

A photograph of a winter forest. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, and several bare, dark trees stand in the foreground and middle ground. The background shows a hazy, light-colored sky, possibly during sunrise or sunset. The overall tone is cold and serene.

# village news

**December 2025 / January 2026**

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## Dear Reader

As we tumble into the season of giving - some of us gracefully, others clutching a half-finished to-do list - it's worth remembering that generosity comes in many forms. Yes, some people give beautifully wrapped gifts and homemade chutney. The rest of us give things like *mildly panicked smiles* and *promises to be more organised next year*. Both count.

Around our villages, the signs of the season are everywhere: fairy lights going up (and occasionally falling down), enthusiastic carollers practising in at least three different keys and the annual debate about whether we should have coloured, cold white or warm white lights on the Christmas tree. Truly, a magical time.



But giving doesn't have to mean sweeping acts of charity. It can be as simple as letting someone else take the last mince pie (even if you stare at it wistfully), or refraining from pointing out that someone's inflatable reindeer is slowly deflating into what looks like a festive crime scene.

In this issue, we've rounded up local events and a few opportunities to get involved - none of which require superhuman festive spirit. Just bring yourself, a warm coat, and a willingness to laugh when things don't go quite to plan.

Wishing you a brilliantly imperfect, thoroughly cheerful season of giving.

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

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Cover photo: Spofforth Golf Course by Linda Bullus

**Linda Bullus, Caroline Henderson and Liz Barrett: joint-editors**  
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## St Barnabas Church

Thank you to everyone who brought bags for the harvest festival. St Mark's was very grateful for all the food which goes into their food bank. We also had excellent numbers of people come for the September and October family services, with some new families joining us. A big welcome to everyone.

Our Christmas coffee morning will have taken place when you read this. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. The next normal coffee morning is on 21 January at Sleights Meadow 10.00 to 11.30. Please do come and join us. It is a very friendly group.

As this is the last magazine of the year, I would like to say thank you to all our volunteers who keep St Barnabas ticking over with cleaning, organising and setting up services, doing flowers and opening church at the weekends. A special thanks to our treasurer and clerk of works, John Morten. Thanks to everyone who does any little job. It is so appreciated.

### Services during December.

Sunday 7 December 11.00am Advent Family Service

Saturday 20 December 4.00pm CAROL SERVICE. We will have the Tewitt Well Band playing again this year. Thank you to them for their support. Mulled wine and mince pies to follow. See notice boards for details.

There will be **no service on Christmas Day** this year.

*Sandra Moss*

## Community coffee morning

Welcome to the start of winter with the colder, shorter daylight days. If you wish to be cheered up, come and try our Weeton and Huby Community Coffee morning in a lovely warm barn, thanks to Anne and Rod.

We do not meet up in December, our Christmas celebration being on 19 November. We start again in January, every third Wednesday in the month.

Venue: Sleights Meadow at the top of Crag Lane, Huby  
 Time: 10 - 11.30 am  
 Future dates 21 January  
 18 February  
 18 March



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Come and warm up with a cup of tea/coffee and homemade cake. All proceeds to St Barnabas' Church, Weeton.

In October we had a good turnout and raised £126.25 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to all who contributed.

Have a great Christmas and New Year.

***Ros Bodsworth***  
***01423 734627***

## **Weeton Parish Council**

### **Juniper Solar Farm**

It is anticipated that the Juniper Solar Farm planning application will go before the North Yorkshire Council Strategic Planning Committee in either early February or early March '26. Ahead of this, the Planning Officer's report, which will contain a recommendation for the planning committee to consider, will be published.

### **Outline planning permission for 4 dwellings in Huby**

NYC has recently granted outline planning consent for the construction of 4 dwellings on part of the field to the North of the A658 through Huby. In their decision report the Planning Officer highlights the following aspects that, under current National Planning Policy, tipped the decision in favour of being granted:

1. The absence of a five-year housing land supply in North Yorkshire means there is currently a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
2. While the site is located within Green Belt it is assessed as meeting the definition of grey belt land and the application met various requirements for appropriate development of homes within Green Belt.
3. Although the site falls outside the current bounds of Huby its location close to public transport links represents a sustainable location for housing development.

The full decision report can be viewed on NYC Planning Portal, planning application reference 25/02659/OUT

While NYC has attached a condition to the approval that they will address the concern over an increased risk of flooding from the combined sewer as a result of the development, the Parish Council is seeking clarification as it appears to relate to mitigating against an increase in foul water discharge to the sewer rather than surface water.

***David Chalmers***  
***Chair, Weeton Parish Council***  
[chair@weetonparish.gov.uk](mailto:chair@weetonparish.gov.uk)  
[www.weetonparish.gov.uk](http://www.weetonparish.gov.uk)





updates in terms of decoration but, like many clubs, we are considering the feasibility of adding **Padel** to our offering. The number of active Padel players in the UK has increased from 15,000 in 2019 to 400,000 in 2025. Padel is very easy to learn even for complete beginners and is inherently social, making it appealing to all age-groups and skill levels. Although Harrogate is one of the best served places for Padel in the UK, demand still outstrips supply which can make it expensive to play. Local clubs at Rawdon, Harrogate Spa and Ripon have made it a successful addition to their tennis offering. **Please do let us know by emailing [atbcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:atbcmembers@gmail.com) should you have any interest in Padel facilities in the village and can help in any way.**

## Bowling

League matches are now finished for this season, and teams will learn early next year whether they will stay in current divisions or move, up or down! The final matches for the Club Trophies were played on Saturday 20 September, waterproofs were a necessity for the deluge that followed.



Final results were:

Cawthray Mixed Pairs Cup - Jean Harrison and Steve Rae

Hollingwood Men's Shield - Chris Olding

Matthewman Ladies' Rosebowl - Carolyn Cowling

Hillary Challenge Cup - Chris Olding

Peter Meal Trophy - Paul Edgar

In the Harrogate Area Charity Pairs final John and Margaret Atkinson were beaten

by Carol Sunter and David Walker. Well played!

Many bowlers ended the season at a get together at the Wetherby Whaler Guiseley.



The club winter socials for members continue through the winter months with fierce competition in our domino afternoons on the second Saturday of each month.

Bowlers may be having a rest, but the Green Team continue to maintain the green throughout the

winter, scarifying, re-seeding etc preparing for the next season.

Merry Christmas to all! Hope to see you all in the New Year.

[www.atbc-huby.org.uk](http://www.atbc-huby.org.uk)

[atbcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:atbcmembers@gmail.com)

## Craft Group

2pm in Almscliffe Hall. Cost £2. Please enter by back fire door.

The next meetings are on 11 December and 8 January; activities yet to be decided.

**Jenny 07803 717659**



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## Talks Group

I am very sorry but this group has been cancelled completely due to the rising cost of speakers and audience reduction. Financially the talks are not viable.

Thank you to all who have attended in the past. We have had some good talks.  
Cheers.

*Jenny*

## Weeton Show membership



Sunday 19 July 2026 will see the 79<sup>th</sup> Weeton Show open its gates to visitors from all over Lower Wharfedale and beyond. Like all village shows, it is an integral part of our rural life and an opportunity for us to celebrate our community and the many talents that our friends and family have.

Over the years the Weeton Show members have been the backbone to success and their support has been invaluable. In recognition of the importance of our members, the committee have been working on giving the members' benefits a refresh and we are excited to share what have agreed to add as part of our member package. There will be more to come but here are some of the benefits members will enjoy at the 2026 show.

A dedicated area of the bar with seating and tables and a view of the main arena.

A covered area for picnics and viewing the arena.

Members only toilet facilities.

A free drink at the Hog Roast and discounts at selected stalls on show day.

Members businesses will be offered reduced advertising rates for around the show ground and in the schedule

There will of course be the usual member parking.

The plans for Weeton Show 2026 are still coming together but the day will be full of the usual thrills, spills and entertainment as well as the usual sheep, produce and horse classes.

Please do consider joining us next year as a member – or what about giving membership as a Christmas present? There are three types of membership: Adult: £30, Joint: £50 or Family: £60 (2 adults, up to three children). Full details are on the website [www.weetonshow.co.uk](http://www.weetonshow.co.uk). Membership badges will be sent in June. If you are buying the membership as a gift we will send you a voucher to give and the badges will be sent in the New Year.

## Sicklinghall Village Hall

In October the committee organised a Macmillan coffee morning. We were amazed by the turnout and in just a couple of hours made £1290. A big thank you to everyone for their generous donations and to those who helped set up the event and bake an amazing selection of cakes. Little children were not forgotten; a big thank you to Eddie and Ted for getting involved, encouraging people to come in and setting up dinosaur corner.

As we look forward to Christmas, we will be decorating the hall and lighting up our beautiful Christmas trees, both inside and out. Hall users get to enjoy the lovely fairy lights and yoga in the dark is always one to look forward to as a cosy winter treat. We also look forward to welcoming village carol singers for mulled wine after a cold walk down from both churches.

If you are interested in using the hall please contact our booking secretary, Janette on 07761 207141 or look on the website.

*Suzanne Phillips*  
on behalf of the Village Hall Committee

## Bat, Bowl and Belong with Sicklinghall Cricket Club

### Under 11s Winter Nets 2026

We're delighted to let you know that Sicklinghall Cricket Club's Under 11 Winter Nets training is returning on Friday 9 January and we'd love to welcome new players to join the fun.

Our sessions are designed to keep young cricketers active and developing their skills over the winter months, all whilst having a great time with friends. Whether your child has played cricket before or would simply like to give it a go for the first time, **everyone is welcome.**

#### Session details:

<b>When:</b>	Friday evenings, 6 - 7pm
<b>Where:</b>	Wetherby High School
<b>2026 Dates:</b>	9 January   16 January   23 January   30 January   13 February   27 February   6 March   13 March   20 March   27 March
<b>Cost:</b>	£5 per session, or £50 for the full block of 10 sessions.

Payment can be made in two instalments: £25 on registration and £25 before 27 February. See the club's website for full details.

We'd love to see lots of local children getting involved, building confidence, making friends and having fun with cricket this winter. It's a brilliant way to stay active and get a head start on the 2026 summer season.

If you have any questions, or would like to register, please don't hesitate to get in touch by contacting our Junior Club Secretary, Alex Halliday via email [sicklinghalljuniorcricket@gmail.com](mailto:sicklinghalljuniorcricket@gmail.com) or 07795 483 292.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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The poster features a dark background with yellow and red accents. It includes images of three children in cricket gear: one batting, one bowling, and one celebrating. A large cricket ball is also visible. The text is bold and white, with a blue banner at the bottom containing contact information and a QR code.



## News from All Saints'

It is a phenomenon universally acknowledged that time speeds up towards the end of the year. Unscientific, I'll grant you, but patently true even so. No sooner have costumed children arrived on your doorstep begging Halloween treats, and Guy Fawkes' fireworks whooshed noisily into the night sky, than I guarantee there'll be barely time to catch your breath before Christmas is upon us.

At All Saints' we have a number of events planned, but before we raise the curtain on our Advent offerings, let's pause for a moment to look back on what we achieved in autumn.

Following our **gardening appeal**, the borders on the south side of the church have been cleared and replanted and they're already taking shape nicely. A team of volunteers, including Robert and Caroline Henderson, Linda Bullus, Mike and Sarah Carter, Vicky Eyre and Lesley Leahey recently 'put the borders to bed' for the winter. They've done a great job and we look forward to seeing the planting develop further next spring.

**Harvest Festival** took place in mid-September. Seasonal flowers, in particular Heather Jones' dazzling home-grown dahlias, brightened every corner, and we came together in thankfulness and praise. Church and school - parishioners and parents - brought generous bag-loads of non-perishable food for the Food Mission at St Peter's, Harrogate. You contribute with kindness and your gifts make a real difference to less fortunate lives. St Peter's relies heavily on donations and we are glad to be part of their project. It is our intention to maintain support for the Mission with our Christmas appeal.

Next up was the sell-out **Harvest Supper**, when a well-honed team of busy parents pulled together a fabulous evening of food, friendship and fun for our families. Congratulations to all the organisers and thank-you to all who joined in. Events like



this offer a special opportunity to reinforce village friendships. As an added bonus, £1800 was raised, to be shared between the church, the school and St Peter's Food Mission. An all-round success and a result to be proud of.

## Remembrance Sunday.



Armistice Day this year marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2, and our Remembrance Sunday service was, as always, very well attended. Visitors were greeted by Jean Matthewman's stunning display of evergreens and red poppies, and Bruce Noble's drawing, a moving interpretation of John Singer Sargent's 1919 war painting 'Gassed', flanked the memorial on the north wall of the nave where the names of local men killed during WW1

are listed. At first glance the images of soldiers blinded and burned by mustard gas attack appear shocking, but on reflection there is also in the picture a glimmer of hope. As the young men support each other, they progress slowly forwards. *All is not lost*, they seem to say.

Visiting musician Karen Weaver from the Summerbridge and Dacre Silver Band sounded the Last Post and Reveille. Following a two-minute silence, Carol Simmonds read out the names of the fallen. David Yeadon read the Lesson, and Will Lewis was our organist. Leading the service, Moira Keith chose as her theme '*peace begins at home*', reflecting that in modern times, just as during the two World Wars, bitterness at perceived injustices and envy of the good fortune of others can permeate the consciousness of the wider society with devastating consequences. In our present discordant times where peace can seem elusive, this is surely a message to mull over.

### Coming up next

The annual pre-Christmas production by **KODS**, our village dramatic society, will this year showcase a plethora of local talent in a four-night and one matinée panto production of Cinderella. If you managed to obtain tickets for this November extravaganza, you were in luck, as KODS is always a good night out. But just how successful *was* Revd Stroma in her stage debut as the rear-end a pantomime horse? Alas, due to Village News print deadlines, you're going to have to wait until the next edition for the verdict!

Our first special December service in church will be **Decorate the Tree** on Sunday 7 December at 11.00am. This will be an informal service with baubles, carols and a little mayhem to open the door to Christmas. I'll be there; it's always great fun. Arrive early and you'll get to enjoy refreshments too.

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Revd Stroma, Moira and Emma will lead a **Family Christingle** starting at 11.00am on Sunday 14 December, and Stroma will be back with us again on the 24th for our **Christmas Eve Crib Service** at 4.00pm - the last service of the year at All Saints' and the perfect opportunity to wish your neighbours a Merry Christmas. *No late-night Eucharist this year.*

### **All Saints' Carol Concert**

Our carol concert is a long-standing tradition, and our home-grown choir, under the baton of choirmaster Will Lewis, is once again rehearsing a programme of music to capture the spirit of Christmas. The concert will take place on **Sunday 21 December**. Doors open at 6.00pm for festive refreshments, before the music begins at 6.30pm. This is always a hugely popular event and my advice is to turn up in good time. There will be a small charge at the door to cover costs, and a retiring collection in aid of the West Yorkshire children's hospice Forget-Me-Not, of which churchwarden and choir member, Jeremy Cross, is a Trustee.

### **Feeding Hungry Families, St Peter's Harrogate.**

Giving, sharing, caring - this is the essence of Christmas. As mentioned earlier, we have once again chosen to support the work of the Food Mission at St Peter's Harrogate. Their request is modest - **a few edible festive treats in a small, sturdy bag**, to be handed out to St Peter's clients for the holiday. The clients are single adults, with limited cooking/storage facilities. Examples of suitable lightweight non-perishable gifts include: small tin of salmon or ham, slab cake, biscuits, jam, tinned fruit, tea bags, chocolate or savoury snacks. No alcohol or food requiring refrigeration, please. If you'd like to be involved, please could you bring your gift to church no later than Monday 15 December. Church is open every day from 10am until dusk. Many of you have given generously in the past - thank you, you are our stars!

To finish, I offer you my distilled December check-list: untangle the tinsel, decorate your tree with love, then step back .... let the magic of the season (and maybe an extra pair of hands in the kitchen) take care of the rest. Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a positive New Year.

*Jill Gittins*

## **Macmillan coffee morning**

**A thank you from our coffee morning team**

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

Our annual Macmillan coffee morning was busy and buzzing with villagers and friends. To make the morning really special we were entertained by the mass choirs of All Saints' school. The full complement of ninety plus

children came and sang their harvest songs.

It was great to see so many there, from across the generations; catching up and sharing news; enjoying the coffee; sampling the cakes and donating very generously to Macmillan Cancer Support. We were able to send a cheque for £1,157.00, thank you to everyone.

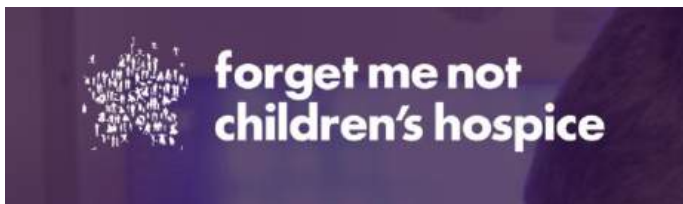


Those who couldn't make it missed a treat, but worry not we'll be here again in 2026 on Wednesday October 7. Now there's an early date for your 2026 diary.

*Caroline Henderson and the team*

## **The All Saints' Church Forget Me Not Christmas 2025 Appeal**

This year, once again, we are asking you to help us support the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice.



Forget Me Not provides family-led hospice care, free of charge, for children and young people from this area with life limiting illnesses. It supports children and families by providing nursing care, hydrotherapy, creative therapy, days out, memory making, end of life care, bereavement support and counselling to families facing the loss of their child. It helps them to make the most of every moment together.

Each year it needs to raise £6 million to fund their services and with only 10% of that



coming from the NHS, it simply wouldn't be there without the support of local communities.

Its promise is that: ***“For as long we’re here, no family in Yorkshire will have to face the loss of their child alone.”***

So, rather than send cards to your neighbours, donate to the appeal instead. When you come to the Carol Concert on 21 December, donate to our appeal. Or, if you prefer to live like a hermit over the festive season, do something amazing and simply donate from your armchair, because it is an incredibly worthwhile cause.

Please scan the QR code below to make your donation.

The QR code will also be located on the village notice board opposite The Shoulder of Mutton.

Thank you for your support and generosity.



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## Dear Friends,

At Christmas, we once again find ourselves drawn to the familiar story of the birth of Jesus - the child laid in a manger, angels singing, shepherds hurrying from their fields and wise travellers following the light of a distant star. It is a story that speaks of peace, of hope, and of God's presence with us. But it is also a story that draws together people from every walk of life - rich and poor, local and foreign, young and old - gathered in wonder around the Christ-child.



In a world so often marked by division and hostility, this gathering at the manger reminds us of the possibility of another way; a way of unity born out of humility, compassion, and love. The coming of Jesus was God's declaration that every human life carries dignity and worth; that no one is beyond the reach of His grace.



This message feels particularly urgent in our own time. Across the globe and even close to home, we see the painful consequences of division - marginalised groups feeling more excluded, politicians adopting extreme positions and communities fractured by fear or resentment. The temptation is to retreat into our own corners,

to see others as 'different' or 'against us'. Yet the Gospel calls us to resist such forces of separation.

Paul writes, "*For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility*" (Ephesians 2:14).

In Christ, the walls that separate us are torn down and a new humanity is born - one reconciled to God and to one another. This is the peace that Christmas proclaims; not a fragile truce, but a radical, transforming love that unites strangers and heals what is broken.

To live as people of this peace is not always easy. It means choosing compassion over contempt, forgiveness over bitterness, dialogue over silence. It means seeing the image of God in the person before us - whether they are friend or stranger, refugee or neighbour. It means being willing to cross the boundaries that divide, just as God crossed every boundary to dwell among us in Jesus.

This Christmas, may we be bearers of that divine love. Let our celebrations be marked not only by joy, but by generosity of spirit. Let us open our hearts and homes, stand alongside the excluded and speak words that build up rather than tear down. For in doing so, we bear witness to the same light that shone over Bethlehem - a light that still breaks into the world's darkness and draws all people together.

May that light guide your steps, warm your homes and fill your hearts with the peace of Christ this Christmas and always.



*The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (John 1:9)*

Love and blessings,

**Emma**

## **Hello everyone,**

I just wanted to introduce myself as the new Administrator for the Lower Wharfedale Benefice.

Although I'm new to this post, I'm not new to the world of church administration. For the past seven years, I've worked as the Deanery Administrator for the Loveden Deanery - a group of 33 churches in rural Lincolnshire. It's a role that has brought me both immense joy and, at times, a fair share of frustration (as I'm sure many of you can relate to!).

Despite the challenges, it's a job I thoroughly enjoy- full of variety, people and purpose. I am very much looking forward to working with Revd Stroma and the wider team.

On a personal note, I'm a mum to two grown-up children and soon to be a first-time grandma! I'm also the biggest Barry Manilow fan — please don't judge me!

I currently live in Pool-in-Wharfedale - my second time living here, as I first lived in the village back in 1985 - so I like to think of myself as something of a local!

I'm really looking forward to meeting many of you in time and working alongside you. Please do bear with me during this initial familiarisation period - and forgive me in advance for any 'daft' questions!

Should you need to get in touch, please contact me at:  
[lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com)

With best wishes,

*Davina Tyler*

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

20th September	St John's, North Rigton	Matilda Mabel Stapleton
12th October	St Barnabas, Weeton	Raven Hunter Michael Long
28 October	All Saints, Kirkby Overblow	Rose Jacqueline Buckley

### Funerals, Memorials and Interment of Ashes:

15 September	St Mary's, Stainburn	Brenda Morgan
17 September	St Wilfrid's, Pool	Margaret Godley
4 October	St Barnabas, Weeton	Richard Thomas Thomas
7 October	St Barnabas, Weeton	Louise Elizabeth Wilkinson
18 October	St Wilfrid's, Pool	William Rider
29 October	St John's, North Rigton	Celia May Morphet

Correction of inclusion in previous issue of the Village News with our apologies:

13 September	St Wilfrid's, Pool	William Marchant
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# Benefice of Lower Wharfedale church services

## DECEMBER

### 7 December

Kirkby Overblow	BCP Holy Communion	8.30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9.30am
Pool	Parish Eucharist	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Tree decorating service	11.00am
Weeton	Advent Family Service	11.00am

### 14 December

Kirkby Overblow	BCP Holy Communion	8.30am
North Rigton	Nativity Family Service	9.30am
Pool	Parish Eucharist	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Family Service/Christingle	11.00am

### Monday 15 December

Pool School	Lego Church Nativity	3.30pm
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### Tuesday 16 December

Sicklinghall	Community Coffee Morning and Service	10.30am
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### Saturday 20 December

Weeton	Carol Service with the Tewitt Well Band	4.00pm
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### 21 December

Kirkby Overblow	BCP Holy Communion	8.30am
Sicklinghall	Ecumenical Carol Service	3.00pm
Pool	Carol Service	4.00pm
Kirkby Overblow	Carol Concert	6.00pm

### Christmas Eve

Stainburn St Mary's	Carols and Candles Service	2.00pm
Pool	Crib and Christingle Service	4.00pm
Kirkby Overblow	Crib Service	4.00pm
North Rigton	Christmas Holy Communion	9.45pm
Pool	Midnight Communion	11.30pm

### Christmas Day

Pool	Christmas Day Holy Communion	9.30 am
Sicklinghall	Christmas Day Holy Communion	9.30 am

### 28 December

North Rigton	Benefice Service Holy Communion	10.00am
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## **JANUARY**

### **4 January**

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

### **11 January**

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

### **Tuesday 13 January**

Sicklinghall	Community Coffee Morning	10.30am
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### **Wednesday 14 January**

Pool	Holy Communion	10.30am
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### **18 January**

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

### **Monday 19 January**

Kirkby Overblow	Lego Church	3.30pm
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### **25 January**

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

### **Monday 26 January**

Pool School	Lego church	3.30pm
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A.T.B.C.



## Family fun in Pool

Crafty Bees is a family friendly crafting group, only £3 per family. This month we had some spooky fun and made some kooky treats, from bony skeletons to mini witches brooms and glow jars.

Big love to Sophie Tindall who has had a knee op and is recovering over Christmas.

The annual Pool Christmas tree switch on and social took place on 29 November. This event highlights the true meaning of Christmas. So many wonderful people have contributed to this event, be it their time, money or resources; far too many to name. This is what makes Pool a special village.

The Methodist church hall also hosts a regular science club for home educated children. Lots of hands on activities and science practicals.



The Crafting Hive celebrated their one-year anniversary. This is a craft group for women run every other month. It is low cost, subsidised and run by volunteers. Charlotte always comes up with a show stopper idea. This month we crafted brooms from foliage from our collective

gardens. Thirteen ladies all added their own styles and magic.

Pool Carousel had a wonderful time at Rooted Wings in September and in November we invited the famous Yorkshire fossil hunter, Mark Kemp, to come and show us his weird and wonderful fossils. He has created a marvellous workshop for the children in Pool and the surrounding areas.

Pool Carousel is another low cost, subsidised family friendly event which takes place every other month. We only charge a maximum of £5 per child and then use donated funds to cover the rest.

See you all in 2026.

*Michelle and Sophie*

## Friends of Pool Primary School

### Spooky Disco & Festive Fun Ahead!

On 17 October, we hosted our KS1 and KS2 Spooky School Discos with DJ Mr Shuffles - and what a fantastic time was had by all. The



children's creative (and creepy!) fancy dress outfits were brilliant, and together we raised £284.10 for Pool Primary School. A huge thank you to the teachers and parent volunteers who helped make the event such a success.



Now we're getting ready to sprinkle some Christmas magic! 🧙‍♂️ ✨

We'll be serving hot dogs and refreshments at the Pool Christmas Light Switch-On social event on Saturday 29 November, and then it's time to dance again at our School Christmas Disco with DJ Mr Shuffles on Thursday 4 December - guaranteed to get everyone into the festive spirit! 🎁 🎁

We'll round off the term with a Christmas Raffle & End-of-Term Social after school on Friday 19 December at Pool Sports & Social Club - a lovely way to celebrate together before the holidays.

We are currently seeking support from local businesses for raffle prize donations. If you're able to help, we would be incredibly grateful - please contact us at [poolpta@gmail.com](mailto:poolpta@gmail.com)

Thank you, as always, for supporting FOPPS and helping us make these events magical for our children! ✨

## All Souls' Service

On All Souls' Day, the Benefice came together at St Wilfrid's in Pool to remember and give thanks for our loved ones who are no longer with us. The service offered a time to celebrate their lives, express gratitude and provide space for reflection and grief.

Candles were lit as a symbol of our prayers and as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world, the source of our hope, who leads us from death to life.

We also wrote words of remembrance on forget-me-not flowers, giving thanks to God for the unique gifts that each of our loved ones brought to our lives.



*Emma James*

## Rainbow charity shop

As we approach Christmas, we invite you to call in and see the variety of seasonal items we have. There could just be something you are looking for. From party clothes to warm clothes for the colder days; lots of Christmas decorations; interesting toys, bric a brac and books which would make lovely gifts. Open every Saturday in the shop at the Methodist Church from 10am - 2.00pm.

## St Wilfrid's Church Ladies Group

Rudding Park in August was as good as ever and I am sure we will be back there again next year.

Pool Feast was a huge success and our stall was busy all day. It was great to have good weather this year and no rain.

On our St Wilfrid's special day 21 of us went for luncheon to Chequers restaurant again and it was a delight to all be together enjoying good food and great camaraderie on this day.

Having rearranged the date, we have our annual coffee morning at our church to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Research. It is now Saturday 22 November from 10am till 2pm and there will be lots of cakes and fun plus a big tombola and lots of prizes to be given away. No doubt it will be a fun day so please come along and





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- 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](mailto:almscliffehall@gmail.com)

support us. We dream of reaching the fabulous total of £1000 that we achieved last year, so please help us get there again.

On 1 December we are having our annual Christmas luncheon once more at Otley Golf Club and this year have invited the men too, so there are 27 of us going. Last year the meal, service and everything was exceptional and we all loved it there.

Our monthly ladies' meetings continue, apart from December as it is such a busy month. However please join us in the new year for our monthly get togethers as it is a wonderful way to meet new friends and get to know our fellow parishioners.

Men meet on the first Thursday of every month too at Pool Social Club.

***Kath Gamble***

***0113 2037766 / 07793 612714***

## **Tiddlers Playgroup**

Following the summer break, Tiddlers Playgroup met in September and welcomed new families, along with those who have been regulars for some time. Volunteers together with parents and carers have provided a variety of activities and play. There are opportunities for parents/carers to talk together and children to experience early steps in socialising and discovery.

There are two sessions in December. The first on Friday 5th and a week later, on the 12<sup>th</sup>, there is to be a Christmas party. I hear a whisper that there may be a special visitor calling in.

The Tiddlers will be meeting in the New Year on Friday 9 January and Friday 23rd.

We wish all families and helpers with the Tiddlers Playgroup a very happy Christmas and best wishes for happy times in 2026.

## **Toys for the Salvation Army**

On Sunday 7 December at 10.30am there will be a Toy Service at Pool Methodist Church led by Lindsey Hurst. Toys donated will be given to the Salvation Army for families in need

We would welcome gifts of toys and books which should be new. If you are not able to come to the Service you can leave gifts at the charity shop on Saturday 6 December marked for Toy Service. We will appreciate your help

Thank you.

***Joost Aartse-Tuyn***



## Pool-in-Wharfedale **Methodist** Chapel

Our worship services are traditional yet relaxed and friendly - an intimate time of sharing in praise together with others. Service times are changing from January, taking place on the **second and fourth Sunday of each month** with Communion on the second Sunday of each month. We warmly invite newcomers of all ages.

Our theme for Advent this year is **GIFTED**, with a message that "you are a gift, made with love." We hope that all who join our events this festive season will feel deeply assured that they are created in love, by love and for love – a unique present to our community and the world!



Each year, we hold a "toy service" with the opportunity to donate new toys to be distributed by the Salvation Army as gifts for children. It is a special moment to bless them knowing that each toy will bring smiles of joy! You are warmly invited to join in with that service and other events below:

**You are a gift. Made with love.**

	<b>TOY SERVICE   7 DEC 10.30AM</b> Service to bless donations of toys for the Salvation Army
	<b>CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT   14 DEC 3.30PM</b> Traditional Christmas Carols followed by refreshments
	<b>BLUE CHRISTMAS DROP IN   23 DEC 2 – 4PM</b> Find Christmas difficult? Drop in for a quiet space.
	<b>CHRISTMAS @ BRAMHOPE   25 DEC 10.30AM</b> We join our friends at Bramhope Methodist to celebrate



Wendy is a Methodist minister with oversight for the Methodist congregations in Bramhope and Pool-in-Wharfedale. Both of these congregations belong to a multisite church called The Chevin Methodist Church within the wider Wharfedale and Aireborough Methodist Circuit. Wendy shares three children (16, 14, 1) with her husband, Bruce. Her ministry is exercised part-time in those two churches alongside chaplaincy at Glen Rosa care home in Ilkley.

## A magical Christmas

Our Magical Christmas event will be held at St. John's, North Rigton, on Saturday 6 December from 4 to 6pm.

The event is planned to appeal to families and our community to get us all into the Christmas spirit.

It promises to be a fun filled evening with carols, poems and readings set round a magical Christmas tree in a fairy lit church. Mince pies, mulled wine and children's treats will be served to get us in the Christmas mood.



This early evening event will include short readings and poems by children and adults, together with the singing of traditional carols.

Contact: **Francesca** - [francesca.jenkinson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:francesca.jenkinson@hotmail.co.uk) or **Mary** - [m.e.hopkins@btinternet.com](mailto:m.e.hopkins@btinternet.com) for further information, or just turn up and join in.

North Rigton

**'FOR GOOD'**  
A NATIVITY STORY

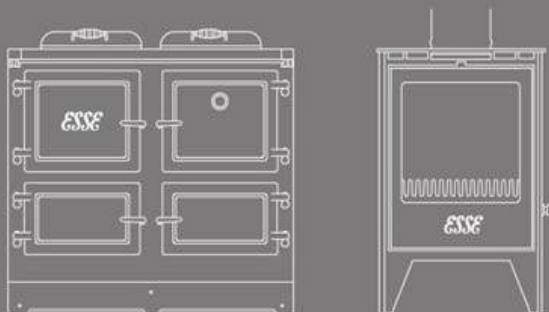
A nativity scene is depicted with a stable, a star, and a witch silhouette. The scene is set against a dark green background with a bright yellow star and a smaller star. A silhouette of a witch with a pointed hat and a broom is on the right. The text 'FOR GOOD' is in large yellow letters, and 'A NATIVITY STORY' is in smaller yellow letters below it. The text 'THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH...' is in yellow letters below the scene. The text '...WITH A SPRINKLE OF WICKED SPARKLE!' is in yellow letters below the scene, with 'WICKED' in a stylized font. The text 'Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am, St John's Church, North Rigton' is in yellow letters below the scene. The text 'Children: come dressed up as a nativity character!' is in yellow letters below the scene.

THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH...

...WITH A SPRINKLE OF **WICKED** SPARKLE!

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am, St John's Church, North Rigton

Children: come dressed up as a nativity character!



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### North Rigton's Community Christmas Charity

Once more our Community Association will be raising funds for a local Charity over the Christmas period.

We will be supporting "Carer's Resources" often referred to as "Young Carers", based in Harrogate.

By the time the Village News is published, Kati Tyler will have contributed to our cause by holding a "Tropic" event at the Square and Compass. Our Village Christmas Party at The Square & Compass on 5<sup>th</sup> December will also be contributing Funds.

**If you have missed both of these events you can still help our cause.**

We have an Annual Christmas Quiz, only £1 to buy, but we would prefer a donation!

It's a great family challenge for over the Christmas period, can even be given as a small gift!

---

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~~~~~  
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## Anyone for an allotment?

Freshly picked home grown fruit and vegetables are full of flavour and their texture is beyond comparison with those found in supermarkets, which can be up to two weeks old and may have travelled thousands of miles from where they were grown. You can also save hundreds of pounds every year by growing your own fruit and vegetables. With this in view we have formed the North Rigton Allotment Association.



Our association intends to acquire some land in the North Rigton area for residents to use for allotments. Becoming a member of an allotment association offers far more than a piece of ground to grow things; it offers friendship, mutual help and advice.

If you would like to become a member, or to just offer your support, please email me at

[ha2073@gmail.com](mailto:ha2073@gmail.com)

*Harvey Alexander*

## Date for Your Diaries in 2026

Don't miss out in 2026  
Add the date into your diaries **NOW!**

**NORTH RIGTON VILLAGE GALA - Saturday 20  
June 2026**

## North Rigton village party



**Village Christmas Party  
at  
The Square & Compass  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Welcome drink:** on arrival @ 19.00  
**Drinks and Canapes:** in the main bar until 19.45  
**Dinner served:** from 19.45 onwards

**Menu:** Turkey, Mushroom & Smoked Bacon Pie, with chestnut, cranberries and prosecco - Served with champ mash and turkey gravy.  
**Vegetarian Option:** Curried Sweet Potato and Cauliflower Pie.  
Christmas Cake with Wensleydale cheese & Mince Pies

**Entertainment:** Live music & a magician  
Carols around the Christmas Tree  
Fundraising raffle for charity, donations welcome.

**Cost:** £30.00 per head including 10% service charge for the staff and a £1.00 donation to charity.

**Booking:**  
<http://malvern-inns.mytoggle.io/shop/village-christmas-party>

# North Rigton Parish Council

## 1.Hall Green Lane/A658 junction

The Parish Council hosted an information event, prior to its November meeting, which allowed residents and other interested individuals (particularly those from Huby and Weeton) to submit their views on possible solutions, ask questions and hear about the successful and other actions put forward by the PC. All those present had the opportunity to question both the councillors and the Traffic Management Officer from North Yorkshire Police. Several interesting points emerged, particularly the need to also involve representatives from NYC Highways and Network Rail (soon to be part of the new combined authority – ‘Great British Railways’) Accordingly, a further meeting is to be arranged early in the new year, when all relevant authorities will hopefully be present.

(For a more detailed summary of all the issues raised, please see the Chairman’s report on the Council website)

## 2.Village Garden

In light of increasing maintenance costs, and in an effort hopefully to lessen the burden on council taxpayers, the Parish Council is setting up a system whereby users of the garden can make voluntary donations via a QR code, to be displayed in the garden. Sums collected will be assigned specifically to garden and play equipment maintenance.

## 3.High Moor Road

The road surface from the bend and up the hill into the village is appalling. The onset of winter and the inevitable spells of frost and ice, following heavy rain, will cause further deterioration and increase the risk of accidents. NYC Highways will again be alerted and the need for a comprehensive repair, ie total resurfacing, stressed.

## 4.Speed bumps

Given the ongoing increase in traffic flow through the village, largely due to ‘rat runners’, the Parish Council is giving serious consideration to the installation of speed bumps on the three roads through the village. Feasibility will be discussed with NYC.

**Mike Richards, Parish Clerk**

Contact via [northrigtonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:northrigtonparishcouncil@gmail.com)  
[www.northrigton.org](http://www.northrigton.org)

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## **Farnley Estate WI**

In November our speaker was Pat Brown who gave our members an insight into what is involved in training puppies as guide dogs for the blind. Pat was a very experienced puppy walking trainer and brought two dogs with her to the meeting.

Although 2025 is slowly ending, our WI has still a lot to look forward to.

Our year will conclude with a festive atmosphere as we all participate in a Christmas crafting evening which will be a lot of fun.

Our 2026 programme is available to all our members in December. The first meeting, in January, again shows our WI supporting local people as Cathy Whitfield will tell us about the creation of Farnley Fish Farm. Our first social event will also take place in January; this is an additional event to our monthly meeting.

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:farnleyestatewi@gmail.com).

## **Location of public access defibrillators (PADS) in the benefice**

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

It would be helpful to our advertisers and Village News if, when responding to an advert, you could mention you saw it here!

Village News cannot accept responsibility for the quality of goods or services advertised in the magazine.

# Directory of village groups and organisations

| Group and Contact                                                             | Telephone/email                                                                                                      | Website                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>All Saints' Church,<br/>Kirkby Overblow</b><br>Jim Bennett<br>Jeremy Cross | <a href="mailto:enquiries@allsaintschurchko.org">enquiries@allsaintschurchko.org</a><br>07970 374658<br>01423 879066 | <a href="http://www.allsaintschurchko.org">www.allsaintschurchko.org</a> |
| <b>Almscliffe Villages<br/>Community Association</b><br>John Hopkins          | 01423 734745<br><a href="mailto:j.k.hopkins@btinternet.com">j.k.hopkins@btinternet.com</a>                           | <a href="http://www.northrigton.org">www.northrigton.org</a>             |
| <b>Girlguiding<br/>Harrogate SW Division</b>                                  |                                                                                                                      | <a href="http://www.girlguidingnyw.org.uk">www.girlguidingnyw.org.uk</a> |
| <b>Huby Crafts</b><br>Jenny Stacey                                            | 01423 734384                                                                                                         |                                                                          |
| <b>Kirkby Overblow<br/>Village</b>                                            | <a href="mailto:info@kirkbyoverblow.org">info@kirkbyoverblow.org</a>                                                 | <a href="http://www.kirkbyoverblow.org">www.kirkbyoverblow.org</a>       |
| <b>Kirkby Overblow<br/>Drama Society (KODS)</b>                               | Richard Gisborne<br><a href="mailto:gisborne.richard@gmail.com">gisborne.richard@gmail.com</a><br>07710 511640       |                                                                          |

|                                                       |                                                                                                |                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pool in Wharfedale<br/>News</b>                    | <a href="mailto:poolinwharfedalenews@gmail.com">poolinwharfedalenews@gmail.com</a>             | <a href="http://www.pool-in-wharfedale.com">www.pool-in-wharfedale.com</a> |
| <b>Weeton Show</b><br>Candy Waller                    | 01423 733404<br>e-mail via the website                                                         | <a href="http://www.weetonshow.co.uk">www.weetonshow.co.uk</a>             |
| <b>Sicklinghall Cricket<br/>Club</b><br>Andy Wood     | 07816 347789<br><a href="mailto:andy.wood@bl.uk">andy.wood@bl.uk</a>                           |                                                                            |
| <b>Yorkshire Flower Club</b><br>Sandra Harder         | 01943 877516<br><a href="mailto:bobandsandraharder@gmail.com">bobandsandraharder@gmail.com</a> |                                                                            |
| <b>North Rigton Ladies<br/>Lunch</b><br>Doris Telford | 01423 734617                                                                                   |                                                                            |



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Hayfield House, Strait Lane, Huby, LS17 0EA  
Tel: 01423 806878 email: stroma.mcdermott@leeds.anglican.org

**CURATE:** Emma James  
Tel: 07856 198293 email: emma.james@leeds.anglican.org

**READER:** Moira Keith  
3 Park Way, Pool in Wharfedale, Otley, LS21 1LD  
Tel: 07794 488706  
email: moirakeith2@gmail.com

**READER:** Jan Ali  
Tel: 07554 458131 email: jan.ali@leeds.anglican.org

**READER EMERITUS:** Lois Plows  
Ryeland House, Back Lane, Sicklinghall, Wetherby LS22 4BQ  
Tel: 01937 580632

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

### **Methodist Church at Kearby** 3pm Sunday

**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

### **Methodist Church and Rainbow Centre in Pool**

**MINISTER:** The Rev Wendy Walker  
Circuit office: 07482 717810  
email: wendy.walker@methodist.org.uk

### **Roman Catholic Church**

Church of the Immaculate Conception administered by the Peter Middleton Trust  
Tel: 01937 581744

#### **Kirkby Overblow**

Jim Bennett 07970 374658  
Jeremy Cross 01423 879066

#### **Pool with Arthington**

Sue Ford 01132 842386

#### **Sicklinghall**

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#### **North Rigton**

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#### **Weeton**

vacant

#### **Kearby Methodist Chapel**

*Chapel Steward*  
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# village news

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Mrs Vanda McKenzie  
The Old Rectory  
Kirkby Overblow  
Harrogate HG3 1HD  
Email: vandamckenzie@gmail.com

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Mrs Sarah Coughlan

Mobile: 07890 039150

Email: sarahecoughlan58@gmail.com

Please make cheques payable to:  
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**Deadline:** Material for the February/March issue by **Wednesday 7 January**

Please email: [lwparishnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lwparishnews@yahoo.co.uk)

## Parish Council Clerks

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Julie Clegg  
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