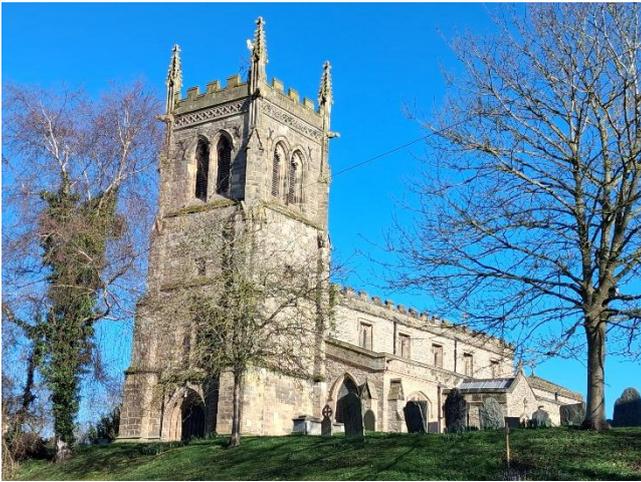


BARROW AND WOLDS GROUP



St. Mary's, Wymeswold



St. Andrew's, Prestwold



St. Mary's, Walton on the Wolds

**MARCH/APRIL
2026**



Holy Trinity, Barrow upon Soar

50p



Contact us

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 - Mike & Ruth Hyde

Churchwardens

- Holy Trinity, Barrow and St Mary's, Walton
 - Jez Bowman
 - Kath Eastwood-Paramore
 - Ben Kingscott
- St Andrew's, Prestwold
 - Melanie Castledine
- St Mary's, Wymeswold
 - Richard Bimson

To book your wedding contact:

Collette at weddings@barrowandwoldsgroup.com 07793 459062 or 01509 416520

Church office:

Our Benefice Administrator, Collette is available in the office, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 09.00am - 2.30pm - enquiries@barrowandwoldsgroup.com 01509 416520

To all readers – Welcome to your new magazine.

I'll begin with my very own U-turn as they've become fashionable of late. I'd previously announced that each magazine was to cover three months but as I started to plan for this first issue I realised that it would have to include details of events taking place towards the end of May. This just felt too far into the distance and so, with the approval of our Rector, the Rev. Clive Watts, this and future magazines will each cover two months, which will mean that you receive six editions each year.

When I was a child in the 1950s my grandmother used to receive a copy of the East Akeley Deanery magazine (I remember finding 'Akeley' a very strange word), in which she could have read the news from all the churches of the Deanery including those which comprise the current Barrow and Wolds Group. You can read extracts from the 1926 issues of this magazine within this one as Holy Trinity possesses bound copies from 1905 onwards. In more recent times, the parish of Barrow and Walton has had its own magazine and Wymeswold, Prestwold, Cotes, Hoton and Burton have been well served by The Christian Link, although the two magazines did, in recent years, share the same Pastoral Letter. Although I'm certain that many of you who have been readers of The Link for the past 23 years are sad to see it go, it does seem appropriate that the four churches that make up the Barrow and Wolds Group should now share full details of their news and activities to keep everyone involved, to provide the opportunity to remember people and events a little further apart in our prayers and to provide information which leads to more people attending events, both church and secular, away from their own village. This new magazine can enrich the lives of us all, whether regular churchgoers or not.

If you read this magazine and are not yet on the list of people who would like to have it delivered every two months for just £3 per year please contact our Benefice Administrator, Collette Webster-Jones (contact details on previous page) who will arrange it for you. Also contact Collette or me (again, see previous page) if you have a business and may be interested in advertising in the magazine. I do hope you'll find these magazines of interest. If you have any comments, upcoming events you'd like to have included or ideas for future articles I'd love to hear from you. *Richard Hudson*

If you have an item for the MAY-JUNE magazine please submit it to Richard Hudson (editor) at 01509 413185, 07776 086 448 or richardhudson847@btinternet.com by FRIDAY 10th APRIL.

Many thanks to those people who previously received the Christian Link magazine and have now agreed to receive *and pay £3 for a year's* subscription to this new publication. We hope that in the future there will be many more of you.

Please publicise its existence and, if you found things to enjoy in its pages, please tell your friends. The previous sentence also applies to previous readers of the Barrow and Walton parish magazine.

MARCH AND APRIL IN OUR CHURCHES

March and April are inevitably dominated, as indeed they should be, by Lent and Easter. Lent, the forty days, excluding Sundays, between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, is one of those Christian festivals like Ascension Day and Pentecost of which the vast majority of our country's population will be almost totally unaware. Why is this? Most probably, I would think, because it is not an easy sell. In our consumerist society, fasting, one aspect of Lent, is not going to be of much value to Tesco or any other supermarket chain. At least Shrove Tuesday, the day before it begins, increases sales of eggs and lemons! Beside the fasting the festival is often referred to as a period of reflection as to how we can increase our commitment to our faith as well as seeking forgiveness. The subject of Lenten sermons such as the consideration of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness before he began his public ministry, besides being important in itself, also inevitably reminds churchgoers that we actually are in Lent and will perhaps inspire us to spend more time in reading our Bibles and praying in the days between those Sundays.

When we reach Holy Week which begins with Palm Sunday please do consider attending at least some of the daily evening services at Holy Trinity, Barrow and, on Maundy Thursday at St. Andrew's, Prestwold. Good Friday brings to Holy Trinity the usual morning event aimed at families, (see poster in this mag.) and 'Stations of the Cross' at Barrow while Wymeswold hosts an afternoon service. I do hope many of you will be at Holy Trinity at 7.30pm on the Saturday evening before Easter Sunday for the Easter Vigil, a service that I know that Rev. Clive, in welcoming the risen Christ, considers to be at least as significant as the Easter Sunday services. A Vigil does not mean that it will be an

extra long service but it is different as it begins with the lighting of the new Paschal candles for our four churches from a fire outside the church.

I'd like to draw your attention to two other events that take place in Barrow during Lent but which are open to people from all our churches. Already begun by the time you receive your magazine are the Friday 12.30pm Lent Lunches in Trinity Rooms (Holy Trinity's meeting room) organised by Churches Together in Barrow. You can expect to enjoy a choice of home-made soups along with bread, cheese, fruit etc. There is no set charge but we hope all who attend will donate generously to CTiB's charity of the year, Streetlight Trust, which supports young children who grow up living and working on the streets of Manila, the capital city of the Philippines. Rev. Clive will be spending two weeks after Easter visiting this charity and helping in their work.

The other event is 'Raise a Ribbon for Her' which has taken place at Holy Trinity each Mothering Sunday on the 4th Sunday of Lent, this year on March 15th. This was begun in 2021 when our previous way of celebrating this special day became impossible due to Covid restrictions. There are, of course, Mothering Sunday services in others of our churches but the flying ribbons of the Barrow event may also be viewed throughout the following week. You can read all about it in this magazine and, if you wish, be involved. On the following Sunday (March 22nd) all our churches combine to worship at St. Mary's, Wymeswold for their Patronal Festival, the nearest Sunday to the of the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25th.

The other major event taking place in our churches over these next two months also takes place at St. Mary's, Wymeswold as they celebrate the 180th anniversary of the reordering of the church by the famous architect Augustus Pugin on April 12th. That day a special Eucharist will take place (11am) but on the preceding day you have the opportunity to learn much more about Pugin and his work at the conference that the church is organising.

Finally, although you may have missed the official Snowdrop viewing day at St. Andrew's, Prestwold on January 15th, I know that they are still in flower as I write this. However, you may well be interested to visit St. Andrew's on 22nd March or 19th April to see, respectively, Primroses and Bluebells. Each event is from 2 until 4pm and includes bells, drinks and bells, the organ and a singalong. In this magazine you may also find the dates of a series of Afternoon Teas in

Burton on the Wolds, the first two of which are on 10th March and 14th April. Make sure you add these dates to your diary! Happy reading.

Richard Hudson

Services at Holy Trinity, Barrow

March 1st – 10.30am Morning Praise

6.00pm Holy Communion

March 2nd (Mon.) – 9.30am Ecumenical Prayer Gathering

(at Baptist church)

March 8th – 10.30am Holy Communion

March 15th – 10.30am MOTHERING SUNDAY Praise –

RAISE A RIBBON FOR HER

March 22nd - 10.30am Patronal Festival Group Holy Communion

at St. Mary's, Wymeswold

March 29th – Palm Sunday Holy Communion with Passion reading

March 29th, 30th, April 1st – 6pm Compline with Passion reading

April 2nd – 7.30pm Maundy Thursday – Foot washing and Last Supper

at St. Andrew's, Prestwold

April 3rd – 12 noon GOOD FRIDAY – Churches Together in Barrow service

at Methodist church

6pm Stations of the Cross

April 4th – 7.30pm Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil

April 5th – 10.30am EASTER SUNDAY Holy Communion

April 12th – 10.30am Holy Communion

April 13th (Mon) – 9.30am Ecumenical Morning Prayer (at HT)

April 19th – 10.30am Holy Communion

6pm Healing service

April 26th – 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesdays – 10am Morning Prayer (March 11th/25th April 15th/29th)

Wednesdays – 10am BCP Holy Communion (March 4th/18th April

8th/22nd)

The message of Easter:

'HE IS NOT HERE, FOR HE IS RISEN'

Matthew 28 v 6

Services at St. Mary's, Walton

April 5th – EASTER SUNDAY – 8.30am Holy Communion

Services at St. Mary's, Wymeswold

March 1st – 11.00am Holy Communion

March 8th – 6.00pm BCP Holy Communion

March 15th – 11.00am MOTHERING SUNDAY Praise

March 22nd – 10.30am ST. MARY'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL

– Group Holy Communion

6.00pm Festal Evensong, sung by the Soar Valley

Minster Community choirs

March 29th – 11.00am PALM SUNDAY Joint service with Methodists

April 3rd – 2.00pm GOOD FRIDAY Readings and Music from Taize

April 5th – EASTER SUNDAY Holy Communion

April 12th – 11.00am EUCHARIST to mark the

180th ANNIVERSARY of PUGIN'S reordering of St. Mary's

April 19th – 11.00am Morning Praise

April 26th – 11.00am Holy Communion

6.00pm Evensong BCP

Services at St. Andrew's, Prestwold

March 1st – 9.15am Holy Communion

March 8th – 9.15am Morning Praise

March 15th – 9.15am MOTHERING SUNDAY Praise

March 22nd - 10.30am Patronal Festival Holy Communion

at St. Mary's, Wymeswold

March 29th – 9.15am PALM SUNDAY Holy Communion with Passion readings

April 2nd – 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Foot washing and Last Supper

April 5th – 9.15am EASTER SUNDAY Holy Communion

April 12th – 9.15am Morning Praise

April 19th – 9.15am Holy Communion

April 26th – 9.15am Holy Communion BCP

Please note that, particularly during Holy Week, there are additional services at Holy Trinity, Barrow, which are intended for people from all churches across

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends across the Barrow and Wolds Benefice,

As March arrives, so too does a sense of new beginning. This issue marks the relaunch of our benefice-wide church magazine, and I am delighted that we once again have a shared space to tell our stories, to reflect, and to encourage one another in faith. Whether you worship every week, come occasionally, or are simply curious about what goes on in our churches, this magazine is for you.

March is a liminal month in the Christian year. We journey through Lent, a season that invites honesty, simplicity, and renewal of heart, and we begin to glimpse the promise of Easter that lies ahead. Lent is not about dourness or self-improvement for its own sake; it is about making space for God. It asks gentle but searching questions: What do I need to lay down? What needs to be healed? Where might God be calling me to new life?

Those questions are not only personal; they are also communal. As the Barrow and Wolds Benefice, and as part of the newly formed Soar Valley Minster Community we are rediscovering what it means to walk together—distinct churches, each with its own character and history, yet united in our calling to serve Christ in our villages and neighbourhoods. The relaunch of this magazine is one small but significant sign of that shared journey. It reminds us that we belong to one another, that what happens in one place matters to all.

In recent months I have been struck by how much quiet faithfulness there is across the benefice: people praying daily for their communities, volunteers keeping churches open and welcoming, acts of kindness that may never make headlines but deeply reflect the love of God. Lent gives us an opportunity to notice these signs of grace and to let them shape us.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to see this season not as a burden but as an invitation. Perhaps it is an invitation to pause and pray, to read a little of the Bible each day, to attend a service you have never been to before, or simply to be more attentive to the needs of those around you. Small steps, taken faithfully, can lead to profound change.

My hope for this magazine is that it becomes a place of connection: sharing news, celebrating joys, naming challenges, and offering hope. If you have ideas, stories, or reflections to contribute in future issues, please do get in touch. This is a shared endeavour, just as our life together in Christ is shared.

As we continue our Lenten journey, may God bless you with courage for the road, patience with yourself and others, and a deep assurance that even in times of waiting, God is at work, bringing new life.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Clive

Rector of the Barrow and Wolds Benefice

and Oversight Minister for Soar Valley Minster Community

Article for first edition of BAWGroup Magazine: Wymeswold

Hello from St Mary's Wymeswold

I begin with a short account of what has been happening at St Mary's in recent months and will then hand you over to Richard Bimson to talk about forthcoming events at St Mary's in greater detail.

When the Nation Lottery Heritage Fund made its grant for the repair of St Mary's Nave and both Aisles, one of the requirements of the grant was that the church must engage in Heritage Projects approved by the NLHF.

Led and curated by Professor Liz Tingle, Wymeswold village produced some exceptional projects. These demonstrated both the wealth of talent there is in Wymeswold and revealed much of historic interest about the village and its inhabitants over the centuries. A number of interesting and well received projects across a wide range of subjects were delivered through a programme of fascinating talks, exciting workshops and stunning exhibitions, all produced by current residents of Wymeswold.

We offer huge thanks to all who participated, including our neighbours from the Methodist Church. Without your help and expertise, we would not have met the demands of the NLHF - nor had such a good time.

Looking ahead to Easter, on Easter Saturday morning we will have our usual Easter Saturday Café (10am to 12noon) with homemade cakes and hot cross

buns and will be expanding this year to include some simple games for the young and not so young.

I wish everyone a very Happy Easter and will now hand you over to Richard Bimson to talk about forthcoming events in St Mary's.

Elizabeth Critchley

I asked Richard Bimson, the Wymeswold churchwarden, if he could provide an article for the launch of our new magazine about the major renovations that have recently taken place in St. Mary's, as I knew that many of our Barrow readers, alongside some in Wymeswold and Prestwold, are probably unaware of the essential work that has now been completed. Besides the problems faced by the PCC as they did their best to keep the church open and available for worship I'm certain that much time and effort has also been spent in fundraising, grant applications and making all necessary arrangements for the work to be carried out. They are to be congratulated on their determination and hard work throughout this very demanding project. Richard Hudson

Wymeswold Nave Roof Restoration

St Mary's is a Grade I listed building, primarily due to its restoration in 1844-46 by the Rev. Henry Alford, who employed A.W.N. Pugin as his architect. The interior of the church and the furnishings are still largely intact, and this means it is of national importance.

However, over the past 180 years the roof has been a source of continued problems related to dry rot. The roof was found to be rotten in 1846 and had to be replaced entirely. The roof had a large restoration in the 1950s when more dry rot was found and at this point concrete gutters were used. It is these gutters that have encouraged dry rot. A localised outbreak of dry rot in the southwest end of the nave in was repaired in 2021-2022 and it was hoped that this had cured the problem. However, this was not to be; just a year later there was further evidence of dry rot, with the typical mushroom-like fungus appearing. Throughout 2024 we prepared a successful bid for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and thus the project "Preserving Pugin's Church" was born. The work started in February 2025 and was scheduled to be complete by late May. How little we knew...



As the work started and the roof was opened up on the south side it became evident that the problem was much worse than we had initially expected. For several weeks in succession, new problems were discovered and by May it was clear that the original schedule of works (even with all its contingency items) would not solve all the problems which we had found. The dry rot was far more extensive, along the whole length of the nave than had been anticipated and worryingly the roof was not properly supported along the length of the wall. It was quite literally being held up by angels, the angels on the decorative, but non-structural corbels.

This required a revised schedule of work, including reinforcement of the principal rafters with steel flitch plates, rebuilding of the parapet walls with a damp proof course, a lot more replacement wood than we had anticipated and a large amount of internal scaffolding. We needed a new faculty application to cover the increased work, and we needed to apply to the NLHF for almost a doubled grant increase. In all these things we were thankfully successful. As I write this in early February 2026 the work has finally been completed and all the scaffolding has been removed.

Of course, the repairs to the church are only half the story. Whilst the principal aim of the project was to preserve the fabric of the church, the subsidiary parts of the project were to engage with the public, increase awareness of the importance of the heritage of St Mary's and to make it more accessible for visitors. This is the far more exciting and engaging side of the project.



We have produced new visitor materials, will have exhibition displays on the history of St Mary's and other religious groups in the village and will be able to display the restored Pugin bible in a new case. We have also held numerous events over the period, there have been 3 exhibitions, two concerts, various talks and lectures and the redevelopment of the village website on a new platform and incorporating new sections on the history of the church and religious groups in the village.

All of this has been masterly co-ordinated by Liz Tingle who has acted as our heritage officer for the project. She has been supported by Richard Bimson on the construction project, Stephen Critchley in charge of finances, and many volunteer stewards, helpers, and cake bakers, who have made the events such a success. The volunteer cleaning team has worked every week to ensure that we could keep St Mary's open whilst the works were in progress.

We have two final events to round off the current project. On 11th April, there will be a day conference on the 1840s restoration by Alford and Pugin which will look at that restoration in the wider ecclesiological and architectural context of its day. Please email PCCWymeswold@outlook.com if you would like to attend. This will be followed on Sunday 12th April by a celebration service exactly 180 years to the day that the church was re-opened following the 1840s restoration. We hope that these will be a fitting conclusion to the current project.

Richard Bimson

Notable Wymeswold events (apart from Pugin anniversary – for which see above)

Saturday April 4th 10am-12noon - Easter Saturday Café - hot cross buns, cakes and simple games for all

Sunday April 26th at 7pm – a performance of the much-loved Fauré Requiem by the Wolds Choir

Advance notice: On Friday 8th May between 6 and 9pm an attempt will be made to ring a whole peal on the bells of Holy Trinity, Barrow. I asked Jez Bowman if this was to commemorate a special event. He said 'No, but it just happens to be Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday and as the method we are ringing is called Cambridge Surprise Major and Sir David went to Cambridge University it all seems quite appropriate.'

**We'd love to see you at any or all of the
Churches Together in Barrow
LENT LUNCHESES**

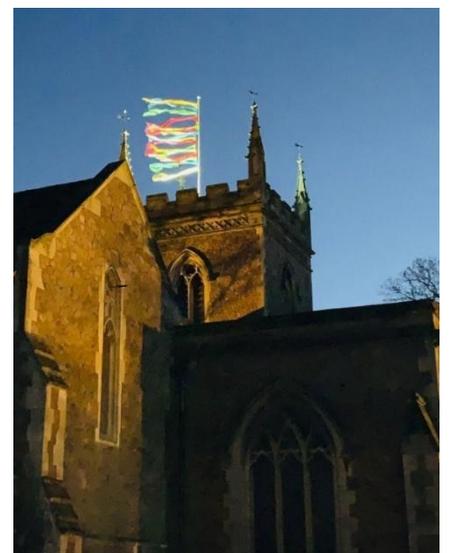
**in Trinity Rooms at 12.30pm each Friday during March
You can enjoy a lunch of homemade soups, bread, cheese,
fruit and drinks. We also hope you will donate generously to
the CTiB charity, The Torchlight Trust as they do so much good
work supporting severely disadvantaged children in Manila,
the capital city of the Philippines**

**And, on Friday March 6th
you can take a short walk after your lunch for the
World Day of Prayer service
at 2pm in Barrow Baptist church
which this year features material contributed by
Christian women from Nigeria.**

**'Raise a Ribbon for Her', Holy Trinity's Mothering Sunday
celebration of women who have played an important part in our lives
is now in its 6th year, which means that the 16 ribbons will be
released from the top of the church tower**

**at 10.30am on March 15th (weather permitting)
and will continue to fly for the following week.**

If you've not seen the ribbons streaming out in a brisk breeze or when they are floodlit at night it is certainly worth the effort of whatever journey you need to make. You could also challenge yourself to find the most distant spot from which they can be seen; for example I know that they are visible from along the old A6 road between Quorn and Mountsorrel. If you live in Barrow or Walton you will again find a form inside this magazine on which you can submit names of women whose names you would



like to have written on the ribbons along with, if you wish, a donation to church funds. Addresses to which you can deliver the form can be found on the back of it.

The names you submit can be of women who have died or those who you may see every day. If you live in any of the other villages we would love you to be involved. To provide names please contact Collette in the Benefice office or myself (contact details on inside front page). If any of you would like to write names on the ribbons yourself you can do this at the Holy Trinity Community Café between 10am and 12 noon on Saturdays 7th and 14th March.

If you intend to be outside Holy Trinity for the release of the ribbons you are invited to join us immediately afterwards for our Mothering Sunday service, as part of which all ladies will, as for many years past, receive a small bunch of daffodils.

The Annual Thanksgiving service of the Barrow and Wolds



Group took place at Holy Trinity Church, Barrow on Sunday 6th February. We were honoured by the presence of the Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow.

At this service, apart from a review of the events in our four churches over the past year via a photo montage, a number of people were added to our lists of Locally Authorised Ministers. These included our new Benefice Safeguarding Coordinator, Alison Muir.

The very popular Community Café held on Saturdays in Trinity Rooms, Barrow (10am to 12) will not be open on March 21st or April 11th so, sadly that's two Saturdays without their delicious homemade cakes. If you've never been to it, do give it a try soon.

Report from St Andrew's Church, Prestwold

The Christian Link, which for 23 years has been printed for the villagers in Burton-on-the-Wold, Hoton, Wymeswold, Cotes and Prestwold is, due to financial pressures, no longer be available but the good news is that our news will be included in the new Parish Magazine, being produced by Richard Hudson who has previously edited the magazine for the Barrow and Walton on the Wolds.

To Jenny and her team, thanks so much for producing the magazine all these years – Your dedication ensuring that it was always available on time and with the local news is much appreciated and it was always a pleasure to receive it. Hope you enjoy a bit of a rest although I feel sure, in the beginning you will be missing it!

Now to the news and future events –

The Wildflower Open Days - Despite the wind, storms, and generally inclement weather our beautiful, dainty, white snowdrops have battled through to let us know that Spring is on the way. What a show we are currently enjoying - Isn't nature wonderful?

By the time you receive this report and because we are blessed with beautiful grounds and wonderful wildflowers early in the year, we will have welcomed people to St. Andrew's Church to see the snowdrops the on 15th January to celebrate their arrival with bells, organ playing, joining in the singalongs and of course, our teas and cakes (Always an attraction).

We will be holding open days too at St. Andrew's to see the beautiful **Primroses on the 22nd March and the Bluebells on the 19th April from 2.00 to 4.00pm** and as usual, with the drinks and cakes, the bells, the organ and the **singalongs**. It is always a great afternoon so please join us. People say that because of the large areas occupied by the flowers there is no need for queuing and no need to rush round.

Our monthly Afternoon Tea at Burton-on-the-Wolds Village Hall will be on **10th March – 2.30 – 4.00 pm** after which it is anticipated that we will move to The Pavilion, Burton-on-the-Wolds, for tea on the **14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 14th July and 11th August. – again from 2.30 – 4 p.m.**

Our cream tea and plant sale will be held the **17th May from 2.00 to 4.00 pm at Burton-on-the-Wolds Village Hall** and again all are welcome.

I know it is now March but because we haven't had a magazine for February, I can't now go without thanking everyone for the support we had over the

Christmas period with fundraising and donations given at the Christmas Fayre in Hoton, the one at Prestwold Hall and the various Christmas services at St. Andrew's – your generosity was wonderful. Thank you very much indeed. We are a little church in structure but have a really big, grateful heart.

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. Applying for grants, which we intend to do, means that we need to have raised a percentage of the money before they will consider us for a grant and now that the rules on V.A.T. have changed, we have an extra sum to consider. With all the price rises that we have encountered since the previous quotes and because they were done some time ago, we have requested updates so that we know what sum we are really aiming for. With the old estimate and certainly with your help we are 12% of the way.

I am asking that if you can help us to raise this initial sum by making a donation then please do so. 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 to 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 do participate in this, I feel sure it would be quite a good little earner.

**B - The easy fundraising account is
"easyfundraising.org.uk/standrewschurchprestwold"**

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.

Adena Hecks

100 YEARS AGO

For the benefit of new readers I should explain that we have at Holy Trinity bound copies of the East Akeley Deanery Magazine from 1905 onwards. These short extracts from the churches' monthly contributions look back 100 years. Their inclusion in the Barrow and Walton magazine was initiated by the late Kevon Thompson and often reveal interesting insights into our churches and villages. (Editor)

From the East Akeley Deanery Magazine

March and April 1926

St. Andrew's, Prestwold-cum-Hoton and Burton – Vicar: Rev. J. B. J. Bevan

Confirmation – Eleven candidates were confirmed at Loughborough Parish Church (*see also Barrow, below*)

On **Easter Day** the Holy Communion will be celebrated at Burton Mission Church at 7am; at Hoton Church at 8.15am and at Prestwold Church at 11am.

I will gladly administer the Blessed Sacrament to any sick or aged communicants on any morning in Easter Week, if sufficient notice is given to me.

I would like to record my pleasure at the way in which many of the good people of Burton, and their friends, recently helped others in their community. I have been asked by those who benefitted by this kindness to express their sincerest thanks to everyone who took part.

Holy Trinity, Barrow on Soar - Vicar: The Rev. J. D. Thomas M.A.

My dear People, As I write these words the thought of the first Sunday in Lent and the following Thursday evening (*service with sermons by visiting clergy*) is very fresh in my mind. The size of the congregations was a cheering sight..... By the time this magazine reaches you, some 16 or 17 days of Lent will have slipped by. When you look back upon them will your retrospect bring a feeling of satisfaction? If not, make up your mind that the remaining days will be better spent and that when Easter comes you will be able to say that a devotional book read, a passage or even a book of scripture more clearly understood or a regular sin mastered or overcome through prayer and meditation, has earned more joy and peace in believing.

Confirmation – A helpful and impressive service was held in the Parish Church, Loughborough on March 10th, when twelve candidates were presented from this parish. (*names provided*)

Missionary Work – The sum of £16 13s. 10d. has been raised for the Church Missionary Society during the 12 months ending March 31st.

St. Mary's, Walton on the Wolds – Rector: Mr. M. B. Bird

The annual easter Vestry meeting was held on the Wednesday in Easter week, when the accounts for the year were presented and passed. Income continues to grow, and this year has shown an increase of £11 5s 6½d. over last year. The number of coins has also increased 1510 over last year's record. The Sunday income was £35 10s. 11d. in 4779 coins and the expenses for the year were £24 12s. 8d., leaving a balance in hand of £11 18s. 3d., and the heating apparatus is worn out. The collections for extra-parochial objects were £11 5s. 6d.

The report of the archdeacon, who made a visitation on August 20th, was read.

The Goscote and District Society of Church Bell-ringers will be held on April 26th at Cossington, and not Walton, as we had hoped. The absence of a caterer to satisfy the healthy appetites of a crowd of bellringers and the lack of a large room in which they can “wisibly swell,” are serious difficulties.

St. Mary's, Wymeswold – Vicar: Rev. Claude Bouchier M.A., Hon. C.F.

March - My dear Friends, I think we did very well, all things considered, to clear £5 11s. at our Parochial Tea and Social, held on February 8th, in aid of the Fund for the Division of the Diocese. (*The formation of the new Leicester Diocese by separating from the Peterborough Diocese. All churches were expected to contribute to the cost of this (editor)*) Though the numbers at tea were disappointingly few yet the school filled up well later and things went with a swing.

May – Ny dear Friends, Our organist, Mr. Taylor, and the augmented choir, are to be congratulated on their excellent rendering of the oratorio “From Olivet to Calvary” which was given on Good Friday before a large congregation.

Now, my friends, the parish is faced with some heavy expenses: (1) the Diocesan Quota; (2) repairs to the church (*has nothing changed in the past 100 years? (editor)*) – one of these alone, the rehangng of the big bell, will be a large one; (3) the division of the Diocese fund (some £33 to be raised if we are to get our £60; (4) an unknown amount for the alterations to the schools to bring them up to the Board of Education requirements. I am confident that we shall manage all right. It is wonderful what can be done by people who are determined to succeed.

Holy Trinity Social Committee:

Fish, Chips and Bingo

in Trinity Rooms

at 6.45pm on Saturday April 25th

Tickets: £10 but £5 for a small portion

but there are no small portions when it comes to Bingo Prizes

Tickets available from Jenny, Jean, Vanessa or Richard soon!

Looking ahead:

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 10-16 May 2026

Christian Aid aims to provide humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice, and championing people's rights.

This year, in **Barrow and Walton**, we will once again be using **delivery only envelopes** - *where envelopes are delivered to houses, but gifts are returned to one or more local drop-off points.*

WE NEED YOUR HELP to distribute the envelopes and put them through doors around Barrow (NO NEED to collect them)

If you are able to help with this, please contact Frances Acton or Richard Hudson:

franceston@btopenworld.com / richardhudson847@btinternet.com

ECO-CHURCH suggestions:

March - The **GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN** is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Each year more than 400,000 people clear litter from our streets, parks and beaches. The 2026 dates are **March 13th to 29th** and is organised by 'KEEP BRITAIN TIDY'

Could you as an individual or with some friends or as a whole church take up this challenge? It's something that would be very worthwhile.

April - **Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something!**

April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags.

For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open)

For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes.

For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April.

As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

Idea suggested by 'A Rocha UK', a Christian charity working to restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches to care for the environment. (<https://arocha.org.uk>)

Ben and Katy Ray are Church Mission Society missionaries in Tanzania. Their work there has centred around training, providing employment for and building the confidence of people with disabilities. Here is a part of their most recent newsletter:



Dear friends,

Heri ya mwaka mpya! Happy New Year

We are feeling so blessed to have been back in the UK for our first Christmas in eight years. The opportunity to return to England arose because of the post-election civil unrest across Tanzania in October. Maji ya Chai, the town nearest our home, was particularly affected,

with several people killed and injured during clashes. This all unfolded while Katy's sister and her family were visiting us. Roads were blocked, flights cancelled, and we had to find a safe route to get them to the airport. Although we did have an unpleasant altercation en route, we're grateful that everyone was kept safe and they caught their flight.

Protesters also gathered directly outside our new SAFI Centre. Thankfully, it escaped with only a few broken windows, and none of our staff were injured. But because further unrest was planned for 9 December, many expatriates were choosing to leave the country. For this reason, CMS graciously agreed that we too could return to the UK from 8–28 December. Tanzania is known as one of the most peaceful countries in Africa, so these disturbances came as a surprise to everyone. Although calm has returned, please pray for wise leadership, dialogue, and healing as the nation recovers.

SAFI Cafe open

After months of delays and frustrations, the SAFI deaf-run cafe and crafts shop finally opened its doors to the public on 8 October. Neither Katy nor I could have imagined things going as well as they have. So many people have told us, "This is just what Usa River needed!" and we have been greatly encouraged by how warmly customers engage with our deaf waiters and staff.

Gideon, our new (hearing) project manager, was slightly put out when an elderly customer told him, "No, I do not need your help. Go away. I want to speak in sign language." Much of the cafe is in the garden, and Fidelis, our gardener and guard, has created such a beautiful outdoor space that lunchtime at SAFI can often feel quite wedding-like. The best thing about the cafe though is how the Lord has provided just the right people. On literally our second day of opening, when we realised we desperately needed more waiters, Laeda and Moses appeared at our doors and have already become much-loved members of the SAFI Café team, along with Adolph, our head chef, and Gloria, our lead barista.

(to be continued)

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM:

We welcome into the Church Family those who have been baptised:

Joshua Blow (Prestwold)

Please contact the Benefice Administrator if you would like to receive a LARGE PRINT copy of your magazine.

FROM THE PRAYER DIARY

Please pray for:

March 1st – All who volunteer to ensure that our church buildings are maintained, clean, warm and welcoming

**March 8th – Our PCC Secretaries Lynne Brookes, Jane Anderson
and Emma Andrews**

March 15th – Bell ringers and all who maintain our bells and towers

**March 22nd – Those who live in the villages of Cotes, Hoton
and Prestwold**

**March 29th – Retired clergy serving in our benefice,
Rev Simon Richardson, Rev David Stoter
and Rev Simon Richards**

April 5th - All those who serve as welcomers and sidespeople

**April 12th – Our Member of Parliament Dr. Jeevun Sandher
and all who serve in government**

**April 19th – Weddings Administrator Collette Webster-Jones and the
many couples who come to celebrate their
marriage in our churches**

**April 26th – Our Link Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania),
Trichy (India), Wyoming (USA) and Kiteto (Tanzania)**

HOLY TRINITY FLOODLIGHT SPONSORS FOR MARCH & APRIL

DATE	SPONSOR	DEDICATION
1 st March 2026	Jane & Dave	In loving Memory of Hamish
8 th March 2026	Pat and Family	In Loving Memory of John
15 th March 2026	Pam Hallam	In memory of Mum & Nan-forever loved
19 th April 2026	Jean King and family	Remembering Geoff on his birthday
26 th April 2026	Ruth & David	Celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

If you would like to dedicate the floodlights to a loved one please get in touch. My contact details are: David Laughton, Tel. (mob) 07913 953005, or DaveL1000@yahoo.co.uk

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND ANY SERVICES OR EVENTS BUT NEED A LIFT TO GET THERE, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AND WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ARRANGE TRANSPORT FOR YOU.

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SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026
10:00am – 4:30pm
St Mary's Church, Wymeswold,
Leicestershire



A DAY OF TALKS, DISCUSSIONS AND VISIT TO VICTORIAN WYMESWOLD
Keynote Speaker: Dr Peter Linfield, FSA, University of Cardiff and The Pugin Society,
'Pugin and The Past: Gothic Revival and Gothic Survival.'

Cost: £10 including refreshments

A full programme and booking details are via Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1982919028192?aff=oddtcreator>



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SUNDAY
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BLUEBELLS
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HOLY TRINITY
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Friday 3 April
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**ALL
AGE**



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Story

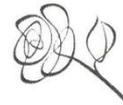
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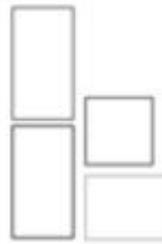
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