

Parish magazine of St Peter's, Thorner with Scarcroft



August
2026

'Loaf Mass': Remembering Lammas Day

If you've never heard of Lammas Day, you're in good company – it's one of those old festivals that's slipped quietly out of most people's calendars, tucked away somewhere between the summer holidays and the first whisper of autumn. But on August 1st, the church used to mark something rather lovely: the loaf mass, or Lammas, when the first wheat of the harvest was cut, ground up, baked into a loaf, and brought to church to be blessed.

It's an easy festival to overlook. There's no dramatic story attached, no martyrdom, no blinding vision on a mountainside. Just bread. But maybe that's exactly why it's worth thinking about today.

Someone has spent months watching a field – worrying about the weather, waiting, hoping. And now, finally, there's something to show for it. The first loaf isn't the whole harvest; there's still plenty of work left before the barns are full. But it's a start, and it's enough to be thankful for.

There's something in that for us, even if none of us are farmers. August tends to be a month of in-between-ness – holidays taken or still to come, projects half-finished, that slightly odd lull before September picks the pace back up. Lammas gives us permission to notice the small, unfinished signs of good things on their way, rather than waiting until everything's wrapped up neatly before we're grateful.

There's a thread running right through scripture about bread, of course – manna in the wilderness, the feeding of the five thousand, "give us this day our daily bread," and bread broken at the last supper and then again on the road to Emmaus. Lammas sits quietly within that tradition. It's a reminder that God meets us in ordinary things – in wheat and yeast and hard graft in a field – just as much as in anything we might otherwise call 'spectacular'.

So, this August, perhaps it's worth trying something small: baking a loaf, sharing it with someone, or simply saying a proper thank you for whatever's ripening in your own life at the moment, even if it isn't finished yet. Lammas won't be in most people's diaries. But it might be worth putting it back in ours.

Revd Jonathan Brennan

There are no Tuesday morning communion services in August; they will restart in September. Also, the Sunday school will not meet until September, after the school term starts.

The funeral of Andrew Pickles will take place at Stonefall Crematorium on 11 August at 1pm. The funeral of John Finch will take place at St Peter's Church on 18 August at 11am.



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

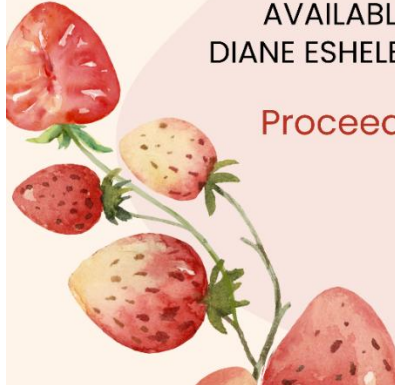
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AVAILABLE FROM ANN STOKOE ~ 07762 175053;
DIANE ESHELBY ~ 07931 904458 OR THE VICARAGE

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



Road closures

Main Street from the Carr Lane junction, Church View, Church Hill and Bramham Road to the Kirkfield Avenue junction will be closed for roadworks from **August 3rd to 11th** between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

Then on **Sunday 16th August**, the Leeds Ironman event will mean the closure of Carr Lane, Main Street from around the ford and through the village, Church View, Church Hill and Bramham Road as far as the Wothersome turning. The closures will be from 6am to 3.30pm; there are no restrictions on access for emergency vehicles, and access for essential carers will be facilitated. Contact 03330 116600 or leedsroadaccess@ironman.com with race day access enquiries.

Thorner Over 60s

Our new electric cooker and hob are now installed in the kitchen at The Bungalow. This will really help to reduce our energy consumption and we are gradually going all electric, with the help of our solar panels on the roof. Thank you to the West Riding Masonic Community Fund for their generous grant.

The Armchair Exercise class at The Bungalow will be running until mid-August but Kat, our teacher, is having a well-earned break and there are no classes on August 24th and 31st. She will be back as usual in September. If you've not tried the class before, it's a lot of fun. We also have armchair yoga classes; these are every Friday morning.

Another activity at The Bungalow is the Discussion Group, which takes place at 2pm on the first Friday of each month. If you enjoy setting the world to rights and exploring other points of view, do come along. The session includes a slice of delicious home-made cake and tea for a donation of £2.

Wendy Miller
Secretary

Thorner Footpath Volunteers – Caring for Our Village Paths

Thorner Parish is home to 25 public footpaths – around 10% of the entire Leeds City Council network. These routes are part of our shared heritage, supporting wellbeing, connecting our community, and bringing visitors into the village.

The Thorner Heritage Group coordinates the Footpath Volunteers, a friendly team open to all ages and abilities. Volunteers help maintain the quality and accessibility of our paths through simple tasks such as clearing vegetation, pruning hedges, maintaining signage, repairing small steps and stiles, and reporting issues. Sessions last up to two hours, and any time that volunteers can give is warmly appreciated. No experience is needed, and new volunteers complete a short risk-assessment form to ensure they are covered by Heritage Group insurance.

Volunteering is a great way to enjoy the outdoors, meet like-minded people, and contribute directly to the village.

We have three upcoming Footpath Volunteer sessions planned for late summer, and everyone is warmly invited to take part. These sessions are a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, meet new people, and contribute directly to keeping Thorner's footpaths safe, accessible, and looking their best.

Upcoming sessions are on:

- Saturday 8th August – 9:30am
- Wednesday 19th August – 9:30am
- Saturday 5th September – 9:30am

All ages and abilities are welcome. To join a session or learn more, please email thornerheritage@gmail.com

Thorner Village Show

We can't wait to see your entries so have a flick through the Show programme for inspiration. There are categories suitable for everyone and every age, so there's no need to be an 'expert' and we look forward to welcoming you all to the Victory Hall on Sunday 6th September. **(Bring photos and arts and crafts entries at 6–8pm on Saturday 5th).**

The Show Programme should be with you by now, but if not, they are available in the church, the Bungalow, the Post Box Deli, Locks, The Fox, the Mexborough Arms, the Inn at Scarcroft, or ask one of the committee members.



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

We're so grateful for all the wonderful volunteers who make this lovely community event happen. This year we need help again, please! **If you can spare a couple of hours to help over the Show weekend, please get in touch.**

We wish you luck with your growing and making, and look forward to seeing you on 6th September!

Thorner Village Show Committee

Emily Abbott, Kate James, Sarah McGrail, Lizzie Waddington and Sarah Walker

Thorner Good Causes Fund: Turning broadband into community support

A new community initiative is helping to support local organisations in Thorner while bringing residents access to full fibre broadband.

The Thorner Good Causes Fund was created following conversations with community groups in Thorner and Scarcroft. It quickly became clear that there are dozens of organisations doing fantastic work locally, with many residents volunteering and supporting multiple groups at the same time.

Rather than creating separate fundraising schemes for individual organisations, the decision was made to establish a single community fund that benefits the village as a whole. The fund operates as a community-wide 'super affiliate'. Every qualifying broadband sale made using the community referral code, **NCA-NDM**, contributes directly to the fund, with the money raised shared between local organisations, helping to make a difference across the community. The person placing the order receives a £50 voucher, while £50 is paid directly into the Thorner Good Causes Fund to support local organisations and activities.

The first organisations selected to benefit from the fund are Thorner Primary School, Thorner Heritage Group, Thorner Bowling Club, Thorner Parish Centre and Thorner Over 60s Association, each playing an important role in village life and helping bring people together.

For residents, the initiative provides an opportunity to support local good causes simply by choosing a broadband provider that is already serving the villages. And with more than 26,000 broadband upgrades completed by experienced engineers across the country and an Excellent Trustpilot rating, customers can have confidence in both the service and the support provided throughout the journey.

Most importantly, the Thorner Good Causes Fund is intended to be a long-term partnership with the community, creating a sustainable way of supporting local organisations while helping residents benefit from full fibre broadband.

Community Referral Code: NCA-NDM

Every qualifying sale using the referral code contributes directly to the Thorner Good Causes Fund, helping support local organisations and initiatives that benefit the community. Visit www.voneus.com to check what deals are available at your address.

Thorner Parish Centre Renovation

The Parish Centre has been rejuvenated! All the external stonework has been repointed and sealed, which has improved its cosmetic appearance and eliminated damp penetration into the interior. Grants were gratefully received from Leeds City Council (Emmerdale Fund) and nPower Business Solutions.

In addition, all 24 old fluorescent tubes have been replaced with modern soft LED lighting. We have been awarded a grant from Thorner Community Fund to carry out this work. This will save the Parish Centre money on energy costs and will help us with our journey towards being carbon neutral.

To hire the Parish Centre for your classes or for your party, email bookings@parishcentre.org.uk. To view availability on the bookings calendar, Google 'Thorner Parish Centre Calendar'. Pricing is among the lowest in N E Leeds.

Bernard of Clairvaux and the Cistercians

Last month I wrote about how Benedict's Rule of Life gradually came to be *the* monastic Rule in early medieval western Christendom. The complete dominance of this Rule, written in the sixth century, can be dated to the early ninth century and came about with the support of Charlemagne. Before that, the monasteries of the western Church followed many different Rules: some used Benedict's, some used often fairly similar Rules written by others, and many used individual Rules drawn up by the founding abbot of the particular monastery, which often brought together elements from these earlier sources and from mixed Rules that they were familiar with in the monasteries of their day.

By the end of the 11th century, however, there were those who thought that Benedictine monasticism needed to be reformed, to go back to what they saw as its purer and more austere ideals, and so the Cistercian Order was founded. It still followed the Benedictine Rule, but more strictly, with a greater degree of geographical withdrawal; it laid more stress on manual labour; and, although it spread across western Europe, it remained centralised in its governance, with provinces owing allegiance to the mother house. With the Cistercians we also see the development of a standardised layout of monastic buildings, familiar to us from the great Cistercian ruins of England such as Rievaulx and Fountains. This powerful centralisation and standardisation had not been characteristic of Benedictine monasteries up to this date. Of course, the Cistercians did not supplant the existing Benedictines, and were always quick to say that they were Benedictines themselves, but they rapidly became the most popular, prosperous and powerful monastic order, even absorbing some smaller orders and individual monasteries that attempted similar reform around this time.

Bernard of Clairvaux, whose feast-day falls on 20 August, was not the founder of the Cistercians, but he was by far the most influential of the order's early leaders. The actual founders were monks from the Benedictine abbey of Molesme, led by Robert. In 1098, they established the first Cistercian monastery at Cîteaux (Latin *Cisterium*, hence Cistercian) near Dijon. This was a modest enterprise at first and it was not until the time of their third abbot, an Englishman named Stephen, who was abbot from 1109 to 1134, that the new monastic house really began to flourish and plan to establish new foundations. Bernard, born of noble parents nearby, entered Cîteaux in 1113, along with 30 other young Burgundian noblemen, including his own brothers. Only two years later, Abbot Stephen directed him to choose a place for a new monastery. Bernard chose

Clairvaux which, under his remarkable leadership, became one of the most influential religious houses in Europe. It was largely because of him – ascetic, mystical, learned, outspoken, sometimes obstinate, prolific in his writing and preaching, and with the ability to build connections within secular and ecclesiastical society – that the Cistercian Order spread dramatically throughout western Europe. In 1145 a Cistercian monk and former pupil of Bernard was even elected pope, and it was this pope, Eugenius III, who announced the Second Crusade (1147–49). It turned out to be a failure, but its initial popularity was largely driven by Bernard's powerful preaching, and its sorry outcome was a great disappointment to him. Bernard died in 1153 and was canonized in 1174. He was created a Doctor of the Church in 1830.

Joyce Hill



The birds in your garden



It's all gone quiet in the garden, hasn't it? Mind, there are more butterflies around that usual to provide some interest, as well as plenty of dragon- and damselflies if you are near water.

They've pretty much all headed south by now, but when did you last hear a Cuckoo? This year, last year ...? Like many migrant birds, the Cuckoo is in long-term decline as a breeding bird in Britain, and is on the Red List of birds of conservation concern. Their breeding behaviour has been very well-studied, but until the last 10 or 15 years, knowledge of their migratory behaviour was very limited.

In 2011, a BTO team set out to change this, using satellite-tags to track the migration movements of male Cuckoos from different parts of Britain. Males specifically because the females, being smaller, might be affected by the weight of the tag, even though it's only a few grams.

This work has not only revealed details of Cuckoos' migration timings and wintering grounds, but has also showed that 'our' breeding birds take one of two routes south to Africa. Crucially, different rates of mortality have been found on these two routes, which strongly correlate with population declines. Birds either migrated southwest via Spain and Morocco or southeast via Italy or the Balkans before converging in the Congo basin of central Africa.

Cuckoos taking the Spanish route were more likely to die before completing the Sahara crossing, even though their route was shorter. There was no difference in survival rates between the two routes south of the Sahara, or during their return journeys to the UK. This difference in survival rates provides the first direct evidence that conditions encountered during migration have an impact on population numbers. In general, English Cuckoos, whose numbers have declined by about two thirds, take the west route, and Scottish and Welsh birds, whose numbers have declined less, the east, along which fewer birds are lost.

Despite having to cross the Sahara, most of the mortality on the western route occurred in Spain, suggesting that conditions at sites where they stop en route to feed are responsible. In recent years, Spain has suffered droughts and wildfires, which have reduced significantly the availability of food, although other factors like large-scale habitat change might also have played a role. One way of reducing losses en route may well be to improve the environment around the known feeding points, and this is being looked at.

As well as the problems en route, declines in the Cuckoos' main food source in the UK (caterpillars of large moths) were also particularly severe in areas in which birds migrating on the west route were tagged. The fact that the western route is still used despite its apparent disadvantages suggests that these changes have arisen recently.

This study shows how conditions during migration can influence the survival of long-distance migrants, and underlines the need for a full annual-cycle approach to understanding migratory birds and their conservation needs. This is something which not only affect Cuckoos, but also many other migrants too. Yet another effect of climate change.

What's next? The BTO is looking more closely at how dependent Cuckoos are on the drought-busting rains of the west African weather frontal system, known as the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). This rain produces the food they need to fatten up before heading back to breed in the UK, and its timing is critical to their arrival here, where spring is getting ever earlier. If the birds whose nests they parasitise lay earlier, the Cuckoos need to get back earlier too, but the ITCZ seems not to be moving.

You can see the current position of all the tagged Cuckoos on the BTO website at www.bto.org/cuckoos#map

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).

Mike Gray

Services etc in August

AUGUST

Sun 2 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Holy communion

2.00pm Strawberry tea, 38 Main Street, Thorner

Tues 4 2.00pm Julian contemplative prayer meeting

Sun 9 10th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Morning worship

Sun 16 11th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Holy communion

Tues 18 2.00pm Julian contemplative prayer meeting

Sun 23 12th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Morning worship

Sun 30 13th Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Benefice communion service

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	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, Collingham	churchview.surgery@nhs.net
<i>Appointments</i>	www.collinghamssurgery.co.uk / 01937 222841	
Collingham surgery	School Lane, Collingham	<i>open Monday–Friday, 8am–6.30pm</i>
Thorner surgery	Main Street, Thorner	<i>open Monday–Friday, 8.20am–12.30pm</i>
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: tbc	

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	
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 6.30–8.30pm 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	www.parishcentre.org.uk
Thorner Victory Hall:	Jenni Orange 07368 318891/ www.thornervictoryhall.co.uk

The **deadline** for contributions to the **September** magazine is **Friday 21 August**. 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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