GARGRAVE &

CONISTON COLD

March 2026

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	Peter Poulter	07967 107919
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	Jayne Dunlop	01756 668209 gargravepc@yahoo.com
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	Ann Heselton	756 749431
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

To fast or not to fast?

Every year Lent comes around in the church calendar – the 40 days before Easter, and every year I experience that same nagging, guilty feeling that I ought to be fasting. Tradition has it that in Lent we 'give something up' – whether it's chocolate, alcohol, social media or some other pleasure and, and in so doing we in some way draw nearer to God and experience a 'reigning in' of our bodily impulses. For others it might mean 'taking up' something new – volunteering their time and skills, fundraising or giving money to good causes.

I really do respect those who undertake such things and fully appreciate that fasting may have its place, but for me, (having virtually zero will-power), it just seems impossible. That's why I don't even bother these days, such is my dislike of those feelings of disappointment, failure and self-imposed guilt.

"What?", I hear you say, "a man of the cloth, a cleric in holy orders, a Priest who doesn't fast at Lent?. Pathetic…". Yes… I can take it on the chin.

I think there is also a much deeper, more theological reason as to why I find fasting so difficult – and that's because I simply don't believe in it. You see fasting was seen in the Old Testament as a way to draw nearer to God, a sign of spiritual seriousness, mourning, repentance or a way to obtain divine favour. The New Testament, however, tells us that divine favour cannot be earned like some fantastic reward for living a really good life, but that it is a free gift from God, found only in following Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul spells out quite clearly that believers are justified only by their faith and not by their works.

Fasting, however well-intentioned, can subtly shift the focus back onto human performance, which becomes a slippery slope to pride and trying to achieve what Jesus has already done. (If you needed a heart transplant would you insist on helping the surgeon?)

Jesus himself used the imagery of guests invited to a wedding, arriving for the banquet but insisting on not eating or celebrating whilst they were there – that would be ridiculous wouldn't it? In the same way, if we believe that Christ is ever-present, and that we are at peace with God, then why would we want to do something that signifies mourning and repentance, making ourselves miserable?

I believe that the Christian life should be one of celebration – thanking God for the gift of life each new day, and living life to its fullest. This means acknowledging our mistakes, accepting ourselves just as we are – and believing that we are loved beyond our comprehension. It also means living with a ridiculous sense of hope – not worrying about what the world is coming to, but living with the assurance that God has promised a wonderful future for His creation. So, tuck in, enjoy your chocolate eggs, your glass of wine, and give thanks to God for the gift of life today.

DIARY FOR MARCH

Church Services – St Peter's, Coniston Cold

1 March – Sunday: Compline Evensong, 4pm

8 March – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion, 9.30am

15 March – Sunday. Compline Evensong. 4pm

22 March – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion, 9.30am

29 March – no service

Church Services and Events – St Andrew's, Gargrave

Daily – Share a Prayer, 9am

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

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

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

22 March - Sunday: BCP Holy Communion, 8am, Family Communion 11am

29 March – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion, 8am, Café Church 11am

Lent Course - a six-week course on Wednesdays, 2pm in the vicarage

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

Alternate Fridays: 13/27 March: 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.

March's Events - local

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

6 March - Friday: Gargrave Show annual supper dance. Village Hall. Please contact 01756 749320 for details and tickets.

7 March - Saturday: Book Fair. Village Hall. 10am - 4.p.m. Food available all day.50p admission.

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

11 March - Wednesday: 22 group meeting. Chocolate fusion and demonstration. Village Hall Annexe.7.30pm. £5 non members

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

14 March – Saturday: Film Night at Kirkby Malham Parish Hall. 7pm

18 March – Wednesday: AGM of Gargrave Village Hall Management Committee followed by the monthly Committee meeting. Village Hall Annexe. 7pm.

22 March - Sunday: Afternoon tea. Village Hall 2-4pm. By ticket only £15, available from the Library or Crossgates. Organised by the 22 group supporting Sue Ryder Manorlands.

27 March – Friday: Gargrave Cinema Club Film Night, screening 'Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale'. Gargrave Village Hall. 7pm for 7:30pm. Admission £5 on the door. Details on p. 6.

28 March – Saturday: Coffee morning organised jointly between Gargrave Village Hall Management Committee and Gargrave Library Committee. Village Hall. 10am - Noon. Bacon sandwiches, homemade cakes.

3 April Friday - Walk in The Dale – starting at St Andrew's Church at 9am

March's Events – out and about

21 March – Saturday: Settle Orchestra. 3.30pm, Settle Parish Church
28 March – Saturday: Jon Budworth concert. 3pm Hebden Church
29 March – Sunday: Settle Orchestra. 3:30pm, Christ Church, Skipton
Deanery Lent Series - Wednesdays 4,11,18 & 25 Settle Parish Church 7pm

EVENTS

Share a prayer with St Andrew's Church

Peter Poulter

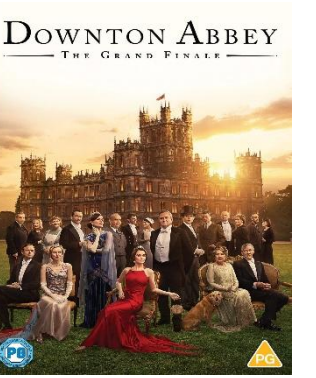


Each morning at 9:00 a small group of people meet in St. Andrew's to pray for the church and the village. You are welcome to join them. Either come along to church, or maybe just pause for a moment, wherever you are, and share a prayer.

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 March we will be praying for those who live in the Neville Road and Crescent and Higherlands Close area including Gargrave School.

Library News and Events *Dave Smith*



On Friday 27th March Gargrave Cinema Club will be showing 'Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale'. This final film in the series brings the Crawley family into the 1930s as Lady Mary faces a public scandal and the estate confronts financial peril. With social standing at risk, the next generation must step up to secure Downton's future. Rich in period detail and emotional resonance, critics call it a fitting, heartfelt farewell for fans.
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 thank you for your support.

Future film Dates for your Calendar:
Friday 24th April Local Hero Friday 29th May The Ballad of Wallis Island

Gargrave Library is part of the NYC Library Service and below is a reminder of the services which are available at the Library and on line:
· You can borrow books, reserve books and have them delivered to Gargrave from the vast resources of NYC. You can also reserve books online.
· If you have difficulty getting to the Library, you can join the free Home Delivery Service.

· Photocopying and printing
· Internet and Computer access.
· Free Wi-Fi.
· Help with online form filling such as applying for a Bus Pass.
· Ancestry. com, Find my Past, Which Magazine, British Newspaper Archives and the British Film Institutes' archives,
Services available at home on the NYC Library App
· Search the NYC catalogue for books, audio books and DVDs
· Access FREE digital content including e-books, e-audio books.
· Access hundreds of free magazines, local and national newspapers

Finally our next joint Coffee Morning with the Village Hall is on Saturday 28th March when the usual refreshments will be available.

Bowland and Ewecross Deanery Lent Series *Revd Canon Sue McWhinney*

"Music of our Hearts" - A series of meetings to hear about, experience, and enjoy, a variety of music and hymnody from Christian traditions old and new.
Wednesdays February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 Settle Parish Church 7.00-9.00pm
The closing session on 25th March will be a DIY Songs of Praise when you are invited to request a hymn and share what it means to you.

Lent Course to begin in February *Clare Maslin*

Lent Course - a six-week course starting on Wednesday 25th February at 2:00pm, at the vicarage. 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.

Saturday Film Night at Kirkby Malham Parish Hall

The March film will be 'The Penguin Lessons' with Steve Coogan on Saturday 14th March, 7pm start, tickets £8 on the door. Includes pie and pea supper. Veggie, gluten free and lactose free options are available if requested in advance. Phone 07815 100353 with any enquiries or food orders. The bar will be open.

Friends of the Dales *Zoë Pickup*

Friends of the Dales will be holding a special meeting when a speaker from 'Friends of the Dales' will talk about their work. Thursday 26th March 7.30 in St Johns Methodist Church, Church Street, Settle BD24 9JH £5 non-members

Hebden International Concert Series

Following on from an extremely successful 2025, raising £6,000.00 for Hebden's St Peter's Church roof repair fund, the Hebden International Concert Series will continue during 2026. Highlights for the year include on 25 April, the St Francis Players - made up of members of The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra performing Kevin Malone's Sea of Tranquillity – just one week after its World Premiere, and also Leeds Symphony Orchestra's cello section with special guest, Soprano Jo Sexton in September.

The monthly series is the brainchild of Mark Webb, a notable cellist and Flugelhorn player in his own right who is principal cellist with Leeds Symphony Orchestra and plays with a number of local Brass Bands. Mark, who moved to the village with his wife last year said: "We have been thrilled with the month on month turn out for these concerts in the church, and delighted to be able to bring such national talent to the village of Hebden. The series, to which everyone is welcome, wouldn't be possible without the generosity of the musicians themselves, our local sponsors; Hargreaves Coaches, Longthornes Haulage and The Old School Tea Room Hebden, and the volunteers from the village who organise the ticketing and refreshments."

The Hebden International Concert Series commences on Saturday 28 March with Jon Budworth and Band from Otley, and is hosted monthly thereafter on the last Saturday of each month. Tickets are available from The Old School Tea Room in Hebden, Grassington Hub and from Ticketsource via the following link: https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/grassingtonhub/jon-budworth-and-band/2026-03-28/15:00/t-xdmgore.



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

Friday 3rd April, starting at St Andrew's Church at 9am, a 14 mile walk going to Airton, Kirkby Malham (bring a pack-up or have lunch at the Victoria Inn), Bell Busk and Coniston Cold, returning to Gargrave around 5pm. Further details from Paul McWhinney 07973 396948 - phm@mcwhinney.info

Magazine distribution.



Each month your magazine is delivered by a willing band who try to ensure that it comes to you in good time to read and reflect on the news and stories – and to plan your month from the events in the calendar. We are grateful for this regular service.

We particularly appreciate Emma and her team at the Co-op who make the magazine available to the occasional buyer and the passing trade. And this month we express our real thanks for a generous contribution they have made towards our production costs.

NEWS

Gargrave Parish Council

Claire Cadman, Chair

The snowdrops and crocuses are sprouting meaning that spring is on its way and at our February meeting we welcomed Jack McKell on to the team as our newest parish councillor. We look forward to working with him.

The Parish Council continues to be busy. At the February meeting the parish council began plans for works on the river with the formation of a working group to advise on the way forward following the recent scoping survey. The working group will include some members of the public who have expertise in relevant fields and will be able to assist councillors with preparing a long-term plan. The two main outcomes of the scoping survey are the need to protect the riverbanks in the vulnerable areas and to reprofile the river to widen it and reduce its energy. The information from the scoping survey has given the council a good starting point to work from.

It might look like not much is happening in regard to the river, but these things take time, and a Flood Risk Activity Permit has recently been approved which means the stepping stones can be removed from the river this summer.

The potentially dangerous overhang will also be removed. The stepping stones will be stored in the hope that they can be replaced in the future when the riverbed erosion has slowed down and when funds become available.

The work on the river will be expensive and will require funding which will also take time to acquire whether in the form of grants or appeals to the public. This is why the work needs to be planned in stages and it will potentially take a number of years to complete. While the collapse of the wall was unwelcome it has focused minds on moving forward with the river improvements and has prompted Northern Power Grid to look at vacating its site once the network has been upgraded, within the next two years. The original substation will be disappearing soon with the area returning to grass and possibly being re landscaped when the temporary substation is removed and the river bank protection is in place. This is one of the areas that is a high priority following the recent erosion. It is hoped that once the working group is up and running, plans can be drawn up in order to move the works forward.

We are holding another coffee morning at Neville Crescent Community room on Saturday 14th March from 10am to 12noon. There will be hot and cold drinks and cakes. All welcome.

Sue Ryder Manorlands *Caroline Thompson.*

Thank you to everyone who has supported the stall which I run at the monthly Collectable and Craft Fairs held at the Village Hall. I am pleased to announce that £388.77 was raised during 2025. A special thanks to everyone who has donated goods for me to sell; sometimes these have been unwanted gifts but more often than not it has been the wish of a late family member that their items should be donated to be sold in aid of Manorlands Hospice. Our regular customers at the Collectable and Craft Fairs have been immensely supportive and I cannot

thank them enough for their generosity it means such a lot to the Sue Ryder team who provide help and support in the most difficult of days. Manorlands Hospice is set in a woodland area at Oxenhope near Keighley, the tranquil surroundings give an aura of peacefulness as soon as you arrive at the grounds. The dedicated team are experts in palliative care and support, not just for those living with life limiting conditions but their families too. They work across a large area providing care across Airedale, Wharfedale, Craven and North Bradford. Specialist support and care can also be provided in the patient's own home where the Sue Ryder nurses can suggest ways to improve wellbeing and manage symptoms. They also support carers with both practical and emotional advice. Any funds raised no matter how big or small are precious and allow the specialist teams to be there, when it matters, to provide expert care to those who need it the most. Thank you again on behalf of Sue Ryder Manorlands for your kindness.

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 March *Karen Armstrong*

Karen Armstrong, one of the world's leading religious historians, invites us to rediscover the pivotal role of myth in humanity's spiritual development.

Genesis: Fact or Fiction?

Although Genesis is, perhaps, the best known book in the Bible it is not generally recognised that it starts by giving two different creation stories. Scholars acknowledge they were written by two different authors and contradict each other in both their portrayal of God and the sequence of events. There is no attempt to iron out such contradictions. The authors could see that there was order in the universe, but they also knew the world was a baffling and tragic place. By allowing these contrasting views of creation to co-exist side by side, the Bible makes it clear from the very beginning that it will not give neat, tidy answers to questions that simply do not give simple solutions. Instead the authors make us wrestle with the complexities of the text and in the process help us come to a deeper level of insight and understanding.

By presenting us at the outset with two obviously conflicting creation stories, the editors were demonstrating the basic religious principle that no human account can ever comprise the whole of divine truth. Both authors are equally inspired by God; both must be given equal weight, therefore, since they have different things to teach us. But if we try to interpret these texts literally, we are in a quandary: which one of these authors is right about the creation. Since both offer mutually exclusive versions of the creative process, we are obviously not intended to see either as historically accurate in our modern sense. Both are writing myth and fiction. In our rational, scientific culture, we tend to look askance at this type of narrative. A "myth" in common understanding is something that is not true; a "fiction" is associated with deceit and pretense. But in the pre-modern world myth was regarded as a way of charting the inner world. In the same way fiction can often express truth which is impossible to discern in the confusion of our daily lives. We have all read novels or seen films or plays which give us fresh insight into the mysteries of human life and behaviour. Since religion is also concerned with the quest for meaning and purpose amid the chaos of mundane existence, fiction can be more useful to the spiritual life than a purely historical narrative. By giving us two contradictory accounts Genesis is offering timeless truths that cannot be rendered obsolete by new cosmological discoveries. One author shows us how to regard the universe in relation to the divine, while the other is more interested in humanity.

When you read the Bible you are reading an anthology of ancient religious literature – not a textbook, not an instruction manual, or a complete work of systematic theology. We need to remember the books that make up the Bible were written in different times, in different places, by different people, with different perspectives, in different genres, with different theologies.

In many ways Genesis does us a favour at the outset by forcing us to face up to the complexity of our existence. One of the most haunting scenes in Genesis is surely the occasion when Jacob wrestled all night long with a mysterious stranger and discovered in reality he had been struggling with God (Genesis 32:24-32). Is it an emblem of the effort that the Bible so often demands of its readers? Even the very name "Israel" can be translated as "One who struggles with God"!

Acknowledgement: Adapted from 'In the Beginning – a new interpretation of Genesis' by Karen Armstrong, 2011.

St. Andrew's Family Worship Review 1st February *Peter Gardner*

Today it was Candlemass, or it was the next day, so we celebrated it. Yes – I know, the congregation hadn't a clue about what it was, either, so the vicar kindly explained. It was about Mary and Joseph presenting their baby (Jesus) in the temple, forty days after he was born. And also (the clue is in the title) it was about Jesus being the light of the world. So we had a big CANDLE!

Actually, we started with a video advert by Pete Greig who is big in Anglican circles. He was stood in a desert advertising a six week course, "Forty Days Journey with the Desert Fathers and Mothers" from Lectio 365. So contact the parish administrator or the vicar if you're interested.

Back to Candlemass. We had a competition. Vicar Andrew divided us into two groups, left hand side pews verses right hand side pews. We all had to think of as many words as we could beginning with Pho (apparently the Greek word for light is Phos) We RHSP's won 11 Pho's to 9. Then for his talk, Andrew produced all sorts of different lights, a big torch – which gives you authority if you are a scout leader, one of those head torch things which give you an intense light for looking at things in detail, then there was a candle – which gives a lovely gentle comforting glow, and then a laser – useful for shooting down enemy drones – although Andrew only had a laser pointer so we couldn't do that.

Anyway, the point he was making was that God is light and Jesus is the light of the world who illuminates our spiritual darkness. His light can be comforting like a candle, it can be an intense light which illuminates things in our life in detail, and it can be a guiding light like our scout leader's torch. (I'll leave you to figure out the laser). So God brings his light into our lives in different ways and for different purposes, dispelling spiritual darkness and illuminating both the way ahead and details which need attention, while also bringing comfort when we need it. Andrew continued, "The scripture says 'You are the light of the world.'" and when the Holy Spirit dwells in Christians, we shine our light in the world as spiritual lights. How are we shining, then? Like Jesus, our light sometimes needs to be a guiding light, sometimes a comforting light, sometimes focussing in on details and sometimes like a laser – but always shining in a godly way.

In our interactive activity, we were all given lumps of clay (to make candleholders with) and tea lights, and after one tea light was lit, we used it to light another, which in turn lit another until we had all shared our light and were all lit up. Happily the fire brigade was not needed. The illustration worked and we were encouraged to share our spiritual light and understanding with those whom we meet. Go for it folks!

We sang, 'My Lighthouse,' a jumping-up-and-down type song, and finished with that Graham Kendrick all–time favourite, 'Shine Jesus Shine'. Then. finally I was able to get my bacon buttie. – Phew, almost missed it.

Gargrave Art Exhibition: People's Favourite 2025 *Caroline Beard*



Visitors to the 2025 Gargrave Art Exhibition chose Break Free by Shelley Sheridan as their People's Favourite Award winner. The striking oil and acrylic painting of a grey stallion captured the attention of audiences throughout the exhibition, with many visitors returning to the work for a second and third look.

Yorkshire-born and raised in Keighley, Shelley describes herself as anything but a traditional artist. She spent years working in IT before moving to the Dales, seeking space, land and a change of pace. Painting came later — almost by accident — during lockdown, when she booked onto a short pastel course simply to get out of the house. "It could have been welding," she says. "It didn't matter what it was."

What followed, however, was a quiet obsession. Shelley joined Gargrave Art Group, began exhibiting after the pandemic, and — after some persuasion — put her work on the wall for the first time in 2022. She laughs when she recalls how uncomfortable that first exhibition felt.

"Viewing your own art in a different setting can subtly change the lighting and viewing perspective. You can become hypercritical of elements you were happy with in the studio. You wonder how others might react to it."

What makes Shelley's work distinctive is her approach. She doesn't talk about emotion or self-expression in the way many artists do. Instead, she is fascinated by perception: how the brain interprets colour, line, depth and illusion. Shelley's IT background and a love of problem-solving, means she approaches painting almost analytically.

"I like the technical side of it," she explains. "The illusion. How your brain thinks it's seeing one thing, but it's actually something else." I want people to think, 'Oh, it's a horse," she says. "And then want to look again."

That philosophy runs through Break Free. While undeniably a beautiful and powerful horse, the painting rewards longer looking. Subtle shifts in colour, perspective and fading detail guide the eye and quietly challenge what the viewer thinks they are seeing. It's art that doesn't shout — it invites.

That desire to create work that is both aesthetically pleasing and quietly clever resonated deeply with Gargrave's visitors. The People's Favourite Award is especially meaningful because it reflects the voice of the community — exactly the audience Shelley believes art should be for.

"Art should be for everybody," she says. "Not wrapped up in language that excludes people. It should work first as something you like looking at."

You can find more of Shelley Sheridan's artwork on Instagram @shelleysheridan

Gargrave Art Exhibition 2026 – hold the date!

The Gargrave Art Exhibition Committee is busy planning for this year's show which will take place from Thursday 9th July to Sunday 12th July at Gargrave Village Hall West Street BD23 3PT.
The Exhibition is open from 10am to 7pm daily except Sunday 12th July when it will close at 4.30pm. Entry is free and there's no need to prebook. There's ample parking and refreshments with delicious home made cakes.
To discover more about the Exhibition, how to enter your own art, or volunteer your time: visit: www.gargraveart.uk email: exhibition@gargraveart.uk or call Sarah Kirk on 07971 162901

DRAKE & MACEFIELD

FAMILY BUTCHERS

Since 1898



SKIPTON
11 Otley Street
Skipton, BD23 1DY
01756 792802

CROSS HILLS
49 Main Street
Cross Hills, BD20 8TT
01535 635916

SETTLE
Market Place
Settle, BD24 9EJ
01729 822392

SNAYGILL
The Pie Shop
Skipton, BD23 2QR
01756 790997

10% DISCOUNT OFF YOUR FIRST ONLINE ORDER
Use code G&CFEB at checkout

www.drakeandmacefield.co.uk


Craven
Nursing Home
Where care meets luxury & comfort
The Care We Offer....
Residential Care
Nursing Care
Specialist Care
Dementia Care
Palliative Care
Why Choose Spellman Care?
Award Winning Care
Over 185 5* Reviews
35 Years Experience
Premium Dining
Daily Activities & Regular Minibus Trips
Spellman Care
Kindness | Dignity | Compassion

News from the Village Hall

Caroline Thompson

There is always a task to undertake at the Village Hall and the next one on the agenda is the compiling of a risk assessment and subsequent emergency plan to fulfil the needs of Martyn's Law (terrorism (protection of premises) Act 2025). I doubt the need for something like this would ever have been envisaged back in 1959 when the Village Hall was officially opened. Sadly, today's world is very different. Figen Murray is the mother of Martyn Hett who sadly lost his life in the Manchester bombing, she has campaigned for over five years to bring in Martyn's law which will mean public premises will have to be prepared for keeping the public safe in the event of a terrorist attack. The law will operate on a tiered system based on the capacity of a venue. There are very few occasions when the Hall is full to its capacity limit of 250 people, but it does mean that the venue must fall into the standard tier of the law (200-799 people) and comply with the regulations. Compliance is not mandatory until the Spring of 2027, but the implementation period will be invaluable to us so we can be fully prepared with the preparation of the risk assessment and the emergency plan. Subsequently the plans for the buildings Health and Safety and Fire risk assessments may need reviewing too as, though they are classed as good at present, they also need to be explicitly linked to plans surrounding Martyn's Law. We have a lot of work and documentation to undertake in the next few months and once this is completed and we are happy with the contents we will have to inform the SIA (Security industry authority).

One of the things we need to consider in our risk assessment is the criteria of the event, and the user and attendee profile – where do we start??? We certainly have a diverse list of hirers. In the last few years, fitness and leisure classes have certainly become popular. More recently we have become a real environmental hub with bookings from The River and Trout group, Yorkshire Wildlife, Craven Badger group, Geographical Group, The Milestone group and The Peat Partnership. We have the Speed awareness classes and if a driver doesn't come in for driving too fast, they can come for their HGV & Bus medical checks as provided by D4 driver medicals. The Rotary club come in on an annual basis for the local schools' science tournament and the Leeds and District Walkers Association use the Hall as the base for their annual sponsored walk. The venue is also used by the Craven Accordion orchestra for their Open day and concert and has been the venue for many a party for both young and old. Apparently all the above will fall into low or moderate risk events with higher risk activities seemingly classed as political meetings and controversial speakers. We need to envisage likely terrorism scenarios and the action we would need to implement, sadly it would be the unlikely scenarios which would be the hardest to deal with. Realistically how can you document the un-imaginable?

Fortunately, we had the foresight to have CCTV installed some time ago as we were aware the Law would be passed by parliament so this is a helpful asset to have in place

particularly if there is any suspicious behaviour reported in or around the premises and in the advent of an emergency incident it would be invaluable in identifying the perpetrators.

We are soon approaching the annual National Village Halls week which takes place from the 16th to the 22nd March. This is the tenth year of the campaign which highlights the vital role of local halls and volunteers in rural areas. Our Annual General meeting will be taking place during this period and will be held in The Annexe on the 18th March at 7.p.m. and will be followed by the monthly meeting of Gargrave Village Hall Management Committee.

Come along and join us the following week on Saturday 28th March when we will be hosting a Coffee morning jointly with members of Gargrave Library Committee from 10.a.m until Noon. Tasty bacon sandwiches, toasted teacakes and homemade cakes will be on the menu. A raffle will aid Library funds and money from sales on the Book and Bric a Brac stall will go towards the general running costs of the Village Hall. The Library 100 club draw will also take place.

Gargrave Church of England (VC) Primary School

Sarah Peel

LOVE, PEACE, HOPE

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

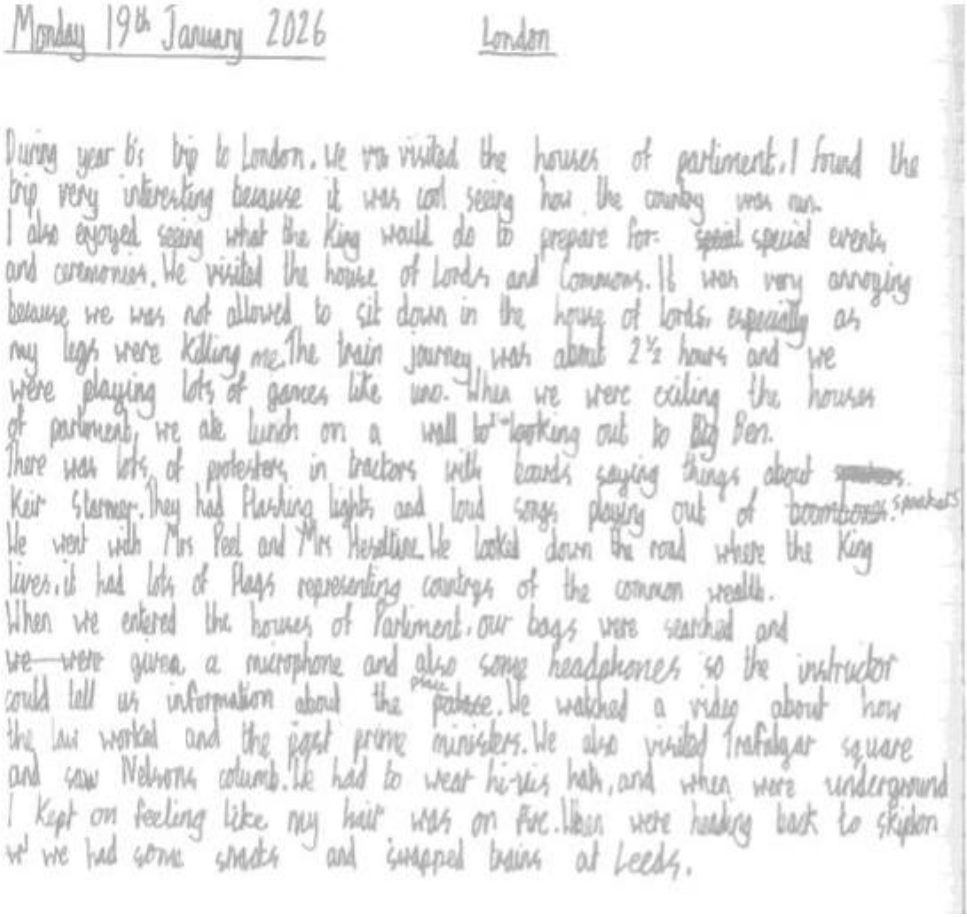
Learning beyond the school gate is really important to us and our families. We're delighted that every child in these year groups has taken up these amazing opportunities to experience. The oldest pupils visited parliament, on a trip to London. This built confidence about transport and getting about in our capital city.

The next month the whole class attended a week long residential at Marrick Priory, in beautiful Swaledale. The pupils showed courage, our value for this half term. This might have been in sleeping away from home, for nights, in trying our new and adventurous activities, in organising ourselves. These experiences will live on with them through their whole lives. How wonderful.

London- Year 6

We left on 16th December on the 6.56am train, and for many of us, this was too early! It took 3 hours to finally end up in London and as expected, it was busy. Straight away, we headed for the Houses of Parliament where firstly we got our back packs checked, then a lady gave us some headphones so we could hear her talking on her microphone. The Houses of Parliament were very large and our legs got tired. My favourite part was the House of Commons where we could watch the debate, which was about justice. When we left the building, we ate our lunch. We were sat on a wall just outside the Houses of Parliament and were surrounded by some large statues, one of which was Winston Churchill. There was also a farmer's protest which was loud. After our lunch, we headed for Horse Guards Parade where we stopped to take some photos. We walked back to the station via The Mall where

we saw Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square where there were two fountains. It had structures of mythological marine creatures such as mermaids, tritons and dolphins. We went back to Kings Cross Station on the tube via the Piccadilly line which was very hot and busy. We left on the train which then terminated in Leeds where we switched trains to Skipton arriving around 7pm. Overall, I enjoyed my first time in London and would definitely go again. *Betsy Year 6*



Monday 19th January 2026 London

During year 6's trip to London. We was visited the houses of parliament. I found the trip very interesting because it was cool seeing how the country was run. I also enjoyed seeing what the King would do to prepare for special special events and ceremonies. We visited the house of Lords and Commons. It was very annoying because we was not allowed to sit down in the house of lords, especially as my legs were killing me. The train journey was about 2½ hours and we were playing lots of games like uno. When we were exiting the houses of parliament, we ate lunch on a wall by looking out to Big Ben. There was lots of protesters in tractors with boards saying things about [redacted] Keir Starmer. They had flashing lights and loud songs playing out of boomboxes. speakers We went with Mrs Peel and Mrs Hewitson. We looked down the road where the King lives. It had lots of flags representing countries of the common wealth. When we entered the houses of Parliament, our bags were searched and we were given a microphone and also some headphones so the instructor could tell us information about the palace. We watched a video about how the law worked and the past prime ministers. We also visited Trafalgar square and saw Nelsons column. We had to wear hi-vis hats, and when were underground I kept on feeling like my hair was on fire. When were heading back to skipton we we had some snacks and swapped trains at Leeds.



Marrick Priory Year 5 and Year 6

High Ropes & Archery

On the morning of day 2, we were faced with high ropes and archery. The first thing we did was high ropes. There was quite a lot of equipment but we all just did the leap of faith. Even when it wasn't your turn, you had to play a very important part. To allow the climber to move higher up, we had to pull a rope that tightens the climbing rope, letting them climb safely. At the top of the rickety pillar there was a wooden square you would stand on to make the jump. Toby (our instructor), said when we got to the top, we had to lay on the box (Armstrong), then kneel on the box (kneel Armstrong) and then stand on it (standing Armstrong). We all understood the Neil Armstrong joke but none of us found it funny! When we got to the top, we had to jump and try reach the bar where he told us to first try do a pullup then try spin upside down, then he would slowly lower us to the ground and have to try and land on another wooden platform.



After that we went up some steps to the archery. First, he taught us how to use a bow and arrow and we picked our team name. My team went first and we scored 24 points. We figured out if you look very carefully at the bow you can see the draw strength of 14lbs but our instructor, Toby's bow had a draw strength of 28 lbs. *Ted - Year 5*

You can see the platform where the children had to stand, and then to the left the swing they had to jump and catch!

Prospective Parents 11 years and under.

We have space in some year groups. If you are interested in viewing the school to provide education for your family and wish to arrange a time to visit, please contact admin@gargrave.n-yorks.sch.uk or 01756 749433. We welcome in-year transfers.

Farming on Scaleber Hill

John Hall

Following on from my previous article we are still hoping Spring is just around the corner as we heard the first curlew call last week. Curlews are one of our favourite birds but unfortunately, they are under serious decline not just from changing farming practices but also the growing number of predators and disturbance from humans. As we only take one cut of silage on our farm, usually late June, we are fortunate to be able to see the Curlews nest and hatch in our meadows before the grass is taken. By this time the chicks are mobile and able to avoid the grass cutting machinery and move onto the pastures.

Also, since my previous article Brian has finished laying the section of hedgerow mentioned. Hopefully with the warmer weather the laid stems will start to sprout new growth. The hedge planted last Spring, which struggled initially due the extremely dry summer, is looking positive thanks to the efforts put in to keep the plants watered.

After several months of planning, visits and negotiations we have finally been allocated an agreement by the Ribble Rivers Trust to engage in the Northern Forest Project run by the Woodland Trust. This will enable us to establish a small section of woodland adjacent to existing mature native trees along a watercourse on our away land. The fencing and planting are due to start imminently to be completed this Spring.

Following scanning, the sheep have now been sorted. The ewes carrying single lambs will stay outside until just before lambing with the remainder housed (and looking very comfortable and smug as the wet weather continues outside!). The ewes carrying triplets (and 1 carrying quads!) are penned separately as their feeding regime is slightly more intense than the others. All the ewes have received a multi-vitamin & copper drench. Copper prevents a condition known as “swayback” (weakness in spinal column) in newly born lambs. The copper is essential for the development of a strong nervous system. However, the correct dosage is essential as otherwise it can be toxic to the ewe.

The calves continue to grow rapidly and the oldest bunch will soon be moving on from their straw pen to the cubicle shed ~ only for the straw pens to be cleansed & disinfected and re-filled!

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 March 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.

Living in BD23, you can buy a DALES RAILCARD: *£15.00/ year. 1/3** off All Tickets (dep after 0815 M-Fri + All w/e + Bank Hols)* between Gargrave, Leeds, Bradford, Carlisle, Lancaster, Morecambe. Big discount for children with you. ***Winter Offer (to 29 March 2026) increases this discount from 33% to 50%.*

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.



School visit to Parliament

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 at gargraveparishmag@gmail.com

April editorial deadline: 10 March

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

Printed in Skipton by EP Print