

Parish magazine of St Peter's, Thorner with Scarcroft



November
2024

For all the saints

November begins with the celebration of All Saints' Day. We all have an idea of what a saint might be, but do we always get it right?

Have you ever visited the shrine of a recognized saint? While many exist across Europe, closer to home, shrines like those of St Bede and St Aidan can be found in Durham Cathedral. If you've ever walked through the cathedral, you may have noticed how the stones of the shrines and the floor around them gleam – polished by centuries of pilgrims seeking solace, offering prayers and reaching out in devotion.

When we think of saints, especially those canonised by the church, it's easy to imagine their lives as distant and unattainable, full of blissful holiness. Their shining example can feel beyond our reach, like they were somehow different from us – untouched by the harshness of reality. This image can mislead us into believing that sainthood is reserved for the extraordinary, making our own lives seem too ordinary in comparison.

However, the Bible offers a different perspective. It's not the shine of superficial happiness that marks a saint's life, but their rootedness in reality. Saints were people who lived through suffering, persecution and the raw struggles of life. What makes them remarkable isn't an absence of hardship, but how they cultivated a deep relationship with God in the midst of those trials. They encountered a God who is present in the very ordinariness and pain of life – a God who works to overcome adversity, not avoid it.

Jesus reminds us that holiness is not about aspiring to an unreachable ideal seen in others. Instead, it's about reaching into our own lives, just as the saints did, and finding Christ there. Sainthood is not about perfection; it's about persistence in the small, often unnoticed acts of mercy, peace, purity and simplicity. It's in these daily efforts that we are being shaped – worn and polished, like the stones around those shrines, into something that reflects God's presence in the world.

Jesus encourages us to trust that we are 'good enough', even as we are becoming more. The world may be full of struggles, but God is continuously transforming it, and us, into something more radiant, much like the saints who have gone before.

Revd Jonathan Brennan



Sunday 10 November

The timetable for the Remembrance Sunday observances is:

9.45am Those taking part in the parade should gather at the ford.

10.00am The parade along Main Street will begin.

Once everyone on the parade who wishes to attend the service in St Peter's church is seated, the service will begin, followed by the two-minute silence and the laying of wreaths at the war memorial.

From the registers

Interment of ashes

Oct 2 Kevin Noble

Forthcoming funeral

Nov 7 The funeral of Rosie Cooke will take place at St Peter's church at 12.30pm

Sri Lanka parish link

As usual, this Christmas we will be sending Christmas cards and money to the Church of St John the Baptist and St John's Boys' Home in Sri Lanka. The money and cards are always greatly appreciated by our friends in Sri Lanka.

If anyone wishes to donate money for the Home, please either put it in the Sri Lanka collection box in St Peter's Church or put it in an envelope (separate from cards) through the letterbox at 15 Moat End, Thorner, by **Sunday 10th November**.

There are currently 24 boys in the home. We do not have enough pen pals for all the children. Please email me at gemmasadler@hotmail.com if you are interested in becoming a pen pal. We send cards to the boys and a gift of money to the home at Christmas and Easter, which I gather in and post collectively, so it would not be a time-consuming commitment. The boys love receiving these cards and treasure them.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Gemma Whawell

Brown bin collections

The last brown bin (garden waste) collection this year will be on Monday 25 November. Collections resume on Monday 17 March 2025.

Charity Christmas card sale

Sunday 3 November

10am–12 noon

Thorner Parish Centre



About half a dozen charities will be selling Christmas cards, gift wrap and tags, and other Christmassy items at the sale.

- Candlelighters
- Friends of African Nursing
- Martin House
- MIND
- Oxfam
- RNLI

Please do come along and support these worthy causes. Tea/coffee and biscuits available, £1.

Churchyard clear-up

On **Saturday 16 November**, we're having an end-of-year clear-up of the church grounds, aiming to reach the parts that the regular mowing doesn't— clearing brambles, removing ivy, weeding flowerbeds, clearing leaves. All assistance gratefully received!

Please bring your own equipment for these tasks, dress appropriately for the work and the weather. Also, please make sure your tools and machinery are in good working condition and that you use any necessary safety equipment.

Come any time from 9.30am onwards to the churchyard, and see Jon Waddington to be allocated a task. Refreshments will be provided!

See you there.



Want to send a Christmas greeting to village friends without sending cards? There will be a special section in the December Parish Magazine ... just for you.

If you would like to take advantage of the spot in the magazine, you will need to:

- print your name and place it in a sealed envelope, together with £5 (or more if you wish)
- place the envelope in the special box at the Post Box Deli or put it through the letterbox at East View, 2 Stead Lane (note the change of address)

by **Saturday 23 November**.

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

Christmas toy collection

Thorner School and St Peter's Church are again supporting the toy collection organised through St Richard's, Seacroft, which aims to ensure that disadvantaged children in the city receive some gifts on Christmas Day.

What is needed are toys, games and craft materials for boys and girls of all ages from babyhood to teen years. These should be brand-new, and ideally in the original packaging.

Babies and young children are easy to buy for; suggestions for older age groups include:

- toys such as Lego
- games such as Uno, Top Trumps cards, etc
- craft kits
- colouring books, and gel or felt-tip pens
- fancy stationery or diaries, and sparkly or fluffy pens

Items for all age groups would be very welcome, as the organisers already know they are short of everything this year, as the cost-of-living crisis continues. Cash donations are also welcome, as the organisers can top up where there are shortages for a particular age group.

Contributions to the appeal can be brought to:

- Thorner School by **Friday 6th December**
- the Christingle service at St Peter's church at 4pm on **Sunday 8th December**.

Thorner Over 60s Association

Our Open Coffee morning is on **Thursday 7 November**, when there will be free drinks and parkin. Why not come along, see old friends and make new ones? It's also a chance to find out more about the activities at the Over 60s. The coffee mornings are open to everyone, whether members or not, and run alongside the Post Office opening times. If anyone needs help to get to the coffee mornings, ThornerCares can help with lifts.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Bungalow, whether by making cakes, helping on the day or coming along to the event and nobly eating cake! Our raffle was a great success too, contributing to a magnificent £500 final total which we sent to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Our coffee mornings wouldn't happen without our fantastic volunteers. We'd love to have a few more helpers. If you think you or someone else you know could join the rota, please get in touch. You don't have to be a member of the Over 60s and you can be of any age. In the past we've had sixth formers, right up to those of a much more mature vintage. Full training will be given and there are two time-slots to fill each Thursday. Why not give it a try? It's a lovely way of meeting people and the coffee mornings are very popular.

Unfortunately, our talk in October on cyber-security has had to be postponed after our speaker from the West Yorkshire Police Neighbourhood Watch team was unable to come, but we will be rescheduling this as soon as possible.

Thorner always looks lovely at Christmas, especially with the trees in the centre of the village. The Christmas tree on Millennium Green is being lit on **Sunday 1 December** at 4pm. After that, there will be mince pies, mulled wine and Christmas music at the Bungalow. Please come along and show your support.

On **Tuesday 3 December**, there is a Christmas wreath-making workshop at the Bungalow starting at 2 pm. This is being organised by Andrew Morton Rooney of Rooney's Flytraps. If

you want to come, you need to book early. Andrew needs to know how many people will be there by **15 November**. Sign up at the Bungalow with a £10 deposit towards the cost of £25 per person.

You can't fail to notice that the exterior of the Bungalow is now looking much more attractive than a year ago. The rendering is now on, complimented by new lights and a smart new postbox. Plus, we now have new windows and doors. Many thanks to Thorner Community Fund for paying for the rendering, which will help to keep the building warmer and drier, reducing our energy consumption. The fund also paid for the new soffits, gutters and drain pipes. Phase 1 of our energy reduction programme is now complete. Together with the Parish Centre, the Victory Hall and St Peter's church, the Over 60s is part of the Thorner Net Zero Partnership. This project got off the ground with an energy survey of the buildings, paid for by the Community Fund and has gone on from there.

Wendy Miller
Secretary

Barwick Monday Fellowship

Monday 11 November, 2.15pm
All Saints' Church, Barwick-in-Elmet

The November talk is 'Two Hundred Years of the RNLI'. Do come and join us for an interesting afternoon. £3, to include refreshments. All welcome.

Wetherby Choral Society

presents

Handel – Saul
Saturday 23 November, 7.30pm
St James's Church, Wetherby

A dramatic oratorio in three acts, telling a story of power, envy and hatred which ends in tragedy. Tickets are £20 (under 18s free), available:

- by phone from the Ticket Manager (07443 4662540)
- by email from tickets@wetherbychoral.org.uk
- from Nicolla Florist, 1 Bank Street, Wetherby (01937 585233)

RHS Grow With It

The RHS programme 'RHS Grow With It' is an annual programme designed to give year-round growing support to school and community gardeners, helping them to get growing, connect with each other and share knowledge and resources.

Its year of water-wise growing included the RHS Big Seed Save in October, to prepare for the next growing year. Although it's too late for the seed swap, the information at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/grow-with-it/big-seed-save> is still relevant, and it's not too late to sign up to RHS Grow With It at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/grow-with-it/sign-up>, or explore the map and see how everyone is growing.

What difference does it make?

An American theologian called Jim Wallis once set himself the task of finding and cutting out every verse in the Bible that mentions poverty or social justice. How many do you think he found? I'll let you do your own sleuthing for the exact answer, but let's just say he was left with a Bible so full of holes that it barely held together. A 'Holey Bible', if you will.

Wallis would take this Bible with him when he preached, to emphasise the importance of these themes, striking at the heart of what it means to be a follower of Christ – to love one another, speak truth to power and seek justice in the world.

These themes have inspired and informed a long tradition of Christian social action. Many of you are part of that.

https://www.christianaid.org.uk/news/campaigns/what-difference-does-it-make-campaigns-blog?utm_campaign=305791_20241016-CA-CAM-Newsletter-V1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=christianaid&dm_i=7MDW,6JY7,E8T8O,SF22,1

The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

Remembrance Day, when we commemorate those who have died in war, falls on 11 November, although civic commemorations and remembrances in church are commonly on the nearest Sunday, Remembrance Sunday. The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey, like the Cenotaph in Whitehall, was inaugurated in 1920.

The idea for the tomb goes back to 1916, when David Railton, an army chaplain serving on the Western Front, saw a rough cross raised above a hasty burial with the words ‘An unknown British Soldier’ written on it in pencil. Railton wrote to the Dean of Westminster, proposing that the body of an unknown soldier be buried with state ceremony in Westminster Abbey, to lie ‘amongst the kings’ and represent the fallen of the Empire. The tomb would also be a focus of personal mourning and commemoration for those many thousands whose dead brothers, sons and fathers were unable to be recovered and identified for individual burial. The body would represent all the branches of the armed forces, which is why it is properly known as the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, not the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In fact, the body buried there is that of a soldier from the Western Front. In 1920, suitable remains were exhumed from various battlefields and taken to a chapel near Arras, where they were placed in identical coffins, without any indication of which of the battlefields they had come from. Brigadier Wyatt, with his eyes closed, placed his hand on one of them. The other bodies were taken away for solemn reburial, while the chosen coffin remained in the chapel overnight.

The next day this coffin was placed in a casket of oak timbers cut from trees at Hampton Court. It was then banded with iron and a 16th-century sword, personally chosen by King George V from the royal collection, was attached to the top, with a shield bearing the words ‘A British Warrior who fell in the Great War 1914–1918 for King and Country’. A military mourning procession conveyed it, with full honours, to the destroyer HMS Verdun, which was escorted by six other destroyers for the journey to Dover. The coffin then went by a special train to Victoria station in London, where it remained overnight. The following day, 11 November 1920, this unknown warrior was given a full state funeral, including a procession through London, and a field marshal’s salute was fired in Hyde Park. The guests of honour in Westminster Abbey included about 100 women, each of whom had lost her husband and all her sons in the war. The tomb’s black marble covering is from Belgium and the engraving on it is inset with melted-down wartime ammunition.

David Railton’s idea was adopted in France also, and so Britain and France coordinated their efforts to honour their fallen in a way that had never been done anywhere else before. The ceremonies on 11 November 1920 were simultaneous in the two countries, with the anonymous French warrior, also chosen from the Western Front, being interred at the Arc de Triomphe. Our stone Cenotaph was unveiled by King George V on the same day.

Joyce Hill



The birds in your garden



Bullfinches, perhaps the most distinctive of our native finches, were once a common garden visitor but, like so many of our garden birds, they have suffered a steep decline in numbers since the 1960s. While the reasons for this are unclear, agricultural intensification, habitat loss and 'bullfinch-culling licences' issued during the 1960s are thought to have played a part. The population has seen slight increases in recent years but is still only about 40 per cent of what it used to be. They can also suffer from trichomonosis, but we rarely see the same mass mortality events seen with Greenfinches and Chaffinches.

The male Bullfinch is a very smart looking bird, with a glossy black cap, coral pink breast and silvery grey back. Females are less flamboyant, but still very attractive to look at. The face of a Bullfinch gives a slightly 'squashed' appearance, with the beak being relatively short in length but fairly deep in shape, emphasised by the facial plumage.

Bullfinches, like other members of the finch family, are predominantly seed-eaters. However, in spring, to the annoyance of many a gardener, they will feed on growing flowers, shrubs and trees, attracted by the sweet buds. Flower buds are chosen rather than leaf buds because they are nutritionally more rewarding, with cultivated varieties being their favourite. Man having selectively bred them to give a higher yield, which inevitably makes them more appealing to the Bullfinches! It's claimed that they can eat up to 30 buds a minute! Hence the culls in the 1960s, which were supposed to protect commercial growers.

Even in a good year, only around one in a dozen gardens will be lucky enough to have a visit from Bullfinches, making them a delightful addition when they do so. In the autumn, the BTO's Garden Bird Watch data reveal a dip in garden sightings, most likely due to the plentiful supply of natural foods available in the countryside. Once this food runs out, probably around now, Bullfinches will be back again and can often be seen on seed feeders; sunflower seeds seem to be their favourite food on the odd occasion they visit my garden.

Bullfinches appear to have a well-developed pair bond, often maintained throughout the year. They are sedentary, generally remaining in the same area throughout their lives, although they may move around during the winter months looking for feeding opportunities. They breed mainly in deciduous woodland, but will also use large gardens, thickets and churchyards, and are shy birds, rarely being seen in the open, and seemingly visiting only those gardens that can be accessed via suitably thick cover.

In Victorian times Bullfinches were a popular captive bird because of their beautiful plumage and their call, a quiet low-pitched short whistle, or fluted 'phu' note. Come the spring, it's often this quiet song which lets you know that they are around. They are skilful mimics and it was once believed that the caged bird could be trained to mimic music, leading to the popular past-time of playing a special flute to them.

If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (www.bto.org/gbw). If you know of an organisation no more than 30 miles from York which would like a talk on garden birds, contact Mike Gray via gbwmike@gmail.com.

Services etc in November

November			
Sun	3	Fourth Sunday before Advent / All Saints' Day	
		9.15am	Holy communion; duty warden: Jill Walmsley
		10.00am	Charity Christmas cards sale, Parish Centre
Tues	5	10.00am	Holy communion
Sun	10	Third Sunday before Advent / Remembrance Sunday	
		9.45am	Parade musters at the ford
		10.00am	Parade begins; followed by Remembrance service; duty warden: Paul Oldfield
Tues	12	10.00am	Holy communion
		2.00pm	Julian contemplative prayer meeting
Sun	17	Second Sunday before Advent	
		9.15am	Holy communion; duty warden: Sue Hayward-Giles
		9.15am	Sunday School, Parish centre
Tues	19	10.00am	Holy communion
Sun	24	Christ the King / Sunday next before Advent	
		9.15am	Morning worship; duty warden: Simon Belcher
		9.15am	Sunday School, Parish centre
		6.30pm	Taizé service, at All Saints', Barwick
Tues	26	10.00am	Holy communion
		2.00pm	Julian contemplative prayer meeting
December			
Sun	1	First Sunday of Advent	
		9.15am	Holy communion; duty warden: Elisabeth Stephens
		9.15am	Sunday School, Parish centre

Rotas for November & December

	New Testament	READERS Gospel	INTERCESSIONS
Nov 3	Glynis Webster	Dawn Scargill	Neil Howes
Nov 10		Remembrance Day service	
Nov 17	Anne Wroe	Roger Kaye	Sue Hayward-Giles
Nov 24	Jeremy Whawell	Peter Mills	Helen Astin
Dec 1	Dawn Scargill	Peter Wilby	Sarah Meredith
Dec 8	Helen Astin	Paul Swain	Jon Graham
Dec 15	Sarah Meredith	Simon Belcher	Roger Kaye
Dec 22	Gloria Brereton	Lizzie Waddington	Neil Howes
Dec 24	David Williams	Michael Brereton	Sarah Meredith
Dec 25	Pamela Knight	Elisabeth Stephens	Sue Hayward-Giles
Dec 29	Ann Stokoe	Hilary Marsden	Helen Astin
SERVERS			
Nov 3	Frances Ellerby & Jacob Graham	Dec 24	Sarah Meredith
Nov 17	Shane Hayward-Giles	Dec 25	Shane Hayward-Giles
Dec 1	Jill Walmsley & Sarah Meredith	Dec 29	Jill Walmsley
Dec 15	Frances Ellerby & Jacob Graham		
SIDESPEOPLE			
Nov	Pamela Knight, Glynis Webster		Dec Sue Elliott, David Williams

Contacts @ St Peter's Church

St Peter's online	www.thornerchurch.org.uk www.facebook.com/thornerchurch/	
Rector	Revd Jonathan Brennan	289 2437
Rector's PA/Communications	Hilary Marsden elmettrinitypa@gmail.com / 07762 322193	
Churchwardens:	Simon Belcher sjb@redcroft.co.uk / 07973 392296	
	Paul Oldfield pauloldfield@hotmail.co.uk / 289 3210	
Secretary of the PCC	Peter Mills thornerpccsec@gmail.com	
Treasurer of the PCC	Jonathan Graham	289 3324
Church choir	Bridget Lindley	289 2313
	<i>(Practice: Thursday, 7.30pm, in church)</i>	
Master of the Ringers	Michael Brereton	289 2458
	<i>(Practice: Friday, 6.30pm, in tower)</i>	
Stewardship Recorder	Julian Levick	289 2461
Gift Aid Secretary	Anne Wroe	273 2969
Electoral Roll Officer	Gillian Loveridge gloveridge38@gmail.com / 07928 524485	
Sunday School & All Age services	Susan Graham	289 3324
Baptism arrangements	Revd Jonathan Brennan	289 2437
Wedding arrangements	Ann Stokoe	289 2217
Home communions co-ordinator	Revd Jonathan Brennan	289 2437
PCC sub-committee contacts:		
Estates	Jon Waddington	289 3492
Governance	Paul Oldfield	289 3210
Mission & Ministry	Revd Jonathan Brennan	289 2437
Parish Magazine: editor	Hilary Marsden parishmag@thornerchurch.org.uk	

Local amenities & groups

GP practice , Church View Surgery, School Lane, Collingham	churchview.surgery@nhs.net	
<i>Open Mon–Fri, 8am–6.30pm</i>		01937 222841
Thorner surgery , Main Street, Thorner	churchview.surgery@nhs.net	
<i>Open Monday–Friday, 8.20am–12.30pm</i>		0113 887 3322
Police: Wetherby Police: general number		285 5360
Pressing but non-emergency matters		101

Thorner

Thorner Facebook page	www.facebook.com/groups/thorner	
Thorner village website	www.thornervillage.org.uk	
ThornerCares Lifts, etc	0113 880 5255 / www.thornercares.co.uk	
Thorner Church of England Primary School , School Office, Kirkhills, LS14 3JD		289 2541
Head: Gemma Whawell		
Thorner Parish Council	2nd Tuesday of month	The Bungalow, Main Street
Chairman: Alistair Scott	cllr.a.scott@thorner-parish-council.org.uk	
Clerk: Barry Riley	264 0865 / thornerparishcouncil@gmail.com	

Village amenities

Book Exchange	Saturday 10am–12 noon	The Bungalow, Main Street
----------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------

Mobile fishmonger	Thursday mornings	Main Street, near Bungalow
Post Box Deli	Tues–Fri 8am–3pm, Sat 9am–2pm	Main Street
Post Office services	Thursday 10am–12 noon	The Bungalow, Main Street
Rooney’s fruit and veg stall	Thursdays, all day	The Bungalow, Main Street

Village groups

Mums & Tots Group	Thur 9.30–11.30am in term time, Parish Centre	ella_sykes@hotmail.co.uk
Contact Ella Cairns		
Beavers (age 6–8)	Wed 6.00–7.00pm, Parish Centre	info@TASscouts.org.uk
Cubs (age 8–10)	Mon 6.30–8.00pm, Thorner School	info@TASscouts.org.uk
Scouts (age 10–14)	Wed 7.15–9.00pm, Parish Centre	info@TASscouts.org.uk
Youth Club (age 8–13)	Tues 6–8pm in term time, Parish Centre	
Contact Belinda Swift		289 2946
Over 60s Association	Bev Cussons	07916 481897
Probus Club	Paul Oldfield	289 3210
Royal British Legion	Paul Oldfield (Secretary)	289 3210
Art Group	Ada Percy	01937 572941
Boule and Community Facility		contact Parish Council
Bowling Club	(vacant)	
Community Choir	Pat Smith	289 2205
Community Fund:		thornercommunityfund@gmail.com
Cricket Club	Alastair Foster	289 2566
Film Club	Val Forster	289 2758
Historical Society	Graham Castle	289 6922
Produce Society	Michele Firth	289 2430
Table Tennis & Badminton Club	Ros Ramsey	289 2733
Tennis Club	Adrian Joyce	289 3499
Thorner Old School Charity		eleanor_courtman_stock@hotmail.com
Walking Group	Wendy Miller	07905 501145

Scarcroft

Scarcroft village website		www.scarcroft.org
Scarcroft Parish Council		
Chair: Breeda Murray		07549 526186
Clerk: Eve Martin		clerk@scarcroftparishcouncil.org
Women’s Institute	2nd Thurs of each month, 7.15pm, Scarcroft Village Hall	
Contact Diane Eshelby		289 2155
Bardsey Voluntary Carers <i>Lifts, prescription collections, etc</i>		
Contact Pauline Hills		01937 573083

Hospitality etc

The Fox	thefoxthorner@gmail.com /289 2000
The Inn at Scarcroft	www.facebook.com/TheInnatScarcroft /289 2748
Mexborough Arms	289 3863
Post Box Deli and Tearoom	www.thepostboxdeli.co.uk /289 3888

VENUES FOR HIRE

Scarcroft Village Hall: bookings	vhbookings@scarcroft.org
Thorner Parish Centre: bookings	07808 330467/ www.parishcentre.org.uk

Thorner Victory Hall: Jenni Orange

07368 318891/ www.thornervictoryhall.co.uk

The **deadline** for contributions to the **December 2024** magazine is **Friday 22 November**. Please send contributions to the Editor (parishmag@thornerchurch.org.uk) by the deadline; contributions are accepted at the Editor's discretion and may be edited.

Various copyright items are reprinted here with permission of the Church News Service.