GARGRAVE &

CONISTON COLD

February 2026

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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

Mounjaro or Wegovy?

These are the names on everyone's lips - brand names of the leading weight loss injections. You can buy them from pharmacies, on-line or even on prescription if you fit the NHS criteria, but it seems like everybody knows someone who is on them. Despite having some often serious side-effects, these drugs can be transformative for people struggling with certain medical problems, but what's behind this major trend in the western world?

One of the biggest challenges facing people these days is the pressure to conform - to look 'good' in the way that the media dictates. That includes being a certain shape, with certain hair styles, clothes, make up, and making every attempt to look a certain way. Everywhere - on tv, Instagram, Tik-Tok or Facebook, images of perfect, happy people abound, living their perfect, lives - and with great cunning we are sold an impossible dream.

And yet, the reality is that people are less happy, mental health is at epidemic levels and people in the affluent west have become less satisfied than many people living in relatively poor countries. This is leading many to question the way we live, with reports of young people searching for a deeper meaning in life, something much richer, more satisfying and profound.

As a Christian I cannot claim to live the perfect life - I struggle with doubt, challenges to mental and physical health, and all the complexities of being human. What I can claim is to follow someone who shows me a better way to live - a lifestyle full of meaning, purpose and affirmation - accepting me just as I am. With Him I don't need to lose weight, or dress a certain way; I don't need to try to conform or pretend that I'm better than I am. Jesus shows me a more authentic way to live - without comparison or competition. When the world seems confusing and full of turmoil I can take heart that since the beginning of time God has been working behind the scenes, orchestrating and preparing a better future for this world.

In following Christ I am constantly shedding weight - not pounds or kilograms, but that emotional baggage - the rubbish that we accumulate through life and weighs us down. My faith tells me that I don't need to do anything to be more acceptable or more loved, because I am perfectly loved just as I am. My faith shows me the beauty of living life more fully, more simply and more thankfully. It teaches me the value of satisfaction and contentment, accepting the things I cannot change, seeking to change those I can.

I'll keep on shedding the emotional pounds and aiming to be spiritually lighter and leaner as I walk this path - not with injections, but through following Jesus Christ day by day, and living life at His pace, with His values and His priorities. Would you like to join me? (No needles needed).

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

Coniston Cold

Church Services – St Peter's, Coniston Cold

1 February – Sunday: Compline Evensong, 4pm

8 February – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion, 9.30am

15 February – Sunday. Compline Evensong. 4pm

22 February – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion, 9.30am

Gargrave

Church Services and Events – St Andrew's, Gargrave

Daily – Share a Prayer, 9am

1 February – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion 8am, Breakfast 10:30am followed by 11am Family Service

8 February– Sunday: Matins 8am, Sung Eucharist 11am

15 February – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion, 8am, Morning Worship, 11am

17 February – Tuesday: Shrovetide supper - Jacob's join style (bring something sweet or savoury to share) 7:30pm onwards

18 February – Wednesday: Ash Wednesday - Holy Communion Service with Ashing, 7pm

22 February - 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: Indoor bowling, Village Hall, 2-4pm

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

February's Events

4 February - Wednesday: Parish Council meeting. Village Hall Annexe, 7:15pm.

8 February – Sunday: Collectable and Craft Fair. Village Hall. 9:30am – 3:30pm. Food available all day. 50p admission.

13 February: Man Friday. A men's social morning. Village Hall Match room. 10am - Noon. £3.00 per person to include tea, coffee and biscuits. Cards, dominoes, board games, table tennis available. All welcome.

13 February - Friday: Gargrave 2022 Group. Soap making. Village Hall Annexe, 2-4pm. £6.00 for non-members. All welcome.

13 February - Friday: Picnic Supper Dance with live music from the Silhouettes. Village Hall, 7:30-11pm. Admission £6.00 per person.

14 February – Saturday: Film Night at Kirkby Malham Parish Hall, screening 'Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale.' 7pm. Tickets £8 on the door includes supper. Details on p. 7.

18 February – Wednesday: Free online talk from Friends of the Dales, 'Saving Our Precious Sky Dancers.' 5:30– 7pm. See article p. 8.

19-21 February – Thursday through Saturday – Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. Pantomime performances. See p. 12 for performance times and a ticket QR code.

25 February – Wednesday: Lent Course begins, 2pm. See article on p. 6.

27 February: Man Friday. A men's social morning. Village Hall Match room. 10am-Noon. £3.00 per person to include tea, coffee and biscuits. Cards, dominoes, board games, table tennis available. All welcome.

27 February – Friday: Gargrave Cinema Club Film Night, screening 'I Swear'. Gargrave Village Hall. 7pm for 7:30pm. Admission £5 on the door. Details on p. 10.

28 February – Saturday: An illustrated talk on Moldova. St. Andrews. Coffee and cake at 10:30am, presentation at 11am. See article on p. 6.

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 February we shall focus on those who live and work on and around the High Street from The Swan to Twin Locks.

Moldova explored

Joanne Ackroyd



On Saturday 28 February, Jennifer and David Hanson will present an illustrated talk on their recent visit to Moldova engaging in charity work with children. This promises to be an interesting and informative event.

This will take place on Saturday 28 February at St Andrews church. Coffee and cake will be served at 10:30am to be followed by the presentation at 11am.

All are welcome, no charge but donations welcome.

Lent Course to begin in February

Clare Maslin

Lent Course - a six-week course starting on Wednesday 25th February at 2:00pm, location tbc. The theme this year is from Lectio 365 and explores the lives of the Desert Mothers and Fathers.

Please contact Rev Andrew Steer andrew.steer@leeds.anglican.org or on 01756 749275 to express interest. More details in the weekly pew sheet available on Sundays or on the back table through the week.

Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust Photography Competition *Victoria Benn*



Want your photograph featured 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 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

Saturday Film Night at Kirkby Malham Parish Hall



The February film will be 'Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale' on Saturday 14th Feb, 7pm start, tickets £8 on the door. Includes pie and pea supper. Veggie, gluten free and lactose fee options are available if requested in advance on 07815 100353. The bar will be open.

Eyes on the Skies - Protecting Birds of Prey

Victoria Benn



As an independent charity free from all financial and political ties, Friends of the Dales has spent more than four decades campaigning on the big issues affecting the Yorkshire Dales. Its new campaign is no different, speaking out against the ongoing criminal persecution of birds of prey, a barbaric practice that continues, despite these majestic species having been protected in law for over 70 years.

To learn more about justice for birds of prey, sign up for one or both of the charity's next two free online talks:

Friends of the DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

Saving Our Precious Sky Dancers – with Indy Kiemel Greene & Adrian Rowe from Hen Harrier Action: Wednesday 18 February, 5:30-7pm

Indy − familiar from *Springwatch*, *8 Out of 10 Bats*, and the HHA Skydancer Day − will introduce the iconic, red-listed hen harrier: how to recognise it, its key behaviours, and why it's a vital indicator of upland ecosystem health. Adrian will then reveal how satellite tagging helps monitor raptors and exposes illegal persecution, and how the charity is funding both tags and specialised wildlife-crime detection dogs to strengthen protection efforts.

Talking Raptor Persecution with Dr Ruth Tingay: Wednesday 18 March, 5:30-7pm.

Hear from wildlife conservationist Dr Ruth Tingay, who has worked in the field of raptor research and conservation for more than 30 years. A former President of the international Raptor Research Foundation, Ruth now focuses on campaigning against the illegal killing of birds of prey in the UK through the blog Raptor Persecution UK. She is also a co-director of the hard-hitting wildlife conservation organisation Wild Justice with Chris Packham.

Book for both of these free talks at: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

Settle Orchestra and Langcliffe Singers Spring Concert

Jill Gates

Settle Orchestra is pleased to announce its Spring 2026 concert, bringing together orchestra and choir in a significant collaboration with the Langcliffe Singers for a performance of Beethoven's Mass in C. The programme also features Beethoven's dramatic Egmont Overture and Mendelssohn's chorale cantata O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden.

This concert continues a long-standing musical partnership between Settle Orchestra and the Langcliffe Singers, whose previous collaborations — including a much-praised performance of Brahms' Requiem — have become highlights of the local classical music calendar.

Conducted by Andre Chan, Settle Orchestra's 2025–26 season conductor and a postgraduate conductor at the Royal Northern College of Music, the performance explores Beethoven's expressive sacred writing, balancing intimacy with dramatic power.



The Langcliffe Singers

"Beethoven's Mass in C is a deeply human piece," says Andre Chan. "It moves between moments of quiet reflection and passages of great intensity. Performing it with the Langcliffe Singers, and in venues that are so central to the life of our communities, makes this project particularly rewarding."

The programme opens with Beethoven's Egmont Overture, a stirring musical portrayal of courage and resistance, before leading into Mendelssohn's contemplative chorale. At its heart, the Mass in C reveals Beethoven at a pivotal moment — lyrical, searching and full of emotional clarity.

Concert Details

Saturday 21 March 2026 – 3.30pm, Settle Parish Church
Sunday 29 March 2026 – 3:30pm, Christ Church, Skipton

Programme

- Beethoven – Egmont Overture
- Mendelssohn – O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden
- Beethoven – Mass in C (with the Langcliffe Singers)

About Settle Orchestra: Settle Orchestra presents inspiring orchestral concerts in Settle and Skipton, working in close partnership with the Royal Northern College of Music to nurture the next generation of professional conductors and to bring high-quality classical music to the Yorkshire Dales. This collaboration is made possible with the support of Northern Rail covering the conductor's weekly train transport from Manchester to Settle.

About Langcliffe Singers: Langcliffe Singers is a community choir founded in 1984 and based in Settle. Its members are drawn from across the northwestern Yorkshire Dales and nearby Lancashire. No audition is required to join us, and we welcome all who love or would like to try choral singing. We present three concerts each year, often working with professional soloists, and our repertoire ranges from large choral works such as The Messiah, Elijah or The Creation to modern classical works, opera and show songs.

Gargrave Annual Plant Sale

Chris Bolas



In Aid of St. Andrew's, Martin House and Manorlands Hospices

Scheduled for 16th May 2026

Gardeners, please can you help by:
Popping a few seeds in a pot
Putting some divided perennials in a pot
Potting a few summer bulbs

Any unusual plants will add interest to the sale!

Please add a label with plant name and flower colour. All offers will be gratefully accepted. Further details to follow in later issues of the Parish Magazine.

A Community Walk in The Dale – Good Friday, 3rd April 2026

Mark your calendars for the 5th annual Good Friday community Walk in the Dale. We plan to spend a great day outdoors with an opportunity to chat with other villagers and enjoy the beauty of the area. Dogs are welcome. The walk will start at St. Andrew's at 9am on 3 April. More information will be included in the March magazine.

Paul McWhinney | phm@mcwhinney.info | 07973 396948

Library News and Events

David Smith



Upcoming Films

On Friday 27th February Gargrave Cinema Club will be showing **'I Swear'.** This film is a 2025 Scottish, biographical drama that follows the true story of John Davidson, a man with severe Tourette's syndrome, as he grows up in 1980s Scotland facing misunderstanding, bullying, and family rejection before finding support and purpose. As an adult, he transforms his struggles into advocacy work, educating others about the condition and eventually receiving an MBE from Queen Elizabeth. The film mixes poignant drama with moments of humour to explore resilience, empathy, and ignorance towards neurodiversity. A powerful film.

Before the film starts a couple of Therapists, one of whom has a child with Tourettes, will give a short talk on the challenges of living with Tourettes.

Stars: Robert Aramayo, Maxine Peake, Shirley Henderson and Scott Ellis Watson

The customary Cafe style seating will be in place, so please bring your own refreshments. The Village Hall doors open at 7.00pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5.00 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 thanks you for your support.

Future film Dates for your calendar:

Friday 27th March - Downton Abbey, The Grand Finale
Friday 24th April - Local Hero
Friday 29th May - The Ballad of Wallis Island

Looking well ahead we are planning to show 'The Choral' to link with Remembrance Sunday on Friday the 20th November. The films for September and October are to be decided nearer the time.

Library

You may have read in the Press about the Government Reading Initiative for 2026 titled 'Go All In.' The aim of the initiative is to change the nation's reading culture during the year and beyond. Central to the campaign is the proposition, "If you're into it, read into it." which positions reading as a powerful plug-in to the things you already love. Leaning into behavioural change theory, it focuses on appeal, not duty, and highlights the immediate rewards of reading, not just the well-known long-term benefits.

North Yorkshire will be running a number of promotional events, so keep your eyes peeled for further information.

Gargrave and Malhamdale Library, based in the Village Hall, is part of the NYC Library Service, Opening Hours as follows:

Monday	3:00pm till 5:00pm
Tuesday	10:00am till 12:00 noon
Wednesday	2:00pm to 4:00pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	3:00pm till 5:00pm
Saturday	10:00 till 12:00 noon

Gargrave Pantomime Group Presents



SNOW WHITE

Written by Peter Denyer

SCRIPT PROVIDED BY NODA PNATOMIMES

MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL... WHERE IS THE MOST FUN PANTO OF THEM ALL?

Thursday 19th Feb 2026 - 7:15pm

Friday 20th Feb 2026 - 7:15pm

Saturday 21st Feb 2026 - 1pm & 5pm

Gargrave Village Hall

Adults £9

Concessions £5 (OAPs & Under 16s)

(£10 & £6 on the door)

Visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/gargrave-pantomime-group for tickets

Also available from Gargrave Village Hall

Sunday afternoons 2-3pm



Scan for tickets & full details

Tickets available now!

NEWS

St Andrews church funding

Joanne Ackroyd, Church Treasurer

This is the time of year when as treasurer of St Andrew's Church I receive a circular letter from the Leeds Diocese Chief Executive, Jonathan Wood, enclosing our Parish Share statement for 2026, otherwise known as their bill! Jonathan included the following little story in his letter:

"Once upon a time, there were four people; their names were Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody. Whenever there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that Nobody would do it. So consequently, Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place."

The account for us to pay in 2026 is £71,000. We have paid our 2025 assessment of £64,000 so next year we have an extra £7,000 to find. The annual cost of running the church this year is around £90,000. Next year it will be nearer £100,000. All our funding comes from our church attenders, gifts from kind people and fundraising.

There are many ways to contribute to the continuation of our Parish church, a one-off gift perhaps, or a regular gift directly in church or through your bank. Perhaps think of St Andrew's when writing your will. We have lots of information in church on our notice boards or call and chat with myself or Reverend Andrew – no commitment, we are always pleased to talk to folk.

So, can the church of St Andrew's continue?

By the grace of God and with the generous support of the folk in Gargrave,

Yes, we can!

Gargrave Parish Council

Claire Cadman, Chair

This is my first article of 2026 and this year promises to be jam packed with new and ongoing projects for the Parish Council. The end of 2025 saw the beginning of works at the electrical substation on South Street with Northern Power Grid promising to keep us all updated with news and information on the ongoing works. They are making efforts to keep disruption to a minimum in the village especially for the residents who live directly opposite the site. It is hoped that all of the necessary work will be completed by the end of February.

Our first meeting of the year received a presentation from Sam Watkiss of JBA Consulting about the nature of the river between the bridge and the former weir, the

causes of the changes that have occurred in recent years and some ideas on how we can protect the river banks with repairs, alterations and modifications. In the coming months the Council will begin to make plans based on the JBA report and recommendations, and will consult the public as plans are formed.

The playpark needs some attention and Jayne has been liaising with various companies looking at repairs and potential equipment replacements to enhance the park and keep it a safe place for child and adults to enjoy. We endeavour to have the majority of these works completed by the Easter school holidays when hopefully the weather will be a little warmer.

Following on from the success of our first coffee morning in November we are planning a second one in March. When I have the exact date I will spread the word.

Lastly, we have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor to be filled by co-option, with the closing date for applications the 30th January 2026.

Please note that the PC Clerk, Jayne Dunlop, can be contacted via gargravepc@yahoo.com. Jayne's office hours are: Tuesdays 10am - 3pm, Wednesdays 10am – noon, Thursdays noon - 3pm (visits by appointment).

Stay safe and warm.

Claire

The Parish Magazine is seeking a new Editor. Organizational skills and timeliness are important, in addition to a knowledge of Microsoft Word, Google Drive, and email. Please indicate your interest via an email to the Editors at gargraveparishmag@gmail.com.



Please note a Correction to the Organisations information:

The Caterpillar Club contact is now Carmel Hicks, 07485032011

A Meditation for February *Richard Rohr*

The Franciscan spiritual teacher Richard Rohr invites us to embrace a deeper understanding and experience of both Love and God

From Romantic Love to God's Love

I think the notion of love has become seriously impoverished by today's popular understandings of love, as we see with Valentine's Day. This secular celebration reveals a very unsustainable notion of love as romance, infatuation (ignis fatuus, false fire), impassioned sex, sentimental words, romantic gift giving, etc. It eventually creates cynicism and disillusionment because the promise is so high but incomplete. It is never the whole story.

Don't get me wrong, there is an important place for romance. It can often serve as the great invitation, but it doesn't go far enough or deep enough, can never be sustained, and sets us up for a huge let down. As author Jack Kornfield cleverly titled his book, 'After the Ecstasy, the Laundry'! Both Jesus and Paul present a much more enduring, stable, and philosophical notion of love as the very nature of being itself. This love is not at all dependent on changeable feelings.

Paul's supreme masterpiece of poetry, philosophy, and theology – which is read at many weddings – is of course, 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13. Paul gets this substantial notion of love from Jesus who makes it an actual commandment, in fact THE commandment. For both Jesus and Paul if you don't live in love, you just don't truly live at all. Paul treats love as a state of being and an infinite source, from which the entire Christian life can be drawn: "Love is... ", "Love does not", and "Love never comes to an end." We exist inside of love, and when we realise it we live out our deepest purpose and identity. This is true because we are created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26).

Our basic foundational existence – created in the image of what we now call the Trinity – is love. Remember, Trinity is saying that God is not some isolated, distant divine being. God is a quality of relationship itself, an event of communion, an infinite flow of outpouring. God is an action, a verb, more than a substance and noun.

To be in love is to stand in a different space. When we stand in the state of love that Jesus offers, we live inside of a different energy. We try to care about the world, we are not so entirely self-preoccupied. What might happen if we wake up each day with this intention: "How can my existence on this earth increase the quality of life on this planet?"

To paraphrase Jesus, he says "I'll be with you only a little while longer, so I'm going to leave you a sign that I'm still here. I'm going to reveal myself in the presence of loving people". That's the only way we can know God. If we have never let anyone love us, and we've never let love flow through us – gratuitously, generously, unreservedly – towards others, then we can't possibly know who God is. God is merely a belief or an abstraction. If "God is love" (1 John 4:8) then those who live in

love, live in God. They know God experientially. There is no other way to know God – or who we truly are – but to love and be loved. Take that as an absolute!

Acknowledgements: Adapted from Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations dated 14.03.2016 and 15.09.2025 – visit www.cac.org. His theme for 2026 is "Good News for a Fractured World"

St. Andrew's Family Worship Review

Peter Gardner

7th December - The Nativity

Long ago and far away in a town called Nazareth, there lived a teenager called Mary. She was going to be married, but in the meantime, was just getting on with life when something rather extraordinary happened to her.

Here at St. Andrew's, we were to find out just what, (sort of) - and experience an audio-visual extravaganza to boot. Yes, it was 'The Nativity' - but not as we know it (definitely not!)

The story was narrated by 'Everyman' who spoke in rhyming verse, and his account was acted out by our suitably-attired, supremely talented actors. Unfortunately, I understand that talent scouts from the Royal Shakespeare Company were not present on this occasion.

Well, back to Mary. The poor lass got a bit of a shock when an angel appeared to her; she even seemed to have her doubts that it *was* an angel as it didn't have any wings. But her suspicions were allayed when the angel explained that he wasn't flying that day. However, more shocks were to come for Mary. The angel told her she was going to become pregnant and give birth to God's son, and Mary, who clearly knew the facts of life, was rather shocked by that!

The scene changed. Enter King Herod, and Mrs Herod who was clearly the dominant force in this marriage. Herod was upset because his toast had not arrived and he made quite a fuss about it. But then a visitor turned up, King Melchior, who seemed to have left his two kingly sidekicks elsewhere. Melchior was looking for a new king (Jesus) who had apparently been born. Taken aback, Herod and Mrs H asked him where this baby king could be found. They wanted to kill him so Herod could continue to be king. So cunning Mrs Herod sent Melchior on his way, but only after extracting from him a promise to report back once he had located the newborn King.

And so, Everyman's tale continued in its strange and wonderful way, punctuated by a group of carol singers who sang a song about tv's going wrong, and by the happy singing of traditional carols by the congregation who shortly beforehand, had enjoyed a rather splendid breakfast of assorted pastries.

Anyway, the whole perfomance seemed to go down well and at the end of it Everyman reminded us that, in reality, Jesus did come and live and died on a cross to save us from our sins. His birth truly was an amazing event and you can read the

correct account of it and the events surrounding it, in the opening chapters of Luke and Matthew's gospels. I'm sure Everyman - and the vicar - would be delighted if you did.

4th January - Epiphany

Christmas being over, today we moved on to Epiphany. That's when the worldwide church remembers how wise men/kings came to visit Jesus with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Jo – who was leading this service brought out some interesting points. Although we think of there being three kings or three wise men arriving at the stable, there is nothing in the bible to say how many men came, or that they were kings (even though church tradition says they were). And actually, they didn't come to the stable where Jesus was born, the bible (Matthew 2.11) tells us they went to a house to see him sometime after he was born!

That was all kind of interesting. I bet not everyone knew those things.

We had two bible readings. The first told the story of the wise men's visit and how they worshipped him and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. I wonder what Mary and Joseph did with them? It's been suggested that maybe they were sold and that it was God's way of financing the upbringing of his son. Well – who knows? But it's interesting food for thought!

The second reading, at first sight, seemed to have little to do with the first one It was about not storing up our riches on earth, but, storing them up in heaven instead. It was making the point, that where your treasure is, there will your heart be. As our preacher explained, these wise men, after studying the scriptures and at great inconvenience and discomfort and at considerable expense had brought their treasure, gold, frankincense and myrrh, and given their gifts to Jesus and worshipped him. Their treasure was with Jesus. That's where their hearts had taken them. Valuable as these gifts were, each one of us has something even more valuable than gold frankincense and myrrh that we can give him, The carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter" puts it very well…..

> "What can I give him poor as I am,
> If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
> If I were a wise man I would do my part
> Yet what I can I give him, give my heart."

Giving your heart to Jesus is the greatest gift you can possibly give him. That gift encompasses all we hold dear, not just our time and our money, but our whole life - and Jesus values that gift far more than gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Jane, in an interactive part of the service, continued by giving each of us a little plastic heart, a small cardboard pouch and a piece of string. Why, you may ask? Well, holding the little heart in our hand, she asked us to think of the treasure that is God's love for us and writing the word TREASURE on the pouch, we used it as an acronym as follows to help us pray. Trust- trusting in God, Repent (turning away from our sin and being sorry), Exalt – praising and glorifying God, Accept -accepting

God's love with gratitude, Serve -showing our love for God in serving him wholeheartedly, Understand - asking God's help to understand him better, Repair – asking God to heal those whose lives are damaged and finally, Enthroning him in our hearts, letting our lives be filled with his glory. Finally, we put our heart (plastic) in the pouch and tied it up to use as an aid to prayer.

So - to summarise. The wise men brought their valuable gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus and worshipped. We can bring our even-more-valuable gift, our heart, our life in fact, to Jesus and worship.

But there is another side to this, too. God at great cost, gave HIS most valuable gift to us, his son Jesus. Will we accept this gift? That's a question for each one of us to answer. But here's a hint. Wise men followed Jesus - they still do.

Public consultation on the future of home heating

OFTEC, a trade organization that represents the heating and cooking industries, has asked parish magazines around the country to publicize the government's public consultation process for future home heating sources. Public consultation will gather views from households and businesses to help the government decide upon policies for home heating. The consultation closes on 10th February.

The government proposes that heat pumps will be the primary low carbon technology for decarbonising homes, but also recognizes that they are not suitable for every home. The consultation will gather information on alternative technologies that may be available. Solid biomass and liquid biofuels may play a role, especially in rural communities. Households that currently use oil heating may be interested in commenting on options for using renewable liquid heating fuel.

Our magazine lacks the space to fully discuss this issue. We refer you to OFTEC's website for the 'Future Ready Fuel' campaign, which encourages the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in place of heating oil. See futurereadyfuel.info/consultation/.

There is controversy around the use of HVO, with concerns that increased demand could inadvertently lead to deforestation and increased carbon emissions in other parts of the world. HVO is typically produced from waste vegetable oils including used cooking oil, much of which originates as palm oil from Asia. Used cooking oil is currently part of livestock feed, and diverting it to fuel for heating could increase demand for palm oil with consequent deforestation. It is a complicated issue that deserves thoughtful analysis.

The government website for submitting comments on HVO and other low carbon heating technologies is https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exploring-the-role-of-alternative-clean-heating-solutions.

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News from the Village Hall

Caroline Thompson

We do hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and managed to avoid some of the nasty ailments which were doing the rounds and we send good wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to everyone.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Coffee morning on the 20th December and enjoyed the live music from Harry Hinchcliffe and his accordion players. Special thanks to the young musicians who played so brilliantly. It was a busy morning with forty bacon sandwiches consumed! We will not be organising a Coffee morning in February due to the Pantomime performances and rehearsals taking place, but we hope to arrange a date in March so look forward to your support then. We may be able to coincide it with National Village Halls week which takes place from the 16th to the 22nd March. This is an annual campaign which shines a spotlight on the contribution that Village Halls make to rural communities across England, Wales and Scotland.

We are delighted that work went ahead early in the New Year to maintain the condition of the main hall floor. Peter from Ilkley Floor Care Limited began the work on the 1st January, this meant that there was little disruption to our regular Hirers and for those it did affect we thank them for their understanding as it did mean the Hall was out of use for six days. The floor looks amazing and we look forward to seeing the reaction particularly from our monthly Friday night dancers who so greatly appreciate the sprung dance floor. It has been very touching that some wish to donate money towards the work and we thank them for this gesture. We do budget very carefully for any major work at the Hall and have a Finance sub-committee in place to primarily deal with finance, but it is always nice to receive a donation and know that people care and appreciate our Village Hall and its assets. The work was quite costly, but we were able to negotiate a little on the original quote which did help. Apparently, the floor will not take another round of sanding, so it is even more imperative we look after it with great care and Peter from the Floor Care company who is a specialist in wood floor renovation has provided us with a recommended maintenance programme. We will also be discussing whether we should take out a maintenance contract with the firm at our next Village Hall Management Committee meeting. The contract involves visits to prep and apply sealant, but we may decide to do this in house.

We send sympathy to the family and friends of Joyce Brotherton who sadly passed away just before Christmas. Joyce was involved with the Village Hall over the years and she helped organise a lot of events with her late friend Joan Phillip, both were skilled bakers producing lots of cakes over the years for the Coffee mornings and Dances. Joyce was born in Gargrave, living with her parents on the High Street and on her marriage to Neal she moved over the road to Riversway. Her working life reflected her homemaking skills and her caring nature, including jobs in a bakery, school and hospital. Later in her working life she looked after a young family in the Village, and it was lovely to see two fine young men attending her funeral and showing respect and fondness for the kind lady who looked after them almost thirty years ago.

Gargrave Church of England (VC) Primary School *Natalie Dawson*

LOVE, PEACE, HOPE

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Cultural day with a focus on Islam

On Friday 9th January 2026, children at Gargrave CE (VC) Primary School took part in a cultural day with a particular focus on Islam. Yesmien Bagh Ali and Amanda from Amaali led the day starting with a whole school worship on what it means to be a Muslim in Britain today, especially as the holy festival Ramadan is approaching. The major festival occurs at its conclusion, known as Eid al-Fitr, or the "Festival of the Breaking of the Fast".

Children then took part in workshops where they were able to look at and try on traditional clothing, make coconut and date balls, as well as create special boxes to take their tasty treats home. Children asked many questions of Yesmien to delve further into her experiences, as well as those of Muslims around the world.









Farming on Scaleber Hil

John Hall

Anyone who reads the Dalesman magazine will no doubt have come across The Yorkshire Shepherdess, Alison O'Neill and her sheepdog Shadow. In sheep farming where you work on your own most of the time a strong bond with your dog develops. Unfortunately, old father time caught up with Shadow and Alison will feel his loss.

I am also feeling the loss of my main dog, Dan, who was a faithful companion every day for 14 years. He had never been on a lead in his life and was a great working dog. He always seemed to know what was required of him, even as a puppy I could see the potential in him as soon as he could run.

Working dogs have been part of my life since the age of 10 and I have trained many over the years, good, bad and indifferent. I have always had a youngster to take over from an older dog when it was time to retire it.

Now we are into a new year, the days are starting to lengthen. However, winter still had us in its grip over the last couple of weeks. As the temperatures dropped unfortunately the pipes in the buildings froze. This was, thankfully, only short-lived as we managed to thaw them quite quickly much to the relief of the thirsty cattle.

Over the course of the last couple of months we have sold the prime lambs in batches at Skipton Auction Mart. We were pleased that prices held up well despite the high volume being sold – over 3,000 lambs on some sale days. The market attracts sellers from as far away as Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and beyond.

Pregnancy scanning of the ewes took place last week with numbers of lambs being carried slightly lower than previous years. This trend seems to be the norm for this year in many flocks and may well be due to the challenging dry summer of 2025. In

the coming days the sheep will be housed and sorted according to how many lambs they are carrying so they may be fed accordingly. Housing the sheep at this time of year gives the fields a “rest” and hopefully they will be fresh to turn the sheep back out again with their lambs at foot in the Spring.

We recently sold a batch of store cattle but to keep the cycle going we have been purchasing replacements in the form of calves. Once settled in small batches, we will dis-bud (removal of horn buds which is a welfare requirement) and vaccinate them for the prevention of pneumonia. The weather plays a role in this – changes from dry & cold to damp & warm can be a trigger as with colds and flu in people.

Brian has just started to lay another section of hedgerow. It is surprising the amount of growth a hedge puts on over several years. Laying the hedge in a traditional manner will rejuvenate the growth and thicken the hedge for both shelter and habitat for birds and wildlife.

Although we are still in the midst of winter, there are signs that spring is just around the corner. The snowdrops and daffodil shoots are already showing and there are catkins appearing in the hedges. The days are also thankfully lengthening. We are looking forward to hearing the first call of the curlew.

Skipton Railway Society

Alex Dewar

Work is continuing on the Ironstone layout with the grass and ballast applied to the tracks. At our 17th November meeting Adrian gave a presentation on how he weathers his freight rolling stock. It was interesting to note how he uses photographs of actual wagons to create realistic looking vehicles when they may be fresh from the works or have had long periods in traffic or just left out of use in freight yards.

At the December meeting on the 15th we held our annual Christmas quiz.

Meetings:

2nd February	Modelling and Discussion
16th February	Talk “Lofthouse and then some”
2nd March	Modelling and Discussion
16th March	Talk “North Eastern Railway Electric Traction”

Meetings are held in the Annexe at the Gargrave Village Hall from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. If you are interested in Railways and/or modelling them and wish to join our group then just pop along on a meeting night or call me on 07341 345312.

Gargrave 2022 Group

Joy Robinson

For our January meeting, John Hall, of the Farming on Scaleber Hill column in this magazine, came back to tell us more about his long career as a farmer. When he and his father began, in the pre mechanical era, you could earn a living on just 40 acres but as time went on, this became impossible. Then, 43% of the village

population were involved in farming or similar work. Nowadays, it's only 1%. Work round here was almost entirely based around farming, mining or railways.

Some of our members had lived on farms themselves so also recalled having Land Girls working on the land once the men had gone off to war. They were mainly local, used as unskilled workers without necessarily having any farming experience. Few farms had barns for storage so harvested crops were left in heaps in the fields. They were difficult to keep dry!

Wartime presented a number of challenges. The Milk Marketing Board was set up during the war, taking the bulk of milk supplies to provide dairy products for the Forces. That gave the farmer a welcome guaranteed income, but limited the amount of butter and cheese they could have for their own use. Tuesday on John's farm was baking day but of course it was hard to make anything sweet when sugar was so tightly rationed. The farmers' wives had to cook for those working on the farm, so they did receive their ration books but it was hard to find supplies. John recalls a lot of potatoes and porridge, enlivened by the rare treat of an orange.

More labour was provided by Italian POWs who arrived in Gargrave from their camp in Skipton. They seemed very happy to be here, 33 of them arriving on a lorry guarded by just one chap, the smallest of all. None of them tried to escape, they appreciated being better fed than the scant rations doled out to them as soldiers. One Italian called Luigi had been forced into the German forces, was on a ship that was bombed and spent seven hours in the water. Despite this, his photo of his sweetheart remained unspoilt. He was able to return to Milan after the war but kept in touch. They also had German POWs, a few of whom married local girls and became well-established local families. They all hated Hitler apparently. One lad returned to Germany once able to do so but found his home was now in East Germany. Finding nothing for him there, he came back to Gargrave! Several POWs brought their families back on visits to show them where they'd spent their wartime years.

John's father spent 5 years building a bull pen from local stone. But once they needed a new milking parlour, the ideal position was, of course, right on top of the bull pen! An outbreak of foot and mouth prompted John's decision to stop milking but he still raised cows and sheep. Which he still does to this day.

A date for your diaries. Gargrave 2022 will be holding an Afternoon Tea on Sunday 22nd March 2-4pm at the Village Hall, proceeds supporting the hall. Tickets £15 can be bought at Crossgates and the Library.

A Look Back at the Construction of Mickle Hill Mews

Eunice Padley

Long-term residents of the village will recall a noteworthy event that took place during the construction of Mickle Hill Mews. The site had been occupied for many years by the former Pennine Motors Services Grouse Garage, commonly referred to as the High Street Garage, at 1 High Street. It was comprised of one large garage facing onto High Street with several smaller workshops and a parking area behind it. The site was sold to Proctor Homes of Crosshills for new housing,

including conversion of the former Methodist Chapel. Additionally, a bit of land belonging to the Post Office was exchanged to provide space for garages for the new houses, as well as one for the Post Office.

A condition of planning approval was that an archaeological survey be conducted before building began, and the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (WYAS) was engaged to conduct the survey. Trial trenching in July 2003 revealed the burials of two ancient skeletons, which required the building site to be excavated, and four more skeletons were found later that summer. The excavations delayed construction by a few months and added to costs, but the development was eventually completed.

A July 2003 report by Malin Holst of Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd. (FAS), University of York, presented osteological analyses of the first two skeletons that were found during trial trenching. The report is available from the web address below, and contains some rather gristly findings. The two skeletons, both female, were found in the same location, one in a deeper and earlier grave and the other above her. The upper skeleton, a woman aged 36-45 years, was in “a tightly crouched position, with the legs tightly flexed on top of the body, the knees pointing to the chin and the feet resting on the pelvis.” Holst notes that this type of burial is extremely rare and indicative of binding which may have been “associated with punishment, mental retardation, disease and live burial,” although there is not conclusive evidence to support these ideas.

A full archaeological report was published by WYAS in July 2004 and makes for fascinating reading. The web address is below. Louise Martin and Bernard McCluskey authored the report, which incorporates the results of the site excavation as well as the trial trenches, and includes many details about the burials. It characterises the area as a cemetery dating from between 340 BC to 100 AD. Ages of the six interred individuals ranged from 9 to 36 years; three were female, two male, and one a child. Two of the females were found in the unusual tightly flexed position, and all the individuals shared some traits that may indicate a family association. Some of the skeletons showed signs of infection, muscle detachment due to hard physical labour, or inflammation. Their teeth were worn from chewing coarsely-milled grains. There was no evidence of further use of the land after around 100 AD until medieval times when ditches were constructed, likely as part of land division for a settlement. A number of medieval pottery shards used in food storage and preparation were recovered, and some of these are in the Craven Museum.

The report’s summary states that the site provided "evidence of previously unknown Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity, represented by six graves which appear to belong to a cemetery. The cemetery appears to have been positioned on a naturally elevated area, providing a promontory in the surrounding lower landscape. The burial practices adopted at this cemetery, in particular for the female skeletons, are unusual for the period. Two of the skeletons appear to have been bound prior to internment. In addition, one of these bound skeletons had been positioned directly above that of a flexed female skeleton, a practice that has no known parallels in the

Late Iron Age or Early Roman period. The area then appeared to be undisturbed until the medieval period."

Holst, M. (2004). Osteological Analysis: High Street, Gargrave, N Yorks. York Osteoarchaeology Ltd. https://doi.org/10.5284/1025127

Martin, L. and McCluskey, B. (2004). Land at High Street, Gargrave, N Yorks: Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation. Archaeological Services WYAS. https://doi.org/10.5284/1025120.

Public Transport Serving Gargrave

Peter Hardyman 11 January 2026

TRAINS Photocopies of the current timetables for Leeds-Gargrave-Settle- Carlisle and Leeds-Gargrave-Lancaster-Morecambe routes (from 14 December 2025) are available from Gargrave Library and from Gargrave Village Hall foyer. Timetables are also displayed on Gargrave Station platforms and at the Summer Seat Bus Stop.
Notes: For live information on the next few trains, text GARGRAVE to 84950, or use www.realtimetrains.co.uk
As of 11 January, no Engineering Works affecting Gargrave train services during February 2026 have been identified. *That may change*. See https://www.northernrailway.co.uk/check-before-you-travel

Operator: northern railway www.northernrailway.co.uk 0800 200 6060 [Travel Assistance 0800 138 5560] **Traveline:** www.traveline.info 0871 200 22 33 **National Rail Enquiries:** www.nationalrail.co.uk 03457 48 49 50 **Rail Ombudsman:** www.railombudsman.org 0330 094 0362.

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BUSES
Timetables are displayed at the Bus Stops at the Gargrave Summer Seat and outside The Dalesman shop.
Services: to Malham/ Skipton : 210/211(M-F) by North Yorks Council, 75(Sat) by Lonsdale Buses;
to Skipton/ Settle & beyond : 580 etc(M-Sat) by Lonsdale Buses.
Bus Services Information: Traveline www.traveline.info 0871 200 22 33 ; North Yorkshire Council www.northyorkstravel.info/route/2358 0300 1312 131 ; Lonsdale Buses www.klch.co.uk 01524 733 831.



The east-facing side of Paget Hall in a 1995 watercolour painting by David Syms. The building on the right with the steeply angled roof is thought to be one of the oldest in Gargrave, it was originally a shippen that housed cattle in winter.

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)
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