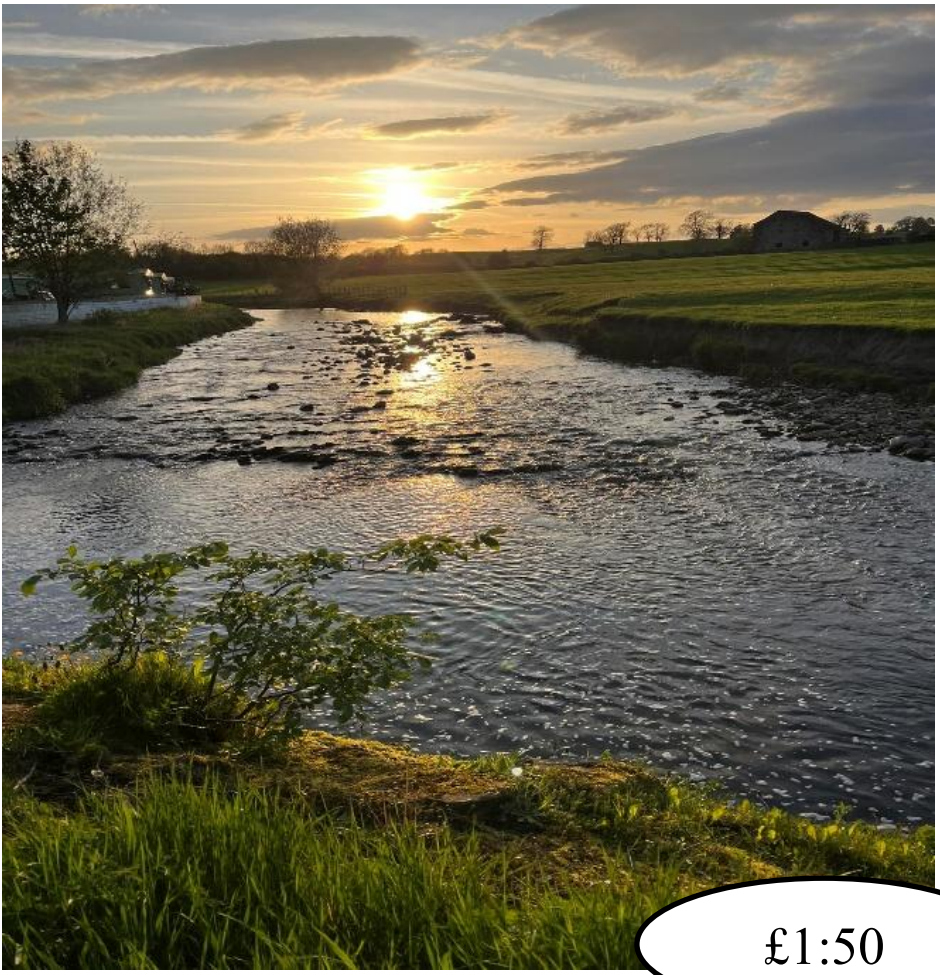
GARGRAVE & CONISTON COLD

Parish Magazine

October 2026



£1:50

Sunset over the River

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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!

Reverend Andrew

The Christ child cometh… It's only 12 weeks to Christmas! Better get busy with your Christmas shopping, then… (Fortunately for us, in a spirit of public service, one supermarket has been selling Cadbury Advent Calendars since July - that couldn't possibly be a publicity stunt to aid their ailing business, could it?) I'm not talking about THE Christ-child, but rather His namesake - El Niño, which is predicted to be a bit of a bruiser this year. Apparently, this global weather phenomenon, which begins in the Pacific Ocean, is set to be one of the strongest ever recorded. This means that 2027 could see even more extreme weather conditions than previous years - droughts, storms and floods depending on where you are in the world. This, added to an already warming planet, is predicted to affect harvests, supply chains and all manner of food production around the world. So much so that we are being advised to gradually build up our food stocks in case of unreliable harvests. Unreliable harvests are nothing new - the Old Testament reminds us of many occasions where food production was insufficient and people had to travel to avoid famine. In Genesis 47 the story of Joseph hinges on the great famine which affected Egypt and Canaan; Joseph was instrumental in saving those nations from starvation through a system of cooperation and collaboration. Contrast this with the modern mindset of 'panic-buying' - we've all seen appalling scenes in the past of people fighting over goods in supermarkets. The modern way seems to be 'every man for himself' rather than 'let's help each other'. In a society where we expect to eat strawberries at Christmas and bananas all year round, we seem to have lost touch with the rhythms and seasonality of food experienced by our ancestors. How many of us still make pickles, jams and preserves? With short sell-by dates and best before dates, how much of our food ends up in the bin when the other half of the world struggle to eat each day? Perhaps our throw-away mindset needs to change? Do we need to re-think our attitude to food and water? For too long we have neglected to think about the who, how and where of our food production, expecting all manner of food to be readily available at a click. When farmers are switching from growing cereals to growing animal fodder (yes, really), do we need to value our food much more, and be thankful for what comes our way? If we could focus on thankfulness, rather than expectation, then I'm sure we would enjoy life much more. In this season of Harvest Festivals our churches seek to celebrate all the good things that God has given us, and encourage us to share what we have. Through generosity, sharing and kindness there is food enough for everyone on this incredible planet, and if we approach this 'Pacific' Christ Child with the right mindset, we will be able to welcome the real Christ-child at Christmas, with joy, thankfulness and the knowledge that we really have 'loved our neighbour as ourself'.

EVENTS OCTOBER

CHURCH SERVICES – ST PETER'S, CONISTON COLD

4 October – Sunday: Compline Evensong 4pm

11 October – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion 9.30am

18 October – Sunday: Compline Evensong 4pm

25 October – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion 9.30am

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS – ST ANDREW'S, GARGRAVE

Sunday Services:

Every Sunday 8am : Traditional (BCP) Holy Communion except 11th October

4th October starts with brunch at 10:30 then family service 11:00am

11th October Sung Eucharist 11am

18th October Morning Worship 11am

25th October Family Communion

Friday October 2nd Murder Mystery with pie and peas 6:30-10pm (see poster)

Alpha! running weekly for 8 weeks Tuesdays 7-9pm with food. No cost. This is an opportunity to explore faith in a safe non judgemental place with no pressure. Email churchadmin@standrrewsgargrave.org.uk to register or for more info.

Beer Festival 30-31st October

DIARY FOR OCTOBER

Model Railway and Transport meeting, first and third Monday of each month. Village Hall Annexe.
Indoor bowling re-commences, Tuesday and Thursday. Village Hall. 2-4.p.m.
2 October - Friday: Donations of Jumble accepted at the Village Hall. 10.a.m - 3.p.m.
3 October - Saturday: Annual Jumble sale.Village Hall. 10.a.m - 1.p.m. Free admission. Light refreshments available.
7 October - Wednesday - Parish Council meeting. Village Hall Annexe. 7.15.p.m.
9 October-Friday: Man Friday. A men's social morning. Village Hall Match room.10.a.m-Noon. £3.00 per person to include tea, coffee and biscuits. Cards, dominoes. All welcome.
9 October-Friday: Picnic supper dance with live music from Alan Cookson.Village Hall. 7.30.p.m - 11.p.m. Admission £6.00 per person
11 October- Sunday: Gargrave 22 group Afternoon tea. Village Hall 2-4.p.m. Tickets £15.00 available from Crossgates,The Library or 07855 873115.Supporting Yorkshire Air Ambulance.
14 October - Wednesday - Gargrave 22 group.How to declutter your home. Village Hall Annexe. 7.p.m for 7.30.p.m. Non members £5.00. Refreshments.
17 October - Saturday - Craven Accordion Orchestra. A night at the movies. In aid of MND. Village Hall.7.30.p.m. Tickets £12.00.Concessions £10.00. email cravenaccordionorchestra@gmail.com
23 October -Friday: Man Friday. A men's social morning. Village Hall Match room.10.a.m-Noon. £3.00 per person to include tea, coffee and biscuits. Cards, dominoes. All welcome.
23 October-Friday Film Night: Song Sung Blue. Doors open 7:0pm, film Starts 7:30pm. £5 entrance. Under 16s free.
24 October - Saturday : Coffee morning organised jointly between Gargrave Village Hall Management Committee and Gargrave Library Committee. Village Hall. 10.a.m - Noon. Bacon sandwiches and homemade cakes. Live accordion music.
25 October - Sunday: Collectable and Craft Fair.Village Hall. 9.30.a.m - 3.30.p.m. Food available all day. Admission 50p or by donation.

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

Alternate Fridays 9/23 October: 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.



A Message from Erin

I have been lucky to be chosen for the International Scout Jamboree in Poland next Summer, representing Yorkshire- after a rigorous selection process. To take part I now have to raise £3500, a lot for a 16-year-old. As a keen runner I have organised a marathon and half Marathon -the Stone Circle Marathon, starting and finishing at the village Hall on October 31st. Hopefully this will be become an annual event in the runners calendar. Offers of support/help on the day welcome. Contact Erin 07399 000818 Or if you wish to donate this can be done via https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jonathan-carter-1?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL

COFFEE DAY

Running in conjunction with the Stone Circle Marathon and Half, there will be coffee, tea and homemade cakes available in the Hall kitchen area from 9.15am to 4.30pm. Run by the ladies from Craft and Chat, it is available for runners and their supporters, and also any member of the public who like coffee and cake and those who wish to support Erin's fundraising to attend the World Scout Jamboree next year. All welcome!


YOU ARE INVITED TO A
MURDER MYSTERY
EVENT
INSPECTOR McCLUE
AND THE
RED ROSE MURDER
6:30PM
ON FRIDAY
2ND OCTOBER 2026
AT
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,
GARGRAVE
£10PP
INC. PIE AND
PEA SUPPER
ADVANCE
BOOKING
REQUIRED
FOR CATERING
NUMBERS, PAY
ON THE NIGHT.
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS
CONTACT
events.gargravechurch@gmail.com
OR CALL
01756 748538
AND LEAVE A MESSAGE

EVENTS

SHARE A PRAYER WITH ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Peter Poulter

St Andrew's has a regular programme to pray for the church and the village. You are welcome to join them. Either make a special time of day or maybe just pause for a moment, wherever you are, and share a prayer.
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 October we will be praying for those who live and work in the Eshton Road and Asquith Workshops area.

LIBRARY OCTOBER

Dave Smith

Film Club

On Friday 23rd October we will be screening **'Song Sung Blue.'** The film is based on the true story of two struggling musicians who meet and fall in love. They form a Neil Diamond tribute act called Lightning & Thunder, hoping to turn their passion for music into a new life.
Their success brings joy and opportunity, but their relationship and dreams are tested by painful setbacks. It is a warm, bittersweet story about resilience and the courage to keep pursuing your dreams.

The film stars**: Hugh Jackman, Kate Hudson and Ella Anderson**

The customary Cafe style seating will be in place, so please bring you own refreshments. The Village Hall doors open at 7.00pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. £5.00 donation 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 films:

The Choral November 20th

T B A December 18th

Gargrave Library, based in the Village Hall, 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

For further information please check out our website**:**
www.gargravelibrary.co.uk
Finally our next joint Coffee Morning with the Village Hall is on Saturday 24th October from 10.00am to 12 noon. The usual refreshments will be available.

NORTH CRAVEN FLOWER CLUB

Peter Poulter

" 'TIS THE SEASON " - An evening of Flower Arrangements with international demonstrator, Ian Lloyd.

THURSDAY 12th NOVEMBER, 7.30 – GARGRAVE VILLAGE HALL – Tickets £15
Do come along and enjoy an evening of stunning skill and imagination. Doors will be open at 6.30 to see the Christmas Sales table and enjoy a glass of wine. Raffle tickets on sale will give you the chance of taking home one of the amazing arrangements.

The Flower Club meets monthly on a Thursday afternoon in Hellifield Village Hall. New members are always welcome. It is a most enjoyable time watching how different demonstrators work wonders with flowers.

For tickets or information about the Flower Club please contact: yvonnepoulter1@gmail.com or jean_banks@hotmail.com

Kirkby Malham Parish Hall Film Night



Saturday 10th.October at 7pm.

'My Mother's Wedding'

Starring Scarlett Johansson and Kristin Scott Thomas
Tickets are £8 including a pie and pea supper.
All diets catered for: let us know.
Bar open, cash or card accepted.
Contact 07815 100353

St Andrew's Beer Festival

Ali Lucas

St Andrew's 4th Beer Festival will take place in the church on Friday 30th and Saturday 31st October, serving 12 chosen real ales and a selection of ciders. Wine, soft drinks and tea and coffee will also be available. There will be a full ploughman's platter and a range of other cold snacks on sale throughout the day to help soak up the beer.





The beautiful Erika Wood will be back to play and sing for us on the Saturday and we are looking forward to performances from Skipton Ukelele Band and our own Let's Sing Group. All monies raised from the festival will go towards the upkeep of the church.

If you would be interested in sponsoring a barrel or helping out at the festival, please contact Ali Lucas on 07921 970961. Doors will open Noon to 10pm on Friday and Noon to 9pm on Saturday. We look forward to seeing you!

SKIPTON RAILWAY SOCIETY

Alex Dewar

The baseboard depicting the quarry has returned after further scenic work has enhanced the groundwork.

The next section of work to be completed is the fixing of the joiners' dowels between the various boards so that they always come together in the correct position every time to give a smooth transition between each board and the fitting of the over-centre clips to ensure the security of the fitting. At the last meeting it was possible to run a locomotive over most of the layout and so when the next section of work has been completed it should be possible the operate the layout in its entirety.

Forthcoming meetings:

October 5th Modelling and discussion

October 19th Talk – Restoring 52044 on the KWVR

November 2nd Modelling and discussion

November 16th DVD – Modern Freight

Meetings are held in the Annexe at the Village Hall from 7.00 pm 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



News from the Loos

Bee Faulkner



At last the railing restoration project around the back of our village community loos is complete! We had a final push work party in August to put back the last two panels of railings. Five of us turned up: Drew Halls with his son James, me with my son Chris and Tony Baldwin Lewis, having just taken one of his sons to



the dentist. How disheartening it was when we realised that one of the gaps was too wide and the other two narrow! And then how great our joy when we managed to coax the panels in regardless.

Railings restored

Reliant Installations, beside the station, had shortened the most rusted panels and welded new bases on to them. Their shorter height meant drilling new holes in the thick angle iron uprights, which has been hard going. We did a lot during lockdown and afterwards but these last two have lingered on. Many thanks to all involved, including my Mum Rosemary Gibbs who helped radically prune back the gap-filling holly tree to make way for the returning railings.

How to keep us running

We at GNAT (Gargrave Needs A Toilet) took over the running of our village loos six and a half years ago, when the Parish Council could no longer afford to keep them on. The loos are now funded entirely by voluntary donations as we receive no money from taxes. https://gargraveparishcouncil.gov.uk/gargrave-public-toilets/

Alas our 2025 annual income was £2300 less than our annual outgoings of £9600. We invite those who care about keeping our community loos running long term to set up Standing Orders to our bank account to help provide the regular income that we need.



GNAT Gargrave Needs A Toilet

Our NatWest bank details are:

GNAT,
01-07-93
53123018

You can keep in touch with us via beeactive@posteo.net or 07778 980994

Thank you. Bee Faulkner, GNAT Chair.

Photos.

- Drew and Tony bolt the final panel of railings back in place
- To stop further rusting, James and Chris scrape back soil that has mounded up at the bases

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

Caroline Thompson.

Summer is almost a distant memory now, but we certainly had a good one in terms of the weather. Regular hirers at the Hall tend to have a little time off during the school holidays so it does allow us some precious time to undertake essential repairs including some re-decoration, however it can still be tricky to fit everything into place. We did have one major concern back in July as we had a leak on the old stop tap at the back of the kitchen units. The tap was situated in the most in-accessible place imaginable; it would even have tested a contortionist. We knew that the corner unit would have to come out for the work to be undertaken but were not prepared for the joiners' findings when he removed it. The back of the unit simply fell apart as the dampness from the leak was so severe. Therefore, we had a gaping gap where the unit had been and uncertainty about the length of time it may take to obtain a replacement which was not of a standard size. The kitchen looked dreadful and on top of that it was found there was a leak down in the manhole outside the hall where the water meter is situated. Fortunately, it was found to be on the Yorkshire water side of the meter, but just another thing to have to chase up. The lengths of pipework along the back of the kitchen wall were in a poor condition so the plumber had quite a task ahead of him. We were faced with a kitchen in chaos – units missing, contents stacked on every available surface, a Coffee morning two days hence and a funeral tea two days after that. Who could rescue this situation? Our amazing tradesmen were like knights in shining armour, and we cannot praise them enough. Mark with great difficulty managed to source a new unit and Richard completed the shiny new pipework. The unit was installed and the worktop replaced and everything was completed by the Friday evening, all done within three days. What a relief.

Mark within that period also boxed in the pipework in the main hall as benches and chairs banging against the pipework from the radiators had caused a few minor leaks over the years. The work protected the pipes and looked visually better. Steven then came in to decorate the main Hall and the Foyer; again, how lucky we were to get such a good tradesman. Steven did a fantastic job, fitting in between hirers and no one got wet paint on them! We do hope everybody likes the change in the colour scheme, we have had lots of favourable comments so far. The re-decoration has just been completed with the fitting of a new charcoal grey carpet in the Foyer. Grateful thanks to everyone concerned for the above work, they really have gone above and beyond.

Autumn generally means one thing at the Village Hall – the Annual Jumble sale. Donations have been arriving steadily in the last few weeks. Anything jewellery,books,CD`s,DVD`s,pictures,frames,craft items,jigsaws,toys, Christmas decorations, bedding and household items. Garage and shed items, small

furniture and small electrical items. Sorry but we cannot accept large furniture, large electricals or printers. The event will take place on Saturday 3rd October

FRIDAY FUNDRAISERS

Bee Faulkner



Monthly Friday Coffee Mornings with Lunch over the summer, run by Gargrave Church's Sustainability Group, have been sociable fundraisers: each highlighting a different cause. As globally, 1000 children under five die every day because of dirty water and poor toilets (toilettwinning.org), we've fundraised for WaterAid and for Toilet Twinning. We've now twinned our church toilet with one in Sudan and are twinning our village community toilets with another Sudanese one. Why Sudan? As our Diocese of Leeds has strong links with Sudan, it seemed the obvious choice. And we've supported GNAT (Gargrave Needs A Toilet) to help our village community-run toilets keep going since they receive no income from our taxes.

WaterAid TOILET TWINNING GNAT Gargrave Needs A Toilet

We've fundraised for Bradford based Christians Against Poverty who offer free professional debt help across the UK. We've supported Solar Aid who help provide solar lights to remote and disadvantaged communities in Sub-Saharan Africa, enabling parents to earn and children to learn. We've backed Fauna & Flora International who help protect habitats both in the UK and beyond. And we've raised funds for the Fairtrade Foundation, helping to bring Fairtrade to more small farmers all over the world, so they can earn a fair price for their produce and invest in their futures.

Fauna & Flora Saving Nature Together · CAP christians against poverty · SolarAid · FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION

Coffee Morning with Lunch

Friday 23rd October

A MEDITATION FOR OCTOBER: FAITH WITH DOUBT! *Brian Mclaren*

Named one of Time magazine's 25 most influential evangelical Christians, Mclaren explains why doubt can be both a painful experience and a necessary condition for moving forward in faith.



Before doubt, you simply believed. You were in one innocent and undivided mind, seeing with one vision, feeling a comfortable confidence rather than any distress. But that innocence, that simplicity, that peaceful unity of mind and clarity of vision now slip away, the first casualties of doubt.

For many of us, faith is our map of reality, our map of the universe. It tells us where we are, where we've been, where we're going, where to turn. But as soon as our trusted map stops matching reality, we feel disoriented. People can experience the failure of their mental map or worldview as personally traumatizing. Even scientists, when their conceptual maps fail them and they must challenge some of their fundamental scientific assumptions, use emotionally charged language to describe the experience.

Albert Einstein described the experience of coping with data that took him off the edges of his scientific map: "It was as if the ground had been pulled out from under one, with no firm foundation to be seen anywhere, upon which one could have built."

If the loss of a scientific map or model creates anxiety, how much more does the loss of a religious worldview? This loss threatens us with another even greater loss: the very loss of God or of God's favour, love, and protection. What could be more terrifying for a sincere believer?

This terror is especially real for people who were taught that God is an almighty supreme being who demands absolute perfection and submission, a strict and demanding father, and a tough and exacting judge. Yes, we were also taught God is loving, gracious, and forgiving, but the one requirement God demands above all others is precisely the thing that doubters struggle with most: God

demands firm, unwavering faith, which we (mis)understood to mean correct beliefs. To question those beliefs throws open the terrifying possibility that God might at any moment turn against us, punish us, reject us if we don't get our beliefs straight and hold them tight, without doubt. Doubt can breach the psychological fortress in which we've felt safe, tear up the internal map by which we've navigated the world, and threaten to separate us from God's favour and love.

Acknowledgement: Adapted from ' Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It, 2021.

FARMING ON SCALEBER HILL

John Hall

What a fantastic Summer we have had, the hottest on record. Whilst it has been very enjoyable, as always, it has brought its share of problems for farming. The Craven area has fared better than many other areas of the country which have been hit hard by the drought conditions. Grass growth was severely restricted however the rain arrived just in time and the fields soon altered quickly, returning to their vibrant green. Locally most farms should now have adequate feed stocks for the winter. Other areas of the country however have had to use winter feed stocks to supplementary feed their stock over the drought period. Despite the numerous wildfires, some of which affected arable crops, hopefully there should still be sufficient supplies of grain (although of lower quality) and straw for animal feed and bedding.

In agriculture there always seems to be a crisis looming and the current one comes in the form of bluetongue disease. This disease affects cattle and especially sheep. Originating on the Continent, the disease is spread by biting midges. At the beginning of Summer, a handful of cases were recorded in the South West however, aided by favourable conditions it has been spreading rapidly northwards with cases recorded as far north as South West Scotland. In cattle symptoms tend to be relatively mild but affect milk yield and fertility. In sheep, however, the consequences are far greater with fertility issues and high mortality rates in affected animals. As such there has been a strong drive for farmers to vaccinate their sheep flocks but unfortunately due to high demand there have been issues with obtaining the vaccine.

The old wife's tale of "lambs should always be roasted twice" has been apt with the hot summer weather with lambs thriving and looking bright. The routine of monitoring for parasitic worms and multi-vitamin drenching is ongoing. Our first draw of prime lambs has been sold at a satisfactory price despite the annual glut of large numbers coming forward at this time of year. We have also sold a batch of store lambs (to go on to other farms for further fattening) and despite the lack of grass available in other areas prices held up well.

PARISH COUNCIL

Claire Cadman – Chair

Dear Parishioners

The nights are drawing in and there's a definite feel of autumn in the air.

We had a quiet summer as we had a break, so we are starting with renewed energy now.

The reduction of the bus service is of grave concern to villagers and there is an online petition which can be found at www.edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk. As I write this only 124 people have signed this petition, and the closing date is 12th December. The bus petition is on paper in the village however the closing date is 1st October.

There have been questions raised about the roadworks to repair the collapsed riverbank opposite Park Croft, this is scheduled for June 2027.

The clerk is in regular contact with NPG on the ongoing work as NPG works to upgrade the system to replace the temporary substation. The work has been disruptive to the village but essential to remove the pole currently sited next to the temporary substation. The stays of pole on Middle Green will be moved and work will be done at the site of the bore hole on the green to connect cables The next stage is to upgrade the existing network and other substations.

The Clerk approached Northern Power Grid with the Council's suggestion of using the social impact grant to help replace the stepping stones but unfortunately this was rejected so an alternative suggestion is needed. The council is considering other projects that would meet the grant criteria on High Green.

The criteria for the grant are either community resilience to make the community stronger or nature resilience, covering biodiversity, habitats and access to nature. The grants officer would like the council's application before the end of October.

The parish council have been in contact with representatives from Ingleton and Wennington parish councils where there were serious issues with the travellers' visit this year. There was discussion about how Gargrave had dealt with the travellers. Ingleton councillors will keep in touch.

Sadly Cllr Karen Hunter and Cllr Alan Sutcliffe have resigned from the parish council. We would like to thank Karen for her time and contributions to the Parish Council as a councillor and also as vice chair and thank you also to Alan Sutcliffe for his service and hard work for more than twenty years in Craven District Council and then Gargrave Parish Council.

We now have two vacancies to be filled. If you are interested, please email the clerk at clerk@gargraveparishcouncil.gov.uk

We will be holding another coffee morning in the coming months and once we have a date and venue confirmed we will put it on all our platforms, the last two

have been very well attended by parishioners and we look forward to seeing many of you again.
The Parish Council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm in the village hall annex and everybody is welcome.

FOOD FARMING AND FAIRNESS *Bee and Duncan Faulkner*

It's the season of mellow fruitfulness again, and at St Andrew's Church we've just celebrated Harvest Festival.
Pop down to the Coop and you will probably have noticed that things cost a fair bit more than they did a few years ago. Between 2022 and 2023 food prices jumped by 20%, mainly due to the war in Ukraine. Food is clearly difficult to afford for some people, as we can see from the demand for food banks. In Gargrave our food larder in the porch of St Andrew's has recently been reinstated.
And yet, viewed in a broader context, our food is cheap. In the UK we spend on average only 9% of our income on food to eat at home. This is close to the lowest proportion in the world. In many countries it's over 30%, as it was for earlier generations in the UK. People with lower income do spend a higher proportion on food, but it's still dwarfed by the costs of housing.
That cheapness comes at a price. I'd suggest that we often pay less than the real cost of food production. Someone or something else picks up the bill. I'm thinking farmers working 80-hour weeks and never getting a holiday (we may know some). Child labourers on tea plantations. Migrant workers in what amounts to slavery conditions growing salad crops in Spain. Coffee or cocoa producers selling to multinational corporations at a pittance. There's a stark power imbalance in the global food and agriculture system, with a handful of mega corporations controlling vast amounts of trade in seed, grain and so many food products. In the UK, the big supermarkets have a power that dwarfs that of the average farmer – and guess who gets to set the price.
It's not just people who are on the receiving end of the power imbalance. The natural world pays the price of our cheap food purchases – through pollution of rivers with effluent from intensive chicken sheds; destruction of the rainforest to plant palm oil or soya for animal feed; overfishing wiping out marine life.
Some people will not be in a position to make any changes to the way they get their food. But if you are, read on. I have six suggestions.

1. **Shorten the chain**

   Can you reduce the number of links between you and food producers? Growing your own fruit and veg eliminates this chain completely. What about buying meat boxes from farmers, eggs from roadside stalls (like Amber's on Marton Road) or cakes from that tempting shed on Skipton Road? Farm shops like Town End in Airton or Robertshaws also provide more direct outlets for farmers.

2. **Look for Fairtrade options**

Around the world, the people who grow, pick, stitch and make the things we buy are facing unfair pay, unsafe working conditions, and overlapping environmental crises threatening their livelihoods. Fairtrade exists to change this, and to push for the rules that make fairness the norm, not the exception. The Fairtrade label provides an independent certification that producers in developing countries are getting a better deal. It addresses three aspects of fairness:

People - providing rights and safety at work.
Planet - protecting the land producers depend on.
Pay- earning enough to live well and plan for the future.

Fairtrade offers a minimum price to producers. If prices in the global market drop below this level farmers selling to Fairtrade distributors or companies can be sure they still get a fair price for their bananas and won't slip into poverty or make a loss on each box sold. You can find out more at https://www.fairtrade.net/.

Fairtrade products have gone from niche to mainstream, with our own Coop selling Fairtrade bananas, chocolate, coffee, tea, sugar, wine, even some biscuits and roses.

3. **Pressure supermarkets to change**

Around twenty years ago, we decorated St Andrew's Church with a very long paper roll made by joining up receipts saved by church members who wanted to see more Fairtrade options in supermarkets. We invited a rep from Morrisons to come and see this demonstration of our desire, and got a photo in the Craven Herald. If you would like supermarkets to treat their suppliers better, or to stock more Fairtrade or other ethical options, tell them.

4. **Invest in a fairer world**

The Shared Interest Society lends money to small-scale farmers and handcraft producers in developing countries, enabling them to trade their way out of poverty. You can invest in a share account to contribute to the lending pot. It's remarkably effective. Last year it lent money to nearly 400,000 people, mostly coffee and cocoa producers. It has a good record of repayment and strong governance. It has been awarded a Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Sustainable Development category, three times, as well as being named 'the most ethical finance institution working in the fair trade sector.' Find out more at https://www.shared-interest.com/, or chat to me about my own experience with the society.

5. **Get political**

   “There’s nothing more political than food” says author and TV person Anthony Bourdain (OK, I admit I’d never heard of him until a minute ago). But I think it could well be true. Food and land, perhaps. Our MP Julian Smith is good at listening and responding to his constituents’ concerns. So if you are concerned about our food system and its consequences for farmers or the environment, get in touch.

6. **Get religious**

   I’ve been looking into the Bible recently. It seems that God is obsessed with trade and justice. There are an amazing number of references to using fair weights and measures; avoiding oppression of poor workers etc. I think that’s one reason why churches have been at the forefront of promoting Fairtrade. The Kingdom of God is holistic: our buying habits as well as our praying habits; what we eat as well as what we do on a Sunday morning.





ST ANDREW'S FAMILY SERVICE REVIEW *JOANNE ACKROYD*



Two for the price of one this month! In August folk were drawn in to church by the delicious aroma of bacon and sausage sandwiches, steaming pots of fresh coffee and singing. A good beginning followed by a wonderful hour of song, action, prayer and friendship chats as we heard all about Rahab, a most unlikely candidate, being not only a woman, and one of questionable character, not a Jew who nevertheless risked her life to help the Jewish people almost 3000 years ago, enabling them to continue their journey to the promised land. Move into the New Testament and she gets another mention – wow!

September we had pastries to start then we heard about the apostle Paul; who was he, what he did, what he wrote; all reflected in song, prayers and friendly chat.

Why not join us for our next all age service? Sunday 5 October, come at 10.30 for bacon sandwiches, followed at 11 by an hour of fun, friendship and maybe thought-provoking talks. Give it a try. You never know – you might enjoy it!



Craft and Chat Group Sale of Work *Joy Robinson*

The ladies of the Craft and Chat group at St. Andrew's have been busy with their needles and produced a lovely range of hand made items for their sale of work.

Make a date for November 28th 10-12noon at St. Andrews. For a modest entrance fee you'll get a cuppa, piece of cake or mince pie, what a bargain. There'll also be a chocolate Tombola, a Bling stall, hand crafted Cards and more. Come and stock up on warm winter woollies, pretty gifts and little treats. All monies raised are for church funds and the Marie Curie charity so you will be helping good causes as well as getting some beautiful presents handmade by our talented crew.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVING GARGRAVE

Peter Hardyman

10 September 2026

TRAINS

Photocopies of the new timetables for Leeds-Gargrave-Settle-Carlisle and Leeds-Gargrave-Lancaster-Morecambe routes (from 17 May 2026) 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 10 September, no Engineering Works affecting Gargrave services during October have been identified. *That may change*. See 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 up to 4 children with you. ***Winter Offer (due again late 2026) raises the adult 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; 866/873(Sun) by Keighley Bus Co [Summer Timetable 5 April to 18 October 2026]
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 ; Keighley Bus Company www.transdevbus.co.uk/brands/keighley-bus-company/ 01422 553 576 ; Lonsdale Buses www.klch.co.uk 01524 733 831. **Dalesbus** (information) www.dalesbus.org

ORGANISATIONS

Caterpillar Club (0+) – St Andrew's Church - Wed 10am during term – Carmel Hicks - 07485 032011 - carmelmartina@hotmail.com
Gymnastics – Ambitions Gymnastics – Classes for children 18 month-12 years. Unit G, Asquith Business Park. 07923 480365- admin@ambitions.com - https://www.ambitionsgymnastics.com/
Rainbows (4-7) - **Brownies** (7-10) - **Guides** (10-14) - **Rangers** (14-18) – Tuesday evenings- Primary School. gargraveguides@gmail.com
Young Farmers Club – Coniston Cold - Tuesdays 7.30pm- Sarah Hargreaves - 01729 830123

Cricket – Gargrave Cricket Club – Will Smith- 07495 214697- https://gargrave.play-cricket.com
Bowls – indoor Oct to Mar - Tues & Thurs 2-4pm- Village Hall - Joan Griffin- 01756 749277
Bowls – outdoor Mar to Oct - Gargrave Bowling Club - Martyn Cox 07745 018459
Tennis and Croquet – Gargrave Lawn Tennis Club- Beth Whitley - 07751 074085 – www.craventennis.org.uk
Table Tennis – Village Hall Annexe – most weekends – Allison Wiffen – 07880 520071
Gentle Hatha Yoga – see https://gargravevillagehall.org.uk – Ian Cresswell
Tai Chi &Qigong – Village Hall – Wed 1.00pm - https://gargravevillagehall.org.uk – Ian Cresswell
Tai Chi Qigong – Green by War Memorial – Wed/Thurs 9am – Zoom Mon 9am – Zoom Fri 9am (with Pilates) – Bee Faulkner – 07778 980994 – www.beeactivebeerelaxed.com

Art – Gargrave Art Group – Village Hall – Mon 1.00 – 3.30pm – Hilary McCormac – 07801 818491
Bell Ringing – St Andrew's – Mon 7.30pm – Sun 10.15am – Ali Lucas - 07921 970961
Handbell Ringers – St Andrew's – Wed 2pm-4pm – (not all Wed – phone to check) Cynthia Hardyman – 01756 748839
Bingo – Neville Crescent Community Centre – Mon 1.30-4.00pm – Carol – 01756 748990
Gargrave Heritage Group – St Andrew's – Tues 10.00am – Martin Thompson – 01756 541317
Gargrave Community Library – admin@gargravelibrary.co.uk – Opening hours: Mon 3pm-5pm – Tues 10am-12 noon – Wed 2pm-4pm – Thurs closed – Fri 2pm-4pm – Sat 10am-12 noon – Sun closed
Craft and Chat – St Andrew's – Tues 2pm – Sylvia Humphreys – 01756 748779
Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall Annexe – 1st Wed of month – 7.15pm
Snooker Club – Village Hall Snooker Annex – every day – Andrew Richardson -
Gargrave 22 Group – Village Hall – 2nd Wed in month – 7 for 7.30pm – Glenys Riley – 07715 878709



Gliding on the canal

We hope you like our new colour version of the magazine. Do subscribe and save. Subscriptions remain at £10 per year, individual copies will now have a cover price of £1:50 per copy. So, subscribe and save and encourage friends to do the same.

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, Louise Miller and Peter Poulter at gargraveparishmag@gmail.com

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