

Parish magazine of St Peter's, Thorner with Scarcroft



November
2026

Finding the light as the dark draws in

I'll be honest with you: I'm not a winter person. When the clocks go back and the evenings close in by teatime, a little bit of me sinks with the sun. The thought of months of grey and gloom isn't something I look forward to, and I've been known to grumble about it rather more than is becoming in a vicar.

So it surprised me, last winter, to find myself reading *Wintering* by Katherine May and actually enjoying it. Her idea is simple and rather gentle. Winter isn't just a season of the year but something that comes to all of us in different ways, and when it does we must 'retreat to care and repair ourselves'. We don't push through or put on a brave face. We draw in, rest and mend.

That struck a chord, because it's a very old idea. It's there at the start of the Bible, where even God rests on the seventh day, not because he was worn out but because rest is woven into the way creation works. The sabbath was given to a people who knew what it was to be driven without pause, and it said: you are not machines. Stop. Breathe. You are loved before you've achieved a single thing.

Look, too, at how Jesus lived. Again and again, he slips away to quiet places to pray, and when his friends are frazzled, he tells them to come away and rest a while. The gospels are full of restoration: the blind seeing, the broken mended, the lost brought home. God, it turns out, is rather good at repair work.

So perhaps the long evenings aren't something to simply endure. Perhaps they're an invitation. Light a candle. Put the kettle on. Ring the friend you've been meaning to ring, or knock on a neighbour's door. And be thankful for the small lights: a glowing window, a warm kitchen, a wave across the road.

If you're feeling a bit wintry yourself, whether it's the weather or something deeper, please know that church is here. The heating's on (hopefully!), the welcome is warm, and you needn't know the words or have it all together. Come as you are. We could all do with a bit of mending, and we manage it far better together.

Revd Jonathan Brennan

From the registers

Funerals

October 7 Roy Breakwell, of St John's Avenue (at Stonefall crematorium)
October 14 David Fryer, of Main Street (at Lawnswood crematorium)



Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 8 November

9.45am

This year's Remembrance Day Parade will take place on 8 November. The parade will assemble at 9.45am at the ford and will leave for the church at 10.00am.

In addition to the usual participants, the British Legion would like to extend a welcome to anyone wishing to join the parade in memory of friend or family – just come along to the ford at 9.45am.

Charity Christmas card sale

Sunday 1st November

10am–11.30am

Thorner Parish Centre

Get your cards, gift wrap, 2027 calendars etc the easy way by browsing the stalls

of

Mind

Oxfam

Candlelighters

St Gemma's Hospice

Martin House Hospice

Friends of African Nursing

RNLI

And enjoy a convivial tea/coffee and biscuits (£1) with friends and neighbours.

FOAN coffee morning

Saturday 7 November, 10.30am–12 noon

The Bungalow

Do come and join us as we host a coffee morning in aid of Friends of African Nursing. Cakes to eat and some to take away!

The event is to continue our celebration of 25 years as an active charity supporting the education of nurses in Africa.

Thorner Over 60s

Our next event is a film show at the Victory Hall on **Tuesday 10 November** at 2 pm. Judi Dench and Maggie Smith star in *Ladies in Lavender*, which follows two elderly sisters whose quiet lives are transformed by a shipwrecked stranger. It's £5 for the afternoon, which includes tea and cake in the interval.

The Bungalow festive lunch is at The Inn, Scarcroft on **Tuesday 15 December** at 12.30pm for 1pm. If you'd like to attend, please sign up at The Bungalow and say if you can offer a lift to others; menus are available there too. It's £35.50 for two courses and £38.50 for three.

Thank you to everyone who came to The Bungalow and helped to make the Macmillan Coffee Morning in September such a success. We raised an amazing amount of money – sending them £650.

Wendy Miller
Secretary

A Supper Evening for Peace

Wednesday 25 November
Thorner

Given the saddening and horrifying disunity so evident in the world, and the state of the planet and much else, will you consider joining us in honour of humanity's constructive and peace-loving capacities – our own and those of others?



To this end, some of us got together on the UN International Peace Day in September (when nearly £100 was raised for UNICEF), and I am organising a similar event in November.

What to bring to this event:

- some food to share – it could be just a few nibbles (I will provide soup)
- something that has perhaps inspired you – maybe a story, a poem, a song or even a joke
- an open heart
- and maybe a small financial contribution to UNICEF (the UN Children's Fund).

My deepest wish is that each of us leaves with something precious, hopeful, inspiring, or all three, that can be drawn on in the ensuing weeks.

Do call (07701 096944) for timings and venue, and to find out more, including if you might need a lift; or if you can't come, yet still wish to contribute in some way.

All welcome, whatever denomination, if any, you may follow. However, space will be limited, so please book in advance.

Jill R

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

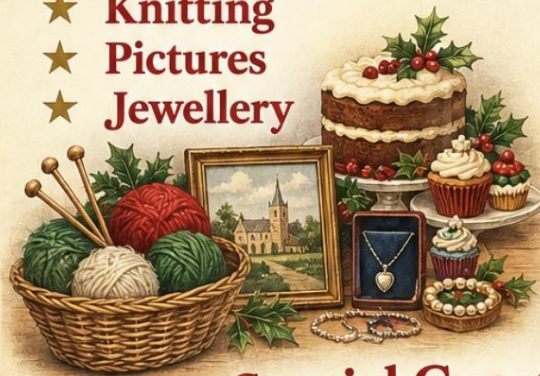
by **Saturday 21 November**

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

THORNER CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 28th November
12:00 noon – 3:00 pm
Thorner Parish Centre

- ★ Tombola
- ★ Craft Stalls
- ★ Homemade Cakes
- ★ Gift Stalls
- ★ Face Painting
- ★ Decorations
- ★ Knitting
- ★ Pictures
- ★ Jewellery



Refreshments and lunch
will be served throughout
the day.

**Special Guest Appearance
by Santa Claus!**

*Bring your family and friends for a
wonderful festive afternoon!*

Admission: Free • Donations welcome in support of the Parish Centre

Donations of cakes and other home produce for the cake stall, and prizes for the 'boxes and bottles' tombola would be much appreciated. Please contact Ann Stokoe (07762 175053) or Anne Wroe (07929 612201) about these.

Thorner Parish Centre

Solar panels will be fitted to the rear of the Parish Centre roof starting in November. This will reduce the electricity bill and allow the parish centre to generate revenue by selling kWh back to the national grid. Thanks are due to the Thorner Community Fund for financing the panels and helping the centre to use a sustainable form of energy.

To hire the Parish Centre for your classes, or for children's parties or other events, email bookings@parishcentre.org.uk or call 07808 330467. To view availability, Google 'Thorner Parish Centre Calendar'. Pricing is among the lowest in north-east Leeds.

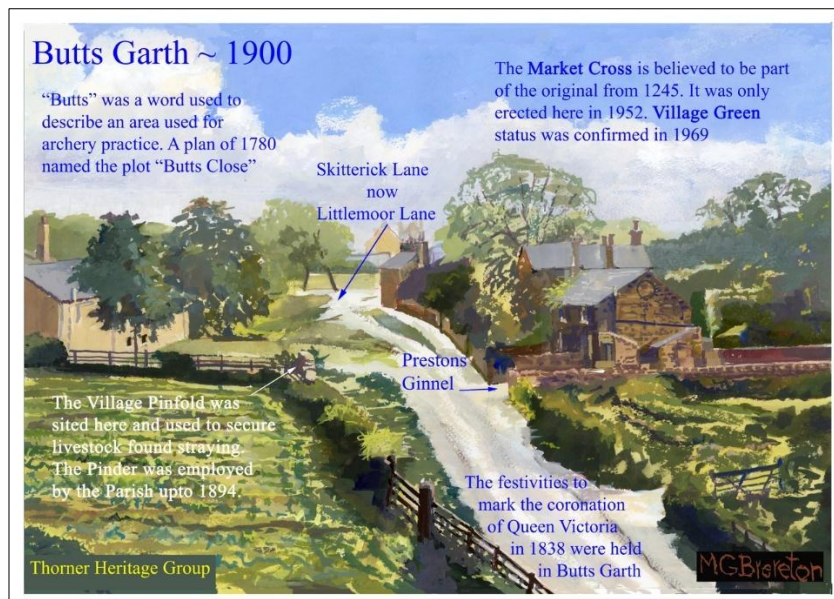
Butts Garth

At the suggestion of the Parish Council, Thorner Heritage Group researched what was known about the status and history of Butts Garth. The results prompted the creation of an interpretation panel explaining something of the features of the area, a registered village green.

Designed by local artist Michael Brereton, the illustration is based on a postcard image from around 1900. Thanks are due to the Ward Councillors' MICE Fund for meeting the costs of manufacture. The panel will be installed in November.

A prominent feature of Butts Garth is the market cross, which was listed by Historic England in 1986. It's described as comprising two sections – a mediaeval base in gritstone, and a possibly 18th-century shaft in limestone. The cross was only erected there by the Parish Council in 1951. It is believed that it was the original cross from Main Street, erected following the award to the village of a market charter in 1245. But we don't know when it was moved from Main Street, nor where it was in the meantime, and why it is comprised of stone work carved in different eras. Perhaps readers will have information to offer? Any comments to thornerheritage@gmail.com

Scott Marshall, a former chair of the Parish Council and current chair of Thorner Heritage Group commented, 'Whilst working on my garden plot alongside Butts Garth I've often been asked about the stone cross by passers-by. I'm pleased that now there's to be a description on hand for all to see!'



Thorner footpath maintenance

The Thorner footpath maintenance volunteers have been out and about again in October, clearing a route through Saw Wood towards Barwick that was previously almost impassable.

Overall, the footpaths around Thorner are clear and accessible. As the growing season comes to an end, our focus will shift to keeping signage visible and carrying out footpath repairs.

We're always keen to welcome new volunteers to the group. If you fancy spending a couple of hours every few weeks outdoors in the 'green gym', alongside a friendly group of like-minded people, we'd love to hear from you. Just email thornerheritage@gmail.com to get involved.

If you spot any problems with the footpaths around Thorner, please let us know (at the same email address) and we'll follow up to see what can be done.

Barwick Monday Fellowship

Monday 9 November, 2.15pm

All Saints' church, Barwick-in-Elmet

The November talk is a presentation by Uell Kennedy on the history of tartan. Do join us for what is sure to be an interesting afternoon. £3, to include refreshments. All are welcome.

Linton Antique Society

Thursday 12 November, 8pm

Linton Memorial Hall



If you've ever listened to the BBC Radio 4 series *Clare in the Community*, you'll have heard the work of Harry Venning – he adapted his long-running *Guardian* cartoon strip of the same name for radio. Harry has been a cartoonist for over 30 years and in his talk he will unveil the history of cartoons from the 18th century to the present-day, featuring artists who have made an impact upon language, culture, history and, most importantly, him. He'll be doing a few drawings too!

Non-members are welcome, entrance £10, but by joining the Society – just £30 for individuals, and £55, joint – you can attend all the monthly talks this season. You can enrol on the Society's website

at www.lintonantiquesociety.org.uk or contact the Membership Secretary on 07760 435070.

Wetherby Choral Society

Saturday 21 November, 7.30pm

St James's church, Wetherby

Wetherby Choral Society combines with Halifax Minster's choir to perform Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. This popular modern choral work is based on 24 poems from a medieval collection of secular songs. The choirs will also perform Guy Turners' *Folk Song Sequence*, in the presence of the composer, and works by Vaughan Williams and Finzi.

Tickets are available online at www.wetherbychoral.org.uk

SCARCROFT PARISH COUNCIL
AND THE INN

❄️ *we welcome you to our* ❄️
**Christmas Lights
Switch-On** ❄️



FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2026

FROM 6PM • INSIDE THE INN



**JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE EVENING OF MUSIC,
COMMUNITY AND CHRISTMAS CHEER!**



**KIPPAX
BRASS BAND
PERFORMING
6PM – 7PM**



**CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS
SWITCH-ON**



**MULLED WINE
& MINCE PIES**



*Live music
afterwards*



Miles Coverdale and the English Bible

Last month I wrote about William Tyndale who, in 1526, published the first ever translation of the New Testament into English directly from Greek, the language in which it was written, rather than from the Latin of St Jerome's Vulgate (Latin) translation, as previous translators had done. Tyndale's intention was to produce an English translation of the whole Bible, working from Hebrew for the Old Testament. But Tyndale's project was cut short in 1535 when he was arrested in exile and then, in 1536, burnt at the stake.

Tyndale's legacy was his New Testament and published translations of the books of the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), and Jonah, with a small amount of further work in manuscript. Eventually, in 1611, King James sponsored the production of an English Bible that became the definitive English Bible until modern times, a Bible often known as the Authorised Version. Scholars were organised into groups to undertake this work, and although, like Tyndale, they went back to the Hebrew (Old Testament) and the Greek (New Testament), they made extensive use of Tyndale's work. But they also used other translations that had been published in the intervening years, resources to which Miles Coverdale had made a major contribution.

Miles Coverdale, born 1488, began life as a priest and Augustinian friar in Cambridge, where he quickly came under the influence of his prior, the outspoken early reformer Robert Barnes. As a committed reformer himself, Coverdale was forced to go abroad. There he worked with Tyndale and, in 1535, the year of Tyndale's arrest, he published a complete Bible in English. Coverdale used Tyndale's translations where available; for the rest, since he did not know Hebrew, he worked from the reformist translations into German by Luther and Zwingli. The following year a revised English Bible was published which bore the authorisation of Henry VIII — the first English Bible to do so. It was inscribed to 'Thomas Matthew' and so is known as the Matthew Bible, although its real editor was John Rogers, who had edited and adapted the preceding Tyndale/Coverdale translation.

Further revisions of the whole Bible followed: the 'Great Bible' of 1539, issued under the patronage of Thomas Cromwell; and a 1540 revision issued with a preface by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. Both versions were actually by Coverdale, although neither bears his name. It was the 'Great Bible' that was set up in all churches, by order of the King.

In 1551 Coverdale became Bishop of Exeter, but he had to go into exile again in Mary's reign (1553–58), when she reimposed Catholicism. He returned in 1559, but he was not reinstated to Exeter, partly because, by now an extreme reformer, he had radical views about church vestments. He held livings in London until 1566, when he resigned, probably because of his advanced age. He became popular in early Puritan circles because of his firm stance against church ceremonial and elaborate robes but died in poverty on 20 January 1569.

Coverdale deserves to be better known as an important figure in the history of the Church of England, not least because it is his translation of the Psalms that is in the Book of Common Prayer. This is a survival from Cranmer's original Book of Common Prayer. When the Book of Common Prayer was revised in 1662, giving us the version we use today, the translation of the Psalms was not replaced by that found in the more recent and authorised King James Bible, so the wording of the two sets of Psalms is not identical.

Joyce Hill



The birds in your garden



Mistle Thrushes (*Turdus viscivorus*) are large songbirds usually seen in parks, gardens, woodland and scrub. They are around regularly on the golf course where I play, but I have yet to see one in my garden – only the occasional Song Thrush. Both their common and scientific names derive from mistletoe, *Turdus* means ‘thrush’ and *viscivorus* means ‘mistletoe-devourer’.

Mistle Thrushes eat insects and spiders in the summer as well as worms, slugs and snails, which they open on an ‘anvil’ like Song Thrushes. In the winter they eat berries; when mistletoe is not available, they prefer holly, hawthorn and ivy.

Once a Mistle Thrush has found a berry-laden tree, it will challenge any would-be thieves. It appears that resource-guarding birds produce bigger clutches earlier than those that are less aggressive. Their attentions also help mistletoe to spread its seeds by wiping their bills to remove the sticky residue, and, of course, dispersing them in their droppings.

The Mistle Thrush is slightly bigger than a Blackbird and noticeably more so than a Song Thrush. As well as its larger size, the Mistle Thrush often appears more plump-bellied and has a proportionally longer tail. When on the ground, Mistle Thrushes often adopt an upright stance which is one of the easier ways of distinguishing them from Song Thrushes.

Their upper parts are a pale grey-brown, colder in tone than those seen in the Song Thrush. Their underwings are white, which contrasts with the colour seen in Song Thrush. Their long tail has distinctive white tips to the outer feathers. The markings on their breast are round whilst those on a Song Thrush form an arrowhead or tear drop with an obvious point.

Mistle Thrushes produce a series of harsh chattering notes (a sort of rattling call), nothing like as melodious as the Song Thrush, particularly when alarmed or disturbed. Their loud song consists of a series of short phrases, rich in nature and of a tonal quality similar to the Blackbird. This song is usually delivered from a high perch and is characteristic of early spring or even late winter, often heard in strong winds, hence its country name ‘storm cock’.

Gardens are an important habitat for both of our resident thrushes, whose numbers have been in decline for many years. Mistle Thrush numbers have declined by 30% over the last 25-years though there seems to have been a sort of stabilisation latterly with ‘only’ a 6% reduction between 2010 and 2020.

The causes of this decline are unclear, but survival of juvenile birds is thought to be one reason and is most pronounced in farmland habitats, probably linked to the drainage of fields and removal of hedgerows. The dramatic fall in earthworm populations, with numbers shrinking by a third in the last 25 years, is likely to be involved, too. Mistle Thrushes are red-listed in UK as Birds of Conservation Concern, though not in Europe generally.

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 a group 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 November

NOVEMBER

Sun 1 All Saints' Day / Fourth Sunday before Advent

9.15am Holy communion

10.00am Charity Christmas card sale, Parish Centre

Tues 3 10.00am Holy communion

Sun 8 Third Sunday before Advent / Remembrance Sunday

10.00am Remembrance Day parade begins; assemble at the ford at 9.45am

c.10.15am Remembrance Day service and act of remembrance, St Peter's

Tues 10 10.00am Holy communion

2.00pm Julian contemplative prayer meeting

Sun 15 Second Sunday before Advent

9.15am Holy communion

9.15am Sunday School, Parish Centre

Tues 17 10.00am Holy communion

Sun 22 Sunday next before Advent / Christ the King

9.15am Morning worship

9.15am Sunday School, Parish Centre

Tues 24 10.00am Holy communion

2.00pm Julian contemplative prayer meeting

Sun 29 First Sunday of Advent

10.00am Benefice communion service, St Peter's, Thorner

10.00am Sunday School, Parish Centre

6.30pm Taizé service, All Saints', Barwick

DECEMBER

Tues 1 10.00am Holy communion

2.00pm Julian contemplative prayer meeting

Sun 6 Second Sunday of Advent

9.15am Holy communion

9.15am Sunday School, Parish Centre

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.

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

GP practice	Church View Surgery, Collingham	churchview.surgery@nhs.net
<i>Appointments</i>	www.collingham surgery.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 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		07931 904458
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	bookings@parishcentre.org.uk / 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 20 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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