along to watch, we look forward to welcoming you and sharing this annual community occasion, including some festive carols sung by the Barmby Moor Choir.



Barmby Moor PFA 100 Club Draw
September 30th Draw at the Boot and Slipper
£72.75 - Kev Shirley (75), £48.50 - Moira Wilkinson-Mudd (49), £24.25 - Maggie Appleton (77).

Macmillan Coffee Morning Bake Off at the Boot and Slipper
The winning recipe was from Lydia Edwards-Massie, see page 13 for her recipe.

Tree of Hope, Lavender Fields Care Village, Barmby Moor
A 'Tree of Hope' sapling, grown from a cutting of the iconic Sycamore Gap tree, has been planted at Lavender Fields Care Village as a lasting symbol of hope, resilience and remembrance for people living with young onset dementia - dementia that affects people of working age.

BARMBY MOOR CALLEY TRUST

Occasionally, families or individuals may need a little extra help when perhaps, sickness, disability or unemployment make it difficult to manage. Perhaps your child has an educational need such as buying extra equipment or school uniform that is difficult to budget for.

The Calley Trust may be able to help with a grant. The Trust also welcomes applications from organisations for educational or welfare purposes. Applications from residents or organisations within Barmby Moor are considered by the trustees in strict confidence and should be made to our clerk Emma Poole - email: emma.poole7@btinternet.com



The tree was planted during a special World Alzheimer's Day event on 21st September, bringing together people living with dementia, residents of Lavender Fields, families, local community organisations and civic representatives, including HM Lord-Lieutenant of East Yorkshire, Mr James Dick OBE; Chairman of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Linda Johnson; and Mayor of Pocklington, Roly Cronshaw.



The tree now takes centre stage in a beautiful new sensory garden at Lavender Fields designed by their gardener Lizzie Crichton. As you walk through the garden you can enjoy the colours, textures, fragrances and movement of the flowers/plants all designed to stimulate the senses in a peaceful environment.

NEWS FROM FANGFOSS, BOLTON AND SPITTAL

News from St Martin's Church

Harvest

It was lovely to see the church so full at our evening Harvest Service at the end of September. Many thanks go to Sally and John for the delicious Harvest Supper at the Carpenter's Arms afterwards, the proceeds from which enabled us to send a donation of £220 to RABI (the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution).

The harvest celebrations continued in October when all the children of St Martin's School presented their harvest poems and artwork to their very appreciative families in a packed church.



Remembrance

We were delighted to welcome back Alan Johnson (standard bearer from the Pocklington and District branch of the Royal British Legion) to our Remembrance Sunday's poignant Holy Communion

Service. At the end of the service, Revd Mark led everyone outside for a short service of remembrance at our Commonwealth War Graves. A poppy wreath was laid by Aaron Galtress, representing Fangfoss with Bolton Parish Council, commemorating the sacrifice made by so many.

Christmas Café



Café Connection will be back in action inside St Martin's Church on Saturday 12th December, from 10 am to 12.30 pm. Come and enjoy a hot drink and village home baking – including Christmas cake and mince pies – to eat in or to take away. There will also be a chance to win lots of fabulous prizes in our very popular Christmas Raffle.



Carols on The Green



Please come and join us on Sunday 20th December at 6 pm for some carolling on The Green, where we will be singing many popular carols as well as other seasonal songs. Everyone is warmly invited to come inside the church afterwards for mulled wine and festive nibbles. Please remember to wrap up warmly, and to bring a torch/lantern.

Christmas Eve



On Thursday 24th December, our candlelit Christmas Eve Crib Service will take place at 5 pm. This very popular service is especially enjoyed by children, who we encourage to help to create our nativity scene. Adults really enjoy this service too, so please come and join us in celebrating this very special time of the year.

Christmas Sunday

On Sunday 27th December, St Martin's Church will be hosting the benefice Holy Communion service at 10am.

Fangfoss 100 Club Winners

September 2026: £25 Yvonne Craven (11), £25 Maureen Rhodes (178)
October 2026: £25 Edward Hyde (54), £25 Sally Murray (128)

Ding Dong Merrily in Fangfoss and Bolton
As Christmas approaches, listen out for the Fangfoss and Bolton carollers as they make their way around the villages.

We will be continuing the long-standing tradition of village carol singing, which has its roots in the ancient custom of wassailing. Although such festivities were suppressed during the time of Oliver Cromwell, the fun-loving Victorians enthusiastically revived them, and they have remained a cherished part of Christmas ever since.

Over the past two years, the generosity of local residents has raised more than £1,100, with all proceeds shared equally between St Martin's Church and Jubilee Park to help with their upkeep and maintenance. So, as Christmas draws nearer, listen out for the jingling of bells and the sound of festive voices, and do come along and join in if you can.



News from Jubilee Park
Bonfire Night
Thank you to all those people who helped us out at the bonfire event. The evening was enjoyed by all and was very successful, making a healthy profit towards the maintenance of the Park.

Photo by Edith Barthorpe:

Results Time!



The Potato Competition
A very sociable evening was held at the Carpenters Arms with villagers eagerly awaiting the results of the Potato Contest. In first position with an enormous crop of 24.2kg was Helen Taylor, followed by Liz Burton with 16.4kg, and in third place Steve Cant with 10.41kg. Well done to everyone who entered.



Photo by David Nelson:

The Photography Competition
The winners of the photography competition were decided by a public vote by those attending the potato competition. The overall winner was David Nelson. Pamela Broughton was second and third was Jennifer Ross. The

children's competition was won by Edith Barthorpe, followed by Violet Thompson and Jessica Hodgkinson.

The winners will have their photographs published in the Jubilee Park Calendar going on sale at the end of the month.

The Zip Wire Update

The zip wire construction has been put on hold for the winter due to the increasing price of steel. Jubilee Park has now launched a major fund-raising campaign to cover the costs, this includes a Super Raffle, please help us if you can by buying tickets.



"Super Raffle" We are pleased to announce that several amazing local businesses have gifted some amazing prizes to us to support our Zip Wire campaign. Please donate a minimum of £10 and we will enter you in our Super Raffle to win a Wolds Glider Experience, a Pottery Masterclass with Gerry Grant, £250 worth of logs ready for the winter, your next MOT for free at Pocklington Motor Centre or Wolds View Garage, £50 off at Peter Wynn Tyres, a voucher for Hands that Heal and £20 to spend on David Smith Bedding plants. Unfortunately, as we are giving prizes we can't accept Gift Aid but please ensure you leave your details so that we can contact you. We will make the draw on 8th December in good time for Christmas.

To donate go to:
https://www.justgiving.com/page/mark-gibbens-3
or scan the code.

The Jubilee Park Committee wishes everyone a wonderful Christmas and we hope to see you at some of our events in 2027.

NEWS FROM THORNTON AND MELBOURNE

Richard John Watson 'Dick' – 6th December 1941 to 9th October 2026.
A service to celebrate the life of Dick Watson was held on Monday 9th November at St Michael's, Thornton and attended by many family and friends. The Watson family moved to Thornton in 1975, to work for the Stubbins family. Over the 22½ years living at Woodhouse Farm, Dick along with wife, Pat and children Diane, Jane and Nick, were involved in many aspects of village life. Dick was Chairman of the Parish Council, player and supporter of Thornton Cricket Team and member of the village Silver Jubilee organising committee, who were responsible for one of the trees on the grass outside the church gates. Dick also organised Lambing Open days to raise funds for the church and organised the sheep grazing the church yard.

After moving to Pocklington, Pat and Dick enjoyed returning to the village to support Harvest Festivals and Carol Services and keeping up with their good friends the Cravens and the Haytons. In retirement, he spent many happy hours volunteering at Burnby Hall Gardens, where family and friends enjoyed refreshments after the service.

A Special Celebration Service was held on Monday 9th November at 1.30 pm for family and friends to celebrate Dick Watson's life.

Thornton Church Public Meeting
There will be a public meeting on Monday 11th January, 10 am – noon, hosted by Suzanne Allott to discuss ideas for the 2027 round of Grantscape funding for Thornton. All are welcome to attend and share ideas.

Thornton Church 100 Club Winners

October:	£25 Sally Irwin (120), £10 Emily Chamberlain (91), £10 Ted Hargreaves's (99).
November:	£25 Sally Irwin (120), £10 Julian White (87).

Thank you to all who have supported the church via the "100 club". Our new year draw starts Friday 11th December at our 7 pm Carol Service. New members are welcome contact Janet Hayton 01759 318287 for mor details.

Benefice News
Members of our church attended the Thanksgiving and Farewell Service at St Martins Church Yapham-cum-Meltonby on Saturday 10th October 2.30 pm led by the Bishop of Selby. After a wonderful tribute service, everyone was welcomed to an extensive enjoyable wake. We send our good wishes and thanks to everyone involved, especially to Ann Pearson and her husband, for making it a fitting celebration of goodbye to their church building.

Community / Churchyard
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to send thanks to Peter Triffitt and his team of workers for trimming the inside of the hedge round the church. Also their thanks to the Parish Council for completing the cutting of the hedge on the outside - a great job.

Maintenance and upkeep of our church building and churchyard are vital to maintain a "presence" in our community. This all costs money and sadly our church building needs urgent outside repairs and the inside needs decorating. We are looking for funding and sponsorship so we can start work next year. We do not want to lose our building because we haven't maintained and cared for it. If you can help, contact any of the members of the PCC or the church wardens.

Christmas Services
Friday 11th December 7 pm Carol Service
Sunday 20th December 10.45 am Morning Prayer
Thursday 24th December 3 pm Christingle Service

NEWS FROM YAPHAM-CUM-MELTONBY

Church News
A closing ceremony for St Martin's Church, Yapham was held on 10th October, led by the Bishop of Selby. It was good to see all the churches in the Benefice represented. A wake followed in the village hall.

It is very sad that there is no longer a place of worship in Yapham. There are a lot of people to be thanked for helping put the ceremony in place, but we have to say a huge thank you to Barmby Moor for loaning us the gala tent, and Den Gardham and his helpers for putting it together in the churchyard grounds. It was like a big Meccano set. It was just perfect for our needs. More help was on

hand to dismantle it following the wake, and it came down quicker than it went up.

The churchyard remains open.

Yapham Cricket Club
The cricket club are hosting a quiz night in the Village Hall on Saturday 23rd January. It promises to be a great evening, with a fun quiz to enjoy as well as a bar. Tickets will be on sale soon, all welcome. Contact David Fouracre (07749 471480) for details and booking information.

Dates for your diary
Yapham village hall will be holding a Pub night Fizz and Quiz on Friday evening 4th December from 7 pm. Anyone is welcome, so why don't you pop along and join in the fun!

A winter coffee morning will be held on Saturday 23rd January 2027, a chance to meet up and have a chat with friends over a cuppa and refreshments.

Ann Pearson



Feoffee Trust

Applications for financial grants are welcomed from residents of Yapham-cum-Meltonby parish with children to help with school uniforms and trips, sports equipment, musical instruments, books and educational materials.
For the elderly there are grants available for aids to assisting mobility.

Apply to **john@yorkshiremaps.co.uk**

ADVERTISING SPACE - GREAT RATES Please contact Mark Stageman 01759 303862 misitaalgoec@gmail.com		
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SOME CONTACT NUMBERS . . . . . 01759. . . . . .

Revd Mark Poole 304672
For all enquiries regarding baptisms/christenings and weddings please contact Thelma, our Voluntary Administrative Assistant at: thelma.wingfield@gmail.com

Allerthorpe, St Botolph's Church
Tim O'Gram 303180
Mark Stageman 303862

Barmby Moor, St Catherine's Church
Janet Gardham 07599 070113
Dennis Gardham 07740 171269

Fangfoss, St Martin's Church
Scott Holley 07889 163582

Thornton and Melbourne, St Michael's Church
Mrs Janet Hayton 318287

Yapham, St Martin's Church
Ann Pearson 303214

Front cover - Our thanks to Catherine Oxford.

Please submit photos, articles, notices, adverts for the February – March 2027 issue to Mark Stageman, email misitaalgoec@gmail.com by Thursday 10th January 2027 latest. All enquiries to any member of the Editorial Team as listed on page 3. Thank you.

THE

CARPENTER'S ARMS

FANGFOSS, YO41 5QG 01759 369745

Sleigh bells ring, are you listenin' ….

We'll be running a Christmas Raffle (with a Difference) throughout December with all proceeds going to Cancer Research UK. Draw will be held on Sunday 20th December at 6pm so get your tickets early !

In the lane, snow is glistenin'…..

And we'll be open for drinks
5-11pm ~ Christmas Eve
12-3pm ~ Christmas Day
1-7pm ~ Boxing Day
12-7pm ~ Sunday 27th
1-7pm ~ Bank Holiday Monday

A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight…..



So the Bar will be open
5-10pm ~ Wednesday 30th
5pm – 1am ~ New Years Eve
1–7pm New Years Day



Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Our Christmas Fayre Menu will be available from 9th – 20th December
This is a pre-order menu so pop in and collect a copy

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas