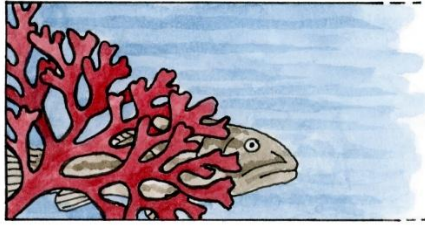


Parish magazine of St Peter's, Thorner with Scarcroft



July
2026

Harbours of Hope

As I write this, I was meant to be enjoying a rest on Holy Island after completing St Cuthbert's Way with sore feet and a head full of sky. Instead, I spent much of the week before in a hospital ward, waiting for news about my father. The walk didn't happen. The pilgrimage, as it turned out, looked nothing like the one I'd planned.

I've only just found this out, but 'Sea Sunday' falls on 12th July this year, and the Mission to Seafarers have chosen 'Harbours of Hope' as their theme. I like that phrase more than I expected to. A harbour isn't really about arrival. It's shelter along the way – somewhere safe to be before the next leg.

Seafarers know this better than most of us. Months away from home, often in conditions we never think about, carrying the goods that fill our shelves and fuel our cars. Sea Sunday asks us to remember them: to pray for the men and women who are, quite literally, out of sight, and to support the chaplains who meet them in foreign ports.

But I think it asks something of the rest of us too, whatever sea we happen to be on. Pilgrimage has always been a good image for faith, the deliberate walking towards something. That's what St Cuthbert's Way was supposed to be for me this July. Real life rarely keeps to the itinerary, though. Sometimes the path gets interrupted. You don't choose your harbour. You just wash up in one, glad of it, with no idea how long you'll need to stay.

What I found in the hospital was that the harbour turned up in other forms. A nurse who took the time to explain things properly. A friend who texted just to say he was thinking of me. The hospital chaplain, a friend of mine, turning up at just the right time. None of it was the walk I'd planned. But all of it was grace.

I'll get to Lindisfarne eventually. But this July, marking Sea Sunday, I find myself thankful for harbours – the literal ones sheltering seafarers far from home, and the unlooked-for ones that catch the rest of us when our journeys go sideways. Wherever you find yourself this summer, on the path or knocked off it, I hope there's a harbour or two along the way.

Revd Jonathan Brennan



From the registers

Funeral

June 3 Nicholas Young, aged 46

Interment of ashes

May 27 Jane Windsor Lewis

Save the date!



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, THORNER WITH SCARCROFT

STRAWBERRY

Sunday 2 August

2:00PM ~ 5:00PM

Tea

Lizzie & Jon Waddington's Garden
38 Main Street, Thorner

STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA & CAKE
ICE CREAM & PROSECCO AVAILABLE
TOMBOLA ETC

LIVE MUSIC FROM LOCAL CELEBRITIES

TICKETS: ADULT ~ £10
[ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FREE]

AVAILABLE FROM ANN STOKOE ~ 07762 175053;
DIANE ESHELBY ~ 07931 904458 OR THE VICARAGE

Proceeds in aid of St Gemma's Hospice
& St Peter's Church



Christian Aid week 2026

Thank you to all those who contributed to the collection for Christian Aid in May – the village raised £1,030 for this very worthy charity. Thank you also to all those who delivered and collected envelopes.

Thorner Over 60s Association

Our next event is a boule evening at the boule court next to The Bungalow at 7pm on **Wednesday 15 July**. Don't worry if you don't know how to play; there will be people on hand to show you. Bring your own snacks and drinks and join in.

Please put **Friday 25 September** in your diary. That's the day when we are holding a Macmillan coffee morning. We've been incredibly successful in raising funds for the charity during the past two years and we want to make this year's event just as outstanding.

Another outing planned for the autumn is a trip to Ampleforth Abbey and Cider Orchard. It's on **20 October** and costs £31.25, visiting the orchard and cider mill in the morning, then lunch at the Abbey cafe, followed by a tour of the Abbey in the afternoon. It's a full day out. As this is more expensive than our usual excursions, we need to know earlier than usual how many people are interested before making a final booking. Please get in touch by emailing thornerbungalow@gmail.com or put your name down at The Bungalow.

A retired French teacher has kindly offered to run French classes at The Bungalow on Wednesday afternoons. If this something you'd like to join, please let us know as we need to gauge interest before going ahead – email thornerbungalow@gmail.com. It's just £2 a session, to cover the heating costs.

Wendy Miller
Secretary

Summer walking festival

The local footpath network is an asset of the village and part of the village's heritage. Thorner Heritage Group proposes organising a number of walks around the village to demonstrate this and promote the work of the group in preserving and maintaining this asset.

The first walk will be on **Tuesday 7th July**. We shall assemble in the car park at the rear of The Fox (you can leave your car in the car park if you need to), ready to set off at **7pm**. We shall walk to Fishponds and Kidhirst Wood, then up towards Eltofts, and back to the village along Scarborough Walk. The walk is a little over 2 miles, and will be taken at a leisurely pace. We hope residents who do not normally walk in the countryside will join us and enjoy the experience.

It is nevertheless a walk in the countryside and those joining us will need a degree of mobility (there is one stile to negotiate) and must wear appropriate clothing, particularly footwear. Dogs and children are welcome, but dogs must be kept on a short lead when walking in a field with animals, and children must have a responsible adult accompanying them.

The walk will take a little over an hour and we shall return to The Fox, where walkers can reward themselves with a glass of wine or pint of beer!

We hope to arrange further walks after this first walk, once we have had a chance to discuss with walkers what it is they want.

For further information, please email thornerheritage@gmail.com

Save another date!



The Benedictine Rule

The entry in the Common Worship calendar for 11 July reads 'Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, Father of Western monasticism, c.550'. Given the importance of monasticism in Christian history, the key part it played in spearheading the conversion of western Europe, its central role in scholarship and manuscript production, and its significance in the development of spiritual practices, it's worth looking at what lies behind this calendar entry.

The earliest monks lived, not in communities, but alone. They were called 'monks' precisely for this reason: the word comes from the Greek for 'alone', 'solitary'. The first person known to live in this way was St Antony of Egypt. In c.269 he gave away his possessions and began to live a life of self-denial. Then, in c.285, he went a step further, retiring into the desert. Others followed his example. Soon there were colonies or groups of monks in the desert; they sometimes came together for special services, and by degrees they formed more recognisable communities, which then needed Rules to govern their organisation.

By the fourth century this way of life was being imitated in the western church. At first the Rules used were those brought from the east, or newly written Rules which followed eastern models, but quite quickly western monks began to live out their dedicated lives in much more defined, cohesive and stable communities, which needed a rather different kind of Rule. The norm in this stage of the development of monasticism was for each abbot to devise the Rule for his own monastery. Benedict Biscop, for example, who founded the monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow (where Bede lived and worked), drew upon the practices of 17 monasteries that he had visited on his travels to and from Rome. Of these many Rules, only a few survive, with the Rule written by Benedict being one of them. Inevitably they are similar to one another to varying degrees, but Benedict's stands out for its clarity, wisdom, practicality, evident concern for the well-being of the monks and its prudent avoidance of excessive austerity. By the eight century this had become *the* monastic Rule in western Christendom, and has remained the dominant Rule ever since.

We know relatively little about Benedict himself. He was born in Nursia (modern Norcia) in central Italy and then went to Rome to be educated, where the excesses of worldly life prompted him to withdraw to a cave in Subiaco, where he lived as a hermit. A community gradually grew up around him, and he established 12 monasteries, each with 12 monks, ruled by an abbot appointed by Benedict. But in c.525, when local tensions forced him to leave Subiaco, he and a small band of monks moved to Monte Cassino, where he became abbot of a new community and wrote his Rule.

Benedict was not ordained and he did not see himself as founding an Order for priests, although it later became increasingly common for professed monks to be ordained. He died, c.550, at Monte Cassino on 21 March, which at first was his feast-day. But the monks of Fleury-sur-Loire, which was to become a very influential monastery, claimed to have translated (moved) his body to Fleury soon after its founding in 640, an event that they celebrated on the claimed anniversary date of 11 July, a more convenient date liturgically than 21 March, which is always in Lent and, given an early Easter, can even be in Holy Week.

Joyce Hill



The birds in your garden



Have you got fewer birds in your garden and are some of them a bit scruffy? The breeding season, particularly the feeding bit, is an intense time for most birds. They are out hunting food for their offspring from dawn to dusk, often having to squeeze through narrow passages to get to them. Think tits and the bird boxes which mimic their traditional nesting spots. It's not surprising that their feathers get worn and need replacing, hence the onset of moulting at this time of year as birds shed their old feathers and grow new ones. It usually happens in stages, leaving birds looking a little scruffy as it takes several weeks to replace some or all of their feathers, but by autumn the bird should have a pristine new set of feathers.

Sometimes, though, it's because being so busy, birds are forced to reduce the amount of preening they would normally do, allowing a build-up of parasites. The irritation caused by mites can lead to birds scratching the area quite severely, resulting in a bald, sore or red patch. Their feathers will eventually grow back; mites are part of the ecosystem and birds are usually able to cope with them.

Most birds can still fly during moulting, but it may be more of a challenge for them, so they'll hide away from predators. They don't shed all their flight feathers at once, losing them from each wing and the tail sequentially, and in the same place on each side to keep their balance. So flying is still possible, if more challenging. You can sometimes spot a moulting bird in flight by the 'gappy' appearance of its wing and tail feathers.

Late summer is prime moulting time for our garden birds, depending on the weather, the breed, and the sex of the bird. August is typically a time of plentiful food, after the breeding season but before the cold of winter. In migratory species, both parents may need to start moulting with chicks still in the nest, so the process needs to be complete before they start the journey south.

Whilst moulting patterns mean that birds don't lose all their feathers at once, they will be less well insulated than usual, and are vulnerable to heat loss. Even though it's late summer, anyone familiar with British weather will know that cold and damp can still be a serious issue! Growing new feathers takes a lot of energy, as does keeping a tiny, poorly insulated body warm, not to mention flying with missing feathers. So, for a bird, the moult is a risky and very energy-intensive process, and some species have evolved a mechanism for changing colour without growing more new feathers for the mating season.

The Starling, for example, has a distinctive pattern of light speckles in autumn and winter, but in spring and summer it is iridescent black, blue and green. They don't lose their winter speckles through moulting. The new feathers grown in late summer have tips which lack melanin and so are weaker than the rest of their feathers and wear away, revealing their showy iridescence ready for the breeding season.

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 via gbwmike@gmail.com.

Mike Gray

Services etc in July

JULY

Sun 5 Fifth Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Holy communion

9.15am Sunday School, Parish Centre

Tues 7 10.00am Holy communion

2.00pm Julian contemplative prayer meeting

Sun 12 Sixth Sunday after Trinity

9.15am All Age worship

Tues 14 10.00am Holy communion

Sun 19 Seventh Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Holy communion

Tues 21 10.00am Holy communion

2.00pm Julian contemplative prayer meeting

Sun 26 Eighth Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Morning worship

6.30pm Taizé service, All Saints', Barwick

Tues 28 10.00am Holy communion

AUGUST

Sun 2 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Holy communion

2.00pm Strawberry tea, 38 Main Street, Thorne

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.

Rotas

A composite rota for everyone involved in church activities is in circulation and everyone on it will have received a copy. If you need to refer to the rota, it is displayed on the notice board in the church and is available on the church's website at <https://www.thornerchurch.org.uk/rota>

Contacts @ St Peter's Church

St Peter's online	www.thornerchurch.org.uk www.facebook.com/thornerchurch/	
Rector	Revd Jonathan Brennan	rector@elmetetrinity.org / 0113 289 2437
Rector's PA	Diane Brennan	admin@elmetetrinity.org
Churchwarden:	Paul Oldfield	pauloldfield@hotmail.co.uk / 0113 289 3210
Secretary of the PCC	Diane Brennan	admin@elmetetrinity.org
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 church 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	beckie@the-briggs.co.uk / 0113 264 1840
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	www.thornercares.co.uk / 0113 880 5255
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	clerk@thorner-parish-council.org.uk / 0113 264 0865

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

Village groups

Mums & Tots Group	Thur 9.30–11.30am in term time, Parish Centre	ella_sykes@hotmail.co.uk
Contact Ella Cairns		
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 6.30–8.30pm in term time, Parish Centre	
Contact Belinda Swift		0113 289 2946
Probus Club	Steven Wood	0113 289 3121
Royal British Legion	Paul Oldfield (Secretary)	0113 289 3210
Thorner Over 60s Association	Bev Cussans	07916 481897
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 Heritage Group		thornerheritage@gmail.com
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: 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 **August** magazine is **Friday 24 July**. 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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