



WASHBURN & MID-WHARFE CHURCHES MAGAZINE



J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 6 ~ I S S U E 4 9 5



60P

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United Benefice
Farnley, Fewston with
Blubberhouses, Leathley and Weston
with Denton.

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Revd Teresa McLaughlin
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Email:
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Tel: 01943 467641

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01943 512208 Email:
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Churchwardens

Blubberhouses & Fewston:
Alison and John Bowers - Tel: 07752
431886

Denton & Weston
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Peter Goodwin - Tel: 01943 969953

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Rev Tim Perkins
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Norwood, Otley LS21 2RA,
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norwoodretreatcentre@gmail.com
Methodist Chapels are in the circuit of
Wharfedale & Aireborough

Websites:

Saint Oswald's Church, Leathley
www.leathleychurch.org

All Saints Church, Farnley
www.farnleyallsaints.org
Fewston with Blubberhouses
www.fewstonwithblubberhouses.org.uk

All Saints Church Weston
www.westonchurch.wordpress.com

Benefice web site
<https://washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk>

Norwood Retreat Centre
[www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/
people-places/norwood-retreat-centre](http://www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/people-places/norwood-retreat-centre)

Benefice Administrator

Anna Bowman
admin@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk
Telephone: 07523 798338
please note the role is part time so I will reply to your
email or return telephone calls as soon as I am able too.
Usual work afternoon - Wednesday

Front cover Image

Cover image: Snowdrops - see page
13 for the snow drop festival
Credit: Anna B



Village Church Services January & February



Please check on www.achurchnearyou.com
for up to date information.

4th January	The second Sunday of Christmas	
9.30 am	Leathley	Morning Prayer (Common Worship) (PMc)
9.30 am	Weston	Holy Communion (Book of common Prayer) (TMc)
11.00 am	Fewston	Morning Prayer (TMc)
11th January	The Baptism of Christ	
11.15am	Denton	Morning Prayer (PMc)
11.00am	Fewston	Holy Communion (TMc)
9.30am	Farnley	All Age Worship (FD)
18th January	Second Sunday of Epiphany	
9.30 am	Weston	Morning Prayer (Book of common Prayer) (TD)
9.30 am	Leathley	Holy Communion (TMc)
11.00 am	Blubberhouses	Family Service (TMc)
25th January	The Conversion of Paul	
9.30am	Farnley	Holy Communion Service (TMc)
11.15am	Denton	Holy Communion Service (TMc)
1st February	The Forth Sunday of Epiphany	
9.30 am	Leathley	Morning Prayer (Common Worship) (PMc)
9.30 am	Weston	Holy Communion (Book of common Prayer) (TMc)
11.00 am	Fewston	Morning Prayer (TMc)



Services at Norwood Methodist Chapel January

Sunday 11 January 2.30pm Rev. Cameron Stirk – Covenant Service
with Holy Communion – an opportunity to dedicate the new year
to God

Sunday 25 January 2.30pm Michael Noble – Sunday worship

Do come along and join us!

The Vicar's Monthly Message The New Year

At the start of every new year there is a sense of a new beginning, there is an air of excitement of what might be in the coming year. There will be new opportunities to explore and new experiences, things will be different. That can make us fearful and anxious yet God's word tells us to "Look for the new thing I am doing".

Too often we cling to the familiar not because it is good but because it makes us feel comfortable.

The Lord calls us to reach out and embrace the way that leads us to a deeper experience of his love so that we can flourish and grow in our spiritual lives. This new year could be the year that we decide to draw closer to The Lord. We might decide to start a reading plan to read the whole Bible in a year, or go to a Bible study group, or to be involved in reading in church or help in church in some other way. This year our church could reach out to help those less fortunate in our communities, so you see, there are so many exciting possibilities that this New Year could hold.

May the Lord guide you in the right direction in 2026.
New Year Blessings
Teresa

Assistance needed

The PCC of All Saints Church, Farnley
would like to appoint an

Honorary Treasurer.

If you think you have the required accounting skills
(and are able to attend a PCC meeting, 3 times a year)
please contact the Church Warden,
Peter Goodwin on 01943 969953.

News from Norwood Chapel

Dear friends

It's January and the celebrations and festivities of Christmas are over..... or are they?

While our televisions and supermarkets would have us believe that Christmas ends on 25 December, the Christmas season in the church really only begins on the 25th and then over the coming weeks the readings look at different aspects of the story. The characters of the Nativity story may be familiar to most of us, but what many do not realise is that the Magi (the wise men) are not remembered at Christmas but on a separate festival which falls 12 days after Christmas Day – the Feast of Epiphany.

The season of Epiphany then continues until early February so despite the tree being down and the tinsel being in the loft, January is a perfectly appropriate time to be thinking about these Nativity characters.

Not much is known about them, but in Matthew's Gospel they are described as wise men from the East who came to Jerusalem. It says that *'when they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts.'*

In the Bible, the three gifts of the Magi are named but nowhere does it actually say there were only three wise men! But over the years, tradition has it that there are three and commonly named as Melchior, Caspar, Balthazar.

There have been various things written about them, and very famously T S Eliot wrote a poem called. 'The Journey of the Magi', a reflection written from their perspective. They are perhaps remembered above all for the gifts they offered to Jesus. These weren't random gifts but were deeply symbolic and full of meaning. They offered gold which was associated with kings, showing that Jesus is the king of the world. They brought frankincense which was used in temples, a sign of Jesus' divinity. The last gift was myrrh which was used in burials and was a gift foreshadowing Jesus' death.

As we remember these gifts during the Epiphany season, it is a good opportunity for us to think generally about the idea of gifts. What makes a good gift?

We often narrow our understanding of gifts to physical things – things we want or need, or things others want or need.

We all have gifts: things which we are good at, talents, traits in our personalities, things that come naturally to us. This might be being a talented sports person; it might be being very good at art or music. It might be that we are someone who encourages others. It may be our kindness, our sense of humour, our organisational skills, our ability to empathise.

These are gifts that we have to offer to those around us: our family, our friends, our neighbours.

PTO

Gifts which can contribute to our communities and help build and strengthen relationships.

This season of Epiphany, I'd like to challenge us to think about how we can offer our gifts to others, remembering always the greatest gift of love and hope found in the baby whom the Magi visited that very first Epiphany – Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

God Bless you and your loved ones this coming year.

Cameron

Rev. Cameron Stirk
(Norwood Methodist Church)



From the Registers

Buriel of Ashes

9th December At Leathley William Harold Stephenson

Fewston and Blubberhouses PCC

give their thanks to all
the magazine distributors,
flower arrangers and church cleaners
at Fewston and Blubberhouses churches
over the past 12 months.

THANK YOU.

A winter walk in the Washburn

It is our privilege to live in and near very beautiful country. My working life was spent in the commercial world where worth is calculated in financial results and market share. Motorway driving and the bustle of life in the cities and major towns could not contrast more than with a walk in the woods between Fewston and Thruscross reservoirs.

There is an almost complete lack of the sound of human activity only the breeze moving in the trees and I pass a YW notice which says they were removing all non native species and working with the Forestry Commissions guidelines to re-establish an ancient oak woodland.

am walking along a 19th century embankment next to a non functioning artificial waterway which was probably built to provide water to a mill further downstream. Alongside is a row of beech trees planted by someone who did not see their beauty. I thank him for his foresight.

The only sound now are my own footsteps and below me is a large pond which I promise myself I will visit on my next walk. I turn back when I see a large fallen tree across the path a little way ahead. Walking now by the river I find a large area of bull rushes in their stark winter pose and across the river a tumbling tributary adds to the water rushing downstream.

I cross a small footbridge and soon I

PTO



A winter walk in the Washburn continued

Retracing my steps I meet a lady with a retriever dog who comes bounding over to see if I have any treats in my pocket. Sadly for him he finds nothing and when the lady catches up he switches his attention to her treats pocket. I have never met a dog so totally focussed when all around is a whole world of scents.

A deer breaks cover in front of me and instantly fades back into the woods before standing stock still and her only

movement is the head slowly following my progress. It is refreshing to be here and communing with nature restores equilibrium and perspective. I feel that our Neolithic hunter gatherer ancestors must have experienced a very similar landscape. I walk on and the silence closes around me as I move away from the river.

Time for a hot coffee in a nice warm kitchen.



The Leathley Christmas Fair

Once again a lovely day was had by all at The Leathley Christmas Fair on Saturday 6th December! Stalls brimming with high quality home made crafts and delicious food served. A huge thank-you to all helpers, donators to the wonderful raffle and to all who came and supported the joyous day. A special thanks once again to St Oswalds Church for allowing us to use the wonderful space. The church looked beautiful.'



and delicious food served. A huge thank-you to all helpers, donators to the wonderful raffle and to all who came and supported the joyous day. A special



Community Notice Board



Weston Flower and Cleaning January & February

4 th 11 th & January	Mr & Mrs Senior
18 th & 25 th January	Mrs J Cowgill
1 st & 8 th February	Ruth & Tom Raper
15 th & 22 nd February	Sally Stanley

Denton Flower and Cleaning Rota January & February

4 th January 2026	Karen Boothman
11 th and 18 th January	Sue Wood
25 th and 1 February	Julie Crowther
8 th and 15 th February	Ann Chadwick
22 nd February and 1 st March	Helen Cobley



Fewston Parochial Hall

Charity teas

Teas, lunches and homemade cakes



Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th



January

10.00am till 4.00pm.

All proceeds to Capture Desmoplastic
small round cell Tumour Charity

Wildlife Talk

**Tuesday 27 January,
5:30pm – 7:00pm**

Join

Detective Inspector Mark Harrison of the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit for insight into the real-world challenges of protecting vulnerable and endangered birds of prey in North Yorkshire.

Book your **free** place here: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

Community Notice Board

 Fewston Foxy Ladies 
Happy New Year!

We'll be Charting the Sixties with Malcolm Johnson, so do join us on Tuesday 20th January at 2pm for an enjoyable revisit to that exciting era
If you would like more information please contact

Gillian a ring on 01943 880362; Sue 07812 071636; Sheila 01943 468741; or Margaret 01423 806151

Short Mat Carpet bowls

Bowling again at
**2pm Wednesday
7th January**

We have the bowls and mat!
Come and join us on

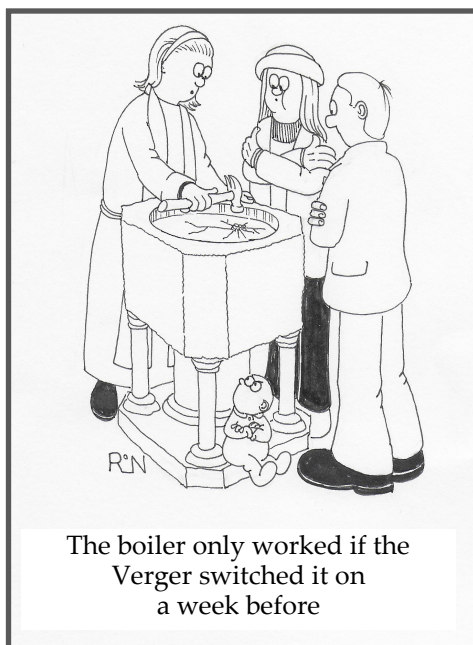
We meet at Fewston Parochial Hall.
Beginners as well as more experienced bowlers are very welcome.

It's fun and very friendly!

 T&T 
Dominoes

Back on Tuesday 6th January 2pm for chat, tea and dominoes.
All welcome!

It is only £2 per person.
If you want to hear more about T&T, give Gillian a ring on 880362
I have always got time for T&T!



The boiler only worked if the Verger switched it on a week before

Askwith Ladies Social

The social evening is on the 2nd Thursday of the month, the next meeting is the

8th January at 7pm at
The Penny Bun

Contact Anne for more information - Tel: 07713884328
Email: laeatham@gmail.com

Norwood Social Hall Dominoes

Friday 16th January 2026
Raffle & Pie and Pea supper
7pm for a 7.15pm start.

2026 Domino dates for your diaries

Friday 20th March
Friday 15th May
Friday 18th September
Friday 16th October
Friday 20th November
Friday 11th December Christmas Dominoes

Hope you can join us.

Young farmers Charity Christmas Tree Collection

Tree Collection around neighbouring villages in aid of club funds and Candlelighters.

To book, please send your name and address to Christine on 07443 472245.
Minimum donation is £10.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you to all our readers.

A special thanks to all the contributors and the delivery teams who make the magazine possible



Snowdrop Festival Morning

Come and enjoy the snowdrops at
St Helen's Denton

Saturday 7th February 2026
Refreshments from 10am – 12 noon
All Very welcome



VALENTINE'S DAY
14 February 2026

JAZZLYRICAL

Fewston Parochial Hall, 2.00 pm
Tea and Cakes £10.00

Tickets Gillian 07795464042
Pat 01943 880284
anderson@delvesridge.plus.com

Calling All Gardeners in
Denton Weston and Askwith!

Yes it's that time of year again when we start thinking about the summer and planning our displays in the garden. This year's Open Gardens Weekend will take place on
Saturday and Sunday 13th and 14th June.

Do please put the dates in your diary and let us know if you will be willing to participate again this year. It is a great community event, giving pleasure to so many.

The organising team will be meeting in mid-January to plan the event and any ideas would be most welcome.
Please contact Priscilla Wells-Cole,
Sally Stanley or Ann Chadwick

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See page 38 for our current rates

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Tel: 01943 462684 Mob: 07813 102766 Email: julieahouseman@gmail.com

Leathley Parish Room

Why not hire the Village Hall in Leathley for a Business Meeting; a Fundraising or Social Event - or a Children's Party? The hall now has WiFi.

For details of facilities and rates, and to make a booking please go to: www.leathleyvillagehall.org.uk or telephone the booking secretary on 07802 212111

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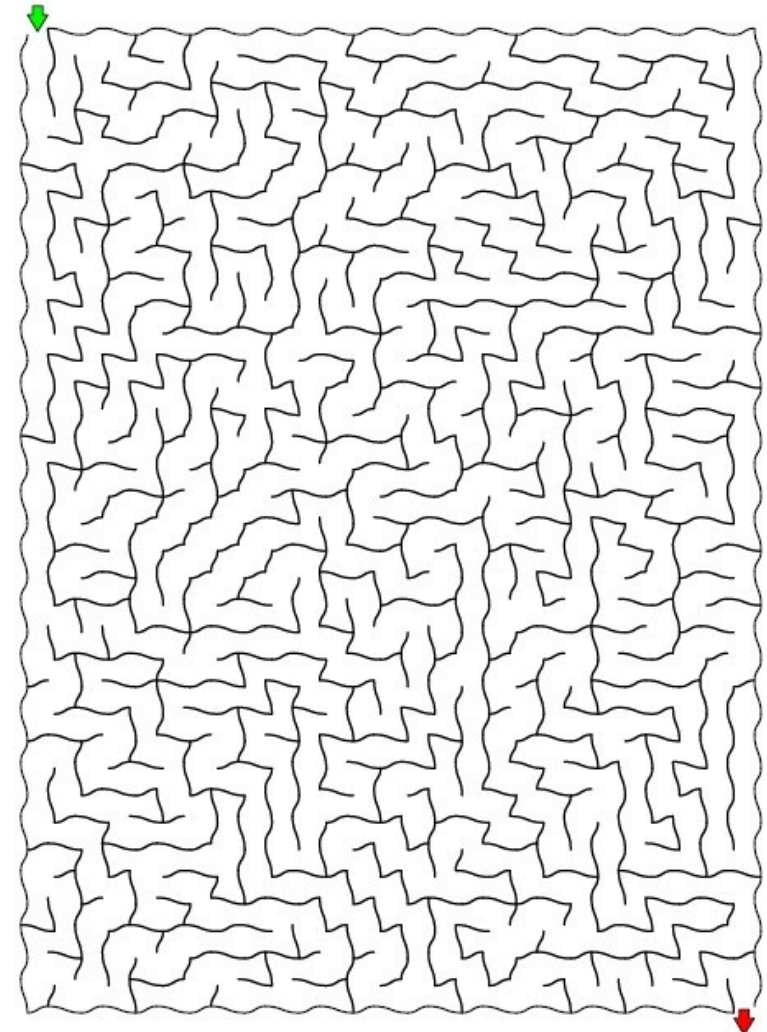
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Embalming
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Tradition
Challenged
world



Sudoku

3	9		8			2		
	2	6		7	4			9
7			6					8
			7	2		5		
	8			3				4
		7		1	5			
	3				7			1
	7		1	4		8	6	
	1			5		4		9

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	2						3	

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel chapter 1

In the time before there were kings in Israel, there lived a rich man, Elkanah, and his two wives, Hannah and Peninnah.

Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.



Each year they travelled to Shiloh to worship God.



After the worship, they feasted.



Elkanah always gave Hannah a special portion of food to show he loved her.



But Hannah was too sad to eat. She left the meal and went to pray.



She prayed silently.



Please give me a son. If you do, he will serve you all his life.

Eli the priest saw Hannah's silent weeping and praying and thought she was drunk.



I'm not drunk! I was just pouring out how I feel to God.



I'm sure God will answer your prayer.

Back home, Hannah had a son, and she named him Samuel.

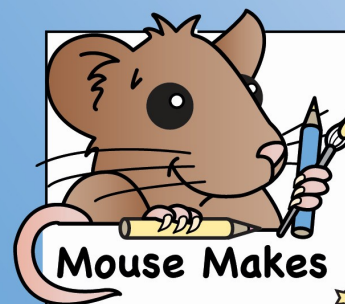
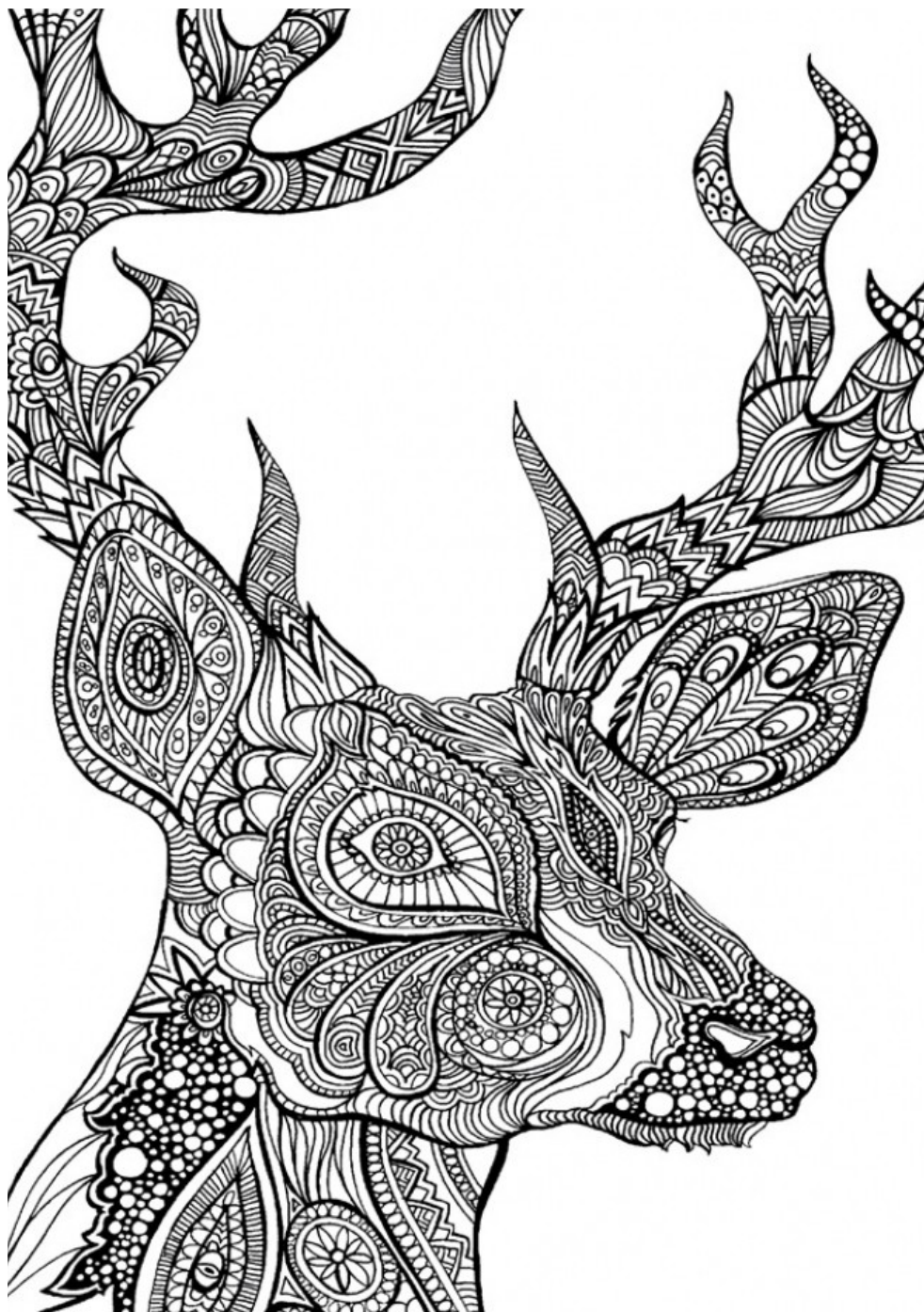


She stayed at home with him when the rest of the family went to Shiloh.



When Samuel was old enough, Hannah and Elkanah took him to Shiloh to live there and serve God.





Mouse Makes

DID YOU KNOW ?

Stars shine different colours, the colour we see depends on the temperature of the star. The hottest stars shine blueish-white, then yellowish-white, yellow, orange and the coolest stars shine red.

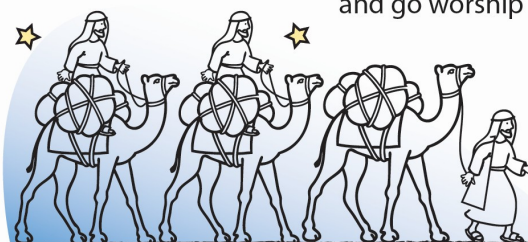
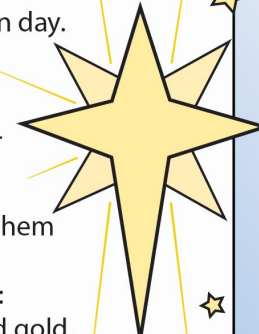
WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came from a land far away, they had seen a star that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign of the birth of a king, so they followed that star to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem as the prophets foretold, they gave him three gifts: myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus our saviour and king, let us join with the Wise Men and go worship Him!



Read the story of the Wise Men in Matthew 2:1-12

S B E T H L E H E M J O I Y
 T K J E S U S K I N O W W C
 A G O E P I P H A N Y O I V
 R I U M E S S I A H G R S I
 K F R A N K I N C E N S E S
 I T N G O L D M Y R R H M I
 N S E I J V S I G N B I E T
 G O Y A C H R I S T C P N M

Can you find these words in the word search?

- WISE MEN • MAGI
- STAR • SIGN
- JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM
- VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH
- CHRIST • KING
- GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH
- FRANKINCENSE
- WORSHIP • JOY
- EPIPHANY

All in the month of January

It was:

250 years ago, on 24th January 1776 that E T A Hoffmann, German fantasy/Gothic horror writer, composer, artist and judge was born. Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker* is also based on one of his stories.

200 years ago, on 30th January 1826 that the Menai Suspension Bridge was first opened. It links the island of Anglesey to mainland Wales, and was the world's first major suspension bridge.

175 years ago, on 7th January 1851 that French physicist Leon Foucault set up the first Foucault pendulum in the cellar of his home, to demonstrate the rotation of the earth. On 31st March he created his most famous pendulum, hanging a 28-kilogram (62-pound) lead weight from a 67-metre (220 foot) wire from the dome of the Pantheon in Paris.

150 years ago, on 12th January 1876 that Jack London, American novelist and journalist was born. Best known for his novels *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*.

125 years ago, on 1st January 1901 that the Commonwealth of Australia was established when the six British colonies of New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia were federated.

125 years ago, on 22nd January 1901 that Queen Victoria died, and was succeeded by her son, Edward VII.

125 years ago, on 27th January 1901 that Giuseppe Verdi, Italian composer died. Best known for his operas *Aida*, *Requiem*, *Otello* and *Falstaff*

100 years ago, on 13th January 1926 that Michael Bond, children's writer, was born. He created the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

100 years ago, on 14th January 1926 that Warren Mitchell, radio TV stage and film actor was born. Best known for his role as

Alf Garnett in the TV sitcoms *Till Death Us Do Part* and *In Sickness and in Health*.

100 years ago, on 26th January 1926 that Scottish engineer and inventor John Logie Baird gave the first demonstration of his TV system to members of the Royal Institution.

90 years ago, on 18th January 1936 that Rudyard Kipling, writer and poet, died. Best known for *The Jungle Book*, *Kim*, *If*, and many more. Winner of the 1907 Nobel Prize for Literature.

90 years ago, on 20th January 1936 that King George V died and was succeeded by his son Edward VIII, who abdicated that December.

80 years ago, on 8th January 1946 that Elvis Presley received his first guitar on his 11th birthday. (Apparently, he would have preferred a bicycle.)

80 years ago, on 10th January 1946 that the United Nations General Assembly convened for the first time, in Westminster Central Hall, London.

75 years ago, on 9th January 1951 that the UN headquarters in New York City was officially opened.

75 years ago, on 30th January 1951 that Ferdinand Porsche, Austrian automotive engineer died. He designed the Volkswagen Beetle, the Tiger tank and founded the Porsche sport car company.

70 years ago, on 31st January 1956 that AA Milne, writer, poet, humourist and playwright died. Best known for his stories about Winnie the Pooh.

65 years ago, on 20th January 1961 that John F Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the USA.

60 years ago, on 17th January 1966 that the album *Sounds of Silence* by Simon and Garfunkel, was released.

Continued on page 40



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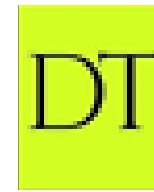
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Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust Photography Competition

Want your photograph feature in an exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum or in a regional calendar? The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust Rivers4Life WINTER photography competition is now open.

The charity is looking for the best photographs of Yorkshire Dales rivers and wildlife this winter, to be included in its Rivers4Life exhibition which will be mounted at the Dales Countryside Museum in 2026 and will also feature in its 2027 calendar - all funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. For an entry form visit: www.ydrt.org.uk/photography-competition/. The winter stage of the competition closes 5 March.

Remember to include the location of your photographs, taken in the catchments of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust which includes the rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse and their tributaries.

The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust was established in 2004 as a Registered Charity, working to

Titles: Winter Photograph credit: YDRT



enhance and protect the rivers of the Yorkshire Dales for the benefit of everyone. By working in partnership with landowners, businesses, land managers and the public, it aims to care for the rivers, streams and catchments of the Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse as sources of pure water, as habitats for aquatic and other wildlife, and as havens of quiet recreation for everyone to enjoy. It also works with schools and communities to inform children and the wider public, to ensure a better understanding, care and appreciation of rivers and their associated habitats.

Find out more at: www.ydrt.org.uk



Washburn Heritage Centre

www.washburnvalley.org
Follow us on Twitter and Facebook



A very happy New Year from all the volunteers and supporters of the Washburn Heritage Centre. We hope you enjoyed a peaceful Christmas.

The Tea Room at the Heritage Centre is open on SUNDAYS during the winter from 11am until 4pm. We welcome NEW VOLUNTEERS. If you can spare a few hours at the weekend once a month we would love to see you in the Tea Room. It's a busy environment, warm and friendly, but you are rewarded with cake!

We are entering into the final month of our current programme 'A Winter Welcome' and on 1 February 2026 we will start our spring programme The Roads Taken which is all about roads, routes and pathways. We have our usual series of walks led by experienced leaders, this time venturing slightly further afield. We have talks on roads taken across the ages from St Wilfred's pilgrimage through to a trip by double-decker bus from London to Kandahar. We will look at the development of local transport links and consider the road to life saving medical procedures. We'll learn about the local road builder Blind Jack of Knaresborough, the ups and downs of running the Tan Hill Inn on the Pennine Way and the hilarious trials and tribulations to learning to drive as part of a national television programme. Leaflets will be appearing in the Centre around the middle of January please do take one if you visit the Tea Room.

Events in January:

To book a place at any of our events in January please contact Jenny at the office on 01943 880794 or email centre@washburnvalley.org

Afternoon tea with John Anderson
Tuesday 6th January, 2.00pm – 3.30pm

John is returning to help us celebrate Epiphany with a light afternoon tea accompanied by some readings of our favourite Christmas poems. John thrilled us with his presentation in July and will be supported by Rob Goymer and other Washburn Heritage Centre members. Please feel free to bring your own contribution. Cost £12 member, £15 non-member.

Discovering Harrogate
Thursday 15th January, 10.00am – 2.00pm
Sarah Stead will guide us through some of the interesting sections of Harrogate with an optional lunch at a local hostelry. Cost £10 member, £12 non-member.

Running a country estate,
Guy Horton-Fawkes
Tuesday 20th January, 2.00pm – 3.30pm
Guy Horton-Fawkes is no Jeremy Clarkson type incomer; the Fawkes family have had a presence in our area since the 13th century. They must be doing something right. Guy will share some of the difficulties and pleasures of running a country estate in the 21st century. Light refreshments served. Cost £10 member, £12 non-member.

Burn's Night
Friday 23rd January 2026,
6.30pm – 9.30pm
A little early, we will celebrate the Bard's birthday in the usual way with pipes, poetry, haggis, neeps and tatties. Always a sell-out so please book early! Cost £24.50 member, £29.50 non-member. Bar available.

Visitors at Fountains Abbey,
Mark Newman
Tuesday 27th January, 2.00pm – 3.30pm
Due to extra demand, Mark will repeat the talk given in November. Light refreshments served. Cost £10 member, £12 non-member.

Redwings and Fieldfares

By the time you read this article both Fieldfares and Redwings will have completed their migration from the colder parts of northern Europe and Scandinavia, and will probably have moved inland away from the often frosty east coast. Many will eventually end up in the fruit growing areas of the country such as the West Midlands, but Yorkshire seems to attract its fair share.

There have been a few Redwings and Fieldfares in the area for a while, possibly just passing through, and if you are out and about over the coming months you will possibly come across flocks of varying sizes and compositions. Migrating and wintering birds frequently form loose mixed flocks varying in size from 10 to 200 plus, often including Blackbirds (some hundreds of thousands of which winter here too), Starlings (yet more migrants amongst them), and even the odd Mistle Thrush. In some years almost three-quarters of a million Redwings and Fieldfares spend the winter months in the UK.

Much depends on the weather in terms of where they get to and whether they are attracted into our gardens. Looking at the berry crop around me, I suspect there will be an abundant supply this year and we may see little of them. Both are members of the thrush family, and as such prefer to feed on insects, worms, snails and slugs, but when these run out or the ground is frozen, they will enthusiastically take to soft

fruit, especially fallen apples, and will gather on plants bearing berries, such as hawthorn, pyracantha and cotoneaster. It is these berry-bearing plants that may, in case of real shortage, attract them into your garden.

The more nomadic Redwing tends not to return regularly to the same wintering areas. Their arrival period varies, being later in years with good berry crops in Scandinavia. In bad years, combined migration numbers may be in the millions; if the Scandinavian berry crop fails, they have no alternative but to head over the sea to the British Isles in the hope of finding winter sustenance.

These winter flocks prefer open countryside, bordered by well-developed hedgerows and woodland, only moving on in the harshest winter weather when the ground is frozen and soil invertebrates are not available.

With its striking, richly coloured plumage, the Fieldfare is noticeably larger than other thrushes. Its head and rump are grey, contrasting with the black tail and the rich chestnut-red back and wings, with much black in the longer flight feathers. The chest and flanks are heavily speckled with dark spots. The most often heard call note is a harsh, aggressive sounding 'chack-chack'.

The Redwing is a rather slight thrush, with a very noticeable pale stripe above the eye and another, less

pronounced, below the cheek. The spots on the underparts are strongly marked, but it is the chestnut-red colour to the underwing and flanks which gives the bird its common name. The thin, plaintive, whistles that one sometimes hears on misty evenings in October and November are likely to be Redwings. These are the contact calls uttered in flight.

Time will tell, but I'd not bet on their

numbers being as great this year as in years gone by!

If you find the lives of our garden birds interesting 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 up to 30 miles from York which would like a talk on garden birds then gbwmike@gmail.com.



Titles: Redwing (top)
Photograph credit: Mike Gray

Titles: Fieldfare (right)
Photograph credit: BTO/ Edmund Followes

Farnley Estate Young Farmers Club

Members returned in September after the Summer break for our annual AGM at Almscliffe Village Hall, thanking retiring officers and electing as follows; Chairman - James Driffield, Secretary - Charlotte Towers, Minutes - Nicola Morphet, Treasurer-Jess Hughes, Club Leaders - Chirstine Morphet, Daniel Woolliscroft and Tom Richardson, President - Julie Houseman.

September Our first meeting of the year was the Mini-Rally with members enjoying a variety of quiz-type games kindly hosted by Mr and Mrs Lishman of Castley Farm. Members also enjoyed Rudding Park Golf Driving Range and Confectionary making at Almscliffe Village Hall. Holly and Daisy Roberts represented Farnley Estate at the National Floral Art Finals gaining second and third place respectively in their age categories.

October Breeding Sheep Judging at Castley Farm, Bingo at Almscliffe Village Hall, Go-Karting at Teamworks in Monks Cross, York and Pumpkin carving and a walk around the fantastic Halloween trail at Brooklee Farm, Menston by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Foster. Jack Keighley, Daisy Roberts and James Driffield were awarded First, Second and Third respectively in their age categories at the Yorkshire County Live & Carcass competition which saw them qualify to represent Yorkshire at the English Winter Fair. Jack Keighley came away with third place with the Yorkshire A Team and 7th individually.

November Annual Bonfire with a Pie and Pea supper at Prospect Farm, Lindley kindly hosted by Mr & Mrs Houseman, Butchers Lambs Judging

hosted by Mr and Mrs Keighley at Manderlea Farm, Leathley, Domino Drive/Public Speaking Practice at Almscliffe Village Hall and a Tour of Hymas Wagons in Sinderby, Thirsk. The Awards Evening and Dinner was followed by a Disco at Pannal Golf Club celebrating both Club and Individual achievements over the past year and recognising those members who always give their all. Members also competed in the Harrogate District Public Speaking competition at Harrogate Grammar School with Farnley coming away with a First and Second in Junior Reading, Third in Junior Speaking, Third in the 10 Minute Speech and Second in the overall Junior Points. Farnley were also awarded Third Place at the Junior County Rounders competition taking them to the Northern Area round at Durham in March.

December Our Festive activities commenced with Wreath making at Almscliffe Village Hall with the following upcoming events to look forward to; Club Christmas Meal in Harrogate, Carol Singing around the Villages of Washburn in aid of Charity and Club funds and members will also be supporting the Rudolph Charity Tractor Run on the 21st December by walking alongside the convoy with collection buckets and partaking in the drive itself.

The 2026 Calendar will begin with the annual Charity Christmas Tree Collection around neighbouring villages in aid of club funds and Candlelighters.

To book, please send your name and address to Christine on 07443 472245. Minimum donation is £10.



Volunteers Needed

Do you have a few hours to spare at the Weekend?

Why not join our Friendly Team of Volunteers who run the Tea Room at the Washburn Heritage Centre?

You will Meet lovely people and get to sample delicious cake, whilst helping a good Cause!

**Give Jenny a ring on
01943 880794
or email**

centre@washburnvalley.org

Sarah Cox stops off in Leathley



Leathley and Leathley Village Hall is very proud to have supported Radio 2 DJ Sara Cox in her amazing fundraising event of five marathons in five days for Children in Need.

The Village Hall was used as a pit stop (name changed to 'cake stop') on her final day on Friday 14th November. Lots of people, dogs and ponies were in attendance as well as Pudsey Bear of course!

Thanks to all who came to

support and cheer her on in the rain.

Come back Sara when the weather is better !!



Denton Christmas Fair

We held our annual Christmas Fair on 29th November at St Helen's. Despite a miserable cold, wet and dull autumn morning, a steady stream of supporters joined us for a warm welcome. There were plenty of lovely items to purchase including some beautiful Christmas wreaths and bulbs

to brighten winter days. As usual the cake stall proved very popular and our visitors happily tucked into refreshments. A very successful morning, with enormous thanks to all who helped, baked, organised and to everyone who came.



The Friends of Blubberhouses Church

FoBs hosted a wonderful evening of Spanish cuisine in November—thank you to everyone who joined us for great food and fun. Together, we raised an impressive £778.47.

In December, the festive spirit was in full swing. Huge amounts of creativity filled the room creating beautiful Christmas wreaths under the guidance of Daphne Wilson. Everyone went home with a fabulous creation, and the event raised £589. Do get in touch if you left your secateurs!

In 2025, thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm, we raised a remarkable £3,607, bringing the grand total raised over the past ten years to £37,275.46. We are pleased to report that work on improving disabled access at the church continues to make good progress—we're nearly there!

And finally huge thanks to everyone who has supported us in any way over the past year. This is a truly fantastic achievement by all.





Farnley Estate Womens Institute



Farnley Estate WI has had a busy time this month. Every year in December we support Leathley Village Hall as they hold a Christmas Fair in the village Hall and at the church. Our stall provides home baking, jam and marmalade for people to purchase all made by our members. (See page 8 - 9)

Four days later we all participated in a Christmas crafting session led by Bernie Lindop, another local lady. Bernie provided all the members with the materials they needed to make Christmas gift tags and cards. This combined with a special raffle ended 2025 in a lovely festive spirit.

To view our programme for 2026 please visit <https://yorkshire-north-west.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/farnley-estate>. All our meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month at Leathley Village Hall at 7-30pm unless otherwise stated. In addition on the 4th Wednesday of the month our new social events begin and these have been chosen by our members.

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



Recipe - Malt Loaf



This Recipe is reproduced from the All Saints Weston Recipe book, that was first printed 1st December 1956. 52 years later it was discovered by Reverend Marlene Wilkinson in her mothers possessions and reprinted again. She dedicated it to "Edith and all the other saints who made their Contributions"

68 years later we are sharing the recipes again.
Thank you to the people of Weston for their recipes

Ingredients

8 oz self raising flour
2oz sugar
1 teaspoon of Bicarbonate of soda
1 egg
1 cup of milk
2 tablespoons of syrup
2 teaspoons of malt extract
5 oz of Sultanas or dates
1 pint of cold tea (remove tea leaves if using fresh tea)

Method

- Soak the dried fruit in the tea overnight
- Pre-heat the oven to 170°C/150°C fan/325°F/Gas 3.
- Line a large loaf tin

- Place all the dry ingredients into a mixing bowl.
- Gently heat the syrup in the milk (either in a Bain-marie or in the microwave)
- Add the warm mixture and the soaked fruit into the dry ingredients and combine.
- Wisk the egg and add it gently to the mixture
- Place the mixture into the tin
- Bake on a low heat for an hour or until a skewer comes out clean
- For the best flavour remove from the tin and wrap in baking parchment and leave for 1-2 days to allow the flavours to develop

Mrs Rhodes



... All in the month of December ~ continued from page 35

50 years ago, on 12th January 1976 that Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, short story writer and playwright died. Best known for creating the character Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and for the world's longest running play, *The Mousetrap*.

30 years ago, on 20th January 1996 that the first Palestinian general election chose Yasser Arafat to be President of the Palestinian National Council in a landslide victory.

30 years ago, on 27th January 1996 that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was

observed in Germany. It marks the day (27th Jan 1945) that the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration was liberated during WW2.

25 years ago, on 12th Jan 2001 that Swedish football manager Sven Goran Eriksson became the first non-Briton to coach the England national football team.

10 years ago, on 31st Jan 2016 that Terry Wogan, Irish radio and TV broadcaster, died. Known for his long-running BBC Radio 2 show, and for presenting TV's Wogan, Blankety Blank, Come Dancing, the Children in Need, and for his commentaries on the Eurovision Song Contest.



Gardeners Corner



Happy New Year to you all!

Well we have had another wet autumn with fields and gardens sodden. Not a good idea to walk on the garden when it is so wet, but an opportunity to do some planning for the coming year. As long as the ground is not waterlogged or frozen, trees can still be planted and deciduous trees and shrubs that are in the wrong place can be moved. January is the time when winter flowering shrubs come into their own, providing not only colour and scent but nectar for emerging insects. Stunning Witch hazels *Hammamelis* come in all sorts of colours and other winter flowering shrubs include Mahonias, winter flowering honeysuckles, winter box *sarcococca* as well as daphnes. All worth space in your garden if you have it!

It is still time to plant raspberry canes if you didn't do it last month and blackcurrants can be pruned towards

the end of the month. Unpruned apple trees can become congested so it is still time to prune them. First of all cut out any dead, damaged or diseased wood and then prune to open up the canopy and let the light in. An old rule of thumb was that you should be able to throw your hat through the middle of the tree! Do not prune the plum family of trees as they are prone to silver leaf fungus, but leave them until later in the year.

Look after your houseplants and the new indoor bulbs that are already giving pleasure. Do recycle your Christmas Tree – local councils usually have a facility – or you can shred it yourself and use as a mulch, particularly on acid loving plants.

Finally, look forward to brighter and longer days as the year advances, but remember if it snows to brush off shrubs so that they don't break and collapse under the weight.



Fewston and Blubberhouses Churches Carol singing

The traditional carol singing continued around the valley this year. A hearty group once again braved the elements – fortunately no snow this time, though the wind and rain certainly made their presence felt. Sadly, we weren't able to make it to Blubberhouses this year, but even so, we raised a tremendous £625.31 at the

time of going to press.

A huge thank-you to everyone who so generously donated, and to those who kindly kept us going with mulled wine, mince pies and other festive treats. Your support and hospitality were greatly appreciated.



WASHBURN & MID-WHARFE CHURCHES MAGAZINE

Feeling inspired?

The magazine is created by compiling contributions from readers, the many people associated with running the churches, societies, clubs and event holders. Thank you to everyone for sending in items each month.

If you feel inspired to write an article for the magazine. Share some news, a poem or a seasonal recipe, please send them to the editor.

Email your items to: magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

Or send by post to;
C/O The Heritage Centre Office
Washburn Heritage Centre
Fewston Church
Harrogate
HG3 1SU

Our magazine

The magazine was created to link the communities of the Anglican and Methodist churches in the Mid-Wharfe and lower Washburn Valley. The Anglican churches of the United Benefice are All Saints Weston, Saint Helen Denton, Saint Michael and Saint Laurence Fewston, St Andrew Blubberhouses, All Saints Farnley and Saint Oswald Leathley. Norwood chapel is in the Wharfedale & Aireborough Methodist circuit

Please find contact information on page 2.

The magazine is managed by our Treasurer Ann Johnson, Distributers who include Cheri Beaumont and the Editor Anna Bowman.

Advertising

We encourage business that are happy to provide a service in our rural parishes to advertise with us.

Please contact Ann Johnson by email ann@apmj.co.uk or Tel: 01943 880000 to discuss your advert

Our Prices are £100 for a half page or £50 for a quarter page, per annum (12 issues).

We are also happy to discuss single adverts for events.

Magazine Archive

To see past issues we have an online archive. Thank you to Paul (one of three Pauls who help create and deliver the magazine) for editing the website www.fewstonwithblubberhouses.org.uk/church-life/parish-magazine/.

How to Subscribe

The magazine costs £7 a year to have 12 copies of the magazine delivered by hand or £17.50 to have it posted directly.

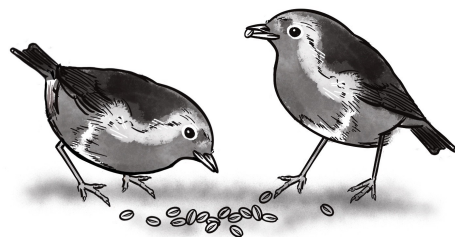
Please contact the Editor if you would like to arrange delivery and payments

Answers to the December Magazine puzzles

9	3	4	6	2	1	8	5	7
2	7	1	5	8	9	3	4	6
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a	n	g	e	l	b	a	b	y	a	m
r	g	l	o	r	y	g	o	o	d	e



Thank you

to Julie, Glenn, Oliver and all the staff at Avenue Printers for kindly printing front cover in colour for the December issue at no cost in honour of Christmas.

If you would like to sponsor a full colour front cover for any month please contact the editor

Happy New Year.

The printer

This magazine is printed by Avenue Printers of Harrogate

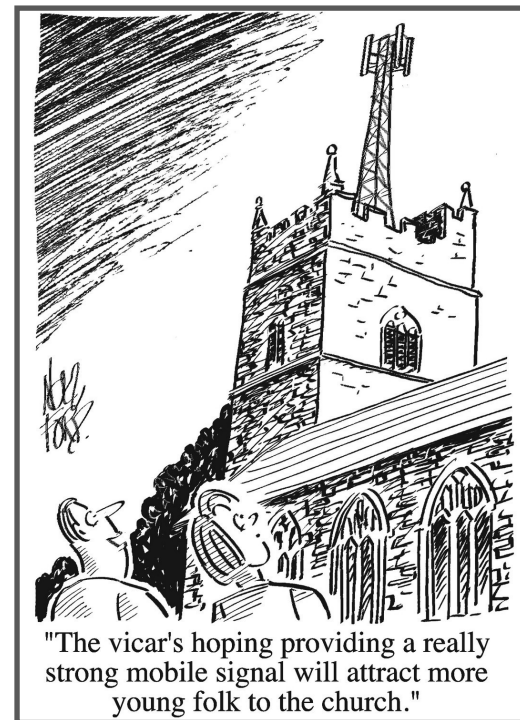
2026



Please see the Community Notice Board and notices on pages 10 - 14 for events, notices and future dates for your diary.

- Photographic competition see page 31
- For the Washburn Heritage Centre see page 32
- For the Farnley Estate Womens Institute see page 39

Puzzles and colouring in the centre pages



Next Contribution Deadline: 10th January

2026 Deadlines;
10th February, 10th March 10th April

Edited by Anna Bowman

Email; magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

For more information about the magazine and how you can contribute subscribe or advertise please see page 42