GARGRAVE & CONISTON COLD

Parish Magazine

November 2026



Enid French



Marie Chapman

Two special daughters of the village

£1:50

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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*

United we stand

As we approach Remembrance Sunday and give thanks for all those who united to fight for our freedom, does it ever strike you how very factious and divided the world has become? Countries and societies once firmly united against a common enemy seem to have lost their way, with every part of life touched by division and disagreement - in politics, government, media and even monarchy. Tribalism seems to be the new buzzword for so many people - like an epidemic of discord and dissent

But what about our tribe? The place where we live and belong? Are we divided by neighbourhoods and streets, by parish boundaries and borders, or does something greater unite us? When we meet someone on the canal, or in the Co-op, at church or in the Village Hall, we are often united by our sense of belonging - by our connection and rootedness to this place that we call home. This is so clearly seen at the many village events, but especially at our annual gathering at the Cenotaph. When unity is visible it can be powerful, beautiful, and life-enriching.

The Bible teaches us a lot about this - Psalm 133 begins: “How good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity!” Unity helps us flourish, and creates a secure community where everyone feels valued and cherished no matter how different they feel.

Jesus prayed that His followers might be one so that the world may believe - we don’t always get it right (we are only human), but when we do the effects can be life-changing and transformational. Those moments in church when we sing together, pray together, share Communion together are the most precious and they allow us a glimpse into the beauty of true unity.

Unfortunately, unity is often hard work - it doesn’t mean that we agree on everything, but it does mean that we take time to listen, to understand and even to agree to differ. It may also mean sacrificing our own ideals and moving a couple of ‘red lines’ to accommodate the other person - even when that’s the last thing we feel like. Living with difference can be immensely hard work, costly even, but if it achieves unity then it is always worth it.

The Apostle Paul describes the Church as one body with many parts - all very different but of equal importance - in the same way that a village or community works together. The crucial thing is that everyone matters.

As we contemplate the price paid by so many for our freedoms today - freedom to worship every Sunday, freedom to express ourselves and to live without fear of reprisal, may we give thanks for the ways in which we can live our lives today. Had it not been for the unity of purpose and sacrifices of so many, I wonder what life might be like today for us. As we honour all those who fought for our freedoms, may we strive to keep unity at the heart of all of our lives

EVENTS NOVEMBER

CHURCH SERVICES – ST PETER'S, CONISTON COLD

1 November – Sunday: Compline Evensong 4pm

8 November – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion 9.30am

15 November – Sunday: Compline Evensong 4pm

22 November – Sunday: BCP Holy Communion 9.30am

29 November – No service

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS – ST ANDREW'S, GARGRAVE

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

1 November - Brunch at 10:30 then Informal Worship 11:00am

8 November - Remembrance day Service - 10:50 at the Cenotaph (opposite Bollywood) followed by service in church.

15th November - Sung Eucharist 11.00am

22 November - Family Communion 11.00am

29 November - Café Church 11.00am

24 November Tuesday - Let's Sing – Natural Voice Workshop, 12–2pm | £5 for non-Let's Sing members, including refreshments.

27 November Friday - 10am Come and join in a fun morning of decorating St Andrew's for Christmas. Refreshments provided and all welcome.
28 November Saturday - Craft and Chat Sale of work/cafe and Let's Sing. 10-12pm.
29 November Sunday - Gargrave Lights switch on followed by mulled wine and mince pies in church.

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.

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

4 November - Wednesday - Parish Council meeting. Village Hall Annexe. 7.15pm.

6 November-Friday: Man Friday. A men's social morning. Village Hall Match room.10.00am-Noon. £3.00 per person to include tea, coffee and biscuits. Cards, dominoes. All welcome. The Library will be open from 10.30am -11.30am for those in attendance to join the library and to borrow books or use ancestry/find my family websites.

12 November – Thursday – North Craven Flower Club – Evening of Flower Arrangements – 7.30pm – Village Hall – Tickets £15

13 November-Friday: Picnic supper dance with live music from Denis Westmorland. Village Hall. 7.30pm - 11.p.m. Admission £6.00 per person

13 November - Friday - Gargrave 22 group. Christmas candle making. Village Hall Annexe. 1.30pm. for 2.00pm. Non members £5.00. Refreshments.

15 November - Sunday - Collectable and Craft Fair.Village Hall. 9.30am - 3.30pm. Food available all day. Admission 50p or by donation.

19 November – Thursday – Craven Conservation Group AGM – St John's Methodist Church, Settle – 7.30pm

20 November -Friday: 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. All welcome.

20 November - Friday - Gargrave Cinema club film night – 7.30pm - 'The Choral.'

21 November - Saturday : Coffee morning organised jointly between Gargrave Village Hall Management Committee and Gargrave Library Committee. Village Hall. 10.00am - Noon. Bacon sandwiches and homemade cakes. Live accordion music.

21 November - Saturday - An incredible night of live music from The Ribble Valley Jazz big band. Village Hall. Performance commences at 7.30.p.m. Bar available from 6.30pm. Cafe style seating. Tickets £12.00 each. To book tickets please email info@gargravevillagehall.org.uk or call 07989 585564.

22 November – Saturday – Settle Orchestra Concert – Settle Parish Church – 3.30pm
29 November – Saturday – Settle Orchestra Concert – Christ Church Skipton – 3.30pm

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 6/20 November: 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.

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 November we will be praying for those who live and work in the High Street from the Old Swan to Twin Locks.

NORTH CRAVEN FLOWER CLUB

Yvonne Poulter

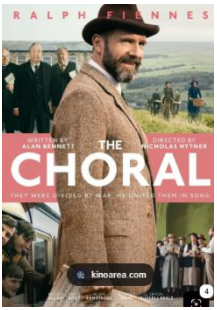
" 'TIS THE SEASON " - An evening of Flower Arrangements with international demonstrator, Ian Lloyd.

THURSDAY 12th NOVEMBER, 7.30 – 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. For tickets or information about the Flower Club please contact: yvonnepoulter1@gmail.com or jean_banks@hotmail.com

LIBRARY NOVEMBER

Dave Smith

Film Club



On Friday 20th November we will be screening 'The Choral.' This is a 2025, British, historical drama film co-produced and directed by Nicholas Hytner and written by Alan Bennett. Set during World War I in the fictional town of Ramsden, Yorkshire, the film follows the members of the local choral society who, in an attempt to put on a performance of Edward Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius, recruit a disparate group of townspeople to replace their usual members who are away fighting in France The film stars Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy, Alun Armstrong, Robert Emms, and Simon Russell Beale.

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.

On 18th December our Christmas film will be The Sheep Detectives. This animation features Hugh Jackman as the Shepherd, Emma Thompson as the Police Constable and many famous names speaking on behalf of the sheep!

Other Library News

Our congratulations to the 30 children who completed The Summer Reading Challenge, their Certificates are ready to collect from the Library.

Themed Book Month

Following a suggestion from the Library Volunteers, from November we will be starting a "Themed Book" month. In November the theme will be Royalty, to coincide with the King's birthday, with several Royal books on display together with a general synopsis.

Finally our next joint Coffee Morning with the Village Hall is on Saturday 21st November from 10.00am to 12 noon. The usual refreshments will be available and the Accordion Group will be playing

SKIPTON RAILWAY SOCIETY

Alex Dewar



The September meeting saw John Bowdery give us his reminiscences of working in the various signal boxes in the Leeds / Bradford Area and the numerous quirks of each of them. The October presentation, because of holidays had to be re-arranged by bringing forward the DVD of Modern Freight being shown instead.

November will see Mike Curtis give us a talk on restoring Lancashire and Yorkshire Class 25 on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway.

The programme for the rest of this year and up to the end of July 2027 has now been finalised and shows what I hope is an interesting mix of talks on both model and prototype subjects.

Future meetings are:
November 2 Modelling and discussion
November 16 Talk ; Restoring 52044 on the KWVR
December 7 Modelling and discussion
December 21 Christmas Quiz

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

LET'S SING – FINDING YOUR NATURAL VOICE WORKSHOP

Clare Maslin



What if singing wasn't about having a "good" voice, but simply about using the voice you were born with?

Let's Sing are delighted to welcome David Burbidge for a special Natural Voice singing session – an opportunity to sing together, have fun and discover the freedom of your own natural voice.

The Natural Voice Network brings together people who work with voice and song and share the belief that singing is everyone's birthright, regardless of musical experience or ability. Natural Voice singing celebrates the unique voice we each have, focusing on joyful self-expression, connection and community rather than musical perfection.

David has led the Lake District choir Lakeland Voices for 30 years and Bentham Voices in the Yorkshire Dales for almost 10 years, as well as leading hundreds of harmony workshops, singing holidays and cultural exchanges.

There's no need to read music or have any previous singing experience. David teaches by ear, using call and response, making it easy for everyone to join in and learn as they go. So, leave any worries about whether you can sing at the door and discover what happens when a room full of people simply sings together.

Tuesday 24th November, 12–2pm | £5 for non-Let's Sing members, including refreshments.

To book or for more information, email Clare: Cmaslin3@gmail.com

CAROLS AT THE COVE



Saturday 5th December - 12 noon to 1.30pm with Skipton Brass Band

The Cove - access from the public footpath in Malham, bring your own chairs if you wish.

What: Come prepared to sing carols, enjoy some lively brass band playing, and getting into the Spirit of Christmas with mulled wine and mince pies provided by members of the school PTA

Cost: Cash donations for the band please, and for refreshments

Any questions? Please ask Chris at Town End Farm Shop, email sue at sue.mcwhinney@leeds.anglican.org check www.malhamdale.com and keep an eye on 'Malhamdale' Facebook page nearer the time

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

Caroline Thompson.

The annual Jumble sale which was held last month raised an incredible £3060.00 for Village Hall funds. A huge thank you goes to everyone who contributed either by donating items, sorting goods the day before the event, selling or buying. There was a great team effort on the day when ideally around thirty-six people are needed to man the stalls and the refreshments sales. A favourite saying of my grandchildren is team work makes the dream work! David and Christine prepared sandwiches and scones for all the helpers and alongside them in the kitchen were Carol, Sally and Sylvia who were kept extremely busy all morning. The bacon sandwiches were particularly welcoming especially to some of the buyers who had arrived early to form the pretty long entry queue. It was nice to see a lot of our regular attendees supporting the event and getting some great bargains. Donations of goods had been arriving for some time leading up to the event and I even got a call from someone over the border in Longridge to see if they could deliver some items. It seemed to be an easier task this year when we put the unsold items into storage as the bulk of it had been sold. We await to hear if the school are holding A Bags to school fund raiser this year and if so, we will take the unsold clothing, bags and shoes to them. The items are then weighed in with monies going to school funds. If not, those goods will be distributed to local charity shops or will be given to a great couple we know from near Preston who collect suitable clothing and appropriate items for the homeless, those suffering from domestic violence or release from prison. The left-over items from other stalls will be sold through the year on our sales table near the kitchen and at our monthly Collectable Fairs. Nothing is wasted.

Autumn is now officially in place so the colourful and long-lasting display of bedding plants which have been a source of colour all through the summer months have been replaced with an equally pleasing display of flowers for the later months of the year. The wooden benches near the flower beds will be re-varnished to improve their visual appearance.

We are currently in talks with Royal Mail and hope to become partner with them and host a parcel locker at the property. We believe this will be of benefit to the community. A representative has visited us to see the suitability of the site and if the plan is to go ahead then it would seem likely this may be in place ready for the Christmas rush. Talking of Christmas and an even greater need this year to watch the pennies, why not buy local and visit our Collectable and Craft Fairs on the 15th of November and the 6th of December. There will be a great selection of stalls with some unique and affordable items for sale. If you have any book lovers on your Christmas list, then visit the Book Fair which will be held on the 5th of December. If you need to post items, you may not need to look far either!

A MEDITATION FOR NOVEMBER: BITTERSWEET *Susan Cain*



What I call the “bittersweet” is a tendency to states of longing, poignancy, and sorrow; an acute awareness of passing time; and a curiously piercing joy at the beauty of the world. The bittersweet is also the recognition that light and dark, birth and death - bitter and sweet - are forever paired. The tragedy of life is inescapably linked with its splendour; you could tear civilisation down and rebuild it from scratch and the same dualities would rise again. Yet to fully inhabit these dualities is paradoxically the only way to transcend them. The bittersweet is about the desire for communion, the wish to go home, to belong. This is why, in Homer’s Odyssey, it was homesickness that drove Odysseus to take the final stage of his journey. It’s why so many children’s stories feature orphans on a quest to discover their hidden birthright. Such tales resonate because we are all subject to illness and ageing, breakups and bereavement, plagues and wars. And the message of all these stories, the secret that our poets and philosophers have been trying to tell us for centuries, is that our longing is the great gateway to belonging.

Many of the world’s religions teach the same lesson. “Your whole life must be one of longing”, writes the author of the ‘The Cloud of Unknowing’, a fourteenth-century mystical work. “Those who constantly cherish only the intense longing to encounter the face of the lord will attain complete realization” reads the Qu’ran, 92: 20-21. “God is the sigh in the soul,” said the thirteenth-century Christian mystic and theologian Meister Eckhart. “Our heart is restless ’til it rests in thee” is the most quoted line of St Augustine.

You can feel this truth in those out-of-time moments when you witness something so sublime that it seems to come from a more perfect and beautiful world. Yet such moments are fleeting, and we want to live in that other world for good. Perhaps that’s why some try to summon it into being. It’s the hidden source of great art and literature, our masterpieces and love stories. It’s because of longing we play moonlight sonatas and build rockets to Mars, that Romeo loved Juliet, that Shakespeare wrote their story and we still perform it centuries later.

It doesn't matter how we arrive at these truths – whether we are atheists or believers. The truths are the same. Whether you long for the partner you broke up with, or the one you dream of meeting; whether you hunger for the divine; whether

you yearn for a creative life; or the country of your birth; whether you long for a world in which life could survive without consuming other life; whether you yearn for an unborn child, the fountain of youth, or unconditional love. These are all manifestations of the same great ache.

I call this place, this state we are longing for, "the perfect and beautiful world." In the Judeo-Christian tradition it's the Garden of Eden and the Kingdom of Heaven; the Sufi's call it the Beloved of the Soul. Or we might call it simply home, or "Somewhere over the Rainbow." C.S. Lewis called it "the place where all beauty came from." They are all the same thing – they're the deepest desire of every human heart. They're what Vedron Smailovic, 'The Cellist of Sarajevo', conjured up when he sat amongst the rubble, bombs and gunfire to play Albinoui's Adagio for twenty two days in honour of the twenty two people killed by a mortar shell the previous day.

During recent decades, Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," a ballad of spiritual longing, became a staple - even a cliché - of TV talent shows like Pop Idol. But this is why tears of joy streamed down audiences faces even when contestants had performed it for a thousand times. It doesn't matter whether we consider ourselves "secular" or "religious": in some fundamental way we are all reaching for the heavens.
Acknowledgement: Adapted from 'Bittersweet – How to turn Sorrow into Creativity, Beauty and Love', Susan Cain (2022).



The Cellist of Sarajevo: Vedron Smailovic

As I mentioned in my last article, old father time is catching me up and as such I have recently celebrated my 90th birthday. I held an old-time dance in Gargrave Village Hall for family and friends and in lieu of presents requested donations for Sue Ryder / Manorlands Hospice. I had much pleasure in personally delivering a very generous donation totalling nearly £1,600 and extend my thanks to everyone who donated to such a very worthy cause.

On a sad note, we recently had a family bereavement. I lost my brother, Ronald, at the grand old age of 92. Many readers may not have known that I had an older brother. Even from an early age Ronald had no interest in farming and as such, on finishing his schooling, he followed his chosen career in banking. Having lived in various areas of the country over the years, he finally moved back to his roots in the village amongst family, along with his wife Jill, just last year.

The very busy autumn breeding sales calendar will be drawing to an end soon with farmers having re-stocked and replaced. Having sold quite a number of our prime and store lambs, we took the opportunity to acquire some replacement breeding stock of our own in the form of gimmer lambs (which will join the breeding flock next year) and a new ram.

With the onset of winter approaching, we have had a very busy vaccination programme for the livestock. The calves/youngstock have had their first pneumonia vaccination (equivalent to our flu jab) which will be followed by another booster in approximately 3 weeks. Untreated, pneumonia can quickly prove fatal to vulnerable youngstock. The new virus “bluetongue” has seen us vaccinate all the breeding ewes and rams as a precaution. The high cost of vaccines pales into insignificance against the replacement costs of quality livestock.

Brian & Lisa recently made their annual trip to the British Wool Marketing Board to deliver this year’s fleeces and were pleased to hear that there has been a good increase in the value which in turn will leave a small margin over the cost of shearing.

As reported in the Farming Press, this year’s drought has put climate change concerns to the fore with a third of farmers saying that climate change is one of the biggest pressures and threats to British farm finance and food production and as such many believe sustainable farming practices are becoming essential.
Despite the summer drought, the pastures have recovered extremely well and have never looked as good at this time of year. However, as soon as the weather changes for the worst, the cattle will all be housed. As such, the usual last-minute rush to prepare winter housing has started with the replacement of cubicle mats in one of the sheds. No doubt the scraper tractor will need resurrecting as well!

PARISH COUNCIL

Claire Cadman – Chair

Dear Parishioners

The weather is turning autumnal and the parish council are busy with ongoing projects and also looking at new projects.

We have been researching getting the Norway Spruce tree by the cenotaph trimmed as it was deemed too high last year by the electrician who had been putting the festive lights on it for the last few years. The Clerk contacted North Yorkshire Council for permission to trim the tree and they have now given it a 'Tree Preservation Order'. The TPO makes it clear that any request for planning permission in order to add lights will be refused. The Parish Council is now going to consult a tree surgeon to inspect the tree and the other trees in the village.

Northern Power Grid plan to work on the upgrading of the supply and connect the south of the village through the underground conduit from Middle Green to close to the toilets over the winter, this work may be affected if there is bad weather. The areas which were dug up and closed will be finished properly and put back to their original state when all the work is complete.

On behalf of the Parish Council and the village, we would like to thank Janet for keeping our village tidy and rubbish free for the last 6 years, Janet is retiring from this role and it would be wonderful if someone would like to step up and continue Janet's good work. Janet has kindly donated four litter pickers to the Parish Council. Thank you, Janet.

We have two councillor vacancies which will be filled by co-option at our November meeting.

Our next coffee morning is on Saturday November 7th in the Neville Crescent Community Room from 10am to 12noon, we look forward to seeing you there.

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 4th November at 7.15pm in the village hall annex, all welcome.

MUSICAL CONNECTIONS

Jill Gates

Northern Rail and Settle Orchestra are continuing a partnership that connects Manchester's thriving music community with orchestral music-making in the Yorkshire Dales. Throughout the 2026/27 season, conductors Juan José Muñoz

Borja and Elisabeth Streichert are travelling from Manchester to Settle to lead the orchestra's weekly Friday evening rehearsals and concerts.

Northern is continuing its support of Settle Orchestra by providing rail travel for the conductors from Manchester throughout the season, following its support for conductor Andre Chan during the orchestra's successful 2025/26 season.

While the weekly train journey may seem a relatively simple one, for Settle Orchestra the support helps make something much bigger possible. Through its relationship with the Royal Northern College of Music, the community orchestra is able to work regularly with talented emerging conductors from around the world, bringing new musical perspectives and professional expertise to its musicians and audiences while remaining firmly rooted in Settle and the surrounding Yorkshire Dales.

Settle Orchestra performs each of its concert programmes on successive weekends in Settle and Skipton, giving audiences two opportunities to hear the orchestra. Both concert venues are conveniently located close to their respective railway stations, making it easy for audiences to travel by train to performances.

The connection therefore extends beyond bringing the orchestra's conductors from Manchester to the Yorkshire Dales. With the railway linking the musicians, conductors and audiences, Settle Orchestra hopes the partnership will also encourage more people to leave the car at home and make rail part of their concert experience. Full concert details can be found on our website. https://www.settleorchestra.org.uk/

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT – ST ANDREW'S ECO-SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Bee Faulkner



To promote Fairtrade fortnight this year (21 Sept to 4 October), we held a coffee morning & lunch fundraiser for the Fairtrade Foundation, followed by two Sunday church services promoting the importance of Fairtrade. As well as a Fairtrade stall at the coffee morning, we've had a Fairtrade Fortnight display in church showing what Fairtrade goods are on sale at Gargrave Co-op: chocolate, sugar, tea, coffee, biscuits tomatoes, bananas, wine and flowers. The dried goods were kindly donated by the Co-op and will reappear in the chocolate raffle at the coffee morning in church on Saturday 29th November.

Bee Faulkner and Cynthia Hardyman with the Co-op Fairtrade display

YORKSHIRE WILD LIFE RESCUE

Yorkshire Dales Wildlife Rescue (YDWR) has launched its first ever calendar to raise vital funds for the wildlife in its care, as admission rates to its wildlife hospital continue to soar.

Patrick Grant, YDWR's Patron, says: "This year has been horrendous for nature. Record-beating temperatures, drought and wildfires made life extremely difficult for most wild creatures and, for many, nigh on impossible. The team at Yorkshire Dales Wildlife Rescue have, in their inimitable style, risen to the challenge. This year, their volunteers have committed over 4,000 extra hours to tend to all the animals coming to their door. With a third more animals admitted compared to last year, the charity's need is greater than ever. They need more medicines, more food and more equipment to keep up with demand. 100% of the money raised from this calendar will help fund this life-saving work. Please buy as many as you can!"

Penny Hunt, YDWR Co-founder adds: "In 2025, we admitted 750 animals. This year, we have already admitted way over that - 930 animals between January and September - including rising numbers from Gargrave and the surrounding area. The animals featured in the calendar are just a tiny sample of the species we have admitted this year and show the huge range of species we care for in our animal hospital."

The calendar features 12 animals whose lives the charity has saved over the past year, with each page sponsored by a supporting business, including: baby hedgehog (January); curlew (February); baby badger (March); cuckoo (April); baby polecat (May); baby goosander (June); duckling (July); red kite (August); baby hares (September); tawny owlets (October); fawn (November); and young barn owls (December).
Calendars can also be bought directly from YDWR's website (mail order only, within the UK) https://www.yorkshiredaleswildliferescue.com/product-page/2027-calendarand from stockists across the Dales.

Twelve businesses have joined together to sponsor the calendar:

Ambry Bakery, Austwick	Kingsway Vets, Skipton
Ashlands Vets, Ilkley	Positive Planet, Manchester
Bowlander, Clitheroe	RJS Haulage, Settle
Efixx, Skipton	Skipton Building Society, Settle branch
Field to Home, Settle	The Dalesman Curiosity Shop, Gargrave

Keith the Handyman, Grindleton, Clitheroe Wholesome Bee, Settle

"We are truly grateful to every one of our sponsors," adds Jane Carpenter, YDWR Co-founder. "Without their support this project would not have happened. It's fantastic to have so much support from right across the region, and beyond! We hope everyone loves the calendar - it's the perfect Christmas gift!"

OUR LOOS ARE NOW A CHARITY !

Bee Faulkner



Great News- GNAT (Gargrave Needs A Toilet) has now become a charity! Having submitted our application about six months ago, it has finally been reviewed and we have now been given Charity status! Our charity number is 12198263

We are a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and our Trustees are Simon Myers, Tony Baldwiin-Lewis, Gavin Costigan and Bee Faulkner We will now apply to be able to receive Gift Aid, on donations.



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. Our NatWest bank details are:
GNAT, 01-07-93, 53123018 You can keep in touch with us via beeactive@posteo.net or 07778 980994.

Voices of Craven Christmas Concert Wednesday 16th Dec 7.30pm St Andrew's Church, Gargrave,



A seasonal selection of beautiful Christmas music and carols.
Tickets £12 (cash please) on the door (under 16's free)

Refreshments available at the interval (for a donation)

Enquiries: voicesofcraven2024@gmail.com

POSADA IN GARGRAVE 2026

Peter Poulter



Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. Each 'host' can create a celebration of the message of Christmas in their home, making room for Jesus in their lives. St. Andrew's Church has chosen to share Posada in the village again this year. Will you be a host to Mary and Joseph for a night?

If so, add your name and contact details to the Journey Rota on the table in the church by November 22nd for a night that will suit you. Someone will arrange to bring the figures to your place at a time to suit both of you. The next day you will need to arrange to take Mary and Joseph to the next host on the Journey Rota.

GARGRAVE 2022 GROUP AFTERNOON TEA

Joy Robinson



The 'nippies' in green striped pinnies were standing by. The early kitchen team were collapsed with sandwich-maker's elbow. Our pianist, the lovely Sue, had just started 'The Teddy Bear's Picnic'. There was a production line set up for tea and coffee. Sixty ticket holders were expected, all champing at the bit for a beautiful selection of sweet and savoury treats. And in they came, pausing only to grab raffle tickets before heading for their tables. We had set up flowers, bunting, checked table cloths and dainty china place settings, with music provided to entertain everyone. The village hall became the biggest teashop in the county!

Luckily, everyone who'd bought tickets for the Sunday Afternoon Tea remembered and arrived ready for the fray. In fact, extra guests arrived, so it was a good thing we had some wizardry-or perhaps witchcraft ?- in the kitchen, to conjure some extra teas out of thin air. (Our president is now known as Professor McGonagall.)

All the lovely things to eat had been made in a dainty size but many asked for a doggy bag nonetheless. We began with a selection of rolls spread with Coronation Chicken, Tuna Mix and Egg Mayonnaise. A mini sausage roll and delicious salmon, cream cheese and dill in a dear little pastry case followed. In true afternoon tea style, we had a scone with cream and jam, placed in whatever order we fancied, this being Yorkshire not Devon or Cornwall.



After quantities of tea or coffee, we moved onto the really tempting cakes. A piped whirl of chocolate topped with a raspberry in another mini pastry case. Meringues with lemon or raspberry and cream. Sponges with, yes, more cream. A strawberry shortcake. It was a cake lover's dream.

Almost all the gorgeous things on the pretty presentation stands were made by our members. Even, or especially, the scones. We have some very talented bakers and cooks but even so, it was quite a challenge to cater for 60 guests without official catering experience. As you might expect, we were swans cruising effortlessly across a placid lake above the surface, but underwater, a monumental effort had been taking place for weeks!

We all worked as a great team and had a grand day. It was lovely to bring so many members of the Gargrave community together for such an enjoyable afternoon. There was much excitement as the raffle was drawn, with prizes from a meal at The Frying Yorkshireman (snaffled first, of course) to a marrow! Many thanks to Crossgates and the Library for selling tickets for us. Yorkshire Air Ambulance, a very worthwhile charity, has benefitted from a donation from the proceeds. Thank you to everyone who came and we hope you all had a splendid time.

There will probably be another Afternoon Tea next Spring, if we've recovered by then. Watch out for the posters -and get your tickets early!

.ST ANDREW'S FAMILY SERVICE REVIEW

JOANNE ACKROYD

We gather on the first Sunday of each month for our all-age worship service; as usual on 4 October we began with breakfast, freshly cooked gorgeous bacon and sausage sandwiches washed down with delicious freshly brewed coffee leading to the enthusiasm of the church family gathered to sing out about the changing seasons, our October theme.

We used the well know bible passage from the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, "for every time there is a season" as we considered which things in our lives have had their season, which to retain, which to let go of and our responsibility to all of creation entrusted to our stewardship from the beginning of time.



We sang, we prayed, we heard a talk and listened to these verses beautifully sung to a background video of rain falling on leaves.

Why not join us on 1 November? Croissants at 10.30, service at 11 looking at the theme of "remembering". Give it a try, you will be made very welcome.

ENID FRENCH – 1933-2026

Enid was born to parents Willie and Mary Jane Sharples on the 11th November 1933. The third of four children. Enid had an older brother and sister, Eric and Irene (Renee) and a younger brother Alvin. As siblings they were close and met as often as they could. She kept letters and cards sent from her brothers when they were serving abroad. and regularly met with all her siblings to have a cup of tea, talk about their children and put the world to rights. Family was always important.

After attending primary school in Gargrave Enid gained a place at Skipton Girls High School where she continued to do well. Upon leaving high school she started working for Skipton Urban District Council with fellow Gargravian Gervaise Haigh.

She met her husband Keith playing tennis, or so they always told us! They courted and spent happy times riding Keith's motorbike and exploring the countryside. In 1957 they wed at Gargrave Church with Keith's cousin Maureen and Enid's niece Joyce as their bridesmaids. They began married life living in Earby but travelled regularly to Gargrave to visit their parents. Roderick was born whilst they lived in Earby but they quickly moved back to the village in 1960 and Deborah was born shortly afterwards.

Life settled down, and Enid concentrated on bringing the children up. Weekends were always busy. She was a cricket and football 'widow'. Spending many years making cricket teas on Saturday afternoons in summer, and washing dirty football kit in winter. However, Sundays were her day, with church every week followed by Sunday lunch listening to the radio.

During this time she focussed on music and began teaching piano in the family home. By the late 1960's she decided she wanted to start a new phase of her life and fulfil her ambition to teach. She studied to become an Associate of Trinity College of London . There are memories of her ironing in the kitchen listening to Radio 3, and long hours practicing the required piano pieces in the front room. At the same time she undertook English A level at night school in Skipton. All of this enabled her to start teacher training at Bingley college in 1971. She graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree in 1975 and began her teaching career.

Her first teaching job was at a Catholic Secondary School, Fisher Moore in Colne, which she did not enjoy. Although she had passed her driving test she hated driving and the commute was part of her dislike for this first teaching post. Luckily she was soon successful in gaining a place at Gargrave Primary School and she remained there until her retirement. It also meant that her husband Keith could take up the role of 'chauffeur', ferrying her to school, church and 'trips out'.

Family holidays were usually taken in the UK when the children were younger, and it wasn't until later in life that Enid and Keith started taking coach trips in Europe. Something which they thoroughly enjoyed, and during which they made many friends.

Having never flown before Enid took a 'trip' organised through church to the Holy Land with friends from St Andrews, and she enjoyed it so much that she repeated the adventure a few years later. Perhaps this was her response to Keith's annual fishing trip to Scotland.

Enid had many friends. She had family friends, friends she met through church, and wonderful neighbours who she loved chatting with. She kept in touch with people, even when they moved away, and had a full address book when it came to writing Christmas cards.

Enid succeeded Mr Whittingham as organist at this church and continued to play the organ for over 40 years. Sitting at the back of church and playing music for many services including weddings and funerals for people from the village and further afield. It was something she loved doing but she eventually decided it was time to pull her last stop out when getting onto the organ stool was becoming increasingly challenging.

After the death of Keith in 2014 Enid continued to live on Riversway. Instead of refreshing her driving skills she purchased 'mobility scooter' and could regularly be seen tootling down Marton Road or the Damside as she went to church or down the village.

In 2022 however things changed. She suffered a series of falls, and after spending time in Airedale and Castleberg hospitals mum returned home to be cared for. It was immediately obvious that this wasn't going to work and luckily a place was available at Milton House. She moved in, taking her jigsaws and crossword puzzles with her and was wonderfully cared for there until she passed away.

Enid, although conflict averse could be tenacious when doing what she thought was right, and had an ability to achieve whatever she wanted. She had a quiet but well-developed sense of humour and could be mischievous at times, but never cruel or harsh. She cared deeply for all her friends and family and shared her love for them without question. Keith, her children, grandchildren and subsequently great grandchildren were her delight and she enjoyed seeing them and hearing about what they were getting up to.

Kind, considerate and loving Enid lived her life to the high standard set by her upbringing and maintained her sense of fun and interest in the world until the last moment.

MARIE CHAPMAN – 1938-2026

Marie Louise Chapman (neé Simpson) was born on 5th December 1938 at Stoneybutts, Marton Road, the second child of Arthur and Emily Simpson. Marie spent her early years growing up in the village alongside older sister Jean and younger siblings Daniel and Elizabeth.

She attended Gargrave Primary School and then Oaklands Secondary School in Ilkley. A couple in her interests at this time were playing the piano and hockey. On leaving school, Marie started working in the offices of Smith Hartley textile mills in Skipton as a shorthand typist. After 12 months she left to pursue her interests in floristry at the Constance Spry School of floristry in London. Along with sisters Jean and Elizabeth and best friend Edith, she opened a florists shop in Skipton in 1956 and they were soon running a successful business.

Marie was a passionate royalist and was thrilled to create a posy of flowers for Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, when she opened a new wing at Skipton General Hospital – a highlight of her career. She also went to Balmoral to lay flowers after the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

In the early years Colin was working as a cashier in the front desks in the Midland Bank in Skipton. He noticed an attractive young lady coming into the bank asking for change – this was Marie. A few weeks later Colin attended a dance at the Clifford Hall. On entering, the first person he saw to his left was the lovely lady he had served change to in the bank. He immediately asked her for a dance. They had a lovely evening and exchanged phone numbers. The following day he gave her a call to arrange a second meet. Colin from Grassington soon found his way down to Marton Road with directions from Marie, and enjoyed a walk round the village. A year later, they got married here in St. Andrew's Church on August 6th 1963.

The couple moved into their first home on Raikeswood Drive Skipton. Marie continued to work at busy Parkes florist. On 8th July 1964 they welcome their first child Helen. Shortly after her birth they moved into 28 Marton Road, and their second child Christopher was born on 20th September 1965.

They then noticed two empty shops in the village – 54 High Street a sweet shop and 1 West Street a butcher's. They proceeded to buy the properties together, knocking the two into one, and the Dalesman Café was opened in the late 60s.

They were soon very busy in the café from dawn till dusk, serving cyclists, walkers, passers-by and people from the village. While there, their third child, Jonathan, was born on 18th August 1971, completing the family.

The pair worked alongside each other in the café – Marie in the kitchen and serving, Colin in the shop selling sweets. Marie would tell many stories of how cyclists flocked to the café, lining their bikes up against the railings and spilling out onto the High Street. If a cyclist had taken a tumble on the road, Marie would be there with a First Aid kit and a pot of tea.

Marie had a strong work ethic instilled in her by her father who was a business man, known for starting the Pennine Bus company, among other ventures.

Marie enjoyed family life above the café, living in the heart of the village. After many years they decided to build their forever home in the grounds of Stoneybutts, on which there had been a small orchard. The house was named Orchard House and it is still where Colin resides. Marie found it hard to take time away from working – she love work. Once a year she made time for a family holiday, usually to the seaside.

Once retired from the café, Marie was able to take many holidays abroad with family; most notably Majorca, Spain, Italy and her last memorable holiday to Croatia with Colin.

Marie had faced tragedies in her life, losing Jonathan at 15 and Helen's passing in 2020. Her strength in overcoming these events came from her strong faith in God and her determination to keep going. All her life she stayed loyal to the church, attending the Holy Communion service here every Sunday.

Marie loved Gargrave and devoted her life to the village, organising village events and being involved in charity work. In particular she organised charity fundraising events in the Village Hall for the NSPCC and, for over 30 years, she was involved with the Samaritans organisation Christmas She Box appeal, where she filled and sent thousands of shoe boxes full of toys and essentials including her knitted hats and scarves, to go to disadvantaged children abroad. She believed that every child should be able to receive a gift at Christmas.

After 33 hard-working and successful years at the Dalesman Café, they decided to sell on the business. Marie was able to keep her passion for flowers by helping her daughter Helen and then her grand-daughter Bethany at Poppyfields florists.

She was a strong supported of Gargrave Show and enjoyed entering her floral designs. Last year she was very proud to receive a cup for best in show.

Marie was devoted to all of her family throughout her life, and had great joy with grandchildren, who gave her much pleasure.



Our year 6 pupils all visited London this week. This was a great experience to our capital city. The pupils got to travel on the train and to visit parliament amongst other experiences. For the majority these were all new experiences. Learning beyond the school gate is really important to us and our families. Here is an account written by Lily, Ellie and Jack

London - Year 6

We all met at Skipton train station at 6:30am, a while before the train departed (we were all regretting waking up at 5am). We eventually left at 6:56, excited for what's coming ahead. We found our seats and chatted for 10 minutes, but this felt like 10 hours!, not long later we arrived in Leeds. We waved at all the conductors. Finally the teachers let us have our breakfast. Everyone wolfed down their food like it was the last food on earth!

Great fun with the stickers! After three long hours we arrived in LONDON!

We left Kings Cross station and went into the tube (it was cramped). We all agreed it smelt bad. We took the Victoria Line to Westminster. Then we saw parliament for the first time.

We had a two hour tour of parliament while looking around we saw the House of Lords, the House of Commons, many statues, including Winston Curchill. His was next to an archway with distinctive marks, it was like that because it had been bombed in the second world war and Winston Churchill said that 'I want this to be a here as a reminder of the way and to strive for peace' We saw Big Ben and the River Thames.

We walked over the river on Westminster bridge, it was SO busy. We heard someone playing bagpipes and we sat on a wall by the Thames and enjoyed our lunch.

When walking past ten Downing Street we enjoyed spending money in a gift stall. Next was Horse Guards parade and onto Saint James Park. Here we had a run around including chasing squirrels - they won!



Then we walked down the Mall to Buckingham Palace. We thought we saw Princess Charlotte through the archway (why wasn't she at school? Perhaps it wasn't her!).

We returned to Kings Cross Station visited another shop, took photos, and saw platform 9 ¾. The train journey back went quicker and we made a good connection so returned to Skipton early. We all had a great time.

Prospective Parents 11 years and under.
Children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 will start Reception in September 2027, and the national application deadline is 15 January 2027. Applications open in autumn 2026 through North Yorkshire admissions portal, with National Offer Day on 16 April 2027.
For pupils who are due to start school in September 2027 we invite you to contact us to arrange a visit to see our amazing school. Everyday is an open day. Please call to arrange a suitable time.
We have space in some year groups, please call school if you are interested in viewing the school to provide education for your family. We welcome in-year transfers
Please contact school on admin@gargrave.ycst.co.uk or ring 01756749433

CRAFT AND CHAT 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. Andrew's. 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

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 October, no Engineering Works affecting Gargrave services during November 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/en 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 (5-15 y.o.) 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(Sats, Winter from 24 Oct) by Lonsdale Buses; 864(Suns, Winter from 25 Oct) by Keighley Bus Co

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- 07497 547282.

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



Photo – Jeremy Knowles

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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