

Parish magazine of St Peter's, Thorner with Scarcroft



November
2025

Remembering, giving thanks and seeking peace

Every November, as the leaves begin to fall and the nights start drawing in, we gather in churches and at war memorials to remember. The mournful notes of the Last Post hang in the cold air as wreaths are laid and silence falls. It is one of the few moments in our busy, noisy world when we are collectively still. And in that silence, we hold together memory, gratitude and hope.

Remembrance Sunday is, of course, about recalling those who gave their lives in war. We remember their courage, their sacrifice, their love of country and their longing for peace. But remembrance is not the same as nostalgia. It's not about glorifying war, nor wishing ourselves back to a so-called "simpler time". True remembrance is about facing the truth – the cost of human conflict – and choosing to build a better world in its light.

When we remember, we give thanks not only for those who served, but also for the freedoms we now enjoy, the relationships restored after great loss, and the everyday peace we so easily take for granted. Gratitude has a way of softening the heart. It turns remembrance from sorrow alone into something transformative. When we give thanks, we see the goodness that continues to grow from seeds of sacrifice.

And then comes peace. Not just the absence of war, but the deep peace that Christ offers and the kind that seeps into anxious hearts and divided communities alike. "Blessed are the peacemakers," Jesus said, "for they will be called children of God." That's an invitation, not just a description. Peace doesn't happen by accident; it's made – crafted through forgiveness, patience and acts of quiet kindness.

This November, perhaps we can each do something small but deliberate for peace. Write that letter of reconciliation. Speak gently in a tense conversation. Pray for a world torn by conflict. Or simply pause, in silence or in prayer, to remember that peace begins in the human heart.

As we stand before our war memorials or sit in church, may we do more than look back. May we look forward, resolved to be people of remembrance, thanksgiving and peace. Because, in the end, remembrance isn't only about what has been, but about what we choose to become.

Revd Jonathan Brennan

The collection at the Harvest Evensong service and the Harvest Supper raised £300 in cash for the Seacroft foodbank as well as many bags of food. Thank you to everyone who donated, whether cash or food etc.

From the registers

Funeral

Oct 1 Susan Ewbank

The ashes of Gwen Auty will be interred in St Peter's churchyard on November 7th at 11am.



Sunday 9 November

The timetable for the Remembrance Sunday observances is:

9.45am Those taking part in the parade should gather at the ford.

10.00am The parade along Main Street will begin.

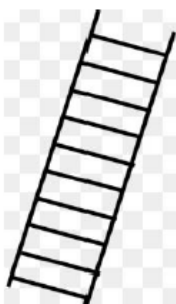
10.10am The service at St Peter's church will begin.

11.00am The two-minute silence and the laying of wreaths at the war memorial.

Anyone who wishes to attend the service in St Peter's church but is not taking part in the parade is asked to be seated in church by 10am.

Please note the change of date!

Games Morning



Tuesday 28 October

10am – 12 noon

Thorner Parish Centre

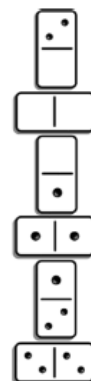
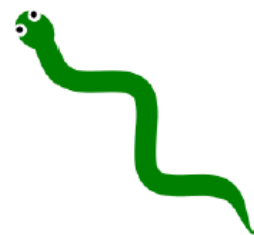
Come and play board games
with family and friends

Chess, Dominoes, Lotto
Scrabble, Snakes & Ladders, etc
or bring your own favourites

£1 each

includes refreshments
(tea, coffee, squash, biscuits)

S, C, R, A, B, B, L, E



Charity Christmas Card Sale

Sunday 16 November

10am – 12 noon

Thorner Parish Centre



Candlelighters,
Friends of African Nursing
Martin House, Oxfam, RNLI

Refreshments (£1)

Thorner Over 60s Association

On **Thursday 6 November** there is an Open Coffee Morning at The Bungalow with free tea and coffee and parkin. It's a chance to find out what's on offer at the Over 60s, from coffee mornings to outings, a lunch club, discussion group and Spanish classes – plus much more. If you're already a member, please encourage your friends and neighbours to come along.

Do you know what an LPA is and why it's important to update your will and what are trusts? On **Monday 10 November** at 2pm there is a talk by Sarah McGovern, a senior associate from Leeds firm Clarion Solicitors. She regularly talks to community groups to explain the ins and outs of this and also speaks on inheritance tax. The talk is called 'Planning for the Future; Wills, Trusts and Powers of Attorney'. Afterwards there will be tea and coffee, and there's an opportunity for questions.

We now have a host of solar panels which have been installed on the rear roof of The Bungalow. This will help our electricity bills, reduce our carbon emissions and feed electricity into the National Grid. Many thanks to Thorner Community Fund for funding this project and to the Victory Hall for their help and guidance, plus the support of the Thorner Net Zero Partnership.

Our second Macmillan Coffee Morning at The Bungalow was a real success. A total of £550 has been sent to Macmillan – a fabulous result. Thank you to everyone for your support, including our fantastic bakers.

There are a couple of things happening at the Over 60s early in December. The Christmas lights are being switched on at Millennium Green at 4.30pm on **Saturday 6 December**. Afterwards there will be mulled wine, mince pies and hot chocolate at The Bungalow.

Andrew Morton Rooney is holding a wreath-making workshop at The Bungalow on **Monday 8 December** at 2pm. All materials are supplied and there will be refreshments. This event is open to anyone. Look out for more details later in November.

Wendy Miller
Secretary

Parish Centre Christmas Fair

Saturday 6 December

12 noon–3pm

Thorner Parish Centre

Stalls will include a tombola, cake stall, gifts, jewellery and knitting, and more. Light lunches, tea and coffee available. Please bring cash if possible; a card machine might be available if the signal is on our side!

Donations for the tombola would be much appreciated.

Anne Wroe

Christmas greetings



Want to send a Christmas greeting to village friends without sending cards? There will be a special section in the December Parish Magazine just for you.

If you would like to take advantage of the spot in the magazine, you will need to:

- print your name and place it in a sealed envelope together with £5 (or more if you wish)
- place the envelope in the special box at the Post Box Deli or put it through the letterbox at East View, 2 Stead Lane

by Saturday 22 November

Your money will go to the church fabric fund and church charities.

Barwick Monday Fellowship

Monday 10 November, 2.15pm

All Saints', Barwick-in-Elmet

At the Fellowship's November meeting, royal chef Colin Alderson will be talking about Christmas at Sandringham. Admission is £3, which includes light refreshments. Do come along to an interesting and enjoyable afternoon. All are welcome.

Linton Antique Society

Thursday 13 November, 8pm

Linton Memorial Hall

Every year on 5th November we celebrate the failure of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 with bonfires and fireworks. But what really happened? At November's meeting, Tony Morgan, Associate Professor at the University of Leeds, will discuss Guy Fawkes's background in Tudor York, the history behind the Gunpowder Plot and the myriad of Yorkshire connections.

Membership of the Society is £30, individual, and £55, joint. This gives access to all the talks during the season. You can also attend as a guest for £10, which will be refunded if you decide to join on the night. The Membership Secretary can be contacted on 07760 435070.



Wetherby Choral Society

Saturday 22 November, 7.30pm

St James' Church, Wetherby

The Society's first concert under new musical director Charlie Murray is Haydn's depiction of the Creation.

Tickets £20 (under 18s free) from:

- online at wetherbychoral.org.uk
- from the Ticket Manager at 07443 466254 or tickets@wetherbychoral.org.uk
- from Nicolla Florist, 1 Bank Street, Wetherby LS22 6NQ (01937 585233) – cash or cheque only; no cards
- or from members of the Society
- at the door on the day – cards accepted.

(Admission is free for under-18s)

Seacroft foodbank – Christmas 2025

As in previous years, the parish larder/foodbank at St Richard's church in Seacroft will be giving out a 'special' Christmas bag in addition to the usual provisions. These are always so gratefully received, and the foodbank tries to include some items people would not usually be able to afford.

The items the foodbank is aiming to include in the Christmas bags include:

- tinned ham (large size 300g–400g)
- some very nice / luxury biscuits
- mince pies
- evaporated or condensed milk tins
- tinned fruit
- fresh cheese and cheese biscuits
- a small Christmas cake / fruit cake / pudding (if affordable)
- vegetables (fresh or tinned)
- small selection boxes
- satsumas

The Elmete Trinity Benefice has agreed to concentrate on getting sufficient tins of ham for the bags ... so would be very grateful for any you can donate. But donations, financial or of any of the items on this list, would be very gratefully received. The foodbank will do a bulk discount shop as well to be able to supplement and cover all the items if it can.

Please drop off any donations by the **first week in December**, after which the foodbank will be making up the bags. The village drop off points are:

- St Peter's Church
 - Post Box Deli
 - 32 Main Street.
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SCARCROFT PARISH COUNCIL
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INN, INVITES YOU TO
**Christmas Tree Light Switch-On
& Carols on The Green**

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025 FROM 7PM

JOIN US FOR A MAGICAL EVENING OF FESTIVE CHEER WITH A
COMMUNITY SING-ALONG, LED BY THE BRILLIANT KIPPAX BRASS
BAND, BY THE CHRISTMAS TREE OUTSIDE THE INN

SING YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND STAY AFTERWARDS
TO ENJOY WARM MULLED WINE, MINCE PIES, AND LIVE MUSIC INSIDE
THE INN ONCE THE BAND FINISHES



IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER, THE BAND WILL PERFORM INSIDE

Leo the Great

When the present Pope was elected in May this year, he took the name of Leo, referencing Pope Leo XIII (1873–1903), who was a notable social reformer at a time of great change. But an earlier Pope Leo, who is celebrated as a Doctor of the Church, is regarded as a pivotal figure in papal history. This is Pope Leo the Great (Leo I), who was pope 440–461, one of only three popes to have the title of ‘the Great’. (The other two being Gregory the Great (590–604) and Nicholas the Great (858–867)). The year in which there is a new Pope Leo seems a good time to write about Leo I, whose feast-day is on November 10th. This earlier Leo, a native of Tuscany, was born at a time when Roman imperial power in the West was in decline, and it was also a time of intense theological debate about the nature of Christ incarnate: the Council of Nicaea in 325 had not put the question to rest! Leo, clearly a man of many interests and abilities, rose to all these challenges.

Leo, when an archdeacon, was involved in an embassy to settle a dispute with the leaders of the breakaway power in Gaul at the request of the Emperor Valentinian III, which shows that he was already trusted by the imperial court. During his absence, Pope Sixtus II died, and Leo was unanimously elected in his place. As imperial power leached away from the West, Leo continued to be drawn into leadership roles in wider society. On one occasion he famously parlayed with Attila the Hun, who had invaded Italy, attacked some major cities, and was threatening Rome. Attila’s withdrawal following the negotiations was seen as a triumph for Leo and it boosted his standing, although modern historians recognise that many complex factors influenced Attila’s decision. Shortly after, in 455, Rome was sacked by the Vandals. Leo, along with other clergy, had met with the Vandal leader to implore him not to enter the city, but although that plea failed, it does seem that Leo prevented the city from being burned and ensured that those sheltering in the three great basilicas of Saints Peter, Paul and John were spared. He also assisted in the rebuilding and repair of the city.

Leo’s claim to the title ‘Great’ depends, however, on two main aspects of his career: his determined promotion of the orthodox understanding that Christ’s nature was indivisibly and wholly both human and divine, in the face of many contemporary heresies that took different positions; and his systematic promotion of the papacy itself. He was one of the first bishops of Rome to claim primacy through succession from the apostle Peter, and it was during his reign that the title of Pope, previously used for any bishop, came to be reserved for the Bishop of Rome. It was also during his papacy that the term ‘Patriarch of the West’ was first used, in a letter to Leo from the Emperor Theodosius II.

All Leo’s writing are sermons and letters. They are not lengthy or profound, but they are clear, forceful and consistent in the way that they address the issues of the day. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1754 by Pope Benedict XIV. A later Benedict, Pope Benedict XVI, described his papacy as ‘undoubtedly one of the most important in the Church’s history’.

Joyce Hill



The birds in your garden



An article on Nuthatches in BTO's Garden BirdWatch newsletter attracted my attention recently. Apparently, their presence in our gardens is at its highest level for twenty years, their numbers having more than doubled nationally in that time. I had a pair in my garden regularly until last year when, as so often happens with our favourite birds, they disappeared. I spent many happy hours watching and listening to them. I will say, though, that after an hour or two, their striking call does become a tad monotonous when all you want to do is sit and read in the garden!

Were I to sum up the Nuthatch in just three words, I would have to say 'striking', 'bold' and 'grumpy'! This is a bird full of character, a brash and often noisy interloper at the garden feeding station. Look for its black eyestripe, steel-grey upper-parts, pinky-buff underparts and dagger-like bill. The Nuthatch is a striking and unmistakeable bird. It has a distinctive mode of movement too, running down and around trees headfirst, allowing it to access insects and seeds that other birds miss hidden under the bark.

The name 'Nuthatch' comes from 'nuthack', which refers to the Nuthatch's feeding behaviour. They are known to jam nuts into crevices in the bark of a tree and then hack away at them with their bills until the shell cracks. Insectivores in the summer, they depend more on seeds, nuts and suet from bird feeders in winter. Black sunflower seeds are a particular favourite.

The Nuthatch has a patchy distribution across its range, preferring gardens close to suitable breeding habitat. This means that the chances of a Nuthatch visiting your garden will vary according to where you live, and how close you are to a patch of mature deciduous or mixed woodland. GBW results show that around a third of us see them in our gardens at some point.

Nuthatches are monogamous and maintain territories throughout the year, which is rare in small birds, providing the pair with an intimate understanding of where to find food at different times of the year, where to roost and where nesting opportunities may be found.

They constantly patrol their territories, the female usually accompanying the male as he 'does his rounds'. They maintain close contact through a series of soft, low calls. If one bird strays, the other may become even more vocal, calling out for its mate. Interestingly, the male seems to take an active role in shepherding his female around, even to the degree of driving her back into the territory should she stray too close to its boundary. He is dominant outside the breeding season, and she won't approach a bird feeder until he leaves it, but during the early part of the breeding season, when the female builds the nest, the tables are turned, and she is the dominant partner.

The nest is built by the female, usually in a cavity, the male only contributing by feeding her whilst she is laying and incubating. Mud is often used to reduce the entrance size to keep out predators. If they choose to breed in your nest box, you may find that they plaster around the entrance and between the box and its support; the lid may even be cemented shut too.

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 contact me or visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (www.bto.org/gbw). If you know of a local organisation who would like a talk on garden birds, contact me on 07596 366342 or mikegbw@btinternet.com.

Mike Gray

Services etc in November

NOVEMBER

Sun	2	Fourth Sunday before Advent / All Saints' Day
		9.15am Holy communion; duty warden, Jill Walmsley
Tues	4	10.00am Holy communion
		2.00pm Julian contemplative prayer meeting
Sun	9	Third Sunday before Advent / Remembrance Sunday
		9.45am Assembly at ford; parade begins 10am
		10.10am Remembrance Day service; duty warden: Anne Wroe
Tues	11	10.00am Holy communion
Sun	16	Second Sunday before Advent
		9.15am Holy communion; duty warden: Simon Belcher
		9.15am Sunday School, Parish Centre
Tues	18	10.00am Holy communion
		2.00pm Julian contemplative prayer meeting
Sun	23	Christ the King / Sunday next before Advent
		9.15am Morning worship; duty warden: Paul Oldfield
		9.15am Sunday School, Parish Centre
Tues	25	10.00am Holy communion
Sun	30	First Sunday of Advent
		10.00am Benefice service, All Saints', Barwick-in-Elmet
		6.30pm Taizé service, St Philip's, Scholes

DECEMBER

Tues	2	10.00am Holy communion
		2.00pm Julian contemplative prayer meeting
Sun	7	Second Sunday of Advent
		9.15am Holy communion; duty warden, Elisabeth Stephens
		9.15am Sunday School, Parish Centre

Rotas for November & December

		READERS	INTERCESSIONS
Nov 2	Bridget Lindley	Anne Marie Seymour	Neil Howes
Nov 9		10.10am Remembrance service	
Nov 16	David Williams	Penny Belcher	Sarah Meredith
Nov 23	Paul Oldfield	Ann Stokoe	Jon Graham
Nov 30		10.00am Benefice service at All Saints', Barwick	
Dec 7	Penny Belcher	Elisabeth Stephens	Neil Howes
Dec 14		All Age service	
Dec 21	Pamela Knight	Simon Belcher	Sarah Meredith
Dec 24	Anne Wroe	Peter Mills	Neil Howes
Dec 25	Sarah Meredith	Peter Wilby	Jon Graham
Dec 28	tbc	tbc	tbc
SERVERS			
Nov 2	Sarah Meredith	Dec 24	Jill Walmsley
Nov 16	Sarah Waddington	Dec 25	tbc
Dec 7	Frances Ellerby	Dec 28	tbc
Dec 21	Jacob Graham		

SIDESPEOPLE

Nov 2	Paul Oldfield, Bobbi Oldfield	Dec 14	Paul Oldfield, Bobbi Oldfield
Nov 9	Sue Elliott, David Williams	Dec 21	Ann Stokoe, Sue Elliott
Nov 16	David Strachan, Ann Stokoe	Dec 24	Glynis Webster, Ann Stokoe
Nov 23	Pamela Knight, Glynis Webster	Dec 25	Ann Stokoe, Sue Elliott
Dec 7	David Williams, David Strachan	Dec 28	tbc

An online service is livestreamed on the Elmete Trinity Benefice YouTube channel most Sundays. Please email admin@elmetetrinity.org 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	Diane Brennan	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
Appointments	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 www.scarcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk
 Chair: Breedra 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 *Lifts, prescription collections, etc*

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 **December** magazine is **Friday 21 November**. 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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