GARGRAVE &

CONISTON COLD

April 2025

CONTACTS

St Andrew's Church, Gargrave		www.standrewsgargrave.org.uk
Vicar	Revd Andrew Steer	749275 andrew.steer@leeds.anglican.org
Associate Priest	Revd Sue McWhinney	07484 181699 | 01729 830293 sue.mcwhinney@leeds.anglican.org
Churchwarden	Linda Wall	07580 552888
PCC Secretary	Peter Poulter	07967 107919 buffers.pp@gmail.com
Organist	Susan Watkiss	798660 | sue@suewatkiss.co.uk
Treasurer	Joanne Ackroyd	jjoanneshsaw@googlemail.com
Gift Aid	Joanne Ackroyd	jjoanneshsaw@googlemail.com
St Peter's Church, Coniston Cold		
Vicar	Revd Andrew Steer	As above
Churchwarden	Nick Bannister Michelle Pickles	07785 240642
Treasurer	Carol Saxby	
PCC Secretary	Sarah Shard	
Electoral Roll	To be advised	
Gargrave Parish Council		www.gargravepc.org.uk
Clerk	Vacant	
Coniston Cold Parish Council		
Clerk	Rachel Jones	748125
Gargrave C of E Primary School		www.gargrave.n-yorks.sch.uk
Head teacher	Sarah Peel	749433 | admin@gargrave.n-yorks.sch.uk
Gargrave Village Hall		www.gargravevillagehall.org.uk
Bookings	Christine Town	749730 | david.town48@btinternet.com
Coniston Cold Village Hall (The Richard Tottie Memorial Hall)		
Bookings	Vacant	
Parish magazine		www.standrewsgargrave.org.uk
Editors	Sheila Bloomfield, Eunice Padley, & Peter Poulter	gargraveparishmag@gmail.com
Advertising		parishmagads.gargrave@outlook.com
Subscriptions	Helen Wilson	helen_thunder_bay@hotmail.com

St Andrew's church is aware that people from marginalised groups have experienced discrimination in churches for reasons of race, gender or sexuality. To counter this the Parochial Church Council has agreed the following:

"St Andrew's offers everyone a warm and open welcome where all are included; a place of belonging and connection."

COLLARED!

Revd Andrew Steer

This Lent many Christians will have been marking Christ's 40 days in the wilderness – perhaps by abstinence of chocolate, alcohol or other treats. The time of Lent is bookended by Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday at the beginning, when tradition suggests we remove all sweet things from the larder and begin a time of deeper reflection, even contrition, before we eventually celebrate the sheer joy of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday – the most significant day in the church calendar.

Unless you are a Christian, none of this makes much sense, and Easter is simply a lovely celebration of springtime to share with family and friends – and who wouldn't want that. However, this narrative, this weird story that after his Baptism Jesus was 'whisked away' to be tempted by the devil may have something important to speak into our lives over 2000 years after the events.

You see, this idea of 'wilderness' is just as relevant to us today as we try to make sense of an ever-confusing world, where world power is being upended, and the foundations of our society seem to be shifting. As the world enters a new era of 'asymmetrical warfare' (e.g. trade wars, computer hacking, and terrorist activities) between America, Russia, China and various other powers, so too we too can feel disorientated, perplexed and even fearful – feeling as though we too are in our own wilderness, not knowing who or where we are anymore – just as Jesus must have felt.

Jesus' temptations were no different to many of the temptations we face today – the old words of hedonism, egoism and materialism translate to our modern-day temptations of self-indulgence, self-centredness and acquisitiveness. In our society when we are encouraged to enjoy ourselves, to promote ourselves and to get rich, such ideas might seem a bit odd. But ultimately, none of these goals will bring us lasting peace or happiness – the treasures which we all really pursue. Perhaps the main challenge Jesus was faced with was the challenge of identity – "if you really **are** the Son of God, turn these stones into bread…, jump off the temple…bow down to me…". However, Jesus was assured of His identity, and He kept quoting the Bible to counter each challenge.

Now, unless your name is Abraham, Moses or even Jesus, then you may not easily identify with a dusty old book written thousands of years ago about people in a different culture. But what if that book contained an invitation to you and a way of finding greater truth, meaning and fulfilment in life? What if that book could show you how to enjoy life even more fully and to live without fear of death, with hope for the world and for the future? What if that book enabled you to discover your own identity in a new, more profound and more beautiful way? And what if that book could lead you into a new understanding of love, loving and being loved in the most intense and life-changing way?

And what if that book could also help you navigate all the confusion in this world right now? What if all this began with Easter?

DIARY FOR MARCH

Coniston Cold

Church Services – St Peter's, Coniston Cold

6 April – Sunday: Compline Evensong, 4pm

13 April – Sunday: Prayer Book Communion, 9.30am

20 April – Sunday. Compline Evensong. 4pm

27 April – Sunday: Prayer Book Communion, 9.30am

Gargrave

Church Services and Events – St Andrew's, Gargrave

Daily – Share a Prayer, 9am.

6 April – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion 8am, Breakfast 10:30am followed by 11am Family Service.

12 April – Saturday. Saturday Praise 6:45-8:00pm. All welcome.

13 April– Sunday: Matins 8am, Sung Eucharist 11am.

20 April – Easter Sunday: BCP Holy Communion, 8am and 11am.

27 April - Sunday: BCP Holy Communion, 8am, Family Communion 11am.

Repeating Events

Every Monday: Coffee Mondays, St Andrew's,10:30am-12pm

First and third Monday of each month: Model Railway and Transport meeting, Village Hall Annexe, 7pm

Every Tuesday: Craft and Chat, St Andrew's, 2pm

Every Tuesday: Let's Sing, St Andrew's 12:30-2pm

Every Tuesday and Thursday during winter: Indoor bowling has ended for the season and will resume in October 2025, Village Hall, 2-4pm

Second Wednesday of each month: Gargrave 2022 Group, ladies welcome, £4 per person, Village Hall, 7pm

Every Friday: Coffee Morning, Neville Crescent Community Centre, 10am-noon

April Events

2 April - Wednesday: Parish Council meeting. Village Hall Annexe, 7:15pm.

6 April - Sunday: Popular sequence tea dance. An afternoon of music from the movies and musicals. Tea, coffee and biscuits served in the interval. Admission £3 per person. Proceeds for Hall funds. Village Hall, 2-4pm.

11 April - Friday: Picnic Supper Dance with live music for modern sequence dancing from Denis Westmorland. £6 admission. Village Hall, 7:30-11pm

12 April – Saturday: Kirkby Malham Film Night - 'Enchanted April' with Joan Plowright and Jim Broadbent. 7pm, Admission £7 includes pie and peas.

18 April - Friday: A Community Walk in the Dale, 9am, St Andrew's. RSVP to Paul McWhinney, see article p. 7.

19 April - Saturday: Provisional date for Coffee Morning, presented by the Gargrave Village Hall Management Committee jointly with the Gargrave Library. Bacon sandwiches and homemade cakes. Raffle and Book stall. Village Hall, 10am-Noon. *Please check the Village Hall noticeboard nearer the time for confirmation, or call 07989585564.

20 April - Sunday: Collectable and Craft Fair. Village Hall, 9.30am-3.30pm. Refreshments available until 3pm. 50p admission.

25 April – Friday: Gargrave Cinema Club - Film Night - 'Conclave' with Ralph Fiennes - Village Hall, 7pm. Tickets £5 cash on the door.

EVENTS

Share a prayer with St Andrew's Church

Peter Poulter



Each morning at 9:00 a small group of people meet in St Andrew's to pray for the church and the village. You are welcome to join them. Either come along to church, or maybe just pause for a moment, wherever you are, and share a prayer. This picture by the French artist Jean-François Millet shows a couple stopping their field work to pray when they hear the Angelus bell from the distant church.

If prayer is not a word you use, then just pause and reflect in your own way hopefully and lovingly for the life we share in our community. Each month our prayer will focus on a particular part of the parish. In April we shall pray for those who live and work in the area of Eshton Road – including Sharphaw View, the businesses in Asquith Park and the Canal Warehouse.

Quiz Night at St Andrew's

Clare Maslin



The return of our ever-popular quiz takes place on Wednesday 30th April.

We kick off at **6:30pm** with expert quiz master Les Hatfield. Pie and peas will be served with teas and coffees but BYOB. Teams of 4 only - if you don't have a team then we will add you to one!

Entry **£7.50,** pay on the door.

Pre-booking is helpful and can be done via **events.gargrave@gmail.com** or **01756 748538** leaving a message with your name, phone number and number of people coming.

Library News and Events

David Smith

Gargrave Cinema Club

On **Friday 25th April** we will be showing the award-winning political thriller '**Conclave'**. Following the sudden death of the Pope, Cardinal Thomas Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) convenes the College of Cardinals to elect a new pontiff. Assembled in the Sistine Chapel, 118 cardinals from around the world engage in a secretive election fraught with ambition, rivalries, and hidden agendas. Amidst this high-stakes process, Lawrence uncovers deep secrets and scandals about the leading candidates. Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow and Isabelle Rossellini.

The customary Cafe style seating will be in place, so please bring your own refreshments. Gargrave Village Hall doors open at 7:00pm with the film starting at 7:30pm. Tickets are £5.00 cash on the door with under 16s free. Sorry but we can only allow Guide Dogs into the Hall.

All proceeds from the film nights go towards the running costs of the Community Library, and the Library Committee thank you for your support.

Our next joint coffee morning with the Village Hall Committee will be held on Saturday 19th April. The usual refreshments will be available.

New Library Management System

The Library Volunteers have now undertaken training on how to use the new management system and by the time you come to read this article everything, hopefully, will be running smoothly.

Kirkby Malham Parish Hall

Caroline Rosier

Saturday Film Nights

12 April - 'Enchanted April' with Joan Plowright and Jim Broadbent.
10 May - 'Maria' with Angelina Jolie as Maria Callas.

14 June - 'Florence Foster Jenkins' with Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant.
Films start at 7pm, Admission is £7 including pie and pea supper. All diets catered for, please let us know.
Contact: kmphevents@gmail.com or Caroline on 07815 100353

Gargrave Open Gardens, 21-22 June 2025

Duncan and Bee Faulkner

The days are lengthening, the sun is feeling warmer and life is starting to spring up again in Gargrave's gardens. After the record-breaking success of last year's Open Gardens we are hoping for another great weekend this year, on 21-22 June. Once again, the event will be raising funds for St Andrew's Church, Manorlands Hospice and Martin House Children's Hospice.

We welcome all sizes of gardens, in all stages of development, whether they are seas of colourful flowers, back yards with a few pots, allotments, wildlife havens or gardens for the soul. If you are interesting in opening your garden, please contact Duncan and Bee on gargravegardens@posteo.net or 07778 980994. As ever, we are also looking for musical buskers, cake makers, waiters, garden sitters, poster distributors and more! Advance tickets available at: https://gargraveopengardenscom.wordpress.com/

A Community Walk in The Dale – Good Friday, 18th April 2025

For the last three years we have had a community walk on Good Friday around some quieter parts of the area. I would like to extend an invitation to you to join us for a similar walk this year. Avoid the Good Friday traffic, spend a great day outdoors with a chance to talk with others from the local area and perhaps see something different. The full circuit will be just under **14 miles** with **1125 feet** of ascent. Don't be put off by the distance... the pace is quite relaxed. As before there will be opportunities (which many people have taken) to join later or to shorten your walk. On the day many people choose to walk further than they had originally planned. Lifts can be arranged at the start /end of the day.

The route will be the same as last year's, starting and finishing at St Andrew's in Gargrave, so we can have lunch at Kirkby Malham, with breaks at Airton Friends Meeting House and St Peter's in Coniston Cold. The route encompasses some quiet paths and gentle hills with beautiful views, and we hope you can join us on this walk. Dogs are welcome, and there aren't too many awkward stiles.

Arrive for a 9am start from outside St Andrews (on-street parking), from where we will head off up Mark House Lane. We will be in Airton at about 11am for coffee and Kirkby Malham from 12:30 to 1:45. Tea at Coniston Cold around 3:30 to 4pm and back at Gargrave by 5:30pm.

Paul McWhinney | phm@mcwhinney.info | 07973 396948

On behalf of the churches of Gargrave, Coniston Cold, and Kirkby Malham. Please email you if you plan to join us. I can also email a fuller timetable / map if needed.

The 2025 Arts Season

Bev Parker



The 2025 season for followers of the incredible artistic and creative talent we have in our local area began in March with North Yorkshire Open Studios (NYOS) Spring Exhibition which is ongoing until the 10th of May. Hosted by Craven Arts in its flagship arts centre, Craven Arts House on Otley Street, Skipton, it offers a taster from over 200 NYOS artists and makers who will be opening their individual studios to the public for two immersive weekends in June and some in the Winter Pen Studios too.

In the meantime, to help everyone follow the exhibitors who are local to the Gargrave, Coniston and Malhamdale area, these include Allison Wiffen Ceramics, Judy Metcalfe Textiles, Bev Parker of Gargrave Painting and Drawing (studio in Skipton), Katherine Holmes Painting and Drawing, and Fiona Armer Printmaking. Following a mini trail within the NYOS trail will make it easy for visitors to see the work of artists located in Skipton who are showing at Craven Arts House, including studio holders Bev Parker Painting and Drawing, Ellie Taylor Textiles, Jane Carlisle Bellerby Mixed Media, and Mary Waterfall Painting and Drawing.

Then, at Mill Bridge Gallery opposite the Castle Inn, we have Peter Wilkin Mixed Media, Mark Butler Sculpture, and there are also individual studio holders Carolyn Hird Rogers Mixed Media, Julie Bruce Painting and Drawing, John Sherwood Mixed Media, and Joan Murray Textiles.

We will bring you more on the excitement of the Summer NYOS trail to follow next month. Meanwhile, watch out for posters and fliers and the hugely popular brochure which can be seen online at nyos.org.uk. An easy way for Gargrave residents to get a brochure is to pick one up from outside Allison Wiffen's studio at Higherlands House where they are available from the waterproof box.

NEWS

Gargrave Art Exhibition 2025: A Portrait

Gargrave Art Exhibition Committee

We look forward again this year to the Gargrave Art Exhibition where we will welcome visitors, old and new, and all our brilliant volunteers who support the show. We are also of course looking forward to welcoming back the magnificent cohort of over one hundred artists to the Main Exhibition event and all the artists from Gargrave Primary, Gargrave Guides and Milton House Nursing Home. Amateurs

and professionals, of all ages, working in a wide array of media, including ceramics, collage, and sculpture, the exhibition presents artwork reflecting favourite subjects and new styles and techniques for everyone's enjoyment and interest. The Committee is, as always, delighted and humbled that so many talented individuals give their time and energy to support the event. At this time of the year we are waiting with anticipation and excitement to see what we will receive. We hope very much that you will join us in July to take a look.



The Call for Entries next month marks the official start of the show but just to set the scene here is a portrait (in words!) of artist, Katie Honey. Her painting Light and Water was voted by our visitors as the People's Favourite last year. Katie lived in Gargrave until a couple of years ago and is now undertaking, together with her fiancé and children, the restoration of her "dream house in a dream location" in Hellifield - involving a great deal more painting of a different nature!

In the midst of the ongoing project, Katie has created a studio - a haven of imagination and serenity. In her artwork Katie uses a wide variety of media including felting and resin, digital techniques and photography, in addition to many varieties of painting and drawing materials. Katie often deploys several techniques and layers up to three different materials on one stunning piece, which are frequently bold in size as well as composition. Almost all of the displayed work in her studio is not finished. Katie says that she likes to put a piece up and study it and then when she sees "the next steps" she works on it again, almost obliterating the original subject then bringing it back to the fore as with Light and Water.

Katie trained at the London College of Fashion in prosthetics and special effects and worked at the BBC but she felt keenly the lack of engagement in her own creativity and retrained as a secondary teacher becoming an art specialist involving outreach in deprived London areas, a role she really enjoyed. A move to the Yorkshire Dales and the breakdown of her marriage, followed by the loss of her adored mum to cancer, inspired Katie to do a MA in Art Therapy in particular

working with patients receiving hospice care. Currently Katie is volunteering at the Grassington National Park centre creating a mural and hide and seek trail celebrating wildlife native to the Dales. This together with a teaching commitment, three children, a sizeable collection of pets and regularly producing her own work means that juggling is the order of the day!

In her studio, amongst the dramatic landscapes and seascapes, evocative pieces of art therapy, there are portraits of the famous (David Attenborough for one) and naturalistic portraits of beloved family pets. Katie will be delighted to receive commissions on any subject and can be contacted on: WhatsApp/mobile: 07365533956 or email: katiemariehoney@icloud.com. At the Gargrave Art Exhibition, an extended wide-ranging portfolio of Katie's work will be on display.

Details about entry and all aspects of the show will be in next month's issue and available on our website (gargraveart.uk) from May 5.
Email: exhibition@gargraveart.uk

Dates for the Gargrave Art Exhibition:
10 July through 12 July, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday: 10am - 7pm
13 July, Sunday: 10am – 4:30pm

Gargrave 2022 Group - March meeting

Joy Robinson

This month we had a really fascinating talk from The Yorkshire Beekeeper, Matt Bravery, who has built a most impressive business at several sites in the Settle area in a few short years.

Matt has lived in Yorkshire since his childhood but he originally lived in my home town of Sutton in Surrey. His excellent degree is in Mechanical Engineering which seems a far cry from beekeeping but he was originally intrigued by the honeycomb structure in carbon fibre.

Bees are a very interesting, not to mention essential, insect. Matt raises native honey bees. The workers run the hive, are all female, as nurses, feeders, bakers, guards, builders, and foragers, each with their own task depending on their age, the oldest being the foragers that go out to gather food. They're all sterile. The Queen doesn't run the hive, her sole task is to lay eggs to make new bees. If she fails in this, the workers will kill her and create a new Queen by feeding a chosen egg royal jelly. The male drones do absolutely nothing except fertilise the Queen and having done so, die. Any drones left alive as winter comes are driven out of the hive to perish as they would simply consume precious food while contributing nothing. Once the colony becomes too large for its space, in June or July the Queen will take 50-70% of the workers and swarm to look for a new home.

Matt took us through the development of his beekeeping career from his very first 'Flow Hive' made in Australia. He admitted that he'd bought this at completely the wrong time of year in 2020. He began in the garden of his very tolerant mother in Langcliffe and gradually build up from 3 colonies to 7 and was often called to collect swarms which then added to his colonies.

Hearing that heather honey was highly sought after, Matt looked for a remote site on a heather moorland where he could place hives. This was very successful and he had 50-60 jars from 3 colonies in his first season. However, the 2024 season (March-September) was so dreadfully wet that the bees were hardly able to forage at all. No heather honey was produced at all that season, but luckily other areas made up for it.

By 2022, Matt had 2 sites with 8-12 colonies at each to avoid stripping the entire food from the area and not allowing other pollinators a look in. He had to invest in expensive equipment to deal with heather honey as it is more viscous. He also achieved a Grade 5 Food Hygiene level. At the end of this season, his bees had produced 7-800 jars. By the end of the 2024 season, with 3 sites and 60+ colonies, this figure had risen to 2,000 jars despite the awful weather.

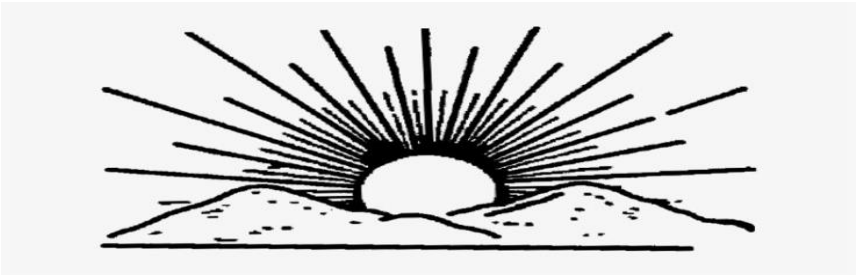
There was an impressive array of different delicious honey for us to sample and we were able to buy some from woodland, meadow and wildflower sites.

It's not all plain sailing though. In January one of his sites was flooded and only just missed flooding some of the hives. Matt is regularly stung although he is now adept at spotting colonies in aggressive mode. He isn't badly hurt but his partner Emma has a most unfortunate reaction. Every time she's stung, all the previous stings swell up as well! Luckily, they've upgraded her protective suit to try to avoid this.

Matt finished by encouraging us to avoid pesticides, help bees with No Mow May and to grow plants that bees love. Leave the dandelions, they often are the earliest source of food. We need bees, without them, humans would soon run out of food.

A Meditation for Easter

Richard Rohr



The Franciscan spiritual teacher and mystic Richard Rohr invites us to look at Easter through a much bigger lens…

Resurrection is Everywhere!

I want to enlarge your view of Resurrection from a one-time miracle in the life of Jesus to which we give assent and belief, to a pattern of creation that has always been true and invites us to believe in much more than a miracle. It is not just the private victory of one man to prove he is God. Resurrection and renewal are in fact the universal and observable pattern of everything.

Jesus' resurrection is a potent, focused, and compelling statement about what God is still and forever doing with the universe and humanity. The natural world is constantly dying and being reborn in different forms. God appears to be resurrecting everything all the time and everywhere. It is not something to "believe in" as much as it is something to observe and be taught by. Science strongly confirms this statement using its own terms; from metamorphosis to seasonal change and in the life cycles of everything from butterflies to stars.

We are so lucky to live in a part of the world where Easter coincides with springtime. I hope you are going out enjoying and seeing the leaves and flowers being reborn after months of winter darkness. It seems to say even all this which looked so muddy and material, all this which looked so ordinary and dead, is being reborn. Divine incarnation and resurrection are actually two sides of the same coin.

We don't need to wait for death to experience resurrection. We can participate in it by living connected to God. Resurrection happens every time we love someone even when they are not loving to us. At that moment we have been brought to new life. Every time we decide to trust and begin again, even after repeated failures, at that moment we've been resurrected. Every time we refuse to become negative, cynical, hopeless, we have experienced the Risen Christ. We don't have to wait for it later. Resurrection is possible now!

I will conclude with the words of the theologian Elizabeth Johnson as she considers the implications of the embodied nature of Jesus' resurrection:

"The resurrection starts on earth with Jesus dead and buried, and ends up in God with Jesus the Living One transformed by the power of the Spirit. Alive in God, his presence is no longer bound by earth's limits but partakes of the omnipresence of God's own love. Christ is now present in word and sacrament and wherever two or three gather in his name. True to the pattern of his ministry Christ is mysteriously revealed and concealed in the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, those in prison, the very least of those in need. Ultimately, through the power of the Spirit, Jesus is the whole community of disciples, indeed the whole community of creation, through every hour until the end of time. Is this true? All explanations aside, it must be a lived truth, visible in the lives of those who are participants in Christ's ongoing work in the world."

***Acknowledgement**: Adapted from Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations: Resurrection and Incarnation (03.04.2024) and Resurrection through Connection (05.04.2024). Available free at https://cac.org/daily-meditations/explore/*

Articles continue after the Advertising Section…

St. Andrew's Family Worship Review, 2nd March 2025 *Peter Gardner*

ST ANDREW'S FAMILY WORSHIP IS NOT BORING. It's interesting, not old-fashioned, modern in fact, with a short snappy, relevant preach, modern worship songs, as well as the occasional hymn, even interactive activities if you want to join in. There's lots of time to chat and if you're lucky, you might even get to see a real live vicar and get blessed and there's a free cooked breakfast. What's not to like?

Yes, I know the Church of England has its problems at the moment, but they don't seem to have hit St. Andrew's Family Worship. Why don't YOU come along and join us at 11:00 am on the first Sunday of the month (10:45 am if you want breakfast). The service is only an hour long, if that, and you know, you might actually encounter God. People do.

I heard one person say this last one was a brilliant service.

Well, having got that off my chest, let me tell you what happened. After the worship leaders had their practice, Vicar A got up and read the notices and Jennifer and David got banned. This is a legal thing which lets people object to someone getting married if they know there is a legal reason which would stop them from doing so. Nobody spoke up – so I suppose it must be all right.

Then we opened with a couple of songs. Incidentally, I must drop in here, that our new high-end audio-visual system is almost completely installed and the worship should sound better than ever at next month's family worship service.

Jane then introduced the service which was based on Luke 9.28-36. This is all about Jesus going up a mountain with three of his mates (aka disciples) and he suddenly becomes absolutely and utterly radiant and transformed. Moses and Elijah, two dead Old Testament prophets also appeared, looking glorious like Jesus, and talked to him.

Peter, who often seemed to put his foot in his mouth, interrupted and suggested they built little shelters for the three of them, and at that point, a cloud came over and God spoke out of the cloud and told them to listen to Jesus.

Well, things like that don't happen every day, but something similar had happened in the past, when Moses went up a mountain and met with God. As our preacher reminded us, when he came down the mountain his face shone so much with the radiance of God, that the Israelites were scared and he had to put a veil over his face till the glow faded.

Peter, James and John were all changed by their encounter with God - as was Moses when he encountered God. And that's the whole point. Encountering God, is a life changing experience. We might not get to shine outwardly with the glory of God like Moses did, but contact with God does change us. It can happen as we read the bible, pray or just spend time with him, worshipping him. These things change us inwardly, and over time those inner changes can even transform our outward appearance so that we, too, reflect the light of God's glory.

Prayers for others followed, led in a positive and unique way – which I find difficult to put into words, but, as one person put it, were image based.

Someone later commented, “It was a very moving, powerful service, every aspect had a message…” I agree.

Ok, roll on next family worship service. I wonder what will happen then?

FARMING ON SCALEBER HILL

John Hall



The final batch of last season’s prime lambs were sold very satisfactorily at the beginning of February. The sheds were then cleaned out and disinfected ready for the pregnant ewes.

The eagerly awaited sheep pregnancy scanning results came in satisfactory. Fortunately, there are only a few triplets this year and slightly more twins than we normally have. The sheep, which were already housed, have been sorted so that all the triplets are together and are being given extra feed to boost energy levels. The ewes carrying single lambs are on a much plainer diet to help prevent over-condition resulting in large lambs which could be difficult to birth. As I write, the countdown to lambing is well and truly underway. The ewes have all received their chlostridial booster vaccine to enhance antibodies in the colostrum (first milk) which is vital to help protect the lambs in the first few weeks of life. Vaccine supply was a problem for some farmers this year but fortunately we had ordered in good time and received our supply.

Brian has been very busy planting the hedge plants. The hedge, which is 400 metres long, is made up predominantly of hawthorn with hazel and dog rose. Oak trees have been planted strategically in the centre of the hedge line. The plants have all been suitably protected from rabbits and hares with spiral guards which will be removed and re-used once the plants are established. This hedgerow should provide decent shelter for the farm animals on what is a very exposed field as well as acting as a wildlife corridor to connect up with existing hedgerows.

We have once again had an annual purge on the moles on our land at Long Preston. Having caught 35 last year, we were hopeful there wouldn’t be too many this year but we have already caught 11. It has to be said that the field is far better with fewer mole heaps.

I heard the first Curlew warbling on 6th February. It always feels like Spring is just around the corner when these iconic birds return from their wintering grounds. We have also seen and heard the Oystercatchers establishing breeding sites. We had

a wonderful show of snowdrops this year which are now starting to fade but the daffodils are pushing through and will hopefully be flowering soon.

Since my last report Croft Cottage has got off to a good start with bookings and we have been lucky to welcome and meet some very nice guests.

News from the Village Hall

Caroline Thompson

.



John Philip and Susan Winchester, son and daughter of the late Joan Phillip, with Joan's friend Jennifer Heselton, sitting in front of the Village Hall on the bench with the new plaque that commemorates Joan's volunteer work with the Hall.

The Open day and Bibliophile sale was held at the Village Hall last month (15th March), it was great to see over 200 visitors to the event. Albeit most seemed to be there for the mammoth Book, CD, and DVD sale. One gentleman came all the way from Hull after seeing the event advertised on the Village Hall website. He happily went home with a huge carrier bag full of DVDs for just £5. What a bargain. The books and other items were priced so cheaply as they had just grown and grown in quantity but amazingly almost £150.00 was generated from the sales. However, once it came to packing up what was left there was still quite a quantity to re-home.

Everyone was very impressed to have a look around the whole premises and we were pleased to show off our newly upholstered benches in the Snooker Hall. They were formerly the original wooden benches but now have a much more comfortable padded seat on them so the Snooker Hall members are delighted with the improvement. Thanks are extended to some of our regular hirers and event organisers who gave up their time and came along to promote their events or classes. The model train and transport group created lots of interest with kids both young and old as they had a working layout in action. A big thank you to our lovely team of ladies in the kitchen who were kept extremely busy all day selling delicious homemade refreshments. A walking group came in during the afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed the tempting array of cakes.

We were very pleased to welcome John and Susan to the Open Day, they are the son and daughter of our late dear friend Joan Phillip. They came along to unveil a

plaque which we had placed on a bench at the front of the Hall in memory of Joan. She was a dedicated member of the Gargrave Village Hall Management Committee for over forty years and her voluntary work at the Village Hall was exceptional. It was significant that our Open Day was held to celebrate National Village Halls week, a campaign which celebrates, encourages and supports the efforts of the volunteers who keep the 10,000 rural Village Halls in England operating. Not many volunteers will have put in more years than Joan. The Village Hall gave Joan so much enjoyment over the years and it was a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside her. We had some great times, there was much laughter, quite a bit of Coffee and Cake involved and sometimes a bit of alcohol too! She used to enjoy sitting on the bench at the front of the hall during the summer months often with her late friend Molly Lord and with Jennifer Heselton another amazing volunteer at the Hall. Jennifer was in attendance at the short unveiling ceremony and had an old photograph with her of the three of them sat on the bench in the sunshine - The three degrees!

We do hope everyone will come along from time to time, have a sit on the bench and think of Joan with fondness.

Gargrave Church of England (VC) Primary School

Sarah Peel

LOVE, PEACE, HOPE

admin@gargrave.n-yorks.sch.uk **01756 749433**

Out and About

Our pupils and families love the opportunity for experiences beyond school. In the last month we have had several visits. These include Young Voices, Malham residential and a visit to London. Read more about each visit below.

Young Voices



Young Voices is the largest choir in the world. The children worked hard and practised the songs every week for three months in order to sing at the concert. On the day, our choir were joined by pupils from 30 other schools at Manchester's Co-Op Live arena and performed in front of a packed audience. This made over 7000 singers! The atmosphere was absolutely amazing, and all of the children sang their hearts out. We are very proud of their commitment and exemplary behaviour both leading up to and during the trip. Thank you to all parents and carers who supported

the children practising and who came on the night to share in this memorable experience. In preparation for this, the group performed at Milton house. We received a thank you card from Milton House following their visit, saying how wonderful the pupils were.

Malham Residential



Our Year 5 students walked to Malham along the Pennine Way. It has been 60 years since this path was established so it was lovely for our pupils to learn about it and the geography of our beautiful area. The pupils walked 9 miles as they added an extra loop via Janet's Foss. They stayed in the youth hostel and all thought the food and beds were amazing. They weren't so keen on the early morning cockerel call though!

The next day the group visited Malham Cove which was bathed in spring sunlight and allowed our pupils to explore the base of the cove, the origins of the river which then becomes the river Aire and flows through Gargrave. The pupils loved the quality time together and gained confidence in being independent as they had to organise themselves away from home.

Visit to London

The Year 6 students traveled to London to observe Parliament. We set off on the 6:55 direct train from Skipton full of excitement. We loved the Underground and found the Elizabeth Tower to be magnificent. The group visited parliament and met our MP, Julian Smith. He talked to us about life in parliament and being an MP. We also met Chris Mason who talked to us about life as a political journalist and his roots from the Yorkshire Dales. We also saw Downing Street, the Horse Guards parade and Buckingham Palace. At Buckingham Palace we saw the King, Queen and Princess Catherine pass in cars as they were en route to the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey. They even waved at us! It was a brilliant day learning about life beyond Gargrave and giving us ideas for our futures.



Gargrave Parish Council

Gregory L Butt MBE, Chair

As highlighted in last month's edition, work has started on the Birds Mouth Fencing, indeed it may well have been completed by the time this article is published. This is a milestone event for the village and represents a tangible deterrent to the village greens being occupied again by Travellers Gypsy and Roma (TGR) during the annual transit to Appleby Fair and their traditional stop-over in Gargrave. This year that stop-over will likely be over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend 23-26 May. For information Appleby Fair dates this year are Thu 5 June to Wed 11 June, with the main days being Thu 5 June, Fri 6 June, Sat 7 June and Sun 8 June.

Work will now be progressed by the Parish Council's TGR Working Group to update the measures the Parish Council will take to engage with the TGR community in order to manage the situation for the best outcome for residents and the TGR community. These measures will be taken to the Professionals Meeting on Mon 31 Mar where all agencies will detail their commitment to the 'overall plan' and be held to account by Restorative Solutions. While the Professionals Meeting will exclude the public, the second Public Meeting, where the results of the Professional Meeting will be presented, will be held in the Village Hall in April.

We are now actively recruiting for:

- A Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish Council. The advert is now out, and Application Pack, which contains the Application Form, Job Description and Person Specification is available on the Parish Website. The post is part time at 10 hours a week. While prior experience is welcome, it is not necessary as training in local government administration can be provided.
- An additional Parish Councillor, details for this position will be promulgated in due course.

The Neighbourhood Plan anomaly, the omission of six planning policy statements relating to the site off Marton Road, remains a high priority for the Parish Council. The site off Marton Road was recently the subject of a contentious planning decision. The Parish Council will redouble its efforts to actively engage North Yorkshire Council and continue to call into question the planning decision.

We have recently written to Yorkshire Water and NYC Highways to ask their plans to address the gabion basket collapse on the northern riverbank along Mill Lane near Pinfold, and we await their responses. Work also continues to look at the options available to reinstate the Low Green stepping stones at an affordable price.

Maintaining our focus on riparian issues, the Parish Council has established a River Working Group (WG) to address the erosion and accretion (the buildup of stone and sand deposits) along the route of the River Aire within our responsibility. This new WG will report back to the Parish Council, with a route towards establishing a long-term action plan, in October 2025.

Friends of the Dales Spring Campaign Update

Make your Verges LIVING VERGES!

#NoMowMay



The last 80-90 years have seen the acceleration of a **biodiversity emergency** in the UK which is in part due to the loss of our once prevalent hay meadows. Species-rich meadows are more resistant to climate change and store more carbon than other types of grasslands, and they also support hundreds of species of plants, myriad insect life and dozens of bird species.

The good news is that there is something we can all do to help prevent further decline in biodiversity − we can look to protect and enhance those former strips and remnants of traditional grassland that have survived as **roadside verges** and grassy areas within villages.

The principles of nature-positive verge management are simple:

- Cut verges or other village grassland no later than **April** and clear cuttings away to prevent the build-up of thatch, which increases soil nitrogen levels and can encourage docks, nettles and thistles to take hold
- Do not cut the grass between **May and August** (inclusive) to allow plants to flower and set seed
- If cutting can't be avoided, consider mowing paths or narrow edge strips but **leave some areas uncut** as a wildlife refuge. This can also help to address concerns about untidiness and safety
- **Remove invasive weeds** (nettles, thistles, docks) by chopping down/uprooting, not spraying
- Do a second cut in **September** – clearing all cuttings away.

In other words, Cut Less, Cut Later, Takeaway!

We have several resources available on our website to help you get started. Visit **Friends of the Dales website** to access: Village Guide; Monthly Planner; Link to a campaign video by our Living Verges campaign champion, Dr Anne Readshaw and a 'No Mow' sign you can print off to let your neighbours know that you are managing verges for nature.

Do let us know if we inspire a change of approach − and please send any photos of any botanically rich verges and grassland you encourage!

For all questions, comments and feedback email:
victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Craven Lawn Tennis Club

Beth Whitley



The new tennis season is fast approaching and Craven Lawn Tennis Club, based in Gargrave, are busy preparing for this. The club has three superb All-Weather Courts and four Grass Courts which are usually available for play in late April/early May (weather depending). Pre-Season Team Training has already commenced for the teams playing in both the Wharfedale and Bradford Parks Leagues, and the Grounds Team are busy preparing the grass courts, the only ones in Craven so a truly unique feature of the club, which are also used by the club's Croquet Section during the summer months.

The club is always happy to welcome new members and memberships are available for Families, Adults, Students and Croquet players. Coaching is available from our LTA Registered Coaches and there are several Social Tennis sessions during the week as well as competitive tennis, an Online Court Booking system and floodlights on two of the All-Weather courts enabling year-round play.

Anyone who might be interested in knowing more about the club can visit the website at: http://www.craventennis.org.uk access the club's facebook page at: facebook.com/cravenltc or email the Club Secretary, Beth Whitley, at: secretary@craventennis.org.uk or phone her on either 01756 749664 or 07751 074085.

Craven Lawn Tennis Club is a very friendly, sociable and welcoming club for players of all ages and standards coupled with an idyllic location in Gargrave, excellent facilities including 7 courts and a fabulous clubhouse all on your doorstep.



Martin House Children's Hospice | Here when families need us most

Join us as we embark on our
biggest ever project, THE BUILD

Help us raise £2m to transform your local children's hospice so we can be there to help children with life-shortening conditions.



Find out how you can
BACK THE BUILD
martinhouse.org.uk/TheBuild

Kirkby Malham Parish Hall for hire!





Fully Equipped Kitchen, large hall, bar area, accessible toilet, and newly refurbished upstairs meeting room.

A licenced bar can be provided on request.

The ideal venue for: Exercise Classes, Children's Parties, Afternoon Teas, Talks and Presentations, Evening Socials, Exhibitions, Craft Groups, Meetings

Standard Hire rate: £12 per hour (unheated) or £17 (with heating)

Upstairs meeting room: £15 per morning/afternoon/evening for Malhamdale residents (up to 3 hours)

Additional charges may be required for large groups or business use.

Contact: **NOTE EMAIL for bookings and enquiries**

Sue at MalhamdaleParishHall@gmail.com or 07484 181699

Find us on Facebook: **Kirkby Malham Parish Hall**

Gargrave Lands Charity

Are you currently experiencing financial difficulties and need help?

Do you need financial assistance to pursue higher or further education or vocational training?

If you live in Gargrave, Flasby, Eshton, Winterburn, Coniston Cold or Bank Newton then Gargrave's Lands Charity may be able to help!

Financial assistance readily available in approved cases.

Contact one of the trustees listed below to discuss your situation.

Absolute discretion and confidentiality assured.

Phil Ellis **07907 308313**	**Christine Charlton** **01756 748817**
Ian Reed-Peck **07527 269915**	

DRAKE & MACEFIELD

FAMILY BUTCHERS
Since 1898

DALES DELIVERIES

Butchers *meating* your needs



Order online at
www.drakeandmacefield.co.uk

Public Transport leaving Gargrave *Compiled: Peter Hardyman 6 Mar '25*

TRAINS from Gargrave - See October '24 Parish Mag for Summer timetable

Winter Timetable ends Saturday 17 May 2025: same as Summer '24 EXCEPT: Sunday to Skipton **1208**, not 1210; *Saturday* to Lancaster **1102,** not 1103.

As of 6 March: Buses will replace Trains **between Clitheroe & R'head + Skipton & Appleby at w/end 5-6 Apr, and between Skipton & Appleby at w/end 12-13 Apr. Northern website states Gargrave substitute bus pick-ups are at the Dalesman and the Public Toilets Bus Stops on the A65.** *Other services/ dates might also be affected: check with Northern Railway.* For live info on next 2 trains text GARGRAVE to 84950, or go to www.realtimetrains.co.uk/

BUSES from Gargrave to Skipton, Settle, Malham - See October 2024 Mag

Sunday buses from [864] from Gargrave to Malham at 1103 1243 1543

27 October 2024*: [864] from Gargrave to Skipton at 1203 1503 1703

Public Transport back to Gargrave

TRAINS to Gargrave - See October '24 Parish Magazine for Summer timetable

Winter Timetable ends Saturday 17 May 2025: same as Summer '24 Timetable.

BUSES to Gargrave – For Mon-Sat see October 2024 Parish Magazine

Sunday buses from [864] from Malham to Gargrave at 1140 1440 1640

27October 2024*: [864] from Skipton to Gargrave at 1050 1230 1530

Operators: northern railway www.northernrailway.co.uk 0800 200 6060 [Travel Assistance 0800 138 5560]; 75/580/81/82, Lonsdale Buses klch.co.uk 01524 733831; 210/211, NYC www.northyorkstravel.info/route/2358/ 0300 1312 131; 864, Keighley Bus Co www.transdevbus.co.uk/the-keighley-bus-company/ 01535 603 284 **General Info: Buses** www.dalesbus.org **Traveline** 0871 200 22 33 www.traveline.info ; **National Rail Enquiries** 03457 48 49 50 www.nationalrail.co.uk ; **Rail Ombudsman** www.railombudsman.org 0330 094 0362

Living in BD23, you can buy a DALES RAILCARD: *£10.00/ year. 1/3 off All tickets (deps. after 0815 M-Fri, +all w/e) between Gargrave, Leeds, Bradford, Carlisle, Morecambe, Lancaster. Big discount for children with you.* ***Winter Offer:*** *Discount Increased to 50% - 4 Nov '24 to 13 Apr '25 inclusive.*

I provide timetable information to the Foyer of Gargrave Village Hall, and to Gargrave Library from which timetable photocopies can be obtained free of charge. *Peter Hardyman*



Year 6 students from Gargrave Church of England (VC) Primary School traveled to London where they learned about Parliament and visited several important sites, including Buckingham Palace.

Gargrave Parish Magazine contributions and advertising

This magazine is produced by St Andrew's Church for the benefit of the whole community of Gargrave & Coniston Cold Parishes. We welcome short articles, news, notices of events, anecdotes, announcements and photos. Handwritten submissions can be delivered to 5 Walton Ave, BD23 3NP.

Advertising - parishmagads.gargrave@outlook.com

Ads cost £11 per ¼ page per month, other sizes pro rata (discounts for annual ads)
Editorial volunteers: Sheila Bloomfield, Eunice Padley, and Peter Poulter
gargraveparishmag@gmail.com

May editorial deadline: 10 April

Read the magazine online at https://www.standrewsgargrave.org.uk

Printed in Skipton by EP Print on FSC recycled paper