

Parish magazine of St Peter's, Thorner with Scarcroft



September
2025

New starts

September always feels like a threshold month, doesn't it? Even if our schooldays are long behind us, there's something about the smell of new exercise books, the sight of fresh uniforms and the return of routine after summer that gives the air a sense of beginning again. Schools, colleges and universities fling wide their doors, and thousands of young people find themselves facing both the excitement and the nerves of a new start.

The Bible is full of "new starts". From the very first pages of Genesis, we hear of a God who speaks creation into being and calls it good. Later, when Israel wandered and stumbled, God did not abandon them but renewed covenant after covenant, promising to make all things new. The prophet Isaiah gives us that glorious word: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"* (Isaiah 43.19).

And at the heart of our faith is the most astonishing new beginning of all – the resurrection of Jesus. Out of despair came hope; out of the tomb came life; out of endings came a new creation. As Paul writes to the Corinthians: *"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the old has gone, the new is here!"* (2 Corinthians 5.17).

So September, with its timetables and sharpened pencils, offers us a reminder that God is always the God of fresh starts. That doesn't mean it's easy. New beginnings often bring uncertainty. The first day at school, the first lecture at university or even the first meeting in a new workplace can make us feel rather small. Yet scripture reassures us: we are never alone. Jesus promised, "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Perhaps this September is a new beginning for you – not necessarily in a classroom, but maybe in the shape of a new challenge, a shift in circumstances or simply a renewed desire to walk more closely with God. Whatever lies ahead, we can step into it trusting that the God who raised Jesus from the dead is also at work in us, breathing life into old bones, making paths through the wilderness and offering new mercies every morning.

So let's pray for all those starting school, college or university this month – and let's also remember that each day, for each of us, can be a holy new start with God.

Rev'd Jonathan Brennan

The midweek services at 10am on Tuesday mornings resume on **Tuesday 2nd September**.

The Sunday School will start to meet again on **Sunday 5th October**.

From the registers

Interment of ashes

August 26 Barry and Carol Clarkson



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 or on 0113 289 2437.

Ordering Poppy Appeal wreaths etc

This year the Poppy Appeal commences on Thursday 23rd October running through to the end of the following week.

For those of you wishing to order wreaths, I need to have these ordered by **1st September**, so please may I request that you let me know before then if you wish to order a wreath and which centre badge you require. You can email me at jasonfalk@hotmail.com or phone me on 07538025858. Alternatively you can speak to David Fryer or Paul Oldfield and they will pass on the information to me.

This year we have been given the opportunity to collect donations at Sainsburys in Moor Allerton. We will be able to have a table inside the store to collect donations but I need volunteers to help. If you feel you are able to give an hour or so of your time (or preferably more) during week commencing 27th October, please let me know so that I can produce a rota that suits everyone's availability.

Many thanks in advance.

Jason Falk

Poppy Appeal Organiser

Thorner Village Show

**Sunday 7 September
2pm**

Only a few days to go before the 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 September 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



Thorner Over 60s Association

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: Thorner Bungalow

Date: 26th September 2025

Time: 10:30am to 12:30pm

Contact: thornerbungalow@gmail.com



On **Friday 26 September**, the Over 60s will be hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning at The Bungalow from 10.30am–12.30pm. It's open to everyone and we want to raise as much money as we can. There will be delicious home-made cakes and tea and coffee on the day, and we will drawing the raffle – tickets are on sale now. Our first Macmillan event last year was an amazing success and we'd love to repeat this.

Donations from thousands of coffee mornings, big and small, help rise vital funds for Macmillan to support the almost 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer, from the moment they are diagnosed, throughout treatment and beyond. This might be by accessing Macmillan's information and support resources, help with managing bills, giving emotional support or through the work of Macmillan nurses, support workers and palliative care nurses.

The Bungalow is available for small celebrations, meetings and other events in return for a donation. If you'd like to make a booking, please email thornerbungalow@gmail.com

Have you thought of trying Chair Yoga? We have a session every Tuesday afternoon at The Bungalow at 2pm. Chair yoga offers numerous benefits for older people, including improved flexibility, strength, balance and posture. It also helps reduce stress and anxiety, enhances circulation and promotes better sleep. It's a low-impact exercise that's good for people with limited mobility and those recovering from injuries. Plus it's a lot of fun and can help prevent falls.

On **Monday 10 November**, also at 2 pm, there is a talk at The Bungalow called 'Planning for Wills, Trusts and Lasting Powers of Attorney'. Everyone is welcome.

Wendy Miller
Secretary

Thorner Community Choir

The group will recommence weekly sessions each Monday at Thorner Parish Centre, starting on **15th September** from 7pm to 8.30 pm. We offer an informal approach ('having a good sing'), singing for relaxation. Members are encouraged to suggest pieces they'd like and our professional tutor Tommie James prepares harmonies to match our abilities. There's a wide repertoire, and nothing too serious or demanding. There are no auditions.

Come along and try a first evening for free; thereafter a modest subscription of £20 every five weeks helps us cover costs.

For more information, contact Pat Smith on pat.smith235@btinternet.com or 0113 289 2205.

Art & Craft Sale

Saturday 27th September 1pm ~ 4pm
Thorner Parish Centre,
Church View, Thorner, LS14 3ED



REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

FREE
ADMISSION

**Art Work, Handmade Jewellery,
Knitted & Crochet Items, Baking & Preserves
Homemade Greeting Cards, Raffle**

**For further
details contact
Ann Stokoe
07762 175053**

Raising Funds for
**Yorkshire Cancer
Research**



Barwick Monday Fellowship

Fellowship meetings restart on **Monday 8 September**, at 2.15pm. The speaker will be Denise Adlard with a presentation on how Patrick and Maria Bronte met and the social conditions of the time. Admission is £3, which includes light refreshments. All are welcome.

The Blessed Virgin Mary

On 8 September the Church of England celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It's been part of the Church's liturgical year since the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, when some of the feast-days of the pre-Reformation church that had been axed were added back into the Church of England's annual cycle of celebrations. Archbishop Cranmer, when he drew up the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, had cut out most of the feast-days that had by then proliferated in the Roman church. For him, this drastic reduction in feast-days was a powerful demonstration that worship in the Church of England was to be radically different from that of Rome. But the Book of Common Prayer as revised in 1662, in a rather different social and religious context, backtracked on that to some extent. Further feasts, festivals and commemorations have been added since, as we can see in *Common Worship*.

In restoring the celebration of the birth of Mary on 8 September, the 1662 Book of Common Prayer was reinstating a tradition that went back a long way. It seems to have begun somewhere in Palestine or Syria early in the sixth century, where there was a strong Marian cult, with many aspects of her life being celebrated in the liturgy. We don't know precisely how the feast of her birth on 8 September spread to the western church, but Pope Sergius I (AD 687–701), who was originally from Syria, was a key figure in promoting Mary's popularity. Papal records note that he produced special prayers for her feasts, although there is no indication that he introduced the feast-days themselves, so we should probably infer that these feast-days were already known in the western church by then. Certainly as Christianity spread in western Europe, the feasts of Mary, including the feast of her birth on 8 September, were well embedded in the standard liturgy. We can see this, for example, from surviving Anglo-Saxon church calendars.

The bible tells us nothing about Mary's life before the Annunciation: all traditions about her, including the name of her parents, come from apocryphal gospels, the earliest and most influential of these, in Mary's case, being the *Protoevangelium of James*, which dates from the latter part of the second century. This – by contrast with many apocryphal gospels from later centuries – is quite a short and sober narrative. It is this text that names Mary's parents as Anna and Joachim, and it describes how Anna, who was barren, gave birth to Mary after she had been visited by an angel who declared, 'The Lord has heard your prayer. You shall conceive and bear. And your offspring shall be spoken of in the whole world'. It's immediately obvious that the story is modelled on the birth narratives in Luke. Anna's name might similarly come from Luke: Anna in the Temple at the Presentation. And since the Hebrew form of Anna is Hannah, another source might be the Old Testament story of Hannah, who was barren before she finally gave birth to Samuel.

The *Protoevangelium* and later apocryphal narratives met a demand for human stories about Jesus's family life. For us the feast-day of the birth of Mary no longer reflects that imaginative interest, but is a date when we can give particular thought to Mary's part in the Incarnation and Redemption.

Joyce Hill



The birds in your garden



At this time of year, I'm often asked why gardens are suddenly empty. From the hustle and bustle and the regular need to top up feeders, to the strange lack of movement in the shrubbery. So where have all the birds gone? As always with bird behaviour there are several reasons.

First, they can't all stay close by – there just isn't enough room, or food. As with most species, not just birds, parents will be encouraging their young to find their own territories and set up home in another area.

Secondly, the end of the breeding season means that males no longer need to attract a mate or defend a territory, so they don't need to sing anymore. That Blackbird sitting at the top of the tree outside your bedroom window at 3am every morning no longer has a reason to waste energy by singing his head off, though a few still do! Once breeding finishes, most birds go their separate ways and, with the exception of species which continue to hold territories, such as Robins and Wrens, songs fall silent.

Thirdly, as birds get towards the end of the breeding season, a lot of garden regulars will enter the moult. This is the time of year when many birds lose their feathers, worn out by incessant dashing about feeding young, and replace them with new ones. Many juvenile birds will also lose their first plumage, ready to emerge as adults. The energy cost of growing a new set of feathers is high, and losing a primary wing feather or two can really make a difference when trying to evade a predator. For this reason, a lot of the birds will lay low, skulking in bushes and hiding in hedges. This is particularly noticeable with Blackbirds, which otherwise seem to be around most of the year.

About half of UK species are migratory, either in the winter or summer, so many will start to head back to their long-term homes in August, too. This includes birds which we have been sharing spaces with, such as Swifts. Swallows and House Martins will stay around until September or October.

There's a chance that birds can disappear from your garden because a predator has moved into the vicinity. A Sparrowhawk may have taken up residence nearby, or a cat may have arrived in the neighbourhood. Birds need to feel safe, so if they think that they will be attacked in your garden they will move away.

Possibly the most important reason for the lack of birds during the summer months, though, is that they simply don't need your garden at this time of year. There is an abundance of berries and seeds in the countryside in the autumn, which provide them with nutrients. Lots of garden birds will head into the countryside to fill up on these widely available calorific treats. House Sparrows, Starlings and many finches like to feed on grain spilt after the harvest, so if you're near farmland, they're likely to be out feasting in the fields. When this annual abundance runs out, usually as November approaches, 'your' birds will be back!

If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (www.bto.org/gbw). If you know of an organisation no more than 30 miles from York which would like a talk on garden birds, contact me on gbwmike@gmail.com.

Mike Gray

Services etc in September

SEPTEMBER

Tues	2	10.00am	Holy communion
Sun	7	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	
		9.15am	Holy communion; duty warden: Simon Belcher
		2.00pm	Thorner Village Show, Victory Hall
Tues	9	10.00am	Holy communion
			Julian contemplative prayer meeting
Sun	14	13th Sunday after Trinity	
		9.15am	All age worship; duty warden: Paul Oldfield
Tues	16	10.00am	Holy communion
Sun	21	14th Sunday after Trinity	
		9.15am	Holy communion; duty warden: Elisabeth Stephens
Tues	23	10.00am	Holy communion
		2.00pm	Julian contemplative prayer meeting
Sun	28	15th Sunday after Trinity	
		9.15am	Morning worship; duty warden, Jill Walmsley
		6.30pm	Taizé service, All Saints', Barwick
Tues	30	10.00am	Holy communion

OCTOBER

Sun	5	16th Sunday after Trinity	
		9.15am	Holy communion; duty warden: Anne Wroe
		9.15am	Sunday school, Parish Centre

Rotas for September & October

		READERS	INTERCESSIONS
Sept 7	Ann Stokoe	Peter Wilby	Neil Howes
Sept 14		All Age worship	
Sept 21	Paul Swain	Lizzie Waddington	Sarah Meredith
Sept 28	Simon Belcher	Elisabeth Stephens	Jon Graham
Oct 5	Gillian Loveridge	Paul Oldfield	Neil Howes
Oct 12		All Age worship	
Oct 19	David Williams	Paul Oldfield	Sarah Meredith
Oct 26	Michael Brereton	Gillian Loveridge	Jon Graham
SERVERS			
Sept 7	Jacob Graham	Oct 5	Jill Walmsley
Sept 21	Shane Hayward-Giles	Oct 19	Shane Hayward-Giles
SIDESPEOPLE			
Sept 7	Anne Wroe, David Strachan	Oct 5	Paul Oldfield, Bobbi Oldfield
Sept 14	Ann Stokoe, Glynis Webster	Oct 12	David Strachan, Ann Stokoe
Sept 21	David Williams, Anne Wroe	Oct 19	Ann Wroe, David Williams
Sept 28	Sue Elliott, Pamela Knight	Oct 26	Pamela Knight, Glynis Webster

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

Contacts @ St Peter's Church

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

Local amenities & groups

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

Thorner

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

Village amenities

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

Village groups

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

Scarcroft

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

Hospitality etc

The Fox	thefoxthorner@gmail.com / 0113 289 2000
The Inn at Scarcroft	www.facebook.com/TheInnatScarcroft / 0113 289 2748
Mexborough Arms	0113 469 9399
Post Box Deli and Tearoom	www.thepostboxdeli.co.uk / 0113 289 3888

Venues for hire

Scarcroft Village Hall: bookings

vhbookings@scarcroft.org

Thorner Parish Centre: bookings

07808 330467/ www.parishcentre.org.uk

Thorner Victory Hall: Jenni Orange

07368 318891/ www.thornervictoryhall.co.uk

The **deadline** for contributions to the **October** magazine is **Friday 19 September**. Please send contributions to the Editor (parishmag@thornerchurch.org.uk) by the deadline; contributions are accepted at the Editor's discretion and may be edited.

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