



village news

June / July 2026

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Dear Reader

As summer unfolds across our villages the gardens are beginning to bloom in full colour. Roses climb old stone walls, hanging baskets make their appearance and wild flowers line the lanes which connect us all together. The special attention that we lavish on our gardens at this time of year, care, patience and optimism, are qualities that both gardeners and our national leaders need to have in spades.

Nationally, at this time there is much discussion about leadership, with continuing speculation over the future of the Prime Minister and what changes may lie ahead in Westminster. Politics often feels distant from village life, yet decisions made at the top inevitably shape the communities below. At times like these, it is worth remembering that while national leaders come and go, the strength of village life rests on the people who quietly carry responsibility every single day.

Perhaps most importantly, strong communities depend on shared leadership. You will see in the following pages a number of village events which rarely happen without individuals whose work may never attract headlines but whose contribution is invaluable. Often, the best leadership begins, not with grand gestures, but simply with someone saying, "How can I help?"

We all know that to get the best from our garden we have to tend it carefully. The same may be said of our villages which will only continue to thrive as long as we all play our part.

We hope you enjoy a summer full of sunshine, time outdoors and many moments to appreciate village life.

**L, C and L
and the team**

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Cover photo: Linda Bullus

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Friends of Pool Primary School

Friends of Pool Primary School have had a busy few months. Following our last update about the Easter fundraiser, we're delighted to report that we had an *eggcellent* time, with the prize draw taking place during assembly to a hall full of very *eggcited* children. Thanks to the incredible support from our school community, we raised a whopping **£421.05!**

We're now looking ahead to our summer events calendar. The ever-popular **Summer Disco** will take place on **Thursday 2 July**, with the fantastic Mr Shuffles once again helping everyone throw some shapes on the dancefloor.

Please also note a **change of date** for the Summer Fair from that previously advertised. The fair will now take place on **Friday 3 July**.

As always, we are hugely grateful for the support of our local community. We are currently seeking **raffle prizes and event sponsors** for the Summer Fair. If you or your business can help in any way, please contact us at poolpta@gmail.com.

Sarah Cliff & Sarah Corr - Co Chairs - FOPPS

Rainbow Charity Shop

Summer is here early. The Rainbow shop has some lovely summer clothes and great sports gear. Please come and see us any Saturday 10am – 2pm in the Methodist church room. You can also visit our Facebook page Rainbow Shop - Pool in Wharfedale, to browse items for sale. We have a wonderful, friendly and dedicated team of volunteers, always pleased to welcome and chat to customers. However, we desperately need more sales if we are to match last year's donations to local charities in August. We also give out donations during the year to the baby bank, clothing bank, Tadcrafter's etc.

Penny Gwilt

Tiddlers Baby and Toddler Group Update

We had a wonderful time celebrating together at our Easter party before breaking up for the holidays. The session was filled with Easter-themed arts and crafts, singing, party food, and even a special treat from the Easter Bunny! It was a joy to see so many families enjoying the morning together.

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back for the new term, and we're

pleased to share that all our dates are now confirmed through to the summer holidays. We're also looking ahead to a possible summer party at our final session on Friday 17 July, so do keep an eye out for more details.

Tiddlers is a friendly and welcoming group for little ones aged 0–5 and their grown-ups. It's a great opportunity to meet others from the local community and surrounding areas while enjoying free play, arts and crafts, snack time, and, of course, hot drinks and biscuits for the adults.

We are a community-run group of volunteers, kindly supported by the Methodist Church. Sessions take place every other Friday from 9–11am at Pool Village Hall, and we are always delighted to welcome new families.



Here are our latest dates.

We hope to see you soon

Alexia Zeniou

News from St Wilfred's

St Wilfred's has had a mixed month starting with the build up to Easter with meaningful holy week services: a Tenebrae service with foot washing on Maundy Thursday followed by Meditations at the Cross on Good Friday ending with Parish Communion to celebrate the risen Lord on Easter Day.

Lego church was held at Pool School in April where again some wonderful creations were built on the theme of things for which we are thankful.

It is with great sadness that shortly after Easter St Wilfred's sadly lost two valued members of our congregation. On Wednesday 15 April a service was held at St Wilfred's in memory of Elizabeth Davies which included a reading in Welsh, following which people adjourned to Otley Golf club. Elizabeth moved from Wales some years ago and has been a valued member of our church ever since.

On 22 April another service at St Wilfred's, this time for Maggie Raeburn. Maggie came to Pool in the late 1980s when both she and her late husband Brian became regular members of our congregation. Brian became church warden and Maggie a eucharistic minister assisting with home communions and visits to Wharfedale Court. Maggie loved singing and was a member of our choir from shortly after arriving in Pool until ill health intervened.

Both will be sadly missed in the community.

Gill Damp

Pool Scouts

A big hello from us all at Pool-in Wharfedale Scouts. The sun has had its hat on lately and our Squirrels and Beavers have been taking full advantage. Squirrels were invited to bring their bikes and scooters for an exciting circuit around Pool Primary School playground. We have some very speedy Squirrels in our midst and it was lovely to see them enjoying the outdoors in a safe environment with their friends.

Beavers turned themselves in to mini florists and made some incredible floral arrangements for Mother's Day. They put so much consideration and effort into this activity and were so mindful of the flowers that their mums would like.



Squirrels also got crafty and made some very colourful easter eggs. They created these by making patterns using masking tape and colouring in between the tape. They were then laminated and adorned with sparkling jewels to catch the sunlight. We all then headed out in the pouring rain and wind to the Rainbow Tree in the village where they were hung for Easter. We had some very soggy but proud Squirrels and not one complained about the weather. A big thank you to passers-by for rescuing rogue eggs that had been blown off by the wind and a big thank you also to Joost for fixing them back onto the tree. We hope you all enjoyed our colourful Easter display as you passed by. It was our aim to spread some joy and I hope we achieved that.

Beavers also had the community in mind when they went out litter picking in the village. So, if the village has been looking very tidy lately you know that it's our lovely little Beavers beavering away to make our shared space a little bit better for everyone.



Meanwhile, Squirrels celebrated everything pirate with a thrilling pirate themed session. Leaders gave up some of their Bank Holiday Monday to create the most amazing cardboard pirate ship there ever was! It truly would've made Neil Buchanan proud (showing my age there). Our lovely pirate Squirrels got to go inside the ship and defend the ship from the leaders' cannon balls (small plastic balls, we're not barbarians!) They did an amazing job

and beat the leaders. I'm going to blame that on the difference in energy levels...or cheating...definitely cheating.

And last but not least, an absolutely enormous thank you to the Sarah Jackson Community Wish Foundation for their generous donation to Pool Scouts. The money donated will make such a huge difference to our young people and the exciting sessions we provide them. The children are always at the forefront of everything we do; they are the heart of Pool Scouts and the outdoor equipment we can now provide for them will make our sessions even better. We are all extremely grateful.

<https://sarahjacksoncommunitywish.co.uk/>

Also, a big thank you to all the leaders who give up their time each week to keep Pool Scouts running and to provide a fun and safe environment for our young people. It's the effort you put in that keep the smiles on those little faces. If anyone would like to volunteer as a Scout leader for Squirrels or Beavers please contact us through the website: **poolscouts.org.uk**

Squirrels (4-6 year olds) meet at the Methodist Hall in Pool-in Wharfedale on Tuesdays at 5:30-6:30

Beavers (6-8 year olds) meet at the Methodist Hall in Pool-in Wharfedale on Mondays at 6:15-7:15

If your young person would be interested in joining us, please go to: poolscouts.org.uk. Please don't just turn up.

Thank you.

Stacey Field, Squirrel Scout Leader

POOL FEAST 2026
SUNDAY 30th AUGUST
FROM 12 NOON

Join us for a day of fun, community, and celebration!

Volunteers Needed!

Email: poolfeast@gmail.com
Contact: Marc 07788 215957 if you can help!

Join the Facebook page for more information!

Pool-in-Wharfedale **Methodists**

A warm welcome awaits all who join us for worship
on the **2nd and 4th Sunday** of each month at **10.30am**

We have had a wonderful Spring as a church. The Rainbow Shop remains a bustling hub of affordable items, Tiddlers' offers young families a safe place to connect, and our congregation continues to grow in faith as we meet together for worship at least twice a month. Lent was a meaningful time to reflect on a love that endures even beyond the grave, and our Lambing Service in April brought smiles to young and old, especially since our two lovely lambs, Jack and Jill, were on their BEST behaviour!

All ages are welcome to join us at any of our upcoming worship services:

14th June 10.30am: **Craft & Communion** (with activities for children)

28th June 10:30am: **Celebrating Grandparents** (and praying for MHA)

12th July 10.30am: **Craft & Communion** (with activities for children)

19th July 3.30pm: **Afternoon Tea** - end your day with a cuppa and cake!

We'll also meet for informal hymn singing on 21 June and 16 Aug at 3.30pm

Many thanks to David & Delia Homes for bringing lovely lambs to our Lambing Service. Please join us in praying for our farmers and thanking them for their hard work!





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How can we spend the money?

As you are probably aware, the new Talyor Wimpey housing site Stanhope Fields is now well established. Once building starts on new sites developers are obliged to pay the Local Authority, Leeds City Council in this case, a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Most of the charge goes to Leeds Council but the Parish Council gets 15% of the overall sum. The Parish Council's 15% share is £73,125.64.

The CIL money received can be spent on a wide range of projects that benefit the local community, including:

- Community buildings and village halls
- New play equipment, youth facilities and open spaces
- Footpaths, cycleways, and public rights of way
- Road safety improvements and traffic management
- Schools and leisure facilities
- Projects identified by the community
- Improving existing facilities that bring additional investment

Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.

The list is an example of where the money can be spent however, we should avoid spending in areas where there is a statutory duty for a local authority to provide.

My purpose in writing is to ensure that we consult widely with residents and local organisations, both new and existing, so they have the opportunity to bid for some of the CIL money bringing new and improving existing projects forward that will benefit the community.

In addition, I would like to highlight two of the Parish Council's main priorities, road safety and playgrounds. We are constantly in touch with Leeds City Council about road safety issues, having recently introduced the QR system to report accidents etc. The response from the community has been excellent but this is one example where the responsibility for improvements lies with the Highways Authority at Leeds Council, however you may be able to suggest other projects that could help ease the problems.

Our playgrounds are maintained by the parish council and where possible we will update the equipment and endeavour to make them accessible to all children. Again, your views on the playgrounds and what we could do to improve them would be welcomed.

Whilst £73,125.64 is not a great deal of money in the grand scale of things, we believe our community and its organisations have the experience and vision to bring

innovative ideas and projects forward and we want to help where we can to make them a reality.

In the first instance if you wish to put forward a project or an idea for improvements, please contact the clerk@poolparishcouncil.gov.uk and he will send you the necessary paperwork to make the application.

All applications received will be considered carefully at a Council meeting and its decisions will be relayed to those who have applied for CIL funds as soon after as possible.

This is a wonderful opportunity to do something exciting for the community and we look forward to receiving applications.

*Councillor Hazel Lee
Chairman Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council*

Pool Parish Council Honorary Citizen Award

Pool Parish Council is inviting citizens to nominate one person who has given outstanding service to the community of Pool-in-Wharfedale to receive the 'Honorary Citizen Award'.

The nominee must reside within the parish boundary and be at least 18 years of age. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any posthumous nominations.

If you would like to make a nomination, please complete this form. Completed nominations should be sent to the Clerk, Mr John Ryan, 19 Ridgemount Road, Riddlesden, Bradford BD20 5DX.

Email clerk@poolparishcouncil.gov.uk

Serving Parish Councillors are not permitted to be nominated. However, Councillors are able to nominate Parishioners.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 10 July 2026.

Name of Nominee:	
Address:	
	Post code:
Nominated by:	
Address:	
	Post code:
Telephone number:	
E-mail address:	
<p>I would like to nominate the above named person for the Pool-in-Wharfedale Honorary Citizen Award for the following reasons: (please use an additional sheet if required)</p>	

Please note that the views and contents in Village News are not the responsibility of the editors of the magazine but of the individual contributors.

St Barnabas Church

St Barnabas has been part of the village of Weeton since 1856 and has seen many changes. We are welcoming three weddings this summer when we hope the sun will shine on our newlyweds.

We have recently had to invest in, at large expense, a new cesspit in order to keep the church viable. We also have lots of other essential repairs which need addressing. So this is an APPEAL to everyone in the community to consider giving financial help with these issues. No matter how small your donation, every penny counts. We also have a Parish Giving Scheme at £3.00 a month. Our treasurer would love to hear from you.

Maybe you could consider running a one-off fund-raising event or perhaps be willing to join a fund-raising group. It is good fun and very satisfying. Please get in touch if you could help in any way.

After eight years as Parish Representative, I am stepping down at the next Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 26 May at 7pm at St Barnabas. I will also be leaving the PCC. This provides a vacancy for someone to step up and work alongside Di Ball who is taking over the main role. It is not very onerous as we only have two services a month and many hands make light work. At the end of the day St Barnabas will only continue with more support, both financially and physically.

If you are able to help in any way. Please contact the Rector, Rev Stroma McDermott on email stroma.mcdermott@leeds.anglican.org

We look forward to hearing from YOU.

Sandra Moss

Community Coffee Morning

We had a lovely coffee morning in April when we had a raffle. Lots of prizes were donated, to the extent that everyone who came went home with a prize! We raised a total of £117 for church funds. Many thanks to all who contributed and helped that day.

Our next coffee mornings with homemade cakes and tea/coffee, run from 10am – 11.30am. Forward dates are as follows :-

Wednesday **17 June**

Wednesday **15 July**

No coffee morning in August

Wednesday **16 September**

Venue: Sleights Meadow, top of Crag Lane, Huby. There is always a

noticeboard outside the driveway so you can find the barn. Thank you to Rod and Anne Thorpe for providing such a warm, cosy barn for us. All proceeds go to St Barnabas church.

Have a great summer everyone and please do not hesitate to visit us. We are a very friendly bunch.

Ros Bodsworth, 01423 734627



Almscliffe Tennis & Bowling Club

Could membership add years to your life?

As head of the tennis section at Almscliffe Tennis & Bowling Club and a member of several sports related volunteer groups, lots of sport related posts find their way into my inbox! No longer in the first flush of youth, I find myself encouraged into various activities to improve my health and well-being. I have long been a Pilates participant, having suffered with a bad back and more recently my husband and I have been tempted back to the gym to do some resistance and strength training work. Yet my real love lies with tennis. Without any natural ability I do not profess to play to any great standard, just respectably having been taught well, but I thrive on court and thoroughly enjoy the social interaction.

A recent headline caught my eye: ‘Why tennis players age more slowly than other athletes!’ Consequently, I feel honour-bound to share with you a highlight from the Copenhagen City Heart Study, an observational research study into various leisure-time physical activities to evaluate the differential improvements in life expectancy associated with participation in various sports. 8,577 participants were followed for up to 25 years between 1991 and 2017 for all causes of mortality. **Results concluded that those who played tennis lived 9.7 years longer than those in the sedentary group** (imagine my delight!), whilst football players 4.7 years, cyclists 3.7 years, joggers 3.2 years and gym goers 1.5 years!!

Participation in tennis benefits:

- By being HIIT (high intensity interval training), short sprints and recovery which are excellent for cardiovascular health
- Weight-bearing – good for bone density
- Strengthening your heart and reducing cardiovascular disease risk
- From encouraging rapid decision-making, spatial awareness and emotional regulation keeping your brain active
- Adaptability: singles at 30, doubles later, social hits or walking tennis in your 80s and beyond
- Most importantly it is social, countering loneliness.

Whilst enjoying that my favoured sport is viewed as ahead of the game, I do recognise that participation in any activity is so much better than being sedentary. Playing Crown Green Bowls provides many of the benefits listed above and critically

belonging to either sports group in our club and meeting regularly promotes an environment of belonging, support and community. Do come and join us!

We enjoyed coming together to cater for and run our pop-up café at Fewston at the end of March and as I write we are looking forward to hosting our Play with the Pros event this coming weekend, when we will have Davis Cup player Danny Sapsford and Wimbledon Doubles Champion Jonny Murray with us helping us raise money for our tennis outreach programme. Looking ahead, we have the **Club BBQ on Saturday 27 June which is open to all**. Look out for the advertising posters.

Tennis



Summer season matches will be well underway as this is published. We are delighted to welcome a new cycle of our talented older juniors to play with us in the adult leagues.

The weather has been kind so far, allowing us to mix social play with chat on a Saturday afternoon as all ages and abilities swap in and out in informal tournaments followed by the ever important tea and cake!

A promotional poster for a tennis introductory package. The title 'YOUR INTRO TO TENNIS' is at the top. A central graphic shows '£55 (Value £110) GETS YOU:' followed by a list of items: 'Tennis Racket', '3 x Tennis Balls', 'Branded T-Shirt', and '6 Coaching Sessions'. Logos for 'A.T.B.C.' and 'KINETIC TENNIS' are visible. At the bottom, it specifies 'Ages 5-12 years', 'Wednesday 16:00-17:45', and contact information: '938 850558', 'www.kinetictennis.co.uk', and 'info@kinetictennis.co.uk'. Logos for 'DUNLOP', 'Technifibre', and 'YONEX' are also present.

A promotional poster for an adult beginner tennis package. The title 'Hit Start Tennis Adult Beginner Package' is at the top. A central graphic shows '£75'. The package includes: 'Friday 19:00-20:00', 'Tube of Tennis Balls', '27 inch Tennis Racket (worth £70)', '6 Weekly Group Coaching Sessions', and '6 Weeks Free Membership'. Logos for 'A.T.B.C.' and 'KINETIC TENNIS' are visible. At the bottom, it provides contact information: '07938 850558', 'www.kinetictennis.co.uk', and 'info@kinetictennis.co.uk'. A photo of 'Jamie Walters' is included.

Should I have tempted you to give tennis a try in your search for longevity, you or your children or grandchildren maybe interested in our coaching offers or consult our website for the full programme. Non-members are welcome.

Bowling

The bowling season is now well underway. The Green looks great thanks to all the Green Team's hard work over the past couple of months.

The Harrogate and Tadcaster League matches have been won and lost but have been

enjoyed by all those who competed. Our first monthly 'choes and wine' has been held; these are social bowling afternoons, played in pairs, with a prize at the end - what more could you ask for? We hold these usually on the second Saturday afternoon of the month, open to all levels of players.



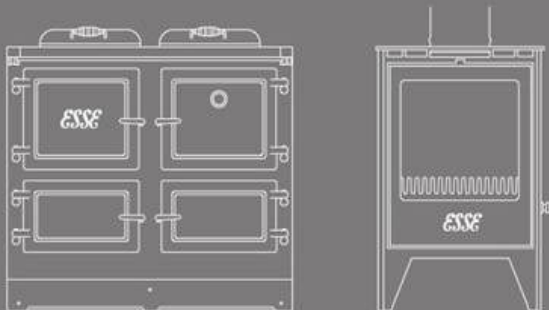
Mary Cockerham has arranged 'friendlies' matches against players from Wharfe Meadows, Bramhope and Adel with more to come as the season progresses.

Bowling is great exercise and a chance to meet new people and old friends. Come along on any Saturday afternoon at 2pm and have a go! We have bowls available to borrow. You will enjoy it!!

Search: Almscliffe Tennis & Bowling Club atbcmembers@gmail.com

Location of public access defibrillators (PADS) in the benefice

Sicklinghall	Attached to the outside wall of the school on Main Street (visible from the road)
Kirkby Overblow	Attached to the wall on the left of the entrance to the Shoulder of Mutton carpark (visible from the road)
Kearby with Netherby	Attached to the outside wall (to the left) of the Family Room at Maustin Park
North Rigton	Attached to the side wall of The Square & Compass on Rigton Hill
Huby	In the doorway of Almscliffe Hall
Pool	On the wall outside Pool Post Office Outside Pool Sports and Social Club On the wall adjacent to the main entrance of Old Pool Bank village hall on Quarry Farm Road
Weeton	Phone box opposite village green
Castley	Next to the seat on Castley Lane at the junction of Chapel Hill Lane
Dunkeswick	On the side of Sturdy's Cottage
Wharfedale Grange	In the lobby of the barn Open Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm



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Scott & James

Quiz night

St Peter's church held the annual quiz in the village hall on 27 February. Quizzers came from far and wide to pit their wits against the locals. Despite stiff opposition from teams from Linton, Weeton and even further afield, the Sicklinghall group from Raventofts just edged it to win the cup.

It was a good-humoured, fun event with pie, peas and drinks and, of course, the raffle. It was another very successful evening in bringing in over £1600. We are full of gratitude and admiration for the efforts of quiz master Adrian Dent, for Mike Thomson and family on ticket sales and catering, for Peter Outhwaite and generous donors for the raffle and for the wonderful ladies of the village hall for all their hard work in the kitchen on the night and beforehand.

Many thanks to all who attended, we hope to have another quiz in 2027.

Ann Myatt

News from Sicklinghall village hall

The hall is continuing to run its regular classes over the summer and is still available on a few weekends for parties and family gatherings.

If you are interested in using the hall, or attending any of the classes, please contact the booking secretary on
07761 207141

Suzanne

Dear Friends

Faith, doubt and choosing to believe

You may have seen in the news recently that Prince William has spoken about having a ‘quiet faith’. Whilst some commentators seem to have rather unfairly interpreted this as having doubts about what he believes, what he has not done is claimed any certainty over his faith. At first glance, that might seem surprising. Surely we expect someone who will one day be head of the Church of England to have a strong and certain faith?

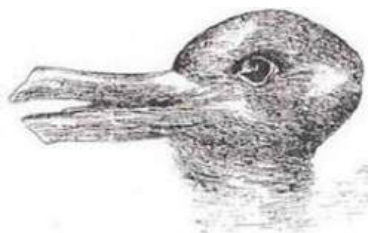
But if we pause for a moment, his experience may not be so unusual after all. In fact, it may be much closer to our own than we realise because I would wager that most of us, at one time or another, have found ourselves wondering: Is this really true? Is God really there? And these questions don’t just belong to sceptics or atheists, they are part of the journey of faith itself. Even those who have followed Jesus for many years can find moments when faith feels less certain than it once did.

One of the reasons for this is quite simple: we are limited. However much we think, read, pray, or reflect, we cannot fully grasp God in this life. Our little brains are too small! If God is God - beyond time, space, and human understanding, then there will always be mystery. And where there is mystery, there will always be room for doubt.

BUT DOUBT DOESN’T MEAN YOUR FAITH IS WEAK; IT MEANS YOUR FAITH IS REAL.

We can’t prove beyond all doubt God’s existence. Some people look at the world and see randomness, chance, and no greater meaning. Others look at the very same world and see beauty, purpose, and the fingerprints of a Creator.

It’s a bit like one of those optical illusions; perhaps you’ve seen this picture that can look like either a duck or a rabbit. The image doesn’t change, but how we see it does. In a similar way, faith is not simply about having enough evidence to prove God exists. It’s about how we interpret the world we are already living in.



And that brings us to something important: Faith is not just about what we think, it’s about how we live. To believe in God is not

simply to agree with an idea in our heads. It is to choose to live as if it is true that God is real, that he has been revealed in Jesus Christ, and that every person we meet is deeply loved by him. That choice doesn't remove doubt, but it gives us a way to walk through it.

So, if you ever find yourself questioning, wondering, or struggling, please don't think you've somehow failed. You haven't. You are in very good company. Even some of the most well-known Christians have spoken about doubt. C.S. Lewis once admitted that there were moments when faith "looked very improbable," and Pope Francis has said that those who think they have all the answers may be further from God than they realise.

The real question is not, "Can I be completely certain?" but rather, "Which way of seeing the world makes the most sense and how will I choose to live?"

For my part, I have come to believe that the world makes more sense when I see it as shaped by love rather than chance. That doesn't answer every question. It doesn't remove every doubt. But it gives me a better way to live: with hope, with purpose, and with a deeper sense of meaning.

And so, even with questions, I choose to live as if God is real. Perhaps that is the invitation for all of us.

God bless you.

Rev'd Emma James

Emma James' Priesting


You are warmly invited to my
priesting in Ripon Cathedral on

Saturday 27th June 2pm

and to join us
for our benefice service
at All Saints, Kirkby Overblow on

Sunday 28th June 10am

and afterwards for cake!



Benefice of Lower Wharfedale Church Services:

Sunday 7 June

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Pool	Family Service	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Celtic Service	11.00am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9.30am
Weeton	Family Service	11.00am

Tuesday 9 June

Sicklinghall	Community Service
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Sunday 14 June

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
North Rigton	Family Service	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Family Service	11.00am
Pool	Family Service	9.30am

Monday 15 June

Kirkby Overblow	Lego Church	3.30pm
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Thursday 18 June

Pool	Wharfedale Court	10.30am
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Sunday 21 June

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9.30am
Weeton	Parish Communion	11.00am
North Rigton	Peace & Praise	6.00pm

Monday 22 June

Pool	Lego Church	3.30pm
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Sunday 28 June

Kirkby Overblow	Benefice Service	10.00am
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Sunday 5 July

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Pool	Parish Communion	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Celtic Service	11.00am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9.30am
Weeton	Family Service	11.00am

Sunday 12 July

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
North Rigton	Parish Communion	9.30am
Pool	Family Service	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Family Service	11.00am

Tuesday 14 July

Sicklinghall	Community Service
--------------	-------------------

Thursday 16 July

Pool	Wharfedale Court	10.30am
------	------------------	---------

Sunday 19 July

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9.30am
Weeton	Parish Communion	11.00am
North Rigton	Peace and Praise	6.00pm

Sunday 26 July

North Rigton	Family Service	9.30am
Pool	Parish Communion	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Parish Communion with Sunday Club	11.00am

Admission to St Aidan's Church of England High School Harrogate

This year, as parents will know, St Aidan's was very heavily oversubscribed and some children from our schools and villages were not offered a place. St Aidan's remains a popular school destination and it is likely that the school will continue to be oversubscribed in future years.

When pupils apply to the school they are required to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which provides information if the school is oversubscribed upon which places will be offered.

For those applying for a Foundation Place, based on Christian Faith, I thought it was worth explaining the criteria again.

- The criteria for a Foundation Place are based on church attendance **averaged over a two year period.**
- Parents and children are given points based only on their church attendance.
- For those **attending church frequently (3 or 4 times a month) a child and parent each receive two points.**
- For those **attending regularly (1 or 2 times a month) a child and parent each receive one point.**

The SIF form is then signed by the lead minister of the church they attend who agrees the attendance points based on their knowledge of the family.

Over the last year we have increased our offering to families in the Benefice to ensure that parents and children have engaging worship and sufficient services to allow them to receive the maximum number of points for frequent attendance. The services are open to any family regardless of where they live or where their child attends school.

These include:

Family Services :

1st Sunday of the month St Barnabas, Weeton at 11am

2nd Sunday of the month St Wilfrid's Pool at 9:30 am and All Saints' Kirkby Overblow at 11am

4th Sunday of the month at St John's North Rigton at 9:30 am

Lego Church:

1st Monday each month at Pool C of e School at 3:30 am

3rd Monday each month at All Saints School Ko at 3:30 am

There is also a Communion Service with Sunday School at All Saints', KO at 11am on 4th Sunday.

Parents and children are also always welcome and invited to any of our other services in the Benefice.

The criteria have changed in recent years and community service and voluntary work no longer count towards points, even if this takes place in church, nor does attending school collective worship. It is based only on attending public worship at a local church.

I do hope you find this information helpful and if you have any questions or concerns there is further information on the St Aidan's website under Admissions.

Best wishes
Stroma

Rev'd Stroma McDermott
Rector of Lower Wharfedale Benefice

From the Registers

Baptisms

29 March	Pool	Minne Scarlett Amber Bolton
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Weddings

2nd May	Weeton	Rebecca Golenya and Joe Lawson
---------	--------	--------------------------------

Funerals

15 April	Pool	Elizabeth Davies
16 April	Kirkby Overblow	Paul Metcalfe
22 April	Pool	Maggie Raeburn
29 April	North Rigton	Freda Lishman

Interment of ashes

6 May	Pool	Raymond Thornton
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Three Peaks Challenge

Adam Lord, a supporter of St John's Church, North Ripton, is undertaking the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge on Saturday 6 June to raise funds towards the re-ordering of St John's. The project, which is still in the early stages of planning, will enable us to make the church more useable for services, the village school and the community.

The publicity for Adam's efforts will be on the various social media sites to enable us to raise funds by sponsoring him.

To add to what he raises by sponsorship, Adam will be applying to his employer for 'Match Funding' up to a maximum of £500.

Please support Adam by giving generously!

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/adam-lord-3?utm_term=VN266BZ7O&utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

Super – Smashing – Great

On Friday 17 April, the back room of the Square and Compass was filled with laughter. The first ever Bullseye quiz and darts night took place in front of a packed crowd. There were ten rounds of quiz questions and darts challenges.

It was lovely to see so many people joining in with the darts, and it proved great fun for all abilities. The 'walk-ons' to music intros like Titanium and Ice Ice Baby provided lots of entertainment, and it certainly got the second half off to a great start!

The Square & Compass kindly provided delicious bar snacks and donated a wonderful range of prizes for the teams.

An amazing £200 was raised for the village charity and everyone who attended said they had enjoyed the event.

Many thanks to those who came and supported the evening, and a special thank you to Paul from the Square and the lovely bar staff who worked so hard on the night.

Ange and Ro

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Litter picking in North Rigton

North Rigton PC held its annual litter pick on Saturday 14 March. Twenty-one residents came to offer their help and we successfully cleared the verges of each route into the village.

The quantity of cans, bottles and take away wrappers was considerable and very sad to see, but thank you to all those who gave their time to improve the environment in which we live. Look out for the next one!

Thanks to all who joined in.

Tim Bennett

North Rigton Parish Council

High Moor Road

Despite several 'false alarms' NYC Highways has now confirmed that total resurfacing from the top of Rigton Hill, all the way down to the bridge over Nor Beck, will be carried out "in June". Somewhat later than we had hoped but better late than never!

Vacancy

The Parish Council is pleased to report that local resident Garry Elliott, has been co-opted to the Parish Council to replace Barbara Massey who has left the village. Garry will join the Council at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 13 May.

Meeting with Highways Engineer

The Chairman and Clerk are meeting on site, with an engineer from NYC Highways, to discuss all the outstanding highways and verge issues throughout the village. Discussion will centre on potholes (generally), blocked drains, damaged verges and footpaths, flooding on Brackenwell Lane/Church Hill) and other relevant issues.

Mike Richards, Parish Clerk

Contact via northrigtonparishcouncil@gmail.com

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- With social media, and redesigning our website
- Join the hall committee and help shape the future
- Or offer your support on an as needs basis

If you have a little time to help out in support of your village hall, can offer your skills to help maintain or advertise the hall, or would like to join the committee, we need your help and would love to hear from you. Please contact Charlotte Owers on 07597 630653 or email: almscliffehall@gmail.com



North Rigton



Village
**GARDEN
PARTY**

Saturday 20th June
2026

In the Community Garden 4.30 - 11.00 pm

BAR - PIZZAS - CAKES - MUSIC - DANCING

GAMES - TOMBOLA - RAFFLE

DOG SHOW - PHOTOGRAPHER

*** CHILDRENS SPORTS 2.30 - 4.00***

Church Hill Playing Field

Sponsored by The Square and Compass

Organised by the Parish Council & Village Community Assoc.



News from All Saints'

Easter fell early this year. Easter Sunday was my birthday and it feels like a long time ago. But looking back we remember the party atmosphere which accompanied our joyful noisy parade around the green on Palm Sunday, with palm crosses waving, guitar music playing, and Daisy the pony in the lead - Daisy the understudy, who stepped up last-minute when our borrowed donkey became lame. Daisy, you're a star! We remember also the reflective, immersive and quietly powerful service in church on Good Friday morning. And the joy as we welcomed a BIG congregation on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Bells were rung and our flower arrangers shared with us their gift of colour and artistry in blossom and bloom. It was a morning of positivity and neighbourly togetherness. That our church is able to offer these services of worship is something we do not take for granted.

Speaking of services and thanks, Margaret Harcourt who has been responsible for the role of Sacristan for several decades has decided to retire and Linda Bullus has agreed to take over her position. The behind-the-scenes duties of Sacristan, essential to the smooth-running of the church, include being responsible for the vessels used in the Eucharist, the wafers and the wine, the linens and the candles. Thank you, Margaret, for your many years of service, and thank you, Linda, for accepting the job.

It's almost 12 months since we welcomed Rev'd Emma James as our new Curate. Emma will now take the final step on her journey to be ordained as a priest, being authorised to serve Holy Communion and to conduct baptisms. Fortunately for us, she will remain here in the Benefice for a while longer before relocating to a parish of her own. We love having her with us, moving the church's mission forward with enthusiasm and a zest for life.

Emma may be staying, but we'll be seeing less of Richard and Liza Gisborne who have moved out of the village after a lifetime of service to the parish. We wish them every blessing as they settle into their new home, and at the same time we welcome the Barber family who have joined us here. Liza will retain her role as Tower Captain to the bell ringing team, which is good news as we have two weddings coming up, and what would a wedding be without bells? Bell-ringing practice takes place most Wednesdays at 7.00pm and new ringers are most welcome. Please feel free to contact Liza on 07980 101057 for more information.

Lego church is very popular with young families and the next session will take place in church at 3.30pm on Monday 15 June. Emma and Moira will be there with drinks, snacks, a Bible story, and those all-important bricks. This will be the last session until school returns in the autumn.

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One or two building repairs are currently in hand, including an upgrade to the fire alarm and improvements to the roof insulation. Externally, works will soon begin on resurfacing, and in some areas rerouting, the footpaths through the churchyard. Hoggin - a compacted self-binding aggregate - has been chosen to create a firmer walking surface than the existing loose gravel, as well as having an attractive appearance.

You may be aware that toilet facilities in the vestry are inadequate for current needs. Busy events and functions demand better provision. Discussions have taken place and various ideas have been put forward over the years, but with no resolution. In truth there is no easy solution to the lack of usable space but with dogged determination surely we can find a way! A new proposal under consideration involves the removal of the first flight of the belfry staircase to free-up space for the installation of an accessible toilet cubicle adjacent to the existing WC. The mezzanine above the vestry would be extended by means of a cantilevered floor which would be accessed from the nave via a new staircase. The extended mezzanine would also provide extra floor space for Sunday school when needed. Cost-wise this is probably the least expensive option on offer. It is hoped to have some sketches for consultation very soon.

Meanwhile our monthly coffee mornings continue to attract friends and neighbours as well as walkers and cyclists passing through. Popularity is such that additional tables and china have been acquired to cope with demand! May's event included a sale of vegetable seedlings and herbs which raised £90 for the Flower Fund. Thank you, Malcolm, for the gift of plants from your greenhouse, and thank you to everyone who made a purchase. Coffee mornings take place in church on the first Wednesday of each month from 9.30 to 11.30. Please come along; you're assured of a warm welcome - and delicious cake!

Jill Gittins

Calling all Golfers!! The Kirkby Overblow Golf Day is returning....

After an absence of eight years, the Kirkby Overblow Golf Day is back in the 2026 calendar and will be held on Friday 25 September at Pannal Golf Club.

If you're a Pannal member, it's just £10 to enter. And, for non-members, it's still only £40, a fantastic saving on the usual price of £130. We hope to raise a generous sum for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, so there'll be a few opportunities to donate and, hopefully, win a few goodies along the way. In the evening, there'll be a celebratory dinner at The Shoulder of Mutton.

If you'd like to be crowned KO Golf Champion, now's your chance. Or just come along for a relaxing round of golf.

To register your interest, please contact **Ralph Pearce** at ralphpearce@mail.com

Mondira

All Saints' Church (via their Sunday School) sponsor Mondira, a 7 year old girl from Bangladesh.

Compassion is a Christian charity which partners with local churches in 29 Countries across the world. Compassion supported children grow up with the skills and resources they need to find employment to support themselves and their families.

Mondira lives in a small village called Agra Gorinaban, near Rangpur. She lives with her father (a day labourer), her mother (a housewife), her younger sister and her grandmother. Their house is a hut made from bricks, with a corrugated iron roof and a dirt floor. Mondira's diet mainly consists of fish, rice and eggs. Her favourite animal is a goat, and for transport, she and her family get around on their bicycles; there are very few cars in her village. She has many friends, particularly those she has met at the Compassion project in her church, and her favourite thing to do is to play with her dolls. When Mondira grows, up, she wants to be a doctor.

Through our sponsorship, Compassion provides Mondira with education, access to healthcare, nutritious food, physical, spiritual and emotional support; they also help equip her with vital life skills to safeguard her future.

All Saints' Church will continue to sponsor Mondira until she reaches adulthood and finishes her education; this is a significant commitment. All Saints' Sunday school children write to Mondira regularly and receive letters from Mondira in return. Further information about Compassion, Mondira, and copies of Mondira's letters are available in church for anyone who is interested in learning more.

Eve Ripley



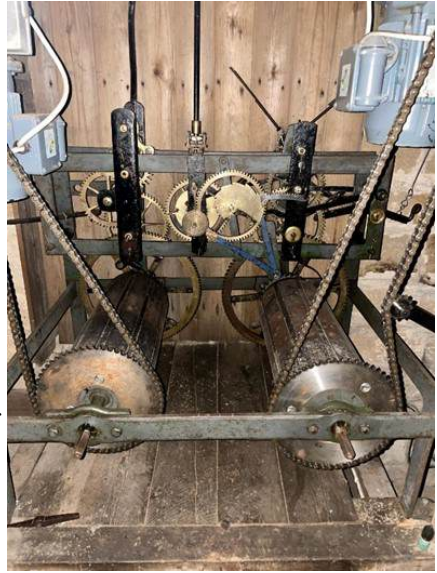
Confessions of a Clock Warden

For reasons that soon became clear to me, I have found myself as All Saints' clock warden for over ten years now. Along the way I've acquired a few affectionate nicknames – 'the Clock Wizard' and even 'the Time Lord' - though I can assure you my powers extend no further than a bespoke dial spanner, a careful ear, and an accurate iPhone.

In truth, my appointment had less to do with any horological expertise and more to do with geography. Living next door to the church means I can't help but notice the clock as I come and go, and the hourly chimes are part of daily life. When something's not quite right, I'm usually the first to know.

Getting to the clock itself is something of an adventure. The journey begins through the vestry, then up a staircase to the ringing room. From there, it becomes a little more vertical; metal ladders leading up through a ceiling hatch and into the clock room above. It's not exactly a grand entrance, more a dusty, slightly creaky reminder of the building's long history. But once you're there, surrounded by the mechanism that has kept time for generations, it feels rather special.

Our church clock is now almost 200 years old and, like many of us of a certain age, it has developed a few quirks. It has a habit of gaining about two minutes between 12 o'clock and 6, only to lose them again on the way back to 12. So, while it always comes good on the hour, it does like to keep me on my toes in the meantime.



Temperature also plays its part. In the summer months, the metal pendulum lengthens slightly in the warmth, causing the clock to slow down. In winter, it contracts and the clock speeds up. Even a strong wind can have an effect, subtly influencing the movement of the minute hands. It all adds to the character - and the challenge.

Most mornings, you'll find me checking the clock by the first chime at 8am, using the second hand on the clock on my iPhone as the reference. Adjustments are made by altering the length of the pendulum - a process of small tweaks and patient observation. The aim is simple: that when the hour strikes, the time is correct. If you happen to glance up between chimes and notice it running a minute or two fast, that's perfectly normal, it's how we keep things on track overall.

Thankfully, one task I've been spared is winding the clock. While it was once powered by heavy weights that needed regular lifting, electric motors now quietly do the hard work behind the scenes.

Spare a thought, too, for Jim Bennett, who goes one step further (or several ladders higher). On special occasions, Jim climbs beyond the clock room, ascending the full height of the tower to fly the flags. It makes my own duties feel positively grounded by comparison.

So next time you hear the bells or check the time as you pass by, spare a thought for the old clock and those who look after it. Between the weather, the seasons, and its own peculiar habits, it's a partnership that's never quite predictable, but always rewarding.

Lindsay McKenzie



80 years - now that's a milestone!

The first Weeton Show was held 80 years ago and, to celebrate our big birthday, we are giving away 10 tickets to this year's Show.

To be eligible to enter, you too need to be celebrating your 80th in 2026. Send your name, postcode, email address and date of birth to secretary@weetonshow.co.uk and you will be entered into our free prize draw, which will take place on 19th June - the lucky winners will be contacted the following week.

While Weeton Show is popular with families from far and wide, it is also a celebration of local community - and the Hog Roast is a great opportunity for everyone in Weeton and surrounding villages to get together. We spend so much time rushing around and behind the wheel, we rarely have the chance to simply meet and chat with our neighbours and fellow villagers.



So, why not come along and enjoy being part of something special - village life in the countryside? The food is delicious, the wine and beer flowing and the company great fun. This year's Hog Roast is on Friday 17th July at 7pm. Tickets are £17 for adults and £10 for children, available on the Weeton Show website - www.weetonshow.co.uk.



Don't forget to get your entries in for our competitive classes - there really is something for everyone to enter from the green fingered to the crafty - entries are open online and via paper entry forms sent out with the last Village News.

Show Day tickets are available from our website and are cheaper to buy online rather than on the day.

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Weeton Show couldn't happen without our volunteers - they are the success of the Show.....have you got a couple of hours to help us on 18th or 19th July? Contact showvolunteers@weetonshow.co.uk to volunteer your help.

Farnley Estate WI

In June our members will be given the opportunity to attend a regular meeting and an extra social event. We will be having a talk from the Friends of Otley Lido which will include a presentation of old photos and memories of Otley's outdoor pool. Some of our members used the pool in their childhood. We are hoping to organise a visit to the pool in a few months' time.

Also taking place this month is a visit by our members to the Fewston Assemblage Exhibition at the Washburn Heritage Centre which also involves a tour of the churchyard. Our members are very enthusiastic about this as they enjoyed the talk given by Sally Robinson in February which revealed some of the churchyard's secrets.

We do not have a monthly meeting in July so the members can visit, participate or help at the Great Yorkshire Show. However, to keep the members in touch with each other, a social visit has been organised to the garden of Gillian Lishman.

To view our programme for 2026 please visit <https://yorkshire-north-west.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/farnley-estate>

All our meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month at Leathley Village Hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. In addition, on the 4th Wednesday of the month, our new social events begin and these have been chosen by our members.

If you would like to come to any of the events above or want to know more about our WI, please contact Diane Hanline our President by email at farnleyestatewi@gmail.com

Village News business

The AGM of the Village News Committee was held on 6 May.

The first item on the agenda was to elect the officers and it was agreed that John Perry, Vanda McKenzie and Liz Barrett would continue in their current roles as Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

As ever, an important item on the agenda was to review our financial position. The accounts for the 2025 calendar year had been circulated, a summary of which is set out below, together with the 2024 figures for comparison. It was noted that, as a result of having to find a new printer, printing costs had increased recently, meaning that future

printing costs would be higher. It was also noted that advertising income had continued to fall. After discussion it was agreed that, in the light of the higher printing costs, it was necessary to slightly increase rates for advertising with effect from 2027.

The Committee was pleased to note that the introduction of the QR code on the back of the magazine as a means of making private donations had proved popular.

As ever, it was recognised that our only sources of income are advertising and donations and we rely heavily on the latter. We are extremely grateful for all donations, from both private individuals and organisations, and do hope we can continue to rely on your support in the future, without which we would be unable to continue to produce the magazine free of charge to all the residents of the benefice.

	2025	2024
INCOME	£	£
Advertising income	2,308	2546
Donations	<u>1,906</u>	<u>1,725</u>
Total income	<u>4,219</u>	<u>4271</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Printing costs	4,382	4,078
Other expenses	<u>18</u>	<u>49</u>
Total expenditure	<u>4,400</u>	<u>4,127</u>
Surplus/deficit	-186	144

Thank you again to both individuals and organisations for your continued support, without which the magazine could not survive. It is greatly appreciated.

The Editors

Directory of village groups and organisations

Group and Contact	Telephone/email	Website
All Saints' Church, Kirkby Overblow Jim Bennett Jeremy Cross	enquiries@allsaintschurchko.org 07970 374658 01423 879066	www.allsaintschurchko.org
Almscliffe Villages Community Association		northrigtonevents@gmail.com
Girlguiding Harrogate SW Division		www.girlguidingnyw.org.uk
Kirkby Overblow Village	info@kirkbyoverblow.org	www.kirkbyoverblow.org
Kirkby Overblow Drama Society (KODS)	Richard Gisborne gisborne.richard@gmail.com 07710 511640	
Pool in Wharfedale News	poolinwharfedalenews@gmail.com	www.pool-in-wharfedale.com
Weeton Show Candy Waller	01423 733404 e-mail via the website	www.weetonshow.co.uk
Sicklinghall Cricket Club Andy Wood	07816 347789 andy.wood@bl.uk	
Yorkshire Flower Club Sandra Harder	01943 877516 bobandsandraharder@gmail.com	
North Rigton Ladies Lunch Doris Telford	01423 734617	

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email: moirakeith2@gmail.com

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BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Davina Tyler
email: lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

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PASTOR: The Rev Gillian Robertson,
10 Whitsundale Close, Knaresborough HG5 0HX
Tel: 01423 869730 email: rev.g.r.robertson@btinternet.com

MINISTER: The Rev Gordon Hay
1, York Road, Knaresborough HG5 0AF
Tel: 01423 863298 / 07852817475 email: gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk

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MINISTER: The Rev Wendy Walker
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village news

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Mrs Vanda McKenzie
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