

# Parish magazine of St Peter's, Thorner with Scarcroft



August  
2025

## **Still believing after 1700 years: the Nicene Creed today**

This year marks the 1700th anniversary of one of the most remarkable moments in Christian history – the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, where the Nicene Creed was first drawn up. You might think that a theological gathering in ancient Turkey would have little bearing on a Sunday morning in your local parish church, but surprisingly, it still speaks powerfully into our lives today.

The Nicene Creed was the Church's first major attempt to clarify and unite its beliefs. Christians had been proclaiming Jesus as Lord since the days of the Apostles, but disagreements about who he really was – divine? human? both? – were causing real division. The Council of Nicaea brought together bishops from across the Christian world, not to invent doctrine, but to agree on how best to express the truth handed down through Scripture and the early Church.

The result? A bold, clear statement of faith: "We believe in one God, the Father almighty ... and in one Lord, Jesus Christ ... of one Being with the Father ..."

These words have echoed through churches ever since – through the rise and fall of empires, through schisms and reformations, and in countless languages and contexts.

But is it just dusty dogma? Not at all. The Creed still has a pulse. When we say, "We believe ...", we're not reciting a museum piece. We're joining a global and timeless community, spanning centuries and continents. It unites Anglicans, Catholics, Orthodox and many non-conformist and free churches – a rare thing in our often divided world.

More than that, the Creed keeps us grounded. In a time when beliefs can be treated like pick 'n' mix sweets – a little of this, a dash of that – the Nicene Creed gives us roots. It's not the whole Christian story, but it's the scaffolding, the skeleton. It reminds us that our faith is not simply about personal feeling or vague spirituality, but about God who took flesh, died and rose again.

So the next time you stand to say it, don't mumble. Speak it boldly. You're standing with saints, reformers, mystics, martyrs and everyday believers who have all said, "We believe ..."

Seventeen centuries on, the Nicene Creed is still doing its job: uniting, guiding and giving voice to the heart of Christian faith.

***Revd Jonathan Brennan***

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There are no Tuesday morning services in August; they resume on Tuesday 2nd September. There is no Taizé service in August either.

## From the registers

### Baptism

July 6      Oliver Shepherd, son of Kimberley and Kristan

### Wedding

July 12      Anna Mason and Thomas Slingsby

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### Prayer requests

Is there something you would like us to pray about? You can send your prayer requests by using this QR Code and completing the form. All prayer requests are confidential.

Alternatively, contact Revd Jonathan at [rector@elmetetrinity.org](mailto:rector@elmetetrinity.org) or on 0113 289 2437.

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### Would you like to be involved?

Have you ever thought about getting involved in our church services? We are always looking for new people to join the choir, read the bible passages, lead intercession prayers, serve refreshments, arrange flowers or be a sidesperson.

If you would like to know more, please have a word with [Revd Jonathan](#), our lay minister [Sarah Meredith](#), or one of the churchwardens.

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### Thorner Over 60s Association

The first of two Over 60s events in September is a visit to the Leeds Library on **Monday 15 September**, meeting at the library on Commercial Street in the city centre, just before 11am. Admission is £7 a head. Places are limited so please sign up at The Bungalow and also say whether you can offer a lift to others. The library is the oldest membership subscription library of its kind in the UK and a rare example of a Georgian public library.

The second event is the Macmillan Coffee Morning at The Bungalow on **Friday 26 September**. Macmillan supports people from the moment they are diagnosed with cancer, through treatment and beyond. Their help includes Macmillan nurses, financial help with the extra and unexpected costs that living with cancer can bring, a support line and much more, so please come along and show your support.

On **Monday 10 November**, at 2pm, we have a speaker from a firm of Leeds solicitors giving a talk on 'Planning for the Future: Wills, Trusts and Lasting Powers of Attorney', followed by an opportunity to ask questions. The talk is free and anyone is welcome to join us.

We are extremely grateful to the Thorner Community Fund for a grant enabling us to install solar panels on the roof of The Bungalow, helping us to save energy and reduce our carbon footprint. The panels will be on the sloping flat roof, facing south and not visible from Main Street. Energy from these may be used straightaway or stored in the battery for later use. Any excess energy can be fed back into the national grid. The Over 60s Association is part of Thorner Net Zero Partnership, with the Victory Hall, Parish Centre and St Peter's Church.

**Wendy Miller**  
**Secretary**

## **FOLLOW THE CLUES, FIND THE FUN!**

**Join us for a fun-filled  
afternoon at the Village  
Treasure Hunt & Vicarage  
Open Garden/House!**



Bring the whole family for an exciting treasure hunt through the village - follow the clues, solve puzzles, and discover hidden surprises along the way! Afterwards, relax in the Vicarage garden with light refreshments, cakes and a chance to catch up after the summer break.

- \* **Explore the village** and meet friendly faces
- \* **Interactive treasure hunt** suitable for all ages
- \* **Tea, cakes & cold drinks** served in the garden
- \* A perfect afternoon for families, friends & neighbours

**When:** Saturday 30th August, 3pm to 5pm

**Where:** Starting at Church and ending at the Vicarage

**Cost:** Free entry – donations welcome

Come along for a lovely time of community fun, fresh air, and a little bit of adventure!

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### **Thorner Village Show**

We can't wait to see your entries, so do flick through the programme for inspiration. There are categories suitable for everyone and every age, so no need to be an 'expert' and we look forward to welcoming you all to the Victory Hall on Sunday 7th September. Entries can be dropped off on Saturday 6th at 6–8pm, or Sunday 7th at 8–10am. Photographs must be submitted on the Saturday evening.

If you haven't received the Show programme, copies are available in the Post Box Deli, The Fox and the Mexborough Arms, or ask one of the committee members: Emily Abbott, Kate James, Sarah McGrail, Donald Taylor, Lizzie Waddington and Sarah Walker.

We are delighted to have the school PTA hosting the tea room and we'll be running the ever-popular raffle again! We would love donations, so please bring anything you can donate, large or small, to the Victory Hall on the Saturday or Sunday.

We wish you luck with your growing and making, and look forward to seeing you on 7th September!

*Thorner Village Show Committee*





## John the Baptist

On 29 August most Christian churches commemorate the beheading of John the Baptist. This counts as a Lesser Festival. Saints' feast-days are normally celebrated on the anniversary of their deaths, because what is being celebrated is their entry into eternal life (their spiritual 'birthday'). But in John's case (as also with Jesus), we know about his physical birth from the gospels. So for John (as for Jesus) the date of his birth – June 24th – is a major festival, one of the principal feast-days of the church. Yet the liturgical marking of John's beheading is almost as old as the marking of his birth. It seems to have been established during the fifth century, quite soon after the Roman Empire adopted Christianity as the state religion and the Church began to establish an annual liturgical cycle of public celebration. All the surviving Church calendars from Anglo-Saxon England list John's beheading for 29 August, and in a form that means they regarded it as a significant feast, although not quite ranking with that of John's birth.

The gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke give us the fullest accounts of how John came to be beheaded. By contrast, John's gospel states that he was arrested but supplies no motive for this, and makes no reference to the execution. The other three gospels state that he was arrested by Herod Antipas (then ruling Galilee as a puppet-king of the Romans) because John criticised him for marrying Herodias, his brother's ex-wife. Luke gives no motive for why Herod subsequently beheaded him, but there is more detail in Matthew and Mark, who both state that it was done at the request of Herodias's daughter. Mark says that Herod was reluctant to execute John because he recognised John's holiness. Matthew, on the other hand, says that Herod did want to kill John but was reluctant to do so because he was afraid of the reaction of the people. In the event, as described by both Matthew and Mark, he was cornered into doing it anyway: Herodias's daughter danced before Herod when his birthday was being celebrated, and this pleased him so much that he swore on oath to give her whatever she asked. Prompted by Herodias, she asked for John's head on a platter. The name of Herodias's daughter, Salome, is not given in the gospels, but the Jewish historian Josephus in his *Antiquities*, written c. 94, says that Herodias had a daughter named Salome, who then became the step-daughter of Herod Antipas. Josephus, however, makes no reference to Salome's dance or the beheading of John.

Scenes associated with the beheading of John are common in western art. The richness of the story's detail, with its feasting, dancing, execution and presentation of the head on a platter, allowed for many different approaches and gave the artists great scope for imaginative representation.

*Joyce Hill*

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## Seacroft foodbank

All foodbanks are experiencing ever-greater demands on their resources, and these will only increase with the start of the school holidays later this month. All donations are gratefully received, but items particularly in demand are: tinned soup, tinned beans/veg, tinned spaghetti, instant mash, rice sachets, dried pasta, pasta sauce, tinned fruit, tinned custard, tinned rice pudding, long-life milk, long-life juice / squash, toilet rolls.

Donations can be left at: St Peter's Church (the collection boxes are to the left of the inner doors), the Post Box Deli or Melbourne House, 32 Main Street.

Many thanks for your help.



## The birds in your garden



The recent heatwaves are another demonstration of the seriousness of climate change, and their effect is potentially serious for all wildlife. There's not a lot we can do when the ground becomes like concrete, and the grubs move deeper down for moisture and a cooler environment, but we can help by regularly putting clean water out.

Birds don't have sweat glands; they lose water by breathing and via droppings. Insectivores get most of the water they need from their food, but many small seed-eating birds need to drink at least twice a day. Typical sources are puddles, pond or stream edges and droplets forming on leaves, often not available during droughts. A beak is not an ideal implement to drink with, though, and birds need to dip their beaks into the water and then throw their heads back to make it run into their gullets. The exceptions are pigeons/doves, which can dip their beaks and drink continuously.

Drinking is not the only reason birds need water. It's important for their general hygiene, used for feather maintenance, as it loosens dirt, making it easier to remove by subsequent preening. Once in the water, the bird fluffs its feathers to expose its skin, rolls back and forth whilst dipping its head into the water, and creates a shower by flicking its wings. When finished, it shakes off the excess water and chooses somewhere to dry and preen. Even a fair-sized birdbath soon gets emptied, and some birds will splash around for several minutes.

During preening a bird gently strokes or nibbles along the barbs of each feather, starting at the quill and working towards the tip, so that they are properly arranged. Most have an oil-secreting gland, the preen gland (or uropygial gland), underneath their tail. The bird rubs its bill against the gland and then spreads the oil over the surface of its feathers, keeping them flexible and aiding waterproofing, whilst also reducing bacterial and fungal numbers.

All these comings and goings bring a fair bit of dirt into the bath, and many birds (especially pigeons!) poo into or next to the bath too. Consequently, regular cleaning and topping up will be needed. Give the bath a good scrub with a stiff brush, using detergent if needs be, followed by a thorough rinse with clean water. Occasional disinfection is also important, preferably using a product designed for use with birds, but ordinary bleach will do, again rinse thoroughly afterwards and refill. Tap water is perfectly OK.

So far as a bath is concerned, aesthetics is a people concern; birds are not fussy. What they do need is a vessel with sloping sides to give easy access and a choice of depth, no more than 5.0 cm (2 inches) deep. If you don't want to buy one, larger plant saucers, dustbin lids and so forth will do the job. If the birdbath is at ground level and has a significant rim, a ramp to allow small animals to escape is essential, or you could raise it off the ground using bricks or stones. A stone placed in the middle will make a handy perch that is easy to remove for cleaning. Shiny plastic vessels are not ideal, as birds cannot get a firm footing.

Positioning is important; a clear 360-degree view and some nearby cover are essential, both to escape marauding predators and to perch for preening. Think about cats too; if the bath is low down, make sure there are no nearby hiding places. If it is too close to the house, movement indoors could also scare birds away. Should you live in a flat or have no garden, try a (securely) suspended bath away from the windows – heavy enough not to sway in a breeze, and securely fixed to avoid endangering anyone below.

**Mike Gray**

## Services etc in August

### AUGUST

<b>Sun</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.15am	Holy communion; duty warden: Anne Wroe
Tues	<b>5</b>		2.00pm	Julian contemplative prayer meeting
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.15am	Morning worship; duty warden: Paul Oldfield
<b>Sun</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Ninth Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.15am	Holy communion; duty warden: Elisabeth Stephens
Tues	<b>19</b>		2.00pm	Julian contemplative prayer meeting
<b>Sun</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Tenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.15am	Morning worship; duty warden, Jill Walmsley
Sat	30		3.00pm	Village Treasure Hunt & Vicarage Open Garden/House
<b>Sun</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</b>	10.00am	Benefice communion, Thorner; duty warden: Anne Wroe

*Note change of dates of Julian meetings in August from the original schedule.*

### SEPTEMBER

Tues	2		10.00am	Holy communion
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.15am	Holy communion; duty warden: Simon Belcher
			2.00pm	Thorner Village Show, Victory Hall

## Rotas for August & September

		READERS	INTERCESSIONS
<b>August 3</b>	Glynis Webster	Dawn Scargill	Neil Howes
<b>August 10</b>	Anne Wroe	Gloria Brereton	tbc
<b>August 17</b>	Roger Kaye	David Williams	Sarah Meredith
<b>August 24</b>	Peter Mills	Pamela Knight	Jon Graham
<b>August 31</b>	David Williams	Gillian Loveridge	tbc
<b>Sept 7</b>	Anne Stokoe	Peter Wilby	Neil Howes
<b>Sept 14</b>		All Age worship	
<b>Sept 21</b>	Paul Swain	Lizzie Waddington	Sarah Meredith
<b>Sept 28</b>	Simon Belcher	Elisabeth Stephens	Jon Graham
SERVERS			
<b>August 3</b>	Jill Walmsley	<b>Sept 7</b>	Jacob Graham
<b>August 17</b>	Sarah Meredith	<b>Sept 21</b>	Shane Hayward-Giles
<b>August 31</b>	Frances Ellerby		
SIDESPEOPLE			
<b>August</b>	Sue Elliott, David Williams		
<b>Sept 7</b>	Anne Wroe, David Strachan	<b>Sept 21</b>	David Williams, Anne Wroe
<b>Sept 14</b>	Ann Stokoe, Glynis Webster	<b>Sept 28</b>	Sue Elliott, Pamela Knight

An online service is livestreamed on the Elmete Trinity Benefice YouTube channel most Sundays. Please email [elmettrinitypa@gmail.com](mailto:elmettrinitypa@gmail.com) if you'd like to receive notifications of these links and other benefice notices.

## Contacts @ St Peter's Church

<b>St Peter's online</b>	<a href="http://www.thornerchurch.org.uk">www.thornerchurch.org.uk</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/thornerchurch/">www.facebook.com/thornerchurch/</a>	
<b>Rector</b>	Revd Jonathan Brennan	0113 289 2437 / <a href="mailto:rector@elmetetrinity.org">rector@elmetetrinity.org</a>
<b>Rector's PA</b>	vacant	<a href="mailto:admin@elmetetrinity.org">admin@elmetetrinity.org</a>
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Simon Belcher	<a href="mailto:sjb@redcroft.co.uk">sjb@redcroft.co.uk</a> / 07973 392296
	Paul Oldfield	<a href="mailto:pauloldfield@hotmail.co.uk">pauloldfield@hotmail.co.uk</a> / 0113 289 3210
<b>Secretary of the PCC</b>	Diane Brennan	<a href="mailto:thornerpccsec@gmail.com">thornerpccsec@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer of the PCC</b>	Jonathan Graham	0113 289 3324
<b>Church choir</b>	<i>Practice: Thursday, 7.30pm, in church</i>	
	Bridget Lindley	0113 289 2313
<b>Bellringers</b>	<i>Practice: Friday, 6.30pm, in tower</i>	
<b>Master of the Ringers</b>	Michael Brereton	0113 289 2458
<b>Stewardship Recorder</b>	Julian Levick	0113 289 2461
<b>Gift Aid Secretary</b>	Anne Wroe	0113 273 2969
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Gillian Loveridge	<a href="mailto:gloveridge38@gmail.com">gloveridge38@gmail.com</a> / 07928 524485
<b>Sunday School/All Age</b>	Susan Graham	0113 289 3324
<b>Baptism arrangements</b>	Revd Jonathan Brennan	0113 289 2437
<b>Wedding arrangements</b>	Ann Stokoe	0113 289 2217
<b>Home communions</b>	Revd Jonathan Brennan	0113 289 2437
<b>PCC sub-committee contacts:</b>		
Estates	Jon Waddington	0113 289 3492
Governance	Paul Oldfield	0113 289 3210
Mission & Ministry	Revd Jonathan Brennan	0113 289 2437
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Beckie Briggs	0113 264 1840 / <a href="mailto:beckie@the-briggs.co.uk">beckie@the-briggs.co.uk</a>
<b>Parish magazine</b>	Hilary Marsden	<a href="mailto:parishmag@thornerchurch.org.uk">parishmag@thornerchurch.org.uk</a>

## Local amenities & groups

<b>GP practice</b> , Church View Surgery, School Lane, Collingham	<a href="mailto:churchview.surgery@nhs.net">churchview.surgery@nhs.net</a>
<i>Appointments</i>	<a href="http://www.collinghamssurgery.co.uk">www.collinghamssurgery.co.uk</a>
<i>Open Mon–Fri, 8am–6.30pm</i>	01937 222841
<b>Thorner surgery</b> , Main Street, Thorner	
<i>Open Monday–Friday, 8.20am–12.30pm</i>	0113 887 3322
<b>Police:</b> Wetherby Police: general number	0113 285 5360
Pressing but non-emergency matters	101

## Thorner

<b>Thorner Facebook page</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/thorner">www.facebook.com/groups/thorner</a>
<b>Thorner village website</b>	<a href="http://www.thornervillage.org.uk">www.thornervillage.org.uk</a>
<b>ThornerCares</b>	0113 880 5255 / <a href="http://www.thornercares.co.uk">www.thornercares.co.uk</a>
<b>Thorner Church of England Primary School</b> , School Office, Kirkhills, LS14 3JD	0113 289 2541
Head: Gemma Whawell	
<b>Thorner Parish Council</b>	2nd Tuesday of month      The Bungalow, Main Street
Chairman: Alistair Scott	<a href="mailto:cllr.a.scott@thorner-parish-council.org.uk">cllr.a.scott@thorner-parish-council.org.uk</a>
Clerk: Barry Riley	0113 264 0865 / <a href="mailto:thornerparishcouncil@gmail.com">thornerparishcouncil@gmail.com</a>



## Village amenities

<b>Book Exchange</b>	Saturday 10am–12 noon	The Bungalow, Main Street
<b>Mobile fishmonger</b>	Thursday mornings	Main Street, near Bungalow
<b>Post Box Deli</b>	Tues–Fri 8am–3pm, Sat 9am–2pm	Main Street
<b>Post Office services</b>	Thursday 10am–12 noon	The Bungalow, Main Street
<b>Rooney's fruit and veg stall</b>	Thursdays, all day	The Bungalow, Main Street

## Village groups

<b>Mums &amp; Tots Group</b>	Thur 9.30–11.30am in term time, Parish Centre	
Contact Ella Cairns		<a href="mailto:ella_sykes@hotmail.co.uk">ella_sykes@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Beavers</b> (age 6–8)	Wed 6.00–7.00pm, Parish Centre	<a href="mailto:info@TASscouts.org.uk">info@TASscouts.org.uk</a>
<b>Cubs</b> (age 8–10)	Mon 6.30–8.00pm, Thorner School	<a href="mailto:info@TASscouts.org.uk">info@TASscouts.org.uk</a>
<b>Scouts</b> (age 10–14)	Wed 7.15–9.00pm, Parish Centre	<a href="mailto:info@TASscouts.org.uk">info@TASscouts.org.uk</a>
<b>Youth Club</b> (age 8–13)	Tues 6.30–8pm in term time, Parish Centre	
Contact Belinda Swift		0113 289 2946
<b>Over 60s Association</b>	Bev Cussans	07916 481897
<b>Probus Club</b>	Steven Wood	0113 289 3121
<b>Royal British Legion</b>	Paul Oldfield (Secretary)	0113 289 3210
<b>Art Group</b>	Ada Percy	01937 572941
<b>Boule and Community Facility</b>		contact Parish Council
<b>Bowling Club</b>	Howard Broadbent	07857 603168
<b>Community Choir</b>	Pat Smith	0113 289 2205
<b>Community Fund</b>		<a href="mailto:thornercommunityfund@gmail.com">thornercommunityfund@gmail.com</a>
<b>Cricket Club</b>	Alastair Foster	0113 289 2566
<b>Film Club</b>	Val Forster	0113 289 2758
<b>Historical Society</b>	Graham Castle	0113 289 6922
<b>Table Tennis &amp; Badminton Club</b>	Ros Ramsey	0113 289 2733
<b>Tennis Club</b>	Adrian Joyce	0113 289 3499
<b>Thorner Old School Charity</b>		<a href="mailto:eleanor_courtman_stock@hotmail.com">eleanor_courtman_stock@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Thorner Village Show committee</b>	Kate James	<a href="mailto:thornervillageshow@outlook.com">thornervillageshow@outlook.com</a>
<b>Walking Group</b>	Wendy Miller	07905 501145

## Scarcroft

<b>Scarcroft village website</b>		<a href="http://www.scarcroft.org">www.scarcroft.org</a>
<b>Scarcroft Parish Council</b>		
Chair: Breeda Murray		07549 526186
Clerk: Becky Crabtree		<a href="mailto:clerk@scarcroftparishcouncil.org">clerk@scarcroftparishcouncil.org</a>
<b>Women's Institute</b>	2nd Thurs of each month, 7.15pm, Scarcroft Village Hall	
Contact Diane Eshelby		0113 289 2155
<b>Bardsey Voluntary Carers</b> <i>Lifts, prescription collections, etc</i>		
Contact Pauline Hills		01937 573083

## Hospitality etc

The Fox	<a href="mailto:thefoxthorner@gmail.com">thefoxthorner@gmail.com</a> / 0113 289 2000
The Inn at Scarcroft	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/TheInnatScarcroft">www.facebook.com/TheInnatScarcroft</a> / 0113 289 2748
Mexborough Arms	0113 469 9399
Post Box Deli and Tearoom	<a href="http://www.thepostboxdeli.co.uk">www.thepostboxdeli.co.uk</a> / 0113 289 3888

## Venues for hire

Scarcroft Village Hall: bookings

[vhbookings@scarcroft.org](mailto:vhbookings@scarcroft.org)

Thorner Parish Centre: bookings

07808 330467/ [www.parishcentre.org.uk](http://www.parishcentre.org.uk)

Thorner Victory Hall: Jenni Orange

07368 318891/ [www.thornervictoryhall.co.uk](http://www.thornervictoryhall.co.uk)

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The **deadline** for contributions to the **September** magazine is **Friday 22 August**. Please send contributions to the Editor ([parishmag@thornerchurch.org.uk](mailto:parishmag@thornerchurch.org.uk)) by the deadline; contributions are accepted at the Editor's discretion and may be edited.

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