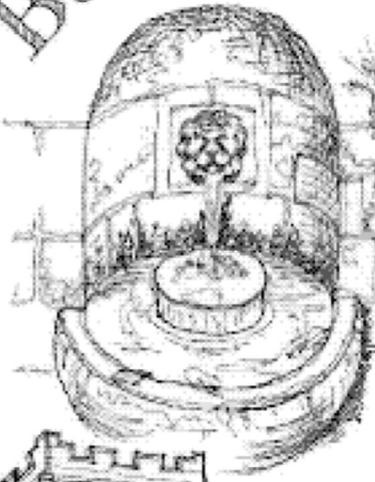


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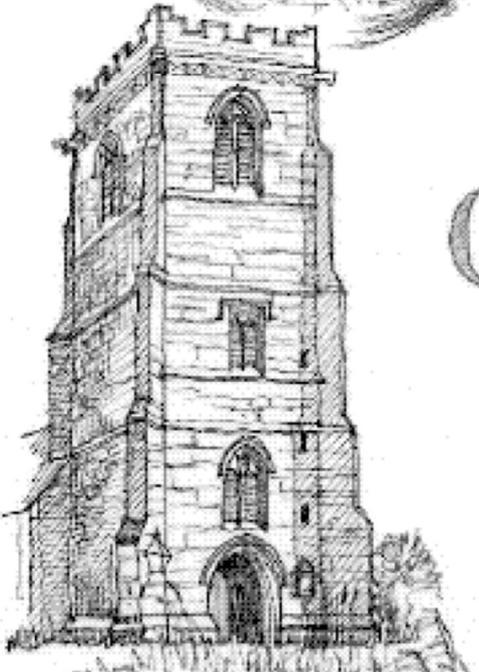


Walton



Christian LINK

**December
January
2025/2026**



Wymeswold



Prestwold

Cotes

Church, Community and Parish News for the villages of
Wymeswold, Burton on the Wolds, Hoton, Cotes, Prestwold and Walton on the Wolds.

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The Christian *Link*



December 2025
January 2026

Church News

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

As we enter December and the year draws to a close, we find ourselves once again at the threshold of Advent—a season that invites us to slow down, to wait, and to watch with expectation. The nights are long, the air carries a chill, and yet there is a quiet beauty to these days. Amid the darkness, candles are lit one by one, and with each small flame, our hope grows brighter. Advent is a time of promise: a reminder that even in the shadowed places of our world and our hearts, God's light is drawing near.

In many ways, our world feels full of waiting—waiting for peace, for healing, for reconciliation, for a sense of stability and hope. The message of Advent speaks directly into that longing. It tells us that God has not forgotten us, that He comes to dwell among us, not as a distant figure, but as Emmanuel—God with us. It is a truth that changes everything, if only we allow it to take root in us.

The Christmas story, though familiar, remains astonishing. God chooses to come among us, not with splendour or might, but in simplicity and vulnerability: a child born in a stable, laid in a manger, surrounded by ordinary people. Shepherds and angels, travellers and innkeepers—all are drawn into the story. In that moment, heaven touches earth. And through that child, the light of God's love begins to shine into every corner of human life.

As we prepare once more to celebrate the birth of Christ, I encourage you to take time to notice the signs of God's presence among us. We may glimpse Him in the kindness of a neighbour, in a shared meal, in the laughter of children, or in a moment of quiet prayer. The same God who came to Mary and Joseph still comes to us today, often in unexpected ways.

In the midst of the season's busyness—shopping, cooking, wrapping, travelling—try to find a few moments each day simply to stop and breathe. Light a candle, read a verse of Scripture, say a prayer of thanks. These small acts of stillness are ways of preparing a place for Christ to be born again in our hearts.

I want to thank you all for your faithfulness through the past

year—for your prayers, your service, and the many ways you support one another. The life of our parishes is made rich by the love and generosity that so many of you show, often quietly and unseen. You are a living sign of God's presence in this community, just as the Christ child is a living sign of God's presence in the world.

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts this Christmas, and may the coming year bring you renewed strength, hope, and joy. Whatever lies ahead, we go forward together, knowing that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

With every blessing for Advent and Christmas,

Rev'd Clive
Rector of the Barrow and Wolds Group

Heritage Project Wymeswold Family Discoveries



Over the last five months, St Mary's Church heritage project has organised several events to help people research their family histories. In September and October, the Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society ran two workshops for us on how to research family history.

They gave presentations, on researching family ancestors and on house histories, all illustrated with examples from Wymeswold. We also had lots of hands-on research time, aided by experts from the Society.

Three outcomes really stand out. First, how addictive family research can be – once a family member is found in the records discovering more about them is compulsive. Second, family history is full of surprises; one of our group members discovered the existence of two uncles he had known nothing about. Third, how moving it can be. The most memorable find was by Chris Kirk, who found a beautiful photograph of his grandmother, which he had never seen before. Our appreciation goes to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, whose grant has allowed us to organise these, and a range of forthcoming, activities.

Elizabeth Critchley

What's in this Christian Link?

Pages 3-5	Church News
Pages 6-8	Wymeswold News
Page 7 & 9	End of the Christian Link letters
Page 10-12	Burton, Walton and Hoton News
Page 13	General news and Diary Dates
Page 14	Church Services and contacts

This is the Last Christian Link

Please see Page 7 & 9

Thanks to **Liz Gray** for desktop publishing.
Thanks to **Julian Gray** for proof reading this issue.
Thanks to **Susan Crinage** for the original cover design.

News from Wymeswold St Mary's

Christmas is nearly here but before I turn to details of St Mary's plans for Christmas, I want to mention three past events.

First, the village Remembrance Service held on 9 November. There are so many people to thank but a special thank you to Peter Blount for reorganising this service so promptly and with his usual efficiency when St Mary's was still under wraps, enabling the village to come together as it always does to remember all those, especially from Wymeswold, who gave their lives in war.

Secondly, many thanks to the members of the Rutland Family History Society who led a Workshop on 27 October. They dealt with questions on families, places, houses etc both generally and with family histories of those attending. It was absolutely fascinating as well as helpful to anyone looking at their family history.

Thirdly, thank you to all those who organised the Wymeswold School Stained Glass Exhibition. Most of all though, a huge thank you to all the children whose beautiful work was exhibited – a lot of talented young people.

Our first Heritage event in December, at 1.45pm on Saturday 6th is a lecture by Richard Ellison on The Stones of St Mary, beginning with a short tour round the church. This looks to be very interesting. *Full details can be found on the poster further on in the Link.*

The second is also on 6 December, at 7.30pm when the well-known local Global Harmony Community Choir (not a gospel choir as said in error in last month's Link) will be holding a concert of Traditional Carols and Songs from around the world in the church. *Full details, including ticket prices, can be found on their poster further on in the Link.*

Moving forwards, **St Mary's annual Mince Pie Morning takes place on Saturday 13 between 10am and 12 noon**, when we welcome the arrival of the Christmas tree into the church and decorate it while we enjoy mince pies and mulled wine. This year, in addition, there is a Free Christmas Tree Decorations Workshop for Adults and Children.

The following evening, **December 14, at 6pm there is the Carol Service**, with traditional readings and congregational carols led by the choir. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Our Crib Service will be held on Christmas Eve at 4pm, always one of the highlights of Christmas, a wonderful service with whole families attending with their little ones and a wonderful air of excitement and anticipation. Last but very much not least, **Midnight Mass will be held at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve**. All are warmly welcomed to share in this very special service. There is no requirement to take communion if you are not accustomed to do so.

Details of all the above will also be appearing on posters around the village and on the Village website.

If you are able to help with Mince Pie Morning or the Carol Service, please contact Elizabeth on 07769 686220 or by email at ekcritchley@btinternet.com. All ages are invited to participate in the Carol Service, so readers, musicians and singers please contact Elizabeth.

Do come along to join us at any of our services or events; you will be most welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of everyone at St Mary's.

Elizabeth Critchley

News from St Andrew's, Prestwold

Before I begin our December/January report, I have some sad News in that Harry Heaney, a member of our "St Andrew's 31 Club" passed away peacefully right at the end of October and as this report is written early in November, details are not yet available. In the meantime, all at St. Andrews send our condolences, love and prayers to Harry's family. God Bless Harry: We too will really miss you but we are comforted in the knowledge that you are now happily reunited with Margaret who you really missed.

You may be asking, what is the "St Andrew's 31 Club"? Well, "Harry, his wife Margaret and friends, Beryl and Mary were all born within 3 months of each other in 1931 and because of this, referred to as being members of the "31 Club".

Sadly, the first three, Harry, Margaret and Beryl have died and thankfully, much loved Mary is the last surviving member. Keep well Mary and don't ever think of dying!

Our afternoon teas now at Barrow-on-Soar Village Hall are still going well and the following dates on which they are to be held are 7th December, 13th January, 17th February, 10th March, again from 2.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. As usual. everyone is welcome – young and old.

On **Sunday December 14th** we will be holding the **St Andrew's Christmas Craft Fair at the Hoton Village Hall** between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Last year this proved to be a very enjoyable day and all seemed to enjoy our array of drinks and cakes which helped to boost our much needed funds. So, thank you to everyone who came along to support us. Very much appreciated. Hope to see you again this year.

December – the month of Celebration - We know that there has been a great deal of planning during the year to ensure that this sparkling month of anticipation, excitement and joyful giving honours the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th. St. Andrew's Church and all in the Barrow & Wolds Group of churches has been no exception. To this end a big thankyou must go to Reverend Clive, all the other Clergy in the Group, Collette and all those Volunteers who ensure that we have a wonderful lead up to the day for opening the churches not only for Christmas but also for services on a Sunday and for being there every other day of the year should we need you: so reassuring.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE REPAIR OF THE TOWER ROOF.

St. Andrew's is nestled in between spinneys in the beautiful grounds of the Prestwold Estate and is the Parish Church for people living in the villages of Hoton, Burton-on-the-Wolds, Cotes and Prestwold. The church belongs to The Church of England so we can call it "OUR CHURCH". There is a general assumption that this church is part of the Prestwold Hall Estate which is not so.

If you haven't been before, the church is a beautiful, little historical Parish church with a BIG PROBLEM in that the Tower roof urgently needs replacing. An initial amount of money needs to be raised by us before we can apply for grants which we intend to do – However, before we apply for the majority of the grants, we need to be seen to have collected a reasonable sum - in our case we estimate that to be another £10,000.

I am asking you please if you can help us to raise this initial sum by making a donation. I realise that in this country and, it appears all over the world, there is extreme financial pressure at the moment but we are not asking for hundreds (unless you have it spare!) - anything you can manage would be greatly appreciated. We also have an "easy fundraising account" whereby every time you shop online, a



large number of companies ask where you would like to make a free donation. -if you participate in this and with Christmas being in a few months time, I feel sure this would be quite a good little earner.

The easy fundraising account is
“easyfundraising.org.uk/standrewschurchprestwold”

I sincerely hope that you can help us with raising this money for the repair of the Tower Roof - it is rather an urgent project and any donations would be most welcome. We look forward to seeing you at the various functions. If you are new to us please come and introduce yourselves - we'd love to meet you.

Have a great Christmas and let's hope a cracking New Year.

*God Bless
Adena Hecks*

Wymeswold Methodist News

We have a busy month ahead of us at the Methodist Chapel as we celebrate Advent and Christmas. We will be hosting Experience Christmas on 3rd and 4th December for some classes of Wymeswold Primary School and are looking forward to meeting the children and taking them through the Christmas Experience Journey. **On Friday 5th December** we plan to sing carols outside Chapel in the evening. We hope this will be part of a bigger event being planned for the lighting of the Christmas tree. Keep checking our Facebook page and the Sale-Swap-Wanted In Wymeswold page for more details. We would love as many of you and your families to come along and join us as possible. We will also confirm the timings when the children visit us for the Experience Journey and send them home with a reminder of the event, so please check their bags on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th for more details. If you can't make the Friday night why not pop in to see us on Saturday 6th December from 10.30am to noon, when our much loved Christmas Mini Market will be in full swing. We will have home made mince pies, jams, produce and craft items for sale, with a gift stall and our raffle. Come along and have a hot drink and a mince pie and get into the Christmas spirit.

On Wednesday 10th December we are looking forward to hosting the Wolds Choir Christmas Concert. Please look out for the posters.

On Sunday 14th December at 6pm we will be joining with our friends and fellow villagers for the Annual Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's at 6pm.

On Sunday 21st December at 11am we will be having a Christingle service. If you have always wondered what a Christingle is, come along at 11am to our informal Christingle service when we will be making the Christingles, sharing in refreshments and singing the Christingle song. This is a very family friendly event to which we extend a very warm welcome.

On Christmas morning we will celebrate the birthday of Jesus with family worship at 9.30am, which will be led by Eleri Bristow, our Local Lay Pastor. We look forward to seeing you.

Since Easter we have been opening our doors for many new and exciting events. If you came by the Chapel on Halloween and shared in cake and refreshments, or have been to Warm Welcome, or our Activity Afternoons, we really want you to feel part of our Chapel family. We are hosting a party which will include a Chapel Activity Afternoon followed by a Warm Welcome Tea and a Quiz on Tuesday 30th December as a celebration of everything we have done this year and to say thank you to everyone involved. Please come and join us, even if it's only for part of the afternoon. 2025 has been a busy year at the Chapel. Please do take one of the opportunities listed above to come and talk to us about what you liked, or if we didn't quite get it right, how we

can improve what we do next year. The Methodist Church building sits in the centre of the village and we are working hard to develop a community of people also at the village centre. Be a part of the planning for 2026, bring your thoughts and ideas for us to consider and build into our worship and community activities.

In January we hold our annual Covenant Service at which we, as Methodists, renew our promises to God, and look forward to the year ahead. We have a short break after all the hustle and bustle of Christmas with no coffee morning in January, but will hopefully meet again on Feb 7th for coffee/tea and chat. We are excited by what 2026 may have in store for us and where and how we are being called by God to show His love for everyone in our community in Wymeswold and the surrounding villages. We invite you to come and join the Chapel family and feel that love and support for yourselves and then share it with others.

Christmas Mini Market

Saturday 6th 10.30am to Noon (See Posters)

Warm Welcome -December

Tuesday 2nd Dec 1 30pm to 3pm

Tuesday 9th Dec 1.30pm to 3pm

Tuesday 16st Dec 1.30pm to 3pm

Tuesday 23rd Dec 1.30pm to 3pm

Christmas Party - Activities & Warm Welcome

Tuesday 30th Dec

Activities Afternoon 2pm to 4pm

Warm Welcome 2pm to 4pm

Celebration Bring and Share Tea & Quiz 4pm to 5pm (approx)

WYMESWOLD METHODIST SERVICES at 11am DECEMBER

Sunday 14th United Holy Communion - Rev Nina Austin

Sunday 21st Christingle - Mrs Jenny Oliver

Christmas Day 09.30am - Family Service – Mrs Eleri Bristow

Sunday 28th at Hoby Chapel Circuit United Service

JANUARY

11th United Holy Communion – Covenant – Rev Nina Austin

25th Preaching Service – Mrs Janet Norburn

Warm Welcome – January

Tues 6th Jan 1.30pm to 3pm

Tues 13th Jan 1.30pm to 3pm

Tues 20th Jan 1.30pm to 3pm

Tues 27th Jan Soup Lunch 1pm to 3pm

Margaret Folwell

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Wymeswold News

WYMESWOLD PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Councillor resignation

After many years of dedicated service, Adrian Cooke has unfortunately decided that the time has come to step down from the Parish Council. Adrian played a key role in pushing for the pedestrian crossing on the main road, and did a phenomenal amount of work in terms of landscaping and biodiversity. He has spent many, many hours organising and planting trees and bulbs around the village. We will miss him at meetings, and offer heartfelt thanks for all his hard work over the years.

Councillor vacancy

At the time of writing, a Notice of Vacancy has been published, allowing 10 or more electors the chance to request an election from Charnwood Borough Council to fill the current vacancy on the Council. If no such request is made, the Council can move to co-opt a candidate. We expect to do this at our January meeting. Our Co-option Policy, detailing who can apply and how to do so, can be found on our website. Anyone interested in joining the Council is asked to contact the Clerk to find out more. We meet at 7pm on the first Monday of most months.

New village website

By the time you read this the new village website www.wymeswold.com should be up and running. This will cover all aspects of village life except the Parish Council, and has been made possible thanks to the generous National Lottery Heritage Fund grant given to St Mary's Church. There will be a link to the Parish Council website on this new website, however, so it really is a one-stop shop for all village information. A huge thank you to Janet Thomas and Liz Tingle who have worked so hard to get the new website up and running, and to Janet for supporting the Parish Council page on the old website for many years.

Next meeting

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on Monday 1st December 2025 and Monday 5th January 2026 at 7pm, upstairs at the Memorial Hall, Clay Street (lift available). Members of the public are welcome to attend, and the first 15 minutes are given over to public participation.

On behalf of Wymeswold Parish Council, I would like to wish all parishioners a very Happy Christmas and every best wish for a happy and healthy 2026.

Emma Andrews
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
clerk@wymeswoldparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.wymeswoldparishcouncil.gov.uk
07592 382114

Wymeswold Flood Warden Group

As you may have seen, we decided to set up a Flood Warden Group for our village after the flooding that occurred in Jan 2025. There are currently three wardens in place - myself (Steve Morris) along with Jeff Weston and Francesca Pearce.

Although we are still awaiting formal training from the County Council - which has been cancelled three times since May - we are still making progress towards some of our goals to hopefully ensure we as a community are better prepared next time flooding occurs.

Leaflets have been posted through over 100 doors on Brook Street over the last few weeks to gain more insight into properties that have flooded previously and also to identify householders who consider themselves to be at risk of flooding in the future.

We also asked residents if they wanted to be notified by text or an automated phone call if the water level in the brook reaches certain levels. There has been a good response to this with over 60 people registering so hopefully we can all get a more accurate and timely notification of imminent flooding.

Please note that this service is free of charge and is not just limited to Brook Street residents. If you have an interest in signing up for this, please let me know - contact details below.

We are still pursuing having the ability to close sections of Brook Street in the event of flooding. This would hopefully be delegated to us from the Highways Dept at Leics County Council. Although the flooded road may be passable with care by HGVs, Tractors etc, these can cause considerable damage if not driven courteously as they can create a bow wave which can temporarily raise the height of the flood water considerably.

We have also applied for a grant from a scheme launched by Charnwood Borough Council which aims to distribute £150,000 across parishes affected by flooding. We are intending to use this grant to fund a flood locker to store road signs, traffic cones and any other things we'll need going forward.

Once we have a few more things in place, I will no doubt be asking for more volunteers to help us out as the necessity arises.

Although the group was instigated by the direct issue on Brook Street, we are intending to provide a service across the village to provide specific support in the event of any actual flooding events. One of our group - Jeff - is also the vice Chair of the Parish Council so if you have any issues or concerns regarding potential flooding risks caused by new developments in the village or proposed solar farms for example, please contact him using the email address below.

Steve Morris - 07920 260706 or
wymeswoldfloodwarden@gmail.com

Jeff Weston - jeff.weston@wymeswoldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Steve Morris

Wymeswold Christmas Carol Singing



**On the Stockwell
6pm Friday 5th December**

Come and join us again this year, on the Stockwell, for some traditional community Christmas Carol singing.

(If the weather isn't great, we will be in the Methodist Chapel)

Peter Blount

LAST ISSUE OF THE CHRISTIAN LINK

Dear Residents

Despite our best efforts over the last few years, the Link has become financially unsustainable, so this is the last issue. Donations and paid adverts have gone down & printing costs have gone up. The answer is not to soldier on but accept that the Link is no longer fit for purpose in the modern era of mobile phones & social media.

The good news is that a new Parish Magazine will be launched early next year for the whole Benefice, which will be quarterly and will be by personal subscription only at just £3 per year for 4 issues. It will contain all the usual community events and will have paid advertisements, so businesses will still be able to advertise locally in a printed format. Please see page 9 for further details

I have enjoyed being the Link Editor for the last 23 years & I wish you all a very Happy Xmas.

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FURTHER CONTENT TO MYSELF OR CHRIS KEELING.

Best Wishes
Jenny Bokor

Coffee and Cake



Friday 5th and 19th December 2025

At
Jubilee Room, Wymeswold Memorial hall

10am-12

Everyone welcome



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**MINCE PIE
MORNING**
St Marys
Saturday 13th December
10.00am-12 Noon
Mince pies & Mulled Wine
Arrival of the Christmas Tree 11am
Raffle
Free Christmas Tree Decoration Workshop
for Adults and Children 10am to 12noon

Heritage Fund
Barrow and Wolds Group
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**Christmas at
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Saturday 6th December @ 7.30

Traditional Carols and Songs
from around the world..
Sing the World, Feel the Joy!

Refreshments & Raffle

Tickets adults £10 children £5
available from
Wymeswold Pharmacy, Choir members or
ring 01509 881656

Heritage Fund

Wymeswold Remembrance Day



Thank you all for making our Remembrance possible. It's such an important national, local and Scouting event. It is about our community coming together. A special thank to Rory for his thoughtful poem.

There was no Church Service this year due to the renovations at St Mary's Church.

The Scout and Guide Parade paraded around the village to the Memorial at the village Hall on Clay Street. There was the usual Revival band, RAF, Scouts, Guides reading of the Citation, wreath laying and the Roll of Honour.

We remembered those who died in Wymeswold in the Wellington crash. Their lasting memorial is on the wall outside the Pharmacy.

Peter Blount

Poem, Willows

Why do you wilt, willows?

We remember the scuffle of Soldiers, the commence of conflict, the hollowness of hearts...empty...empty.

Why are you quiet, willows?

We remember the wounds of warriors,
the breaking of bones.
The Scattering of shells...bursting...bursting.

Why do you whine, willows?

We remember the sound of screams, the sacrifice of souls.
The riot of rapid fire...hurting...hurting.

Why do you moan, willows?

We remember the loss of living.
The loss of Dads
The rot of recruits...mourning... Mourning.

Why do you weep, willows?

We remember the charging, waiting,
living, hating...dominating.

We remember the aching, taking, dying,
breaking, Slaving...quaking.

We remember the raiding, losing, storming,
Oozing... and harassing.

We remember all too clearly...all too often.

We weep because others forget.

*Written by Rory
Age 10yrs*



Last Issue of the Christian Link

I am sorry to hear that this will be last issue of The Christian Link, and want to express my sincere thanks to Jenny, Chris, Liz and Rex for all their hard work and dedication over the 23 years since this magazine began.

Whilst we communicate in many different ways now, including websites and social media, I recognise that there are still many people who rely on a written publication for information about events, church services, and happenings around our villages. We will therefore be launching a new quarterly benefice-wide magazine next year, this will also replace the Barrow & Walton Parish Magazine in due course.

I am delighted that Richard Hudson has agreed to take a lead on this as editor. This new magazine will cover all four churches in the Barrow and Wolds Group, and the villages of Barrow, Walton, Burton, Prestwold, Cotes, Hoton and Wymeswold.

The new magazine will begin in March 2026 and will be published in March, June, September and December.

Unlike the Link, this will not be circulated to every house but will be distributed to those who wish to subscribe to receive this. There will also be a small cost for subscribing to this of £3 per year to help cover the cost of production. **If you would like to receive the new magazine when it begins, please contact the Benefice Office with your name and address on 01509 416520 or enquiries@barrowandwoldsgroup.com.**

Thank you to all who have contributed in any way to The Link, thank you to Richard for taking on the new magazine and my very best wishes to you all for the Christmas season.

*With every blessing,
Rev'd Clive*



We all wish you a Happy Christmas and the hope that more peace will come to the world in 2026.



From;- Michael, Stephen, Will, Ollie and Sophie Burden
and
Emma, Gregor, Georgia,
Alec and Callum Purcell.



Christmas Collection 12th 13th 14th December 2025

These are such difficult times and people are sadly finding themselves in need of using food banks. Demand on these charities has risen significantly. The Loughborough Food Bank is extremely grateful for the donations that have been given during the October and November collection, so we thought we would arrange a Christmas collection.

A collection will take place over the weekend of the 12th/13th and 14th of December outside 56 Brook Street. Please could any donations be dropped off in the box.

Items requested (but not limited to)

- Boxes of biscuits
- Christmas snacks
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned Meat
- Razors
- Washing pods
- Washing up liquid
- Kitchen roll.

The Food bank have respectfully asked that no mince pies are donated as sadly previous years they have been inundated and many went to waste

Thank you so much to each and every person that has donated to this amazing charity it really is appreciated. 😊

LET'S GET TOGETHER



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**Fri Jan 9th & 23
then 1st and 3rd Friday each month**

Fri Feb 6 & 20

Fri Mar 6 & 20

Fri Apr 3 & 17

10am to Midday

Jubilee Room, Memorial Hall,
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*All profits for local groups and charities



News Burton, Walton

BURTON ON THE WOLDS GARDENING CLUB

The final event of the Gardening Club's 2025 calendar will be on **Thursday 11th December**; it's our **Annual General Meeting** followed by a social evening with refreshments provided. As usual, this will take place in Burton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

If you would like to hear more about what we have been doing this year or are perhaps thinking of joining us next year, do join us: we are a welcoming bunch! The Gardening Club is looking for volunteers! We are a very small committee and could really use some able-bodied help to get the Village Hall set up before each meeting and packed up again at the end. Also, we are always happy to welcome new members to our small committee – if you might be interested, please do talk to any of our committee or email me. Might you be willing to volunteer?

Our 2026 programme is now almost finalised; copies will be distributed at the AGM. If you would like a copy emailed to you, just let me know.

The Gardening Club always welcomes new members, or local people who would just like to attend for the occasional meeting - there is no obligation to join! Club Membership costs £15 per year, or £25 for a "couple's membership". Meetings are free to members and the charge for non-members attending is £4 per session. You can pay your membership fee at any meeting or by BACS (please contact me for details j666edwards@gmail.com) We welcome new members from the neighbouring villages as well as Burton.

Our **2026 programme** kicks off on **Thursday January 15th 2026** with a meal at the Greyhound at 6.45pm.

Seasons Greetings from
Burton Gardening Club Committee 2025: Maggie Pickford (Chair), Sue Eggleston (Secretary), Jackie Edwards (Treasurer), Rosemary Adams (Bookings Secretary).

Jackie Edwards

Events at Hoton Village Hall

Friday December 5th

6.00pm Christmas Light Switch On
Join us at the Hall for the Big Christmas Tree Light Switch on Mulled wine and mince pies
Christmas Music
Most amazing Christmas hat competition
Children's Crafts and Biscuit Decorating
Donations to Alzheimer's Society

Sunday December 14th

Christmas Craft Fair, proceeds to St Andrews Church Roof

Thursday December 18th

10.30-12.00 Thirsty Thursday Christmas Coffee morning

There is no First Friday in January as we have The Quiz of the Year

Friday January 16th 2026

Book your place and get swotting ...
Best quiz in the area, spot prizes, fish and chip van.
Bar Open
Please note this is a sell-out event so please email hotonvillagehall@gmail.com to book your place.

Other events at the village hall include:

Monday morning

Annette Holliday
Fitness Class

Monday Evening

Brownies

Wednesday evening

Table Tennis 6.30pm drop in all welcome

Friday Morning

Mindful Movements 11.30am
Emma Halliday

*Contact the Hall for further details
Hotonvillagehall@gmail.com*

BURTON ON THE WOLDS, COTES AND PRESTWOLD PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH BUDGET FOR 2026/2027

The Parish Council are currently reviewing and working on the budget for the next financial year 2026/2027.

POPPIES FOR THE PARISH

The lamppost poppies in the Village look lovely and the Parish Council would like to thank the residents that take the time every year to put them up. The Parish Council will be purchasing more lamppost poppies to replace some that are looking a little worn by the weather and also to increase the display thought the Parish of Burton on the Wolds Cotes and Prestwold.

LOUGHBOROUGH ROAD PLANNING APPLICATION

The Parish Council continues to discuss and submit comments regarding the planning application for the Loughborough Road development and will be representing the Parish at the next planning meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd December at 7.30 p.m. at Burton on the Wolds Village Hall, unless advised otherwise.

*Caroline Drake
Parish Clerk*

E: burtoncotesprestwold@gmail.com

W: www.burtoncotesprestwoldparishcouncil.org.uk

Teams 4U Christmas Shoe Box Gifts

Huge thanks to everyone who contributed knitted, crocheted, and stitched items for the Christmas 2025 campaign sending boxes full of presents and love to children in Eastern Europe.

This year we gave nearly 1000 items such as hats, scarves, toys and bags to be used as "fillers" to bolster boxes contributed by people from all over the East Midlands. These handmade goodies often provide a magnificent "wow-factor" when the boxes are opened. At our meeting in October, we again saw photos and heard stories of the distribution process which ensures the boxes go to children who are truly in need.

In addition to contributions brought to St Andrew's Church for the coffee morning, we also received many other lovely things in the weeks before, and we are truly grateful to everyone who has helped us this year.

And please keep crafting... Christmas 2026 is only a few months away!

Sandi Cowell (07913 183892)

WALTON ON THE WOLDS PARISH COUNCIL

Thank you to community volunteers

Walton on the Wolds Parish Council is very grateful for all those who volunteer their time to the community, whether at the church, taking on additional mowing, putting up Christmas decorations, helping at the Hall, to name just a few. This is much appreciated by all parishioners and by the Parish Council. Thank you!

Overgrown hedges

Now is a great time to prune any hedges that have grown rapidly over the summer and are obstructing some of the pavements. All hedge trimming should be carried out before nesting season (March to late summer).

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 15th December, starting at 6:30pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend, and the first 15 minutes is available for public participation.

Wishing all parishioners a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2026.

Emma Andrews
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Walton on the
Wolds Parish Council
clerk@waltononthewoldspc.gov.uk
www.waltononthewoldspc.gov.uk



Coffee & cake!



Join us at **Burton on the Wolds**
village hall

21st October , 11th November, 9th December
13th January, 17th February, 10th March
2.30-4pm

Everyone welcome.



Barrow and Wolds Group

*HOLY TRINITY * ST MARY * ST ANDREW * ST MARY

The Building Stones of St Mary's Church, Wymeswold: their origin, history and geology.

By Richard Ellison

When: 6 December 2025.

Time: Tour at 1.45pm. Talk at 2pm.

Where: St Mary's Church, Wymeswold.

Free entry. Refreshments available afterwards.



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General News

The next WHO meeting is **Tuesday 9th December**. Note this is the second not the third Tuesday in the month. Philip Thorpe, the current Chairman of the WHO, will reveal more about his relatives in a talk called **'A Family Photograph'**.



Using information from the 1921 census and further genealogical research, he has brought to life families living in Stanford on Soar and Normanton on Soar. Mostly of the Lowesby lineage, there are also Bowthams, Wyes, Barnatts, Carvers, Savages and Isaacs.

This talk will take place in the WHO's usual venue: the Jubilee Room of Wymeswold Memorial Hall, Clay Street, Wymeswold, LE12 6TY and start promptly at 7.45 p.m.. Non-members most welcome but will be asked to contribute £3.00. There is a lift to the Jubilee Room if visitors have difficulty with stairs.

Bob Trubshaw
Vice-Chair, Wolds Historical Organisation
01949 850631
bobtrubs@indigogroup.co.uk



Diary Dates

December

- Tuesday 2nd Warm Welcome, 1.30-3pm at Wymeswold Methodist Chapel
- Friday 5th Coffee morning at Wymeswold Memorial hall 10am-12
- Friday 5th Christmas Tree light switch on at Hoton Village Hall 6.30pm
- Saturday 6th Christmas mini market at Wymeswold Chapel 10.30-noon
- Tuesday 9th Coffee & cake at Burton on the Wolds Village Hall 2.30-4pm
- Thursday 11th Garden Club AGM 7.30pm at Burton Village Hall
- Saturday 13th Christmas Tree and Mince Pie morning at Wymeswold St Mary's
- Sunday 14th Christmas Craft Fayre at Hoton Village Hall
- Tuesday 16th Warm Welcome, 1.30-3pm at Wymeswold Methodist Chapel
- Thursday 18th Christmas Coffee morning at Hoton Village Hall 10.30-Noon
- Friday 19th Coffee morning at Wymeswold Memorial hall 10am-12
- Tuesday 23rd Warm Welcome, 1.30-3pm at Wymeswold Methodist Chapel
- Tuesday 30th Warm Welcome and Activities 2-5pm at Wymeswold Methodist Chapel

January 2026

- Tuesday 6th Warm Welcome, 1.30-3pm at Wymeswold Methodist Chapel
- Friday 9th Coffee morning at Wymeswold Memorial hall 10am-12
- Tuesday 13th Coffee & cake at Burton on the Wolds Village Hall 2.30-4pm
- Tuesday 13th Warm Welcome, 1.30-3pm at Wymeswold Methodist Chapel
- Thursday 15th Garden Club meal at The Greyhound, Burton on the Wolds. 6.45pm
- Friday 16th Quiz night at Hoton Village Hall
- Tuesday 20th Warm Welcome, 1.30-3pm at Wymeswold Methodist Chapel
- Friday 23rd Coffee morning at Wymeswold Memorial hall 10am-12
- Tuesday 27th Soup Lunch 1-3pm at Wymeswold Methodist Chapel

February

- Friday 6th Coffee morning at Wymeswold Memorial hall 10am-12
- Tuesday 17th Coffee & cake at Burton on the Wolds Village Hall 2.30-4pm
- Friday 20th Coffee morning at Wymeswold Memorial hall 10am-12

March

- Friday 6th Coffee morning at Wymeswold Memorial hall 10am-12
- Tuesday 10th Coffee & cake at Burton on the Wolds Village Hall 2.30-4pm
- Friday 13th All for Your Delight - Comedy music theatre - Bar opens 7.30pm, Performance 8pm at Wymeswold Memorial Hall
- Friday 20th Coffee morning at Wymeswold Memorial hall 10am-12

April

- Friday 3rd Coffee morning at Wymeswold Memorial hall 10am-12
- Friday 17th Coffee morning at Wymeswold Memorial hall 10am-12

Church Services

December Services 2025

Sunday 7th December

9.15am St Andrew's, Prestwold - Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Trinity, Barrow - Christingle
11.00am St Mary's, Wymeswold - Holy Communion
6.00pm Holy Trinity, Barrow - Holy Communion

Sunday 14th December

9.15am St Andrew's, Prestwold - Morning Praise
10.30am Holy Trinity, Barrow - Holy Communion
4.00pm St Mary's, Walton - Lessons and Carols
6.00pm St Mary's, Wymeswold - Lessons and Carols

Sunday 21st December

9.15am St Andrew's, Prestwold - Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Trinity, Barrow - Holy Communion
11.00am St Mary's, Wymeswold - Holy Communion
4.00pm St Andrew's, Prestwold - Lessons and Carols
6.00pm Holy Trinity, Barrow - Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm St Andrew's, Prestwold - Cribble
4.00pm St Mary's, Walton - Crib Service
4.00pm St Mary's, Wymeswold - Crib Service
5.30pm Holy Trinity, Barrow - Crib Service
11.30pm Holy Trinity, Barrow - Midnight Mass
11.30pm St Andrew's, Prestwold - Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.30am Holy Trinity, Barrow - Christmas Holy Communion
11.00am St Mary's, Wymeswold - Christmas Holy Communion

Sunday 28th December

10.30am Holy Trinity, Barrow - Said Eucharist

January Services 2026

Sunday 4th January

9.15am, St Andrew's, Prestwold - Holy Communion
10.30am, Holy Trinity, Barrow - Morning Praise
11am, St Mary's, Wymeswold - Holy Communion
6pm, Holy Trinity, Barrow - Holy Communion

Wednesday 7th January

10am, Holy Trinity, Barrow - Holy Communion

Sunday 11th January

9.15am, St Andrew's, Prestwold - Morning Praise
10.30am, Holy Trinity, Barrow - Holy Communion
6pm, St Mary's, Wymeswold - Holy Communion BCP

Wednesday 14th January

10am, Holy Trinity, Barrow - Morning Prayer

Sunday 18th January

9.15am, St Andrew's, Prestwold - Holy Communion
10.30am, Holy Trinity, Barrow - Holy Communion
11am, St Mary's, Wymeswold - Morning Praise
6pm, Holy Trinity, Barrow - Healing Service

Wednesday 21st January

10am, Holy Trinity, Barrow - Holy Communion

Sunday 25th January

9.15am, St Andrew's, Prestwold - Holy Communion BCP
10.30am, Holy Trinity, Barrow - Holy Communion
11am, St Mary's, Wymeswold - Morning Praise
6pm, St Mary's, Wymeswold - Evensong BCP

Wednesday 28th January

10am, Holy Trinity, Barrow - Morning Prayer

Please see page 5 for Methodist Services for December 2025 and January 2026

Roman Catholic Services: East Leake & Keyworth:

Father Michael (Parish Priest), Our Lady of the Angels, Main Street, East Leake (01509 852147).

Our Lady of the Angels – Catholic Church (eastleakecatholic.org).

Holy Mass - Saturday (Vigil) at 6.00 pm, Sunday Mass 11am, Children's Liturgy available at each Sunday morning Mass. Our Lady of the Angels, Main Street, East Leake.

Sunday at 11 am St Margaret Clitherow, Willow Brook, Keyworth.

St Mary's, Ashby Road in Loughborough Holy Mass Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9am and 11.15 am Parish priest Fr Paul Gilham IC Tel 01509 262123.

Methodist

Rev Nina Austin: revbiker_nj59@btinternet.com Tel: 01664 566847 Day Off: Saturday

Superintendent Minister: Rev Karen Beecham, Logos House, 23 Lemontree Lane, Loughborough, LE11 2QS (01509219804) Day Off: Friday

Lay Pastor Eleri Bristow, Email: eleri@loughboroughmethodist.co.uk or by text/WhatsApp/voice message on my work mobile: 07305 366423

Circuit Administrator: Mrs Josephine Wills, c/o Trinity Methodist Church Centre, Royland Road, Loughborough: (01509807441)

Office hrs: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am to 2pm loughboroughmethodist@gmail.com

Church Stewards: Margaret Folwell (880770).

Barrow Baptist Church

Ministers: Rev Neil Jones, Beveridge Street, Barrow upon Soar, 01509 416603 office@barrowbaptist.org.uk

Services are held at 10am on Sunday mornings. There are various mid-week groups for all ages, please contact us for more information.

Barrow & Wolds Group of Churches

The Benefice of Barrow-upon-Soar with Walton le Wolds, Wymeswold and Prestwold with Hoton.

For more information and details of services please check the website www.barrowandwoldsgroup.com.

Benefice Office - Collette Webster-Jones (Mon, Weds & Thurs 09.00 - 14.30).

T: 01509 416520

E: enquiries@barrowandwoldsgroup.com

Rector - Rev Clive Watts

T: 07534 899522

E: rev.clive.watts@barrowandwoldsgroup.com

Associate Priest - Rev Fiona Cotton-Betteridge

T: 07903 665912

E: rev.fiona@barrowandwoldsgroup.com

Curate - Rev Bob Edge

T: 07305 256652

E: rev.bob@barrowandwoldsgroup.com

Weddings - Collette Webster-Jones

T: 07881 449588

E: weddings@barrowandwoldsgroup.com

Churchwardens: Contact via Benefice Office

Holy Trinity, Barrow & St Mary, Walton - Jez Bowman, Kath Eastwood-Paramore, Richard Hudson and Ben Kingscott.

St Mary, Wymeswold - Richard Bimson.

St Andrew, Prestwold - Melanie Castledine.

Alison Matthews-Savage

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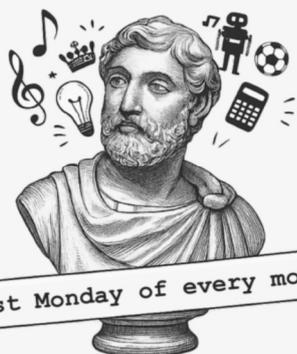
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