



Marston Moor Parish and Village News

Serving the villages of Askham Richard, Bilbrough,
Long Marston, Rufforth and the hamlets of Angram
and Hutton Wandesley



Sunday Services in August 2026

	Askham Richard	Bilbrough	Long Marston	Rufforth	Tockwith
2nd 9th Sunday after Trinity	Tockwith Show Service 10.30am Parish Holy Communion Rufforth – 11.00am				
9th 10th Sunday after Trinity	9.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Parish Praise	5.00pm Holy Communion	11.00am Worship Together	11.00am Creative Communion
16th 11th Sunday after Trinity	No Service (Summer fair)	9.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Creative Church	11.00am All Age Worship	6.00pm BCP Communion
23rd 12th Sunday after Trinity	9.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Family Praise	11.00am All Age Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Informal Parish Praise
30th 13th Sunday after Trinity	Parish Holy Communion Tockwith 10.00am				

REVEREND

Reverend Martin Otter
 The Vicarage, Rufforth, York. YO23 3QF
 Mob: 07842 106044
 Email: martin@theottersholt.plus.com
 Day off: Friday

CURATE

Reverend Dr Karen Flood
 Tel: 07733 440425
 Email: karenflood@doctors.org.uk

READER

Mrs Ann Watson
 Tel: 07896 599198 / 01904 738786
 Email: robnannwatson@gmail.com

METHODIST MINISTER

Reverend Elizabeth Cushion
 Tel: 01904 788033

CHURCHWARDENS:**ASKHAM RICHARD**

Sue Elgie 07891 827147

BILBROUGH

Glynis Ashford 01937 833134
 Peigi MacDonald 01937 835729

LONG MARSTON

Linda Foster 07974934411

RUFFORTH

Alan Wrigley 07831401120

TOCKWITH

Steve Denton 01423 457192

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Margaret Denton 01423 457192
margaret.denton3@btinternet.com

PARISH OFFICE

Address: The Parish Office, The Vicarage,
 Rufforth, York, YO23 3QF
 Telephone: 01904 738262
 Email: mmparishoffice@gmail.com

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Laura Ghassempour

The PARISH OFFICE is open on: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (Timings differ; please check on the website a church near you)

Readings**2 August 2026 I will not let you go**

Proper 13: **Genesis 32.22-31**; Psalm 17:1-7,15; Romans 9.1-5;
 Matthew 14.13-21

9 August 2026 Holding on to hope

Proper 14: **Genesis 37:1-4,12-28**; Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45b; Romans
 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33

16 August 2026 From the heart

Proper 15: **Genesis 45:1-15**; Psalm 133; Romans 11.1-2a,29-32;
 Matthew 15.(10-20),21-28

23 August 2026 Empowered

Proper 16: **Exodus 1:8-2:10**; Psalm 124; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew
 16.13-20

30 August 2026 One step at a time

Proper 17: **Exodus 3:1-15**; Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45b; Romans 12.9-21;
 Matthew 16.21-28



All communications regarding PARISH & VILLAGE NEWS should be addressed to the Editor at rbhenbury@gmail.com

Copy for the next edition of PARISH & VILLAGE NEWS **September 2026** must be submitted to your village representative by **12th August 2026**.

It would be greatly appreciated if items could be typed and submitted as a Word document by email to Rex Beach: rbhenbury@gmail.com

Whilst the VCCs of Rufforth, Long Marston, Askham Richard and Bilbrough are pleased to include details of the services offered by the several advertisers included in PARISH & VILLAGE NEWS, they are unable to accept any liability in respect thereof.

Revd Karen writes...

Dear all

I would like to start by saying a big “thank you” to you all for the love, support and encouragement you have shown to me and my family since we joined you in this Parish. It was lovely to see so many of you at Selby Abbey as I was ordained Priest on 28th June and in Tockwith for my first Eucharist on Sunday 12th July. The “bring and share” lunch was amazing, as was the champagne cork that spontaneous popped during an apt point in my sermon! Thank you also for the cards, e-mails and messages that you sent. Your welcome to us has enabled us to grow and flourish in our ministry. I hope that in return I will be able to do the same for you all as I continue my work here with Martin.



When I wrote in the magazine after my ordination as Deacon, I listed some of the promises that I made at my ordination so that you could hold me accountable. The list of promises made at my ordination as Priest was quite a long one, but there were five main themes. These being Priests as servants, shepherds, stewards, messengers and sentinels (those who look for where God is at

work) within the communities that they serve. Being a servant at the heart of all Christian ministry and the ministry that Jesus demonstrated to us during his life on the earth as the “Servant King”. He was also known as the “Good Shepherd”, which is the part of Priestly ministry that I would like us all to think about for a moment.



Did any of you watch the film “The Sheep Detectives” when it was at the cinema the other month? If you haven’t, I would strongly advise that you do even if, like Martin, you struggle with the idea of sheep talking! Apart from the fact that it’s a good light-hearted film with lots of humour, throughout it runs many Christian themes which the sheep gently reflect

on, including Jesus as Shepherd and the complexities of understanding the Trinity, where we understand God to be three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

George (played by Hugh Jackman) is shepherd to a herd of highly intelligent sheep that he has a true heart and love for. He knows each of them by name, understands their personalities and cares for them as individuals as well as a community. His shepherding parallels how God knows each one of us by name and loves us for who we are, not who others think we should be. It is a love that is unconditional and unending.

A sub plot of the film (hopefully not giving away too much for those who are yet to watch it) is around the themes of prejudice and inclusivity. True to sheep customs the flock shuns the two “winter lambs” as unwanted outsiders. These lambs are excluded from the protection of the other sheep as they are seen as being different to them and therefore are not allowed to belong. However, George as shepherd, helps to love and care for them, emphasizing to them and the others the grace, love and acceptance that should be extended to them.

Their exclusion seems so obviously wrong in the film and yet this is something that in reality happens all the time to humans. Whether intentional or not, it is something that we all need to be aware of. Jesus the good shepherd teaches us that we should love one another, but this doesn’t mean only those who we like or find easy to get on with. Our love and care need to extend to and include everyone - especially those who are different to us and at times may challenge some of our thoughts and beliefs. There should be no one who feels like a “winter lamb” in our communities. Whether in our churches, schools, places of work or home, we should ensure that all are loved and enabled to belong.

It has been lovely to get to know so many of you over the last year and I hope that this continues over the next few years. It was good to see so many new faces at the Rufforth and Tockwith quizzes recently, and I hope to meet many more of you at the other events we are planning over the next few months. Martin and I are here for everyone, whether you come to church regularly, or have never been. If you want to talk about anything, or are considering baptism, confirmation (we are planning to have another service next year) a wedding or planning a funeral, please do get in touch with us. I’m also very happy to discuss The Sheep

Detectives over a cuppa 😊 **Karen**

Karen's ordination



These past few weeks have been a joyous time for the Parish with Karen's ordination as Priest, and then yesterday with us all coming together in Tockwith where some 85 folk from all over the parish and further afield came to support Karen as she presided at her first Eucharist, after which most stayed to enjoy each other's company over a plentiful bring and share lunch. Sandwiched

between these services Karen led her first Marriage service and we jointly led a Marriage blessing service. She is now fully fledged to go it alone, and over the coming weeks and months she will be leading more and more of our services, on her own or with Ann and I supporting her.

For those unable to make her ordination I asked Christine to write her own experience and thoughts of that very special and moving service which she has done so brilliantly below. Martin.



Having never been to an Ordination service before, I had no idea what to expect! The splendour of Selby Abbey, the incredible acoustics and the strength of the pipe organ and full choir certainly set the scene for a very special occasion. We were not disappointed. There was a wonderful atmosphere amongst the congregation of unity, support and love from families and friends for the three Ordinands, Karen, Sam and Hannah. Looking through the Order of Service, and as

we progressed through the service, I was struck by the huge weight of responsibility these three were signing up to! The Bishop of Selby in her sermon set out what was going to be required of them in their ministry. As we moved on to the Liturgy of Ordination, the Bishop asked them all to confirm the declarations of acceptance of this undertaking - a very moving part of the service. The congregation were then asked to confirm that they would support the Ordinands in their ministry. The final stage of their ordination was the laying on of hands by the Bishop and assisting priests, on each of the candidates and then the anointing of each one. It's difficult to describe just how special it was to be there supporting Karen and the other two Ordinands as they committed to such a significant and spiritual step in their lives. The rousing singing of the final hymn was testament to how everyone had been affected by such a moving and joyous experience. Written by Christine



From the Registers in the Parish of Marston Moor



Weddings

2nd July – Tockwith, Micheal Appleyard & Amy Robinson

4th July – Long Marston, Tony Fowler & Sophie Search

11th July – Rufforth, Birgit Jakobs & Francis Rowbotham (wedding blessing)

25th July – Tockwith, William Sherwood & Isabella Warren

Funerals

7th July – Stonefall Crematorium, Brian Howell

22nd July – York Crematorium, Alan Wilson

Dates for your diary

Each Tuesday of the month

10 – 12pm Stay and Play **Long Marston** Church

1.30 - 3.30pm **Long Marston** Post Office and Pop-Up café

The first Wednesday of the month Coffee morning **Bilbrough** 10.30-12.30

The third Wednesday of the month Epiphany cafe **Tockwith** 2-3.30
Stay and Play **Bilbrough** 10-12

Parish Pray Meeting

Askham Richard Church Hall, usually last Monday of the month 9.30-10.30am

Contact Karen Flood karenflood@doctors.org.uk

Baptism

Baptism is the start of an amazing journey of faith for yourself or your child and a special day not only for your friends and family but also for the church community, it is wonderful to think that others are wanting to join the faith that means so much to us. There is no difference between a christening and a baptism service, they are different words describing the same thing, just like couples are 'married' during a 'wedding' service. You can have your child baptized regardless of whether or not you, the parents, are baptized, you may even consider being baptized with them if you are not already. It is only the godparents who are required to be baptized, (so the only time a parent would have to be baptized is if they were also acting as a godparent). For more information on being baptized please contact Rev'd Martin Otter (07842 106044, martin@theottersholt.plus.com).

Our services on Zoom are bringing people together from all of our villages, and further afield.

These are on Thursdays at 11.00 am.

If you are not already doing so and would like to join us, you need to log onto the Zoom website/app and use the ID 834 0787 4445 and password 036829.

Please consider, if you don't already, giving to your church by Standing Order to one of these Bank Accounts

- Parish Magazine account, NATA Parish News 09-01-54, 07643486
- Askham Richard VCC, 09-01-51, 42355305
- Bilbrough Parochial Church Council, 40-44-01, 11091476
- Long Marston Parochial Church Council, 20-99-56, 50582239
- All Saints Church Rufforth, 09-01-55, 16862081
- Tockwith Parochial Church Council, 40-46-21, 71165933
- **or** for the more general Mission and Ministry of the Parish.
- The Parish of Marston Moor, 30-98-97, 63309268



Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?
Jonah 1:1-2

2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?
Acts 16:9-10

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?
Matthew 15:29

4 across
After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?
Acts 14:19-20

4 down
Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?
Acts 9:3

5 across
Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?
Ruth 1:22

6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?
Acts 13:51

7 across
Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?
Acts 11:22

7 down
Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?
Genesis 8:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?
Matthew 2:13

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?
Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?
Mark 1:5

11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?
Acts 20:6

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?
Exodus 15:4

13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?
Acts 18:1

BIBLE

JOURNEYS

LYSTRA

MOAB

EGYPT

JERUSALEM

JUDEA

GALILEE

Aug26 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

MARSTON MOOR YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, 8th July



On a blistering hot summer day, we welcomed Eric Jackson who had come to tell us about two historic houses, Hardwick Hall

and Chatsworth. The connection between the two was Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury who is better known as Bess of Hardwick.

Bess married four times, each time more advantageously and with her second husband, Sir William Cavendish, bought the Chatsworth Estate for £600 and began constructing the first house on the site. They had eight children but at the age of 30 she was widowed for the second time. Two years later she married the captain of Elizabeth I's guard and the Queen, as a wedding gift, made her a Lady of the Privy chamber. William died five or six years later, leaving her most of his property. Her final marriage, two years later, was to George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury who was the head of one of the richest families in England. Sadly, it was not a happy marriage but despite his feelings towards her she inherited his fortune upon his death in 1590, which made her, after the Queen, the richest woman in England. Bess, now in her 60's moved back to her childhood home, Hardwick Hall, and set about building a new hall which symbolized her wealth and power, which is still in existence today. She was definitely a woman to be reckoned with!



Eric was warmly thanked and tea and blueberry muffins were partaken of. Sue welcomed Marian who had joined us for the afternoon and ascertained that everyone would be happy to go to Doyleys for lunch next month and would make the necessary arrangements. Dates for your diaries: 15th October – Autumn meeting at the Engine Shed, Wetherby £30; 30th October – West Riding Christmas lunch at Rogerthorpe Manor.

If you would like to join us, we meet on the second Wednesday of each month. New members are always welcome, we don't bite, so for further details please contact Sue Lewis 01904 738658 for details.

MARSTON MOOR PROBUS CLUB



Professor Richard Morris gave a brilliant talk on Barnes Wallis at the June meeting

Whilst Barnes Wallis is remembered for his contributions to creating a bouncing bomb for the Dam Buster raids



in World War Two, and being immortalised by Michael Redgrave in the 1955 film, members learned more about the man, his family and achievements that spanned most of the 20th century.

Professor Morris had been invited to write a biography of Barnes Wallis by his daughter and given access to the family archive containing many documents and letters. The research took 14 years before Professor Morris's book, *Dam Buster: Barnes Wallis, the Lost Visionary of British Aviation*, was published.

Barnes Wallis met his wife Molly, his second cousin, when she was just 17 and he was 34. Molly's father was against the relationship but allowed Barnes Wallis to write to Molly to teach her differential calculus! However, they included pressed wildflowers in their letters to each other and wrote every day even when Barnes Wallis was in Europe. They were allowed to marry in 1925 and were married for 54 years.

Barnes Wallis's work and career achievements ranged from developing airships at its start to reusable spacecraft near the end. In the years between he pioneered new kinds of aircraft structure, bombs to alter the way in which wars are fought, and aeroplanes that could change shape in flight. His later work extended to the Parkes radio telescope in New South Wales, Australia, prosthetic limbs, and plans for a fleet of high-speed cargo submarines to travel the world's oceans in silence.

Wallis was an unassuming man who kept a close eye on his legacy and was last in a line of visionary hands-on engineers.

The next meeting is at Long Marston Village Hall on 28th July, and the talk will be: *Rievaulx Abbey; A Place in Time*, given by Rev. Dr. Greg Hoyland. Refreshments are available from 10 am and talks begin at 10.30.

Please Note: The meeting on Tuesday 25th August is a tour of St Helen's Church, Bilton in Ainsty, led by historian Susie Pilling and beginning at **10 am**. This will be followed by lunch at The Sun Inn, Long Marston

Please contact Richard Myers on 07770 535261 for more information



ST. MARY'S, ASKHAM RICHARD

**Please see the back cover of magazine
for the timetable of services**

**To Donate to the work and upkeep of St.
Mary's please use your smartphone to scan
the QR code alongside and follow the onscreen
instructions Thank you.**



**All are very welcome to our services at St. Mary's, and information
about them, and all that we do in the parish can be found at
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18850>**

50/50 Draw...

The winners for July below...

July 5th – Laura Fieldhouse
July 12th – Julie Lawn
July 19th – Len Elgie
July 26th – Christine Barber



July's numbers were drawn by: Garry Bowman

Dates for your diary.....

Picnic on the green – Sunday 16th August 12noon – 5pm

VCC Meeting – Tuesday 18th August 1pm in the Hall

Quiz Night – Thursday 8th October – 7pm

Harvest Festival – 18th October – 10am

Coffee Morning with Crafts – 18th November – 10am – 12 noon

Summer Teas...

The final three weeks of the summer teas will be on **July 19th and 26th** and **August 2nd 2.30pm – 5pm**. If you are free, please do pop over to the hall and support them, the ladies do put so much work into the baking and serving and they will look forward to welcoming you.



Still time for another attempt...

Many birds have reared a family of chicks by now and happy to call it a day for this season. However, some birds will go on to raise a second or even a third brood if they can.

Birds like blackbirds, house sparrows, swallows and house martins will try as long as the weather and food supply allows. In the church yard the resident pair of wrens clearly think they



have time for another try and were busily gathering moss to build a nest in the ivy. They have potentially quite large broods but even with another nest full possible their chances of maturing are slim. They unfortunately have a high mortality rate, and many do not live to see the year out or attempt to breed themselves next year.

Visiting the seaside...

The summer holidays are approaching when many of us will go to the seaside if the weather is fine but do we give any thought to the wildlife that lives there. Rock pooling is fun as long as we return creatures back into their environment as soon as possible and any overturned stones back as they were.

However, do we give any thought to the seabirds who have returned to the shore to try to breed. We think of gulls and other well-known

seabirds nesting on cliffs, but do we realise that some birds like the terns and ringed plovers prefer open sandy beaches to try to raise a family. Nowadays quiet beaches are few and far between, so the birds are struggling with families, and worse, loose dogs, encroaching on their space.



Beware if you see a bird lift off the sand and fly around looking agitated there is likely to be a nest or some well camouflaged youngsters close by.

They really blend in so be careful where you tread and move away to give them some peace to return to their abandoned nest or chicks.

These little tern chicks were on the beach at Seaton Carew last week and are about the size of a golf ball.

Prayer for August...

Dear Father,
In this summer month of August, help us to be aware of Your presence.
If we are away on holiday, If we can't have a holiday, On our journeys, In our homes, With our families or friends, When we're alone, When life is sweet, When it's like an obstacle course.



At all times and in all circumstances, help us to know that You are in it with us, sharing our ups and downs, offering Your love and peace and hope when we connect with You through putting our trust in Your Son, Jesus.

Thank You, Lord. In His name, **Amen.**



PICNIC ON THE GREEN

16 August • 12 noon – 5 pm

In aid of St Mary's Church Roof Fund

Fun for the whole family

Licensed Bar

Tombola

Games and Races

Face Painting

Crafts from the Grange

Teas Coffee and Cake

Bring tables/chairs and a Picnic if you wish

BILBROUGH NEWS

All are very welcome to our services at St. James', they and all that we do in the parish can be found at

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18851/>

The long, hot summer of '26

Sheep may safely graze but cattle prefer to paddle, seeking respite during this month's heatwave.

As the 50th anniversary of the famous summer of '76 was reached, we all wilted. England and Wales experienced record-breaking June



temperatures; Northern Ireland matched their record, but Scotland's maximum temperature (according to the Met Office) was recorded in Perthshire in June 1893 and still stands. Climate scientists predict that this summer will be the hottest on record, topping 2024's figures, phew!

Meanwhile, at the time of writing, Yorkshire's water levels remain reasonably healthy, so we can continue to tend our gardens, which are looking blooming gorgeous.

Up on the roof

Contractors have begun work to repair our church building. Wisely opting to start with crumbling stonework, leaving sweltering on a blistering roof until the weather cools, Richard and Hayley will do as much as possible to weather-proof the church until the funds are spent. After this, a fund-raising drive will be launched to repair the interior. We would really appreciate any help to get this up and running.

A Selby date

The Abbey was thronged with parishioners on Sunday 28th June to support our very own Reverend Doctor Karen Flood as she was ordained as a fully-fledged priest. As we solemnly shook hands with those around us, sharing Christ's peace, Karen was scampering up the aisle, grinning from ear to ear, having paused to greet every one of us, sharing her bubbly zest for life with all. We are assured that she will assist Rev'd Martin in the parish of Marston Moor (Askham Richard, Bilbrough, Long Marston, Rufforth and Tockwith) for at least two years.

The parish gathered at Tockwith on a gloriously sunny Sunday 12th July as Karen presided over her first Holy Communion as an ordained priest. Tockwith church was filled with a congregation from all five churches in the parish, together with family and friends, to celebrate with Karen, Simon, Lottie and Sophie. It was a joyful service filled with music and readings chosen by Karen, whose sermon reflected the message of the vine and growth. God's Love was illustrated by the gift of a vine and wine to Martin and Jane for all their support. Lottie read one of the lessons, Sophie helped to illustrate the sermon and Simon served the chalice at communion. A spontaneous 'explosion' of a champagne cork flying across the nave towards Karen reminded us that it was indeed a day of celebration.

At the end of the service a bring and share meal was enjoyed by everyone as they met new and old members of the church family and acknowledged how lucky we are to have Karen join with Martin and Ann as our ministry team.

Rural Ainsty News

On a warm evening on July 7th in the ancient church of St. Helen's, Bilton in Ainsty, a congregation of friends, both old and new, met to witness the Celebration of a New Ministry at the Institution of the Reverend Linda Maslen as vicar of the Parish of Rural Ainsty (Healaugh, Wighill, Bilton, Bickerton and Moor Monkton). The traditional and legal formalities of such an occasion were led by the Right Reverend Flora Winfield DD, Bishop of Selby, and the Venerable Liz Hassall, Archdeacon of York.

Mixing the old with the new, the Ainsty Choir sang the Introit, the congregation joined in, singing traditional hymns as well as modern worship songs, accompanied by a music group. Following the service refreshments were enjoyed, giving everyone the opportunity to meet with others from the different parishes and villages.

Linda, who had been leader of Fountains Church Bradford, a city centre church, and involved in launching 'Wrestling Church', feels ready to take on the challenges of rural ministry. Emailing to thank all who helped with this service, she concluded by saying that 'there is room here for deep reverence, for treasured traditions, for stillness and beauty, and also for new songs, new people, and new ways of expressing faith. We need to trust one another, and above all, to trust God as he leads us forward together.'

We look forward to meeting this remarkable neighbouring vicar many times in the future.

Yee haw

Bringing the Wild West to Bilbrough, the Wine Club's summer BBQ was blessed with a sunny evening. The food was excellent, from refried beans to delicious pork ribs and key lime pie. The evening finished with a lively sing-along led by Keith Spittle. A very successful social event.

A magical summer evening

YorkMix radio's Tim Lichfield appeared with fellow Magic Circle member Andy Larmouth at the Village Hall on Thursday 9th July. Ranging from 5 to 90, the audience was collectively amazed and astonished. The air-conditioned hall meant everyone could relax and concentrate on how the magicians performed such unbelievable tricks. There was much



audience participation, from reading people's minds to helping with card tricks, and admiring the artistic talents of Charlie Gregory colouring in a sketch which amazingly appeared on the magicians' tee shirts. A

rousing chorus of Happy Birthday was sung for the 90-year-old who won the magic game of Pass the Parcel. The winner of the Lucky Number was one of the Magicians (could that be magic?) who then generously donated the £50 back for the charity, York against Cancer. Thanks to Alice Hanratty who organised the evening which raised £255, plus online donations.

Village Hall prize drawing

The second draw of the year took place at the Julyn coffee morning and the winners are:

£50 Natasha & Edward Rowland

£30 David & Julia Gummery

£30 Alfie Knight

£30 James Russon

£30 Karen Talbot-Reynard

Congratulations to all. The next draw will be in September.

Coffee mornings

The village coffee mornings are held from 10.30 till 12.30 on the first Wednesday of each month. These social occasions, with delicious home baking, are proving popular and we are pleased that volunteers are taking turns running them. If you feel able to support the Coffee Morning in any way, please get in touch with:

Chris Gardner 07800505383 or Glynis Ashford 07989828113

Come and play

At home with young children? Why not come and play at Bilbrough Village Hall on the third Wednesday of each month, from 10 am – 12 noon. All pre-school children and their adults are very welcome to enjoy toys, games and refreshments.

Apologies in advance for any facts which turn out to be fiction, all stories were thoroughly researched.

Peigi Macdonald (835729)

Where are we all?



Almost half the world's population, 45% of us, live in cities of at least 50,000 people.

36%, live in towns of 5,000 to 50,000, and the remaining 19% live in rural areas.

The population in the UK has dropped -3.2% since 2020. The decline has happened in England and Wales (-3.1%), Scotland (-2.2%) and N Ireland (-10.4%). It may be due to a combination of the effects of Covid, the increasing number of abortions, the rising cost of living, economic insecurity, and women wanting a career of their own. (The Office for National Statistics.)

LONG MARSTON, HUTTON WANDESLEY and ANGRAM

All are very welcome to our services at All Saints', and they and all that we do in the parish can be found at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18858/>

Long Marston past and present: The Battle of Marston Moor



'Moor Lane', where thousands of soldiers died fighting in 'The Battle of Marston Moor'

Now the larks sing and there is an atmosphere of tranquillity.

Photos and files nos.45, 46,47 relating to the battle will continue to be displayed in the north transept of the church for the month of August.

Jackie Watts

Churchyard Chatterings

Dry, dry and very dry, so not a lot of mowing going on in July!

That's not to say that the 'gang' hasn't been busy as most of the cutting back has now been removed and our small mowers have been in action instead! The 'wildlife' border on the right has got 'wilder' and the border on the right is earmarked to be 'under control', so when the rains do come it will be 'all hands to the pump'!

The hedge has suddenly taken off but it is simply too hot for it to be cut and for the volunteers to be doing it! Meanwhile the church is delightfully cool!

At last, the 'go ahead' has been given for replacing the guttering on the church and hopefully will start to be put in place before the winter weather hits – remember, it's only five months to Christmas!

Chris Lewis and Ian Armitage have volunteered to raise some more money towards the project (their last effort managed over £600) by walking the Coxwold Way (plus a bit) of 118 miles in 7 days! This starts on Monday September 7th (hoping that it will be cooler then) and there will be sponsor forms in the church or you can donate via bank transfer

(sort code 20-99-56, account number 50582239), with the reference of WALK.

The guttering will have to be metal again, so £10,000 needs to be raised before any help with grants can be given. Several other fundraising events are planned but this one means that Chris and Ian have to do all the work!!!

Many thanks to all of you in advance – please spread the word, the sky's the limit!!!

Nature Notes – Blackbirds



Analyses show that the fortunes of the blackbird, which is one of the most easily recognisable and well-known British birds are in decline across the south and into the Midlands. The latter could be linked to the outbreak of Usutu virus although London, which was the epicentre of the outbreak,

seems to be stabilising.

In late summer and early autumn though, there is a dramatic dip in adult blackbird sightings, which is in part due to their post-breeding moult, a key part of the annual life cycle. This physically demanding process requires the birds to replace their feathers, during which time they try and stay tucked away in thick cover in order to save energy and avoid predators until their flight is optimal.

Male blackbirds typically begin their moult about 2 weeks earlier than the female. This is important because males often start moulting before the very last nestling has fledged, and sightings tend to fall and then recover more quickly than those of the female. The females usually wait until all parental duties are strictly finished!

Natural foraging is a constant: supplementary feeding follows a more distinct pattern. It is most frequent first thing in the morning, held steady at about 50% in the afternoon and then declines as evening approaches. Activities such as territorial interactions and pond visits occur at low levels throughout the day. Sunbathing is enjoyed and blackbirds adopt a flattened 'posture' to catch the sun!!! They have a very persistent 'alarm' call if the nest is being threatened by a cat or other predator and make a great deal of noise if they happen to disturb an owl who is trying to catch up on its sleep during the day!

Future fundraising events – dates for your diary

As part of the fundraising efforts for the replacement guttering, the Village Church Council will be holding the following events:

Autumn Sale – 19th September: on the church green and in church. Details will follow.

Wedding Dress Display – 13th March 2027: from couples who have married in All Saints Church over the years. Watch this space.



Post Office and Pop-up Café

Every Tuesday, 1.30-3.30 pm

All the usual PO services are available.

The café continues to thrive, but new helpers are always welcome. If you are able and would like to give a little help, come and speak to us on a Tuesday, or ring 01904 737848 for more information.

Also, don't forget Tony's Fish Van

He arrives outside Church between 2.30 - 3.15 (if he's a little late, pop into the café for a chat, a drink and a sweet treat).



Long Marston C of E Primary School

Angram Road, Long Marston, York, YO26 7LR

Are you looking for a school place for your child?

We have spaces available in all year groups. Please give our office a call on 01904 738352 or email admin@longmarston.n-yorks.sch.uk to arrange a visit!

Our school offers a supportive and inclusive environment where our pupils learn, grow and thrive! With small class sizes, a fantastic team of staff and a real sense of community, it is a wonderful place to be!



We can't wait to meet you and to show you around our wonderful school!

**Our vision is underpinned by our core values of...
*Friendship, Compassion and Respect.***



Enjoy the good weather and relax outdoors...

The good weather looks like it will be with us for some time, and what could be more pleasant than sitting in the garden, relaxing with family, friends and perhaps a glass of something appropriate.

School holidays will also be with us soon, and young children will be looking for activities to use up the energy they would otherwise have burnt up in school. Most homes have an outside area that can be used for games and sport, socialising and eating or simply relaxing quietly. But therein lies a problem – noise pollution! Our houses are basically soundproofed, but our gardens are not

Fences and hedges make a wonderful job of screening us from the folks next door, but sadly they're not much good at stopping noise, especially the higher frequencies that are often the trade mark of enthusiastic youngsters playing their own World Cup fixtures or tombstoning into their garden paddling pools. There is something entirely natural about the noise of children – and adults- playing happily, but ilke many things it can be overdone. That's when life becomes difficult, tolerance wears thin and tempers start to fray.

The open air is a shared resource for all, and as such it needs to be treated with respect and consideration, rather than being monopolised for our own selfish satisfaction.. So when you host your next penalty shoot-out, spare a thought for granny and grampy in their deck chairs next door, and dial the volume down to a level at which the All Saints Church mice would feel comfortable.

Safety reminder from North Yorkshire Police

Recently we received reports of a group of teenagers jumping from a bridge into open water. Thankfully, no injuries have been reported, but the incident serves as an important reminder of the very real dangers associated with open water. With the warmer weather continuing and the summer holidays fast approaching, we're encouraging everyone across our communities to stay safe around open water.

Whether you're out walking, enjoying a picnic, paddleboarding, fishing or meeting friends, please remember that rivers, lakes, reservoirs, canals and other open water can be far more dangerous than they appear. Cold water shock, hidden hazards, strong currents and sudden changes in depth can quickly become life-threatening.

We also strongly encourage parents and carers to speak with their children and young people about the dangers of open water before they head out with friends. A simple conversation about the risks and making safe choices could help prevent a tragedy.

Please help keep yourself and others safe by remembering:

- Only swim at designated, supervised swimming locations where possible.
- Never jump or dive into open water – you may not know what's beneath the surface.
- Never enter the water after consuming alcohol or drugs.
- Keep a close eye on children and encourage older children and young people to make safe choices around water.

If someone gets into difficulty, don't enter the water to rescue them. Call 999 immediately, ask for the Fire and Rescue Service if inland, or the Coastguard if at the coast. If it is safe to do so, throw something that floats and encourage them to stay calm until help arrives.

We are incredibly fortunate to have beautiful rivers, reservoirs and open spaces across Harrogate, Ripon, Knaresborough and the surrounding villages. By looking out for one another and taking a few simple precautions, we can all help prevent avoidable tragedies this summer.

Please share this post with your family, friends and local community to help spread this important message and keep everyone safe this summer.



Donate here

Services - All are very welcome at all our services

Details of **Sunday services** in the Parish can be found on the back cover.

August at All Saints, Rufforth

August is a quieter month at church as people come and go from their holidays and days out, but our usual pattern of services continues and anyone is welcome at any of our services – you don't need to be invited, just come along on a Sunday at 11am! The church will be often be open for the day during the week as a quiet place of peace and calm and coolness on hot days. Please make use of the opportunity to pop in and take some time for yourself and your own thoughts.

Rufforth Post Office

The outreach Post Office takes place in the village shop on two mornings each week.

Please keep on using the Post Office to keep it open!

Post Office opening hours:

Monday 9.30 – 12.30

Thursday 9.30 – 12.30



Rufforth WI



Our meeting in July was a little different to the usual when three North Yorkshire Magistrates set out the Village Institute as a magistrates court. Members took on roles as the defendant, court usher, the prosecution and defence lawyers, as well as a legal adviser and in this instance a probationer officer, with two ladies sitting on the magistrates' bench alongside one of the North Yorkshire Magistrates. Assisted by the magistrates, who are all volunteers and who have had training to sit on a magistrates' bench, members re-enacted a fictitious case of a young mum of three children who had grabbed the bag of a pensioner as she was about to leave a cash point machine, having withdrawn £200. The defendant on pleading guilty to the offence and with mitigating circumstances, was sentenced to 200 hours community service., though some of the remaining members, thought she should have had a harsher sentence. What was apparent, was the strict sentencing guidelines the magistrates have to abide by when coming to a sentencing decision.

18 ladies enjoyed their trip to Helmsley Walled Garden, followed by lunch at Beadlam Grange Farm Bistro, on what has been one of the hottest days of summer on 24 June. Despite the heat, a good time was had by all.

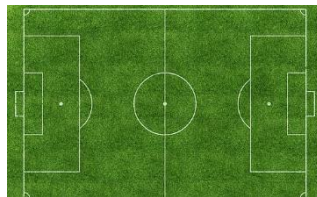
Our next meeting on **Thursday 6 August at 7.15pm in Rufforth Institute** will be a **Pudding and Prosecco** evening with a little fun and games. This summer social gives members a relaxed opportunity to get to know each other better and to welcome new members, so do come along and see what we get up to in the WI. It's so much more than monthly meetings. We have visits, book club, theatre trips, coffee gatherings, craft sessions, the opportunity to join in with other WI ladies to experience numerous courses, walks, treasurer hunts, quizzes to mention only a few and last month some members enjoyed a visit to Curlew Fields Dairies to cool off with locally produced ice cream.

Linda Hildreth rufforthwi@gmail.com

Rufforth Playing Fields

This is a fantastic community facility, owned by the village and managed by a small team of volunteers. They are very keen for more people to be involved. All are welcome to attend committee meetings, put forward new ideas, or maybe you can offer a specialist skill such as organising an event, fundraising or obtaining grants.

Alternatively, you could join the 200 club. For only £1 per month, you have the chance to win £80 in the monthly draw. The playing fields are used for tennis, cricket, junior and adult football, with a lovely children's play area and facilities for caravans. Please contact Wendy Farnell-Wrigley to contribute or find out more. wendyfarnell@hotmail.co.uk



RUFFORTH TENNIS CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1900



Summer
TIME

SUMMER CAMPS
3RD - 6TH AUG
1ST - 4TH SEPT

9.30AM -
12.30PM
AGE 5- 12 YEARS

£18 PER SESSION
CONTACT RUFFORTHTENNISCLUB@GMAIL.COM TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION



Junior Coaching Spring/Summer 2026

Monday - 4-5pm LTA **Green** (9-11 yrs approx)
5-6pm LTA **Juniors** (10+ yrs)

Tuesday - 4-5pm LTA **Orange** (7-9 yrs approx)
5-6pm LTA **Green** (9-11 yrs approx)
6-7pm LTA **Juniors** (11+ yrs)

Wednesday - 4.15-5pm LTA **Red** (5-7 yrs approx)
5-6pm **Orange** (7-9 yrs approx)

The cost is £6 per lesson for members/£7 for non members.

For more information or to book a place please email
Kate Lewis at rufforthtennisclub@gmail.com

Rufforth News

Please send any items for inclusion in the
September 2026 edition of the Parish and
Village News in a word document to

hlmoulds1@gmail.com by **August 12th**.

or through the letterbox at 3, Laburnum Close, Rufforth. Helen Moulds



Missing breakfast?

Surveys have found that, probably because of the popularity of intermittent fasting, these days 13% of adults never eat breakfast.

For some of us, missing breakfast is not a problem. But be aware that no food means low blood sugars, which can lead to lower energy levels and even impaired cognitive function, or brain fog. That is because the brain depends on a constant source of carbohydrates to function at its best.

Skipping breakfast may help you lose a bit of weight, but it can also disrupt your metabolism and gut microbiome. And you can be tempted to snack on bad stuff later on in the day. So, what is a good breakfast? Steer clear of fatty, sugary foods. Wholegrain foods, nuts, seeds, and low-fat live yoghurt are easy on stomachs – and ensure a supply of energy over several hours.



Local Solicitors for
**Wills - Powers of Attorney
Grants of Probate
Estate Administration**

Appointments available online and
outside of normal office hours...

Home visits in York and surrounding
villages available at no extra charge...

Fixed fees confirmed at the outset for
added peace of mind...

All work fully regulated and
insured...

**Helping you reach peace of mind
with life legal planning.**

E: karen.thompson@nexa.law

T: 03300 24 24 20 ext. 204

M: 077202 11999 www.nexa.law



WE HAVE MOVED!

Bespoke curtain design and make up service, all hand
made by Louise and her team

Curtains, Roman blinds and all Soft Furnishings

Fabric, Wallpaper, Poles and Tracks

Visit the showroom
by appointment;
The Barn, Flower O May
Hustwaite
York
YO61 4PG

01904 737573
lou@lousthread.co.uk
www.lousthread.co.uk

Making homes beautiful since
2011



- **Dry Seasoned Firewood in Bulk or Nets for Stoves and Open Fires (moisture tested)**
- **Kiln dried logs also available**
- **Kindling**
- **Wood Briquettes (wood shavings hydraulically compressed for use on Open Fires, Stoves & Chimineas)**
- **Trade/Retail/Domestic/Pubs/Hotels/Farm Shops/Garden Centres/ Pet Stores etc. (Bulk or small orders)**
- **Delivered direct to you**
- **Reliable Friendly Service**
- **Competitive Prices**

Contact Guy Pears on 01937 830700 / 07931 566811

Email: acgwoodfuels@gmail.com www.acgwoodfuels.co.uk

www.facebook.com/acgwoodfuelsuk

WISHART ESTATE AGENTS



Introducing your local, award winning, estate agency team
Find out more about us at
www.wishartestateagents.co.uk

York: 01904 404558

Tadcaster: 01937 534474



For every life is unique, so is every funeral

Fully qualified female funeral director, undertaker and embalmer

An independent, family-run business serving York and surrounding communities licenced by the British Institute of Funeral Directors.

Offering a caring and professional service for families at their time of need.

- Traditional, modern and bespoke funerals
- Direct cremations
- Private chapels of rest
- Warm and welcoming family rooms
- Funeral plans available
- 5* reviews on Funeral Guide



ecclesiastical
Planning Services



Independent
Funeral Standards
Organisation
Quality Approved



24hr telephone:
01904 792525

reception@hayleyowenfd.uk
www.yorkfunerals.uk

169-171 Boroughbridge
York YO26 6AN



TO ADVERTISE HERE PLEASE CONTACT
Sue Elgie 07891 827147 Or Rex Beach 01904 739991



K M LEDGEWAY
Monumental Mason
APPRENTICE TRAINED
40 YEARS EXPERIENCE

New Memorials
Additional Inscriptions
Renovations and Cleaning
Free estimates and Home Visits
25 St Nicholas Road, Copmanthorpe,
York, YO23 3UX Tel: (01904) 707618
www.kmledgeway.co.uk



PETER THOMPSON
of YORK
GENUINELY BESPOKE

Handmade furniture
Making your house a home
Green Park Business Centre
Sutton on Forest York YO61
1ET

Tel: 01347 810888

Email: sales@ptoy.co.uk
www.peterthompsonofyork.co.uk

H. C. TOWNSEND & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Incorporating BACKHOUSE of Hunsingore
Family Owned and Run Business Established 1927
Funeral Director David Townsend

- * Dignified and Caring Service
- * Private Chapel of Rest
- * Personal Attention Day or Night
- * Pre-funeral arrangements Tailored to your needs
- * Free Advice and Quotations



DIRECT CREMATIONS £ 1,380

Tel: 01423 871110 / 359190

Web: www.hctownsend.co.uk

E-mail: hctownsend@aol.com

ALSO Back Lane, BOROUGHBRIDGE. YO51 9AT By appointment
Oakfield House, Tofts Lane, Follifoot, Harrogate. HG3 1DY



A personal
and dignified
family business

J G Fielder & Son
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

- Private Chapels of Rest • Family Owned and Run
- 24 hour service, 365 days a year
- Payment plans available

48-50 Clarence Street, York YO31 7EW.
Phone: 01904 654460
enquiries@jgfielderandson.co.uk
www.jgfielderandson.co.uk

FUNERAL PLANS WITH
Golden Charter

G FIELDER & SON
Funeral Directors
Private Chapel of Rest
Family owned and run.
24-hour service 365 days a year

48/50 Clarence Street York
Phone 01904 654460
enquiries@jgfielderandson.co.uk
www.jgfielderandson.co.uk

The Complete Funeral Service ~ Est. 1808

G.E. HARTLEY & SON

Private Chapels Of Rest ~ 24 Hour On-Call Service
Monumental Masonry ~ Pre-paid Funeral Plans

www.gehartley.co.uk

WETHERBY
66 Westgate
LS22 6NJ
01937 588888

GARFORTH
62a Main Street
LS25 1AA
0113 286 2980



Painter and Decorator

Free estimates, Friendly Advice,
Reasonable Rates

Richard Driscoll

Tel: 01904 264488

Mob: 07961 052679

E: richarddriscollrichard@aol.com



TO ADVERTISE HERE PLEASE
CONTACT

Rex Beach 01904-739991

or

Sue Elgie 07891 827147