



**St John's Church Golcar**

Working Together for God

# PARISH MAGAZINE



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



**DECEMBER  
2025**

**50P**



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds

# Who's Who at St. John's

<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Vicar:	Fr. Simon Crook	T: 01484 654647 E: revscrook@gmail.com
Parish Administrator:	Lucy Williams	T: 01484 647400 E: office@stjohnschurchgolcar.org
Churchwarden:	James Cooke	
Churchwarden	Lucy Williams	office@stjohnschuchgolcar.org
Guthlac's Gang:	Natalie Woodford & Lucy Williams	
Sunday Youth:	Sue Starr	
Organist:	Ann Norton	T: 01484 652139
Music Director:	Joe Norton	
Treasurer:	Annabel Cooke	
Deanery Synod Rep:	Vacant	
Children's Society:	Susan Heywood	T: 01484 768564
Safeguarding:	Karen Locke	Safeguarding@stjohnschuchgolcar.org
Health & Safety:	Vacant	
Rainbows & Brownies	Margaret Shaw	T: 07906 159 991
Guides	Lucy Crosland	T: 01422 379757
Luncheon Club	Janice Hart	T: 07850 194314
Shoebox Appeal:	Caroline Faulkner	T: 07887 378451

## SERVICES:

**Every Sunday, our main service: 9.30am.**

**2nd & 4th Sundays in the month: 8.00am** Holy Communion in traditional language (BCP)

**Morning Prayer: 9.00am** most Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Weddings and Baptisms:** Please contact the Vicar

**PCC Members: Chair: Fr. Simon Crook,** Joe Norton, Helen Davies, James Cooke  
Lucy Williams, Jeremy Cuss, Annabel Cooke, Sue Starr, Ray Hoyle.

**Bible Readers at 9.30am Services:** Nore Beaumont, Richard Lodge, Betty Taylor, Marion Hall, Helen Davies, Margaret Henry, Anne Crosland.

**Chalice Bearers:** Anne Crosland, Betty Taylor, Josh Crosland, Owen Norton, Mark Weston, Marion Hall, Margaret Bickerdyke, Jeremy Cuss.

**Intercessors:** Helen Davies, Susan Heywood, Jeremy Cuss, Betty Taylor, Richard Lodge.

**We would welcome more people who would like to be an intercessor. Please think about this and speak to Fr. Simon about it; then give your name to Lucy. Thank you.**

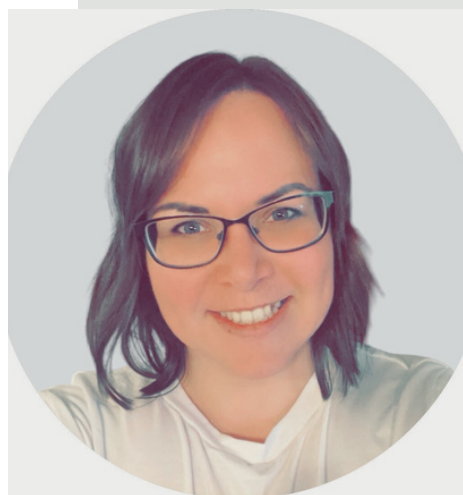
**Welcomers:** Marion Hall, Betty Taylor, Jane Wood, Anne Crosland.

**Please note:** Please contact the office if you wish to come off one of the lists or if you wish to be added.

**Website: [www.stjohnschurchgolcar.org](http://www.stjohnschurchgolcar.org)**

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# ***Editor's Note***



This month has been full of activity at St John's, and it's good to bring everything together in one place. There has been steady work across services, groups, and events, and there is plenty to share.

Inside this issue you'll find updates from Guthlac's Gang, news from our school links, and short highlights from across the diocese. We have also included dates for the weeks ahead so you can see what is coming up.

Christmas is getting close, and there's a full run of services on the way. Some will be quiet and simple, others lively and full of music. Each one offers a chance to pause, meet with others, and enjoy the celebration of the birth of Jesus together. It would be lovely to see as many people as possible join us over the coming weeks..

We're also excited for the panto. Tarren and the team have put in a huge amount of work behind the scenes. Costumes, music, sets, and plenty of laughter are all taking shape. It's always a highlight of the year, and this one looks set to be the same.

I'm always looking for inspiration. If you'd like to share something in a future issue, just drop me a line. A short note or photo from your group helps bring more voices into the magazine and keeps everyone connected.

***Lucy Williams***  
Editor

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# FROM THE VICAR

Fr Simon Crook - Vicar, St John's Church Golcar

## THE SILLY SEASON



Among vicars, curates, and many others, the lead up to Christmas is known as “The Silly Season”.

Originally Silly Season was during the Summer Holidays: there wasn't much political news, so the papers used frivolous or “silly” stories to fill the space. Now, Silly Season usually refers to Advent; the weeks leading up to Christmas Day.

This season is silly, because just when we are supposed to be quiet and reflective, there is so much festive cheer and business all around.

It's silly, because people do things during this time, which they don't do any other time. Think of hanging out stockings, putting letters up chimneys, day trips to Lapland, eating turkey, or pulling crackers.

It's silly, because while half of us are singing carols, drinking mulled wine and eating mince pies; others are dying because of the cold, sitting in loneliness, and suffering the mid-winter blues.

But mostly it's silly, because God, the creator and king of all, decided to be born into our human poverty.

This is the upside down, inside out nature of our faith: the “King of all creation” has no room, the “Lord of all” is placed into the hands of humans as a needy baby, and later, the “Giver of Life” will be killed.

This month, if you think it's all getting a bit silly, then you're right, and God is at the heart of it. God is in a stable, not in a palace. God is in the midst of everything in our lives: silly and serious, sacred and mundane, warm and cold, alone and with others, planned and spontaneous.

Some people laugh at my faith and think it's silly. I can laugh with them, because in many ways, in many profound ways, it is silly. And I like it that way.

**God Bless**



# WHAT'S ON

## COMMUNITY



### THURSDAY 4TH – SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER – PANTOMIME

St John's present Hansel and Gretel – a magical family pantomime filled with laughter, music and festive fun. Evening performances will run Thursday to Saturday, with a special Saturday matinee. Come along and support this much-loved village tradition!

### THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - JUST SING CONCERT 7:30PM AT ST JOHNS

### SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY -BURNS NIGHT 7:30PM

## WORSHIP/FAITH



### ADVENT SERVICE 14TH DECEMBER - 6PM

Advent gives us space to slow down and look ahead with hope. Our service will follow the theme of moving from darkness into light. You're invited to share in a calm time of reflection as we prepare for the Christmas season.

Everyone is welcome.

#### Sunday 7th December

**Holy Communion with Advent Carols 9.30am St John's.**

#### Sunday 14th December

**Holy Communion with Advent Carols 9.30am St John's.**

**Advent Service 6pm St John's: From Darkness to Light.** A service for anyone wanting to step away from the rush and the bustle, and enter a time of peace, contemplation and wonder.

#### Friday 19th December

**Carols by Candlelight Service 7pm St John's**

#### Sunday 21st December

**Christingle Service 9.30am St John's, perfect for families and people of all ages.**

#### Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

**Nativity Service 6pm St John's** (NB the time was wrong in last month's magazine). Come and dress up, and help us tell the wondrous story.

**Midnight Mass 11pm St John's.** See in the special day with us. "Yea Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning!"

#### Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December

**Holy communion 8am St John's**

**Holy Communion with carols 9.30am St John's.**

#### Sunday 28th December

**Holy Communion with carols 9.30am St John's.**



# LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER



## ➡ GOLCAR SCHOOLS INTERFAITH FESTIVAL – “TOGETHER WE SERVE”

St John's was full of energy as we hosted the Golcar Schools Interfaith Festival. It was a bright afternoon that showed how strong our community can be when we come together.

Father Simon Crook brought our local schools under one roof for a simple aim. Peace. Unity. Working side by side. Each school shared something special.

St John's filled the church with African drumming that shook the floor.

Clough Head told the story of Stone Soup, a tale about sharing what we have.

Wellhouse rapped about kindness and being one big family.

Golcar JIN danced to Unity and showed how we can move with one heartbeat.

We also welcomed the Mayor of Kirklees, Councillor Liz Smaje. She spoke with real warmth about what can happen when people act together. Her chain of office carries the words “Together we serve,” and she said the children's messages matched those words perfectly.

Thank you to every member of staff and every pupil who took part. The festival was a strong reminder that community starts with us.



## ➡ Confirmation and Baptism Celebration

We offer our warmest congratulations to Beatrix and Nathan who were confirmed in a beautiful service led by Bishop Smitha. It was also a joy to see Beatrix baptised.

Bishop Smitha reminded us that it is a special day when the mitre is worn. It felt even more meaningful on All Saints Day.

It was a calm and joyful celebration of faith and commitment.



# GUTHLAC'S GANG — FAITH • FUN • FRIENDSHIP —

## **GUTHLAC'S GANG – TERM UPDATE**

Guthlac's Gang has had a full and lively term. We may be small in numbers, but we are big in every other way. The children bring energy, sharp questions, and a lot of joy to each session.

We link with the main service each week and follow the same readings. This keeps us tied to the wider church and helps the children talk about what they've learned at home.



**Which parable do you think we explored when we grew mustard seeds?**

We learn through play, short games, and hands-on tasks. The children do well when they can move, build, or make something to take home.

Thank you to everyone who supports the group. It's good to see the children settle in, make friends, and enjoy their time together. New faces are always welcome.

We looked at Bible stories that show courage and kindness. We made simple crafts that match each theme, from shields to help us stand strong to lanterns that point to hope. The group has become more confident and happy to share their thoughts.



# PANTOMIME REHEARSALS ARE IN FULL SWING



Rehearsals are going well. The cast is sharp, lively, and having fun. Lines are coming together. The songs sound strong. The backstage crew is steady and on it. We've had plenty of laughs, a few missed cues, and the usual mix of chaos and charm that makes panto what it is.

The group has put in real time these past weeks. Folks are juggling work, family, and late nights to bring the show to life. You can feel the energy in the hall. Kids and adults are building confidence. Costumes are taking shape. Props are appearing from odd corners. It's the usual mystery of panto magic.

We're heading into the final stretch now. The cast is keen to share the story with you and give the village a good night out.

## Show dates

- Thursday 4th December at 7pm
- Friday 5th December at 7pm
- Saturday 6th December at 2pm and 7pm

Tickets will be on sale soon at St John's or on the door. Bring friends, bring family, and come ready to cheer, boo, clap and shout.

There will be refreshments and raffle in the interval.

It's a real community show, and we'd love to see you there.



# SHOEBOX APPEAL THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who filled, wrapped, packed, sorted, carried, or dropped off a box this year. Your kindness makes a real difference. We had a strong response and every single box will reach someone who needs a bit of comfort and care.

A special thank you goes to Duncan and Caroline Faulkner. They work closely with the charity One Big Family and handle the hard part: getting every box out to people who are sleeping rough or living in fragile situations.

They give their time with no fuss and make sure the boxes reach the right hands.

This is a simple act with real impact. Your support means people on the streets know they have not been forgotten. Thank you again for taking part.

# RAINBOW & BROWNIE NEWS

We have had 3 Rainbow Gold awards this term which is a wonderful achievement. Bella, Grace & Halle all worked so hard for it & they are now enjoying being a Brownie.

The Rainbows & Brownies have all been doing well gaining skillsbuilder & interest badges & theme awards. I seem to be forever ordering badges!. Some of them have even been doing the new interest badges recently released. If you look at our notice board in church, the new interest badges are very different to those of 5 years ago - like Get Grooving for Rainbows or Games master for Brownies. We're very proud that the latter was inspired by a Golcar Church Brownie!

The Brownies had a very special evening in October when they had a visit from Loulabelle's Animals. They were very brave to touch & hold a variety of animals including a large snake!

Both units collected an enormous amount of food for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service & we were pleased to join in the celebrations for the Guides 100th anniversary. They have also brought in many wrapped shoeboxes & items for the community shoebox appeal.

We have just come back from a joint Rainbow & Brownie sleepover at Golcar Scout Centre. What a wonderful time we had & such lovely girls.

## GOLCAR GUIDES

The Guide Leaders, over the summer holidays, collated lots of information and photos to put into our 100 Years of Golcar Guides exhibition at the Colne Valley Museum.

We had a trip to Wysholme to learn about the Guiding history: we learnt how to use semaphore and how to tie a friendship knot on the old-style neckties, and we had a look at all the different styles of historic uniforms on display.

We started the Skills For My Future theme and, to date, the Guides have completed several UMAs (define the abbreviation in brackets afterwards) and Skill Builders.

We also started the Eco Award this term by looking at our carbon footprint and building bug boxes, which have been taken home to put out in the Guides' gardens.

Our two Young Leaders, Charlotte and Jess, ran a session for the Music badge, where we used random objects to make sounds, wrote lyrics, and also designed some album covers. The last section, which the Guides did at home, involved listening to different genres or artists that they hadn't listened to before and describing how it made them feel. Three of our Guides have now gained their Music badges.

Sophie, one of our Patrol leaders, ran a session for the Food Critic badge. We tried different flavoured foods while blindfolded: sweet, salty, sour, bitter, and umami (savory).

We also used different heat sources to prepare a potato in three ways: frying, mashing, and as a jacket potato.

The last section, again for the Guides to do at home, is to prepare a meal from a different cuisine and critique it using what they've learnt about flavour profiles, tastes, and techniques.

We had Graham Smith from the Knot Tyers Guild visit during another meeting, who showed us how ropes are made using different strands of smaller rope. All of the Guides went home with a rope that they had made by combining 3 strands using the rope-making machine.

For the rest of the term, during the run-up to Christmas, we will be making Christmas-themed food and doing some Christmas crafts"

**By: Lucy Crosland**



Considering we had ages 5 to 9 years they all got on so wonderfully together & helped each other. We did Christmas crafts, sang Christmas songs, played indoor games & just enjoyed eating, sleeping, playing & jobbing together! I bet they all slept very well at home on the Sunday night!

In December both units are looking forward to coming to the church panto on the Saturday afternoon & the Rainbows to singing Christmas songs at Thornhill Care Home on December 9th.

We will all be taking part in a visit to the LBT in January 2026 to see a production of Jack & the Beanstalk. It's going to be great to see the LBT full of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & leaders from all over Huddersfield Dartmouth Division.

The Rainbows & Brownies would just like to wish everyone at St. John's a Very Happy Christmas & thank you for your support.

**By Grey Owl / Margaret Shaw**



## ➔ Diocesan Education Conference Highlight

Senior school leaders from across the diocese met for the 2025 Education Conference. The day focused on strong leadership, inclusion, and fresh thinking in education.



Speakers looked at creativity in schools, new technology, gender stereotypes, and the needs of excluded pupils. It was a thought provoking event that set a clear tone for the year ahead.

## ➔ Interfaith Week Across the Diocese



Faith groups across the diocese marked Interfaith Week with simple acts of unity.

People gathered at the Sikh Soldier Memorial in Huddersfield, visited the Makkah Mosque in Leeds, and shared white roses in Kirklees as signs of peace and friendship.



## VISIT FROM BISHOP JOHN OF TANZANIA

*News from Diocese of Leeds*

The Diocese of Leeds recently welcomed the Rt Revd John Msuma, Bishop of Tarime in Tanzania, for a visit that strengthened the long standing link between the two regions. His time in the diocese offered space for shared learning, stories, and deeper friendship.

Bishop John visited churches and schools across Wakefield and Huddersfield. He spent time with pupils, joined parish teams, and took part in worship and community work. Key moments included visits to St Aidan's CE Academy in Skelmanthorpe, All Saints Batley, St Mary Magdalene Lundwood, St Peter's Barnsley, and a reflective stop at Wakefield Cathedral.

Archdeacon Cat Thatcher spoke warmly about the chance to hear about life in Tarime and to notice both the contrasts and the shared hopes in church life.

The link will continue to grow as a group from the Diocese of Leeds plans to visit Tanzania in summer 2026.





# Regular Services

## Our Sunday services

**9.30am** at St John's Golcar

**8am** in Traditional Language at St John's Golcar  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month

**All Age / Family services** are usually on the  
Second Sunday of the month 9.30am.



## *A Note From Anne Crosland*

Firstly, I want to say thank you to everyone who has trusted me with your money over the years.

I have decided to close my book on the 150 Club at the end of this year after looking after it for 25 years. It feels like the right time to stop.

If anyone would like to take it on, please let me know and I will explain what the role involves. The PCC will also need to know what will happen next if someone does want to step in.

I have loved doing the job and have met many lovely people, who will now not run away when they see me coming.

# Gardening Group & Coffee Morning

Gardening Group are volunteers who help us keep our churchyard looking so good. Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am at St John's. If you have a spare hour or so, just come along.

Coffee morning St John's Golcar on **Tuesdays 10.30am**

## Community Groups

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet Wednesday evenings in term time.

Luncheon Club is on Thursdays

Just Sing Community Choir, Thursday evenings.

# Sunday Services December

## Sunday 7th

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion with Advent Carols

## Sunday 14th

8.00am – Traditional Said Holy Communion

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion with Advent Carols

## Sunday 21st

9.30am – All Age Christingle

## Wednesday 24th

6:00pm – Nativity

11:00pm – Midnight Mass

## Christmas Day 25th

8.00am – Holy Communion

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion with Carols

## Sunday 28th

9.30am – Sung Holy Communion with Carols

## 150 Club Winners

November

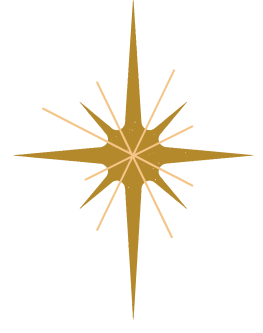
No 90 Ray Hoyle

No 63 Mark Weston

No 14 Marlene Wimpenny

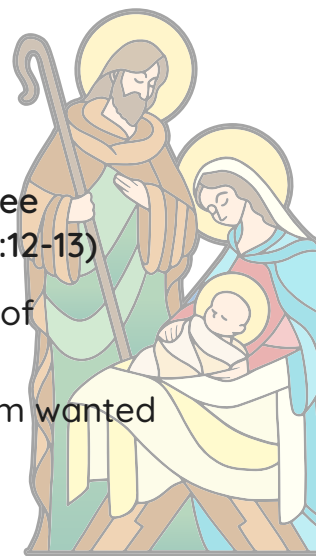


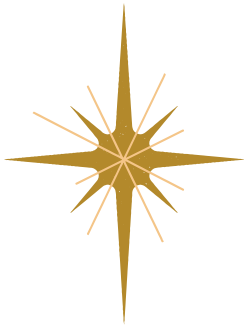
# Christmas Quiz



How much do you know about Christmas?  
Read and choose the correct options and find out!

- 1** What does Jesus' other name, "Emmanuel", mean? (Matthew 1:23)
  - a) Son of God
  - b) He who is God
  - c) God With us
- 2** When Joseph first discovered that Mary was pregnant, he: (Matthew 1:18-20)
  - a) Tore his robe
  - b) Rejoiced
  - c) No longer wished to marry her
- 3** Why did Joseph and Mary go to the city of David? (Luke 2:4-5)
  - a) To visit Joseph's parents
  - b) To pay Taxes
  - c) To seek the prophet Simeon
- 4** With what did Mary wrap newborn Jesus? (Luke 2:7)
  - a) Swaddling
  - b) A Blanket
  - c) A Scarf
- 5** What did the angel tell the shepherds? (Luke 2:10-12)
  - a) All of this
  - b) To not be afraid
  - c) The location of the newborn Savior
- 6** Who visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus on the night He was born? (Luke 2:15-16)
  - a) Shepherds and wise men
  - b) Shepherds
  - c) Wise men
- 7** How many wise men brought gifts to Jesus?
  - a) None
  - b) 3
  - c) The Bible never says
- 8** Who diligently asked the wise men about baby Jesus? (Matthew 2:7)
  - a) King Pilate
  - b) King Herod
  - c) King David
- 9** What was Jesus' approximate age when the wise men presented Him with gifts? (Matthew 2:16)
  - a) 12 years old
  - b) 6 years old
  - c) less than 2 years old
- 10** Why did Jesus' family flee Bethlehem? (Matthew 2:12-13)
  - a) They couldn't pay all of their taxes
  - b) The king of Jerusalem wanted to kill Him
  - c) God would destroy it





# Christmas Quiz

## Answer sheet



**1** What does Jesus' other name, "Emmanuel", mean? (Matthew 1:23)

c) God With us

**2** When Joseph first discovered that Mary was pregnant, he: (Matthew 1:18-20)

c) No longer wished to marry her

**3** Why did Joseph and Mary go to the city of David? (Luke 2:4-5)

b) To pay Taxes

**4** With what did Mary wrap newborn Jesus? (Luke 2:7)

a) Swaddling

**5** What did the angel tell the shepherds? (Luke 2:10-12)

a) All of this

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**7** How many wise men brought gifts to Jesus?

c) The Bible never says

**8** Who diligently asked the wise men about baby Jesus? (Matthew 2:7)

b) King Herod

**9** What was Jesus' approximate age when the wise men presented Him with gifts? (Matthew 2:16)

c) less than 2 years old

**10** Why did Jesus' family flee Bethlehem? (Matthew 2:12-13)

b) The king of Jerusalem wanted to kill Him



# Colour the Nativity Scene

Take your time and enjoy this calm moment. Add your own shades and tiny details. Think about the story as you colour. A child born in a quiet place. A light in dark times. A hope that still speaks to us today.



# **GOLCAR JUST SING CHOIR CHRISTMAS CRACKERS**

**Festive songs and Christmas carols**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
7.30pm**

**at St John's Church, Golcar**

**Admission FREE**

**Retiring collection in support of The Kirkwood**





# HANSEL & GRETEL



A COMMUNITY PANTOMIME!

*Oh yes it is!*



## PERFORMANCE DATES:

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 7pm   Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 7pm  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2pm & 7pm

**VENUE:**   St John's Church  
Golcar



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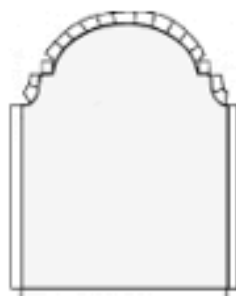
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# THE LOCAL INFORMATION PAGE

## Doctors:

Field Head Surgery, Field Head, Leymoor Rd.

654504

Surgery hours: 8.15am-12.30pm & 1.15-6.00pm

Monday – Friday. Appointment only.

## **Health Visitors:**

347878/6

## **District Nurses**

221600

## **Midwives**

347887

## **Hospitals:**

342000

HRI

01422 357171

Calderdale (Halifax)

03003045555

Princess Royal (Chiropody)

512101

Kirkwood Hospice

223000

Social services (incl. Home Help Service)

544676

**Community Health Council:** 12 North Parade, Huddersfield

08457 585565

## **Cruise:**

533388

## **Samaritans:**

01422 843683

## **Bereavement Support Group:**

01484 414868

## **Golcar Library** – Opening Times:

Monday: 1.00pm-6.00pm

Tuesday: 10.00am- 1.00pm

Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday: 1.00pm-5.00pm

Friday: CLOSED

Saturdays: 10.00am-1.00pm

## **Golcar Library Readers' Group**

01484 414868

Every 1st Thursday of the month at 1.30am.

Meet up & chat with other likeminded book-lovers. Tea & coffee provided!

## **Primary Schools in the Parish:**

St. John's: email: office@stjohnsji.co.uk

644444

Manor Rd.: email: office@golcarjin.com

652954

Clough Head: email: office.cloughhead@kirkleeseducation.uk

222217

Wellhouse: email: office@wellhouse.heightsfed.org

645794

Scapegoat Hill: email: office@scapegoathill.co.uk

647008

## **Local Councillors:**

Cllr. Andrew Marchington (Lib-Dem)

E: Andrew.marchington@kirklees.gov.uk

641698

Cllr. Graham Turner (Labour)

E: graham.turner@kirklees.gov.uk

M: 07772643361

Cllr. Angela Sewell (Labour): 24-26 James St. Golcar HD7 4DR

**MP: Paul Davies (Labour):** House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA E: paul.davies.mp@parliament.com

## **Other Local Churches:**

St Mark's, Longwood revscrook@gmail.com

654647

Providence Methodist: Rev. Rosamunde Page

421461 OR 423797

E: rosamunde.page@gmail.com

Parkwood Methodist: Andrew Marchington

E: andrew.marchington@btconnect

Scapegoat Hill Baptist: Church Secretary John Stephenson

655615

## **Emergency numbers:**

Gas:

0800 111 999

Electricity:

0800 375 675

Water:

0800 573 553

Police:

101

Telephone Preference Service: Tostop unwanted phone calls

0845 0700707