BARROW AND WOLDS GROUP



St. Mary's, Wymeswold

Magazine



St. Mary's, Walton on the Wolds



St. Andrew's, Prestwold

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

2026



Holy Trinity, Barrow upon Soar

50p



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If you have an item for the JANUARY - FEBRUARY magazine please submit it to Richard Hudson (editor) at 07776 086 448 or richardhudson847@btinternet.com by MONDAY 7th DECEMBER.

Introduction to the November and December 2026 magazine

Welcome to the 5th edition of the new Barrow and Wolds Group magazine.

Let's begin with the main event – Christmas. The weeks up to Christmas are the busiest of the year in our shops. Besides the extra and special food and drinks there are the cards and presents to buy and send out as we all do our best to ensure that nothing is forgotten. And yet very little of that has anything to do with what Christmas is really about, the birth of the Son of God two thousand years ago and His relevance for our world today. I urge you to find some time for rediscovering Christmas this year by attending one or more of our services. Not only do they offer you a haven of peace amongst the bustle but there is something special about being part of a gathering of people who are meeting to hear the Christmas story, sing the carols and hear something that may provide you with a new understanding of the Christian Faith.

Churches are busy places as Christmas approaches, with special services for schools, Scouts and Guides and for everyone else, including you. In the next couple of pages you will find details of services aimed at children and their families (Christingle, Cribtingle, Crib services) and those provided principally for older children and adults (services of Lessons and Carols, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Holy Communion services). And to set things off there is the Churches Together in Barrow Advent Sunday service at Barrow Methodist Church (November 29th).

The early days of November sound a much more sombre note, with services in Wymeswold and Barrow on Sunday 1st November (All Souls Day) to remember and give thanks for the lives of people close to us who have died, and on the following Sunday, to remember the men of our villages and country who lost their lives in the two World Wars and more recent conflicts. In Barrow and Walton there are also short Acts of Remembrance on Armistice Day itself (Wednesday 11th).

The last weekend of November sees Holy Trinity, Barrow's Christmas Tree Festival, our major (and very necessary) fundraiser. Although this year's Festival

follows the traditional pattern it will, I am certain, be just as beautiful and uplifting as ever when the lights on a hundred trees are lit.

These magazines aim to provide news about future events in all our villages and so my hope is that all of you will take an interest in what is happening in other communities than your own and so I urge you to read all of it, not just the sections about your own village. Then be brave, be adventurous and if you find an event that sounds interesting go and give it a try!

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas (for when it arrives, two months from now!).

Richard Hudson

Services at Holy Trinity, Barrow

November 1st - 10.30am Morning Praise

6.00pm – All Souls – service of Remembering and Thanksgiving

November 2nd (Mon) – 9.30am Ecumenical Morning Prayer (at HT)

November 8th – 10am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

November 11th (Wed) – 2.00pm Barrow Remembers (Barrow Cemetery Chapel)

November 15th – 10.30am Holy Communion

6.00pm Healing service

November 22nd – 10.30am Holy Communion

November 29th – 10.30am St. Andrew's Prestwold Patronal Festival

(Group Holy Communion)

- ***6.00pm Churches Together Advent Sunday service***

(at Barrow Methodist Church)

December 6th - 10.30am Christingle Service

- **6.00pm Holy Communion**

December 7th (Mon.) – 9.30am Ecumenical Morning Prayer at Baptist Church

December 13th - 10.30am Holy Communion

6.00pm Service of Lessons and Carols

December 20th - 10.30am Holy Communion

- **6.00pm Healing Service**

December 24th (Christmas Eve) – 5.30pm Crib Service

- **11.30pm Midnight Mass December**

December 25th - 10.30am CHRISTMAS Holy Communion

December 27th – 10.30am Said Eucharist (Group service)

Wednesdays – 10am Morning Prayer (Nov.25th Dec. 9th)

Wednesdays – 10am BCP Holy Communion (Nov. 4th, 18th Dec. 2nd, 16th)

Services at St. Mary's, Walton

November 11th (Wed.) – 10.45am Act of Remembrance

December 20th - 4.00pm Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24th - 4.00pm Crib Service

Services at St. Mary's, Wymeswold

November 1st – 11.00am Holy Communion

4.00pm - All Souls – service of Remembering and Thanksgiving

November 8th – 10.45 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

November 15th – 11.00am Morning Praise

November 22nd – 11.00am Holy Communion

- **6.00pm Evensong BCP**

November 29th – 10.30am St. Andrew's Prestwold Patronal Festival (Group Holy Communion)

December 6th – 11.00 Holy Communion

December 13th – 6.00pm BCP Holy Communion

December 20th – 11.00am Holy Communion

- **6.00pm Service of Lessons and Carols**

December 24th (Christmas Eve) – 4.00pm Crib Service

- **11.30pm Midnight Mass**

December 27th – 10.30am Said Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Barrow (Group service)

Services at St. Andrew's, Prestwold

November 1st – 9.15am Holy Communion

November 8th – 9.15am REMEMBRANCE

November 15th - 9.15am Holy Communion

November 22nd – 9.15am Holy Communion BCP

November 29th – 10.30am Patronal Festival Holy Communion (Group service)

December 6th – 9.15am - Morning Praise

December 13th – 9.15am Holy Communion

- **4.00pm Service of Lessons and Carols**

December 20th – 9.15am Holy Communion

December 24th (Christmas Eve) – 4.00pm Cribtingle service

December 25th 10.30am CHRISTMAS HOLY COMMUNION

December 27th – 10.30am Said Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Barrow (Group service)

Pastoral Letter for November and December

Dear Friends,

As we move through November and into December, the character of our villages and countryside begins to change. The evenings draw in, the trees become bare, and the familiar lanes and fields take on the quieter colours of late autumn. There is a sense of slowing down, although for many this is also a busy time of year, with preparations for Christmas beginning almost as soon as November arrives.

These two months invite us to reflect on the passage of time, to remember those who have gone before us, and to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

November begins with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, when the Church remembers those who have lived lives of faith and those whom we have loved and lost. Remembrance Sunday gives us a further opportunity to honour those who have given their lives in war and conflict, and to pray for peace in our troubled world. In our churches, villages and communities, we pause to remember, giving thanks for courage and sacrifice, while recognising the continuing cost of conflict for families and nations.

For many, November can be a difficult month. The loss of loved ones may feel especially sharp as the nights grow longer, and the approach of Christmas can bring its own mixture of emotions. While the world around us may seem to be hurrying towards celebration, not everyone will feel ready to join in. Some will be facing illness, loneliness, financial worries or uncertainty about the future. Others will simply be missing someone who is no longer here.

The Christian faith does not ask us to hide these feelings or pretend that life is always cheerful. Rather, it assures us that God is present with us in every season. The light of Christ shines not only in our moments of joy, but also in our grief, our questions and our uncertainty. As the Psalmist reminds us, even when we walk through the darkest valley, we are not alone.

One of the great blessings of living in our parishes and villages is the opportunity to look out for one another. Often, it is the smallest gestures that make the

greatest difference: a friendly word in the village shop, a visit to someone who lives alone, a lift to church or an invitation to share a cup of tea. These simple acts of kindness are not insignificant. They are ways in which we make God's love visible in our everyday lives.

As December approaches, the season of Advent invites us to wait and watch. In a world that often expects everything immediately, Advent reminds us that some of the most important things require patience. We light our candles week by week, remembering the hope, peace, joy and love that Christ brings. We look back to the promises of God fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, and we look forward with hope to the coming of God's kingdom, when justice, mercy and peace will be fully known.

Of course, December is also a month of familiar traditions and much-loved gatherings. Across our villages, churches and communities, there will be carol services, school celebrations, Christmas fairs and opportunities to come together. These occasions help to strengthen the ties that bind our communities, bringing generations together and reminding us of the importance of belonging. Whether you are a regular churchgoer, someone who attends only occasionally, or someone who has not crossed the threshold of a church for many years, you will be warmly welcome at our Christmas services.

At the heart of all our celebrations lies a simple but extraordinary truth: God comes among us. Not in wealth or earthly power, but as a vulnerable child, born into an ordinary human family. The first Christmas took place amid uncertainty and hardship, far removed from the comfortable picture-postcard scenes we sometimes imagine. Yet it was there, in the everyday realities of human life, that God's love was revealed.

That message remains as important today as ever. God is not distant from our villages, our homes or our daily concerns. He is present in the quiet work of caring for others, in the generosity of neighbours, in the welcome offered to strangers, and in the hope that sustains us when life is difficult. Christmas invites us to recognise that presence and to make room for Christ in our own lives.

As we approach the end of another year, I hope that we may each find a little time to pause amid the busyness, to give thanks for the good things we have received, to remember those who need our prayers, and to consider how we might bring encouragement and kindness to those around us.

May the peace of Christ be with all who are celebrating, all who are grieving, all who are anxious, and all who are simply doing their best to get through each day. And may the light of Christ, which no darkness can overcome, shine in our homes, our churches and every corner of our communities.

I wish you all a peaceful Advent, a joyful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.
With every good wish and prayer,
Rev'd Clive
Rector of Barrow and Wolds Group
Oversight Minister for Soar Valley Minster Community

ALL SOULS DAY
Sunday 1st November
A service of Remembering and Thanksgiving for those who have died.
St. Mary's, Wymeswold at 4pm
Holy Trinity, Barrow at 6pm
An opportunity to light a candle for loved ones and to have their names read out at the service.
Lists for the names are now available at each of the churches and will be available until shortly before the services begin.

So far, you have bought just over £800 worth of Children's Society Christmas cards. If anyone would still like to order cards please do so as soon as possible. If you discover later that you need more, Taylor's Florist on High Street, Barrow will have some in stock, still at £3.75 per pack of 10.

WYMESWOLD NEWS

As I write, our very hot but memorable summer is long gone and autumn is reaching its end. December will soon be here bringing **Christmas** along with it. Before that, however, other events are happening in the village.

St Mary's Church

1 November, **Service of Remembering and Thanksgiving at 4pm at St Mary's**
We will remember those in the community who have passed away in the last year and will commemorate those whom we loved and have lost. There will be an opportunity to light candles of remembrance.
We are compiling a list of names of the departed to be read out at the service. If you would like to add a loved one's name to the list, please let Stephen Critchley know (stephen.r.critchley@btinternet.com) or by phone on 01509 881656 (where you can leave a message).
8 November - **Remembrance Service at 10.45am**
The Annual Scout and Guide Remembrance Day Parade is an important event for the nation and in the Scouting and Guiding calendar.
The 1st Wolds Scouts will meet at the Scout HQ at 10am to parade through Wymeswold village at 10:30am to arrive in St Mary's Church at 10:45am. After the Church service at approximately 11:45/12noon, they will parade back to the Scout HQ for about 12:15pm. The Parade will be led by the Scout Revival Band and be joined by representatives from the RAF. **A short commemorative event will also be held at the Memorial Hall, Clay Street, at approximately noon.**

Christmas at St Mary's

12 December - **Mince Pie Morning and arrival of the Christmas Tree** 10.30am – 12 noon. Mulled wine, mince pies, decorating the tree, children's Christmas crafts, raffle
20 December - **Village Carol Service**
24 December - **Crib Service** 4pm,
24 December **Midnight Communion** 11.30pm

Forthcoming event

The *Wymeswold Church* Fund Appeal (WCFA) Fundraising Dinner 11 January 2027 at 7pm. *This event is kindly hosted and sponsored by The Hammer and Pincers*. Tickets are £55 per person (including drinks) and numbers are limited, so please stake your claim by emailing Janet Beaumont

(janet.wymeswold@gmail.com). Please confirm number of tickets required and any dietary requirements.

Methodist Church

Warm Welcome & Mini Fish every Tuesday 1.30 to 3pm November/December
Soup Lunch on Tuesday 24 November 1pm to 3pm serving homemade soups & Bread.
Sunday 29 November Christingle Service at 11am Families especially welcome.
Saturday 5 December 10.30 to noon Christmas Mini Market with Stalls selling, Gifts, Jewellery, Crocheted items, Cakes & Baked goods and various other items. Mince Pies Tea and Coffee will be served and there will be some crafts available for children, whilst you browse the stalls or drink your coffee.
Wednesday 16 December 7.30pm Wolds Choir Carol Concert. Free admission with collection for local charity.
Christmas Day - Family friendly service at 9.30am
Tuesday 29 December - Bring and Share Family Tea party 2 to 4pm with activities/crafts

7 November – 1st Wolds Scouts Bonfire and Firework Display.
Gates open 5.30pm, fire lit at 6.30pm, food and drink available. Admission £7.50. Fundraiser for the Scout Group.
Wymeswold Scout Hut, Burton Lane, Wymeswold

Wymeswold Memorial Hall

14 November – **Parish Council Consultation Event.** 2.20 – 4pm. Come and see some possible solutions to help the Parish Council decide on the best new outdoor equipment for the Washdyke. Refreshments available.
17 November - **Wolds Historical Organisation – "Loughborough Industries".** 7.45pm. Free for members, £3 for non-members
21 November **Children's Craft Class**, 2 – 3.30pm. £7.50 per child
27 November **– Kelly's Heroes. Energetic Celtic Fold Band. Bar open 7.30pm**. Performance starts at 8pm
29 November **– Wymeswold Christmas Fair, 11am – 2pm**, Festive food, crafts and gifts, live music and fun. A fundraiser for Wymeswold Preschool**.**
8 December **Wolds Historical Organisation – "25 Years of Time Travel with the Field Detectives**". 7.45pm. Free for members, £3 for non-members

Pop-in Café and IT Clinic 10am – 12 noon. Every other Friday – 6 and 20 November, 4 and 18 December.

St. Mary's, Wymeswold – an articled based on a recent letter to the Parish Council

Ecology - churchyard maintenance

For several years, St Mary's Church has been looking at ways to become more environmentally sustainable. Inside, we have tried to use Fair Trade products and low energy light bulbs, for example. We are also interested in enhancing the churchyard environment.

The churchyard closed to new burials in 1881, and responsibility for its maintenance passed to Wymeswold Parish Council. They will be considering a new churchyard maintenance plan soon, which provides a valuable opportunity to enhance the natural environment at the heart of the village.

The churchyard already supports a surprising diversity of wildlife. Swift boxes have been installed in the tower to encourage nesting by this declining species, while dead trees are retained where safe to do so, providing important habitats for insects and other invertebrates. Surveys have also identified a rich variety of wildflowers, including violets, harebells, lady's bedstraw and yarrow, while the historic gravestones support an array of lichens.

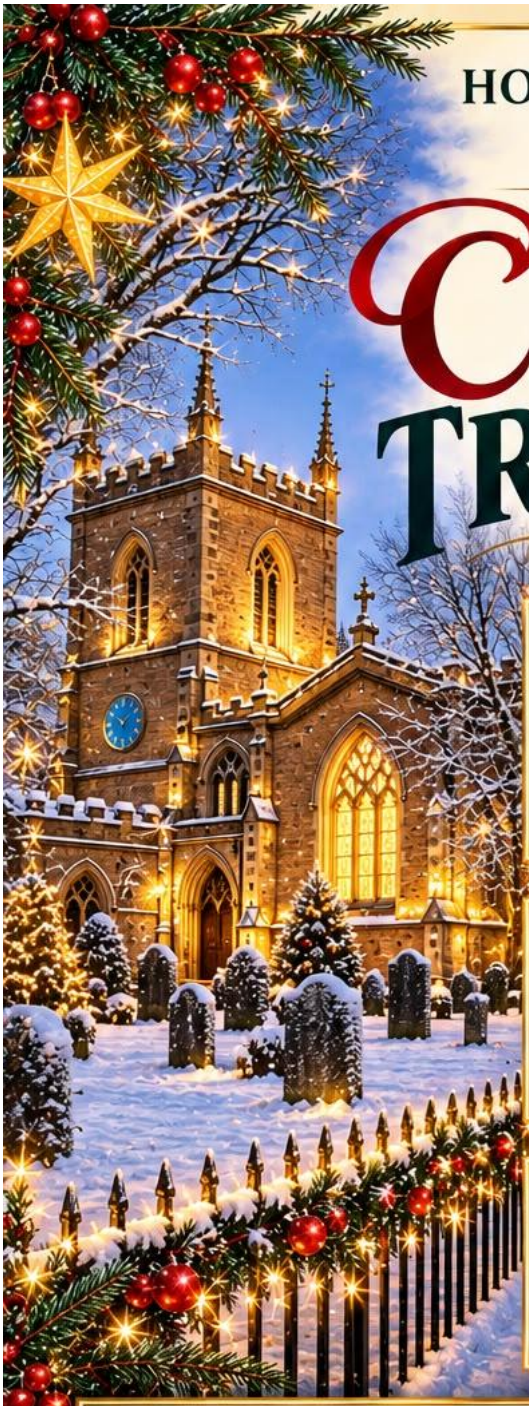
One of the simplest ways we can make the churchyard more wildlife-friendly is by changing how the grass is managed. A spring cut, followed by cutting only half the grass in late June and the remainder in late summer, will give wildflowers the opportunity to flourish and provide valuable habitat for insects. Removing grass cuttings is important to encourage a greater diversity of plants, and volunteer help could play a valuable role in this. We are also exploring the possibility of a compost area on the churchyard boundary, creating an additional haven for wildlife such as hedgehogs and grass snakes.

In due course the views of Wymeswold parishioners will be requested so that they can be shared with the Parish Council.

Elizabeth Critchley

(I think this letter contains some excellent ideas. I wish St. Mary's every success with this project – Richard Hudson (editor)

There will be no Holy Trinity Community Café on Saturday 31st October.



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
BARROW UPON SOAR

Barrow and Wolds Group

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 7.30pm

Grand Opening

Includes a buffet and a glass of wine

£8 per ticket
Tickets in advance only

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 7.30pm

ESNA Concert

Adults £7 | Children £3

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Carols & Mulled Wine

PUBLIC VIEWING

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9am – 5pm	10am – 7pm	12pm – 6pm

Entry: £2.50 adults | Children FREE

Café | Bar | Raffle | Stalls

Enjoy our festive Café, Bar, Raffle & Stalls throughout the Festival

TICKETS & INFORMATION

barrowchristmastreefestival.com

@holytrinityctf

HOLY TRINITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Tickets are now available for the **Grand Opening** (Thursday November 26th) and the concert by **ESNA** (a Loughborough based theatre group who have proved popular at previous Festivals) on Friday evening. Booking in advance is essential for the Thursday event – last year's Opening was a sellout so do book early if you want to be there. For tickets please contact me, Vicky Bowman (vcolgrove@hotmail.com) or any member of the CTF Committee.

People in Barrow and Walton (as in the past) will find two books of Raffle tickets in this magazine. If you would like to buy these (or some of them) please fill in the ticket stubs, put them in an envelope with the money and drop them through the letterbox at any of the following addresses:

Jez, Vicky Bowman – 92 Willow Road Jean Cooke – 23 Breachfield Road
Rev. Clive Watts – 27 Cotes Rd John, Ann Beaumont – 25 Thirlmere Rd
Pam Knowles – 36 Ribble Drive Richard Hudson – 40 Warner Street
John, Ann Halliday – 22 Highfields Pauline Haynes – 41 Sileby Road
Liz Keogh – 19 Loughborough Road, Walton

I have lots of raffle tickets to sell so if you'd like some more, either for yourself or to sell to relatives, friends, work colleagues etc. please contact me and I'll let you have them. **The possibility of winning the £250 first prize will, I know, interest many people and next comes the luxury hamper.** Tickets are, as in the past, 50p each (that's £2.50 for a book of 5 tickets).

For people in Wymeswold, Burton, Cotes, Hoton (and area) – I would be delighted to provide you with raffle tickets but wouldn't want anyone to feel pressured into supporting Holy Trinity when you may well feel that your primary responsibility is to support your local church. **However, we would be delighted if you visited the Festival for the special events on Thursday or Friday evenings (do contact Vicky or myself to buy tickets) or at any other time to see the trees. Raffle tickets will be on sale throughout the Festival but if you can't attend but would like to buy some please contact me.** ***Richard Hudson***

The Christmas Tree Festival needs your help!

Lists are already at the back of Holy Trinity for people to sign up as stewards, to help serve refreshments or to offer home-made cakes and soups to be sold in Trinity Rooms. Do help us if you can – the Festival cannot run without additional helpers.

There are also boxes at the back of church for people to donate **prizes for both the adult and children's Tombolas and for a Bottle Stall.** On this stall the bottle bags could contain anything from a bottle of water to one of champagne (if anyone offers us one). Any bottles will be welcome – but we'd rather have a majority of them being of the less-expensive variety – please note, however, that Claire (who runs the stall) just needs the bottles to be donated; she already has enough bottle gift bags.

Report from St Andrew's Church, Prestwold

Well, we're on countdown now for a very special time of the year – Christmas….

As usual at this time of year, St Andrew's, and all the other Churches in the group, prepare in the way of village teas, attending various Christmas Fayres and decorating our churches - So, you are most welcome to join us; in particular, please join us at the services being held during December in the build up to a very special day - the birth of Jesus Christ. The list of Church Services will be found on the Church Noticeboards, on the various village websites and notice boards and on the Church Group Website – www.barrowandwoldsgroup.com, www.facebook.com, www.Utube.com

I am going to list some of our social preparations as follows –

22nd November - Prestwold Hall Christmas Fayre - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
St. Andrew's will be running the Raffle on that day. As well, the church will be open for you to call in and look round. There will be a cake and drinks available.

29th November – We will be serving cakes at the Burton-on-the-Wolds Playgroup Christmas Fayre.

12th December. St Andrew's Christmas Fayre - Hoton Village Hall, 12 to 3.00 p.m. Stalls, Raffle, Tombola, Children's activities, Drinks, Homemade cakes, The Sing it Happy Choir.

Then of course, we have the monthly Burton-on-the-Wolds Village teas from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. at the BOW Village Hall - the dates **being November 10th, December 8th, January 12th, February 16th and March 9th.** Do hope to see you there.

Please see later in the magazine more news from Adena Hecks re St. Andrew's

A Church Where Everyone Belongs:
Inclusive Church in the Barrow and Wolds Group

Have you ever wondered whether you would be welcome in church? Perhaps you have worried that you might not know what to do, that you might not share everyone else's beliefs, or that some aspect of your life or identity might make you feel out of place. Perhaps you have had an experience in the past that has left you feeling that church is not somewhere you belong.

If any of this sounds familiar, we want you to know something very important: **you are welcome in our churches, just as you are.**

The Barrow and Wolds Group is a member of *Inclusive Church*, a network of churches and individuals committed to building a Church that celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. This is not simply a label we display or a statement we sign. It expresses something at the heart of who we want to be as a group of Christian communities serving our villages.

What is Inclusive Church?

Inclusive Church is a Christian network that encourages churches to reflect on how they welcome, value and include people in every aspect of church life. It recognises that, sadly, people have sometimes experienced exclusion, prejudice or rejection within the Church itself. This can be because of disability, financial circumstances, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, mental health, neurodiversity or learning disability, among other things.

Inclusive Church challenges us to do better. It asks us to consider whether our words, attitudes, buildings, services and everyday practices genuinely help people to feel that they belong. It reminds us that every person is made in the image of God and is deserving of dignity, respect and love.

At its heart, this is about taking the example of Jesus seriously. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus reaching out to people who were overlooked, marginalised or treated as outsiders. He welcomed people into his company, listened to them, ate with them and showed them that they mattered. His love was not reserved for a particular sort of person, and neither should ours be.

Inclusive Church brings together people and congregations who want to live out that same spirit of welcome in today's world.

The Inclusive Church Statement

As members of Inclusive Church, we share the following statement, which sets out the principles that guide this commitment:

“We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

These are important words, but what do they mean in practice for us in the Barrow and Wolds Group? --- They mean that **everyone is always very welcome at any of our churches**. You do not have to be a particular sort of person, have a particular background, look a particular way or have your life neatly sorted out before you walk through our doors. You do not need to know the prayers, understand the service or have all the answers to life's big questions. You can come with faith, with doubts, with curiosity, with questions, or simply because you would like to find a quiet place to sit and reflect.

You are welcome whether you come every Sunday, have not attended church for years, are exploring Christianity for the first time, or are returning after a difficult experience. You are welcome if you are young or old, single or partnered, wealthy or struggling financially, disabled or non-disabled, neurodivergent or neurotypical, of any ethnicity, gender or sexuality. You are welcome whatever your family circumstances, your mental health, your history or your present situation.

And this welcome is not conditional upon you becoming someone different. We want you to be able to come as yourself, to be treated with kindness and respect, and to know that you matter.

Why does the Barrow and Wolds Group belong?
Our vision is to be welcoming churches to everyone, where the love of God is encountered through our worship and our life together, and where lasting friendships are formed and nurtured. Membership of Inclusive Church is a natural expression of that vision.

We know that a church can say that everyone is welcome while, unintentionally, leaving people feeling that they do not quite fit in. Sometimes barriers are physical, such as difficulty accessing a building. Sometimes they are practical, such as the cost of taking part in an activity. Sometimes they are less visible: an assumption about someone's family, an insensitive remark, a lack of understanding about disability, or the feeling that you must hide part of yourself to be accepted.

Being an Inclusive Church member encourages us to notice these barriers and to keep asking how we can remove them. It reminds us that welcome is not just about being friendly at the church door, important though that is. It is also about listening, learning, making changes where we can, and ensuring that people are valued as full members of our communities.

We will not always get everything right. Inclusion is an ongoing journey rather than a task that can simply be ticked off. But our commitment is to keep learning, to listen when people tell us about their experiences, and to respond with humility, compassion and a willingness to change.

Rev Clive's role as Regional Ambassador

We are particularly pleased that our Rector, the Rev Clive Watts, also serves as a Regional Ambassador for Inclusive Church. In this role, he helps connect churches and people in the region with the wider Inclusive Church network, supporting its work and encouraging other congregations to explore what inclusion means in their own settings.

This is a valuable way for the Barrow and Wolds Group to contribute beyond our own parishes. It enables us to share in a wider conversation about how churches can become places of genuine welcome, and to learn from the experiences and insights of others. It also reflects our belief that inclusion is not a concern for a few individuals or a specialist interest, but something that belongs to the whole Church.

A welcome that makes a difference

Our churches are part of the life of our villages. They are places for worship and prayer, but also places where people gather to celebrate weddings and baptisms, to grieve at funerals, to mark significant moments, to find friendship

and to seek comfort when life is difficult. We want them to be places where people can come without fear of being judged or turned away.

That does not mean that we are all the same, or that we will always agree with one another. A genuinely welcoming community makes room for difference. It gives people the opportunity to be heard, to ask questions and to grow in faith and understanding together. Above all, it recognises the dignity of every individual.

So, if you have never visited one of our churches, please do not feel that you need a special reason or an invitation from someone who already attends. If you have been away for a long time, you do not need to explain your absence. If you have questions about faith, or concerns about whether you will be accepted, we would be glad to talk with you.

Whether you live in Barrow upon Soar, Walton le Wolds, Wymeswold, Prestwold, Burton on the Wolds, Cotes, Hoton or further afield, our churches are here for you.

The love of God is wider than we sometimes imagine, deeper than our fears, and greater than the barriers we put between ourselves. Our hope is that everyone who comes among us will have the opportunity to encounter that love.

At the Barrow and Wolds Group, everyone is welcome. Everyone matters. Everyone belongs.

We look forward to welcoming you. --- *To find out more about Inclusive Church, visit* www.inclusive-church.org

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News from St. Mary's, Walton

A short **Act of Remembrance** will be held at the church at 10.45 on Armistice Day, Wednesday 11th November. It will be followed by refreshments.

Coffee Morning with raffle and sale of pre-loved books on the Village Hall between 10.30 and 12 on Saturday November 21st. Proceeds in aid of St. Mary's.

Service of Lessons and Carols at 4pm on Sunday 20th December.

Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David,
a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

Luke chapter 2 verse 11

100 YEARS AGO

From the East Akeley Deanery Magazine

November and December 1926

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

St. Leonard's Church, Hoton – The greatly improved attendance at the services held in this church since its restoration is a sign that people are beginning to appreciate more and more fully the real value of all that has been done for them there.

Advent and Christmas – On Christmas Day, Holy Communion will be celebrated at 7am at Burton; at 8.30am at Hoton; and at 11am at Prestwold. At all these services the alms will be given to the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society – our Church's own society for work amongst poor and destitute children. So, remembering Him who was cradled in a manger and who in later life had nowhere to lay his head, let us generously and cheerfully share our Christmas joys with these little ones who need all the joy that Christian love can give them.

(The society St. Andrew's was supporting in 1926 had been founded in 1881 when a home was opened for destitute children in London. Its work continues to this day although its name no longer uses the words 'waifs and strays'; in 1982 it was renamed The Children's Society. (editor))

Burton – A word of congratulation is due to our Burton Sunday School on the exceptionally good attendance shown by the scholars, one of whom had attended for two years without a single absence. This speaks well, not only for the teachers and the children, but also for the parents, without whose co-operation and good will, such results would not be possible.

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

From the Vicar's letters – Dr. Bardesley has been chosen to be the first Bishop of the re-created Diocese of Leicester. Dr. Bardesley has worked hard and unceasingly for the Division of the unwieldy Diocese of Peterborough; may he live long to see what, as a true Father in God, he longs to see, a quickening and revivifying of that part of the spiritual life of that part of the old Diocese of Peterborough which is now the Diocese of Leicester.

Concerts – All who were present at the concert in early December on behalf of the Church Funds voted it a great success. Our deepest thanks are due to the artistes who so kindly and generously gave their services and to all those who helped in any way. The net proceeds were just over £13. May I say how pleased I

was to see so many of our Nonconformist friends present. Many of us look forward with longing and with hope to the time when all who acknowledge Jesus of Nazareth as their Prince and their Saviour shall be united in one body – all unhappy divisions done away with; abolished.

There have been two concerts at the school – one given by the Infants and the other by the older children. All concerned are to be congratulated on the excellent performances. I'm sure none of us begrudge the Tiny Tots their gramophone – they've earned it. The proceeds of the other concert will go towards the paying of a debt on the school yard.



(Image – a 1920s gramophone – the small print offers other models priced from £2 2s. up to £10.)

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

My dear People, As I write this the Coal Strike seems to be fast coming to an end, the restrictions dealing with the distribution of coal have been withdrawn and the production of British coal daily increases with the result that the community is profoundly grateful. I would urge the readers of these words to give thanks to God for the measure of relief and to make the matter of the management of the mines a subject of renewed prayer as the industry bristles with difficulties.

In 1926 three in every ten adult males worked in coal mining. Their low pay (6s. 6d. per day from which they paid between 3 and 5 shillings per week in rates) drove them to strike action in early May 2026. Many other workers joined them, resulting in what is known as the General Strike. This was called off by the TUC after just 10 days but many miners continued to strike until forced by poverty to return to work in November at the same rate of pay as before. (editor)

Armistice-tide – The memory of the Glorious Dead was once again fittingly kept at Barrow. Members of the Parish Council and British Legion, together with the Girl Guides, paid an official visit to the evening service on Sunday November 7th, when the Vicar took as his subject "Remember, rejoice and resolve." A short service was held by the Vicar on Armistice Day at 10.50, followed by the two

minutes' silence, and wreaths were subsequently laid at the foot of the cross. Quite a handsome sum was collected in boxes on behalf of Earl Haig's Fund.
News from Nigeria – Many thanks from St. Monica's School, Nigeria for the continued help with the support of a girl in the school. She is making good progress. She is now made a catechumen and with steady progress should be baptised in a year's time.

News from Holy Trinity

TRINITY FESTIVAL - Another great success



left – The Trinity Festival chamber orchestra and Wolds Choir conducted by Richard Thomas performing the Requiem by Gabrie Fauré.

below – The performers in the Youth Concert.



HOLY TRINITY FLOODLIGHT SPONSORS

DATE	SPONSOR	DEDICATION
Oct. 11th	Val, Jared and Glenn (our apologies that this was omitted from the previous magazine)	In loving memory of Vincent
Nov. 8th	Pauline and family	Anniversary memories of William
Nov. 29th	Pam Hallam	In memory of Jack Green Wonderful Dad/Grandad
Dec. 13th	David and Ruth	In memory of Ruth's parents
Dec.29th	Sheila, Dawn and Diane	Ray Stafford, birthday memories

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

Meetings at Holy Trinity

A group for adding extra meaning to your Christmas – do join us!



Support group for men organised by Jay Jones



Next MEE dates – 18th Nov., 16th Dec.

A Christmas Concert at Holy Trinity by the folk group

WELL SEASONED

Friday 18th December

with an opportunity to join in with some familiar carols.

Doors open 7.30 with a starting time of 8pm

Tickets £8

Refreshments available, including draught beer, wine, soft drinks, and samosas.

All proceeds to Rainbows Hospice.

If you've never attended a 'Well Seasoned' concert then do give this one a try. Feedback from previous attendees is that they've had a great evening.

"Raising the Roof"

Local villagers are taking part in the popular annual musical extravaganza known as "Raising the Roof", in Loughborough, in November. BBC Radio Leicester star, Sara Palmer, will be compẻre again. Featuring Charnwood Community Choir, led by Caroline Sharpe, along with Loughborough Concert Band, conducted by Dave Coble, the concert is organised by Loughborough Beacon Rotary in aid of various charities but primarily the Rainbows children's hospice. The concert will provide music for all ages. Garner Roberts of Quorn said "We enjoy being in the choir: the band always delight us and we think our programmes complement each other. There is something for everyone to enjoy".

There is only one opportunity to see and hear this – Saturday 28th November at 7.00 pm in the Hodson Hall at Loughborough Grammar School. Tickets are £12 and £6 and the best way to ensure you get one is via www.beaconrotary.org

More news from St. Andrew's, Prestwold:

I did say in the last report that I would tell you more about Mary Norman who died at the end of July. Mary was a passionate supporter of the Mobile Clinic charity which Bishop Christopher Boyle set up following his retirement as the Bishop of Northern Malawi in 2008. The clinic travels to remote areas of the country (one of the world's poorest) for the months of the year when the floods

subside sufficiently for the roads to become passable. The staff deal with ailments such as dysentery, malaria, malnutrition, respiratory problems and skin diseases, treating around 2000 people during each 6-month trip. Following Mary's death the current Archbishop sent a letter of tribute to family and friends in this country from which you can reads an extract below:

The Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi

P. O. Box 120, Mzuzu, Malawi

Tel: +265 (0)1 312 486; Tel & Fax: (0)1 310 802; Cell: (0)888 556 839
E-mail: anglicandnm@gmail.com; fanuelmagangani@yahoo.com

From the Office of the Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Fanuel E. C. Magangani

Mama Mary was much more than a supporter of our Mobile Clinic Ministry; she became a true partner in our mission of bringing hope, healing, and dignity to some of the most vulnerable communities we serve. The people of Mfula and Chamalala have been among the many beneficiaries of her generosity and concern. Through her support, our mobile clinics have reached those who otherwise had little or no access to essential healthcare. Her kindness was expressed not only through material assistance but through her genuine concern for the wellbeing of others. She understood that Christian service means caring for the whole person; body, mind, and spirit and her life reflected that conviction. Her generosity extended far beyond financial support. She encouraged us, inspired us, and reminded us that the work of God's Kingdom is strengthened when people from different places unite in love and service. The fruits of her compassion continue to be seen in the lives of countless families whose suffering was eased because she chose to make a difference.

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May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Fanuel Magangani, Bishop of the Diocese

Best wishes to everyone and have a really happy, restful Christmas. God Bless,

Adena Hecks

An excerpt from the most recent newsletter from Ban & Katy Ray, our CMS Link Missionaries in Arusha, Tanzania – *more to follow in the next magazine*

Greetings from a dusty safari tent in the bush!

Back in Tanzania, Katy was managing three children, multiple events at the now
flourishing SAFI Cafe, and packing up our family home. We weren't sure until the very last minute whether the rest of the family would all be able to join Ben in England, but the Lord made a way, through a very generous individual, for us all to spend the summer in the UK. As well as seeing wider family, a highlight was joining a Stewards' Trust family house party at King's Bruton school.

We've started sleeping in a tent, and for good reason! Even before moving to Arusha, we had in mind to build a volunteer house for our family rather than continue paying the high rents further north. But after two years of a disappointing search for a suitable space, we have, by what can only be described as a miracle, found ourselves the owners of four acres of scrubland, including a half-built garage/cottage and a shipping container. In the last week, we've been connected to electricity and internet, although the water supply, which needs to be pumped up from the river, remains a challenge. As well as reducing our monthly rent, we're praying into God's vision for this large space. We would like to use part of it to generate income to support us in our work here, but also as a place where we can welcome the many visitors and volunteers we find ourselves hosting since moving to Usa River.
Please pray with us for the many practical needs as we begin to build, but also praise God for this amazing provision!

NICHOLSON'S

ALL ASPECTS OF BUILDING & JOINERY WORK UNDERTAKEN

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Plumbing, Bespoke historical Joinery,
Kitchen & bathrooms, Home maintenance,
Decorating, Conservatories, Extensions,
Driveways, Fencing, Roofing, New UPVC doors,
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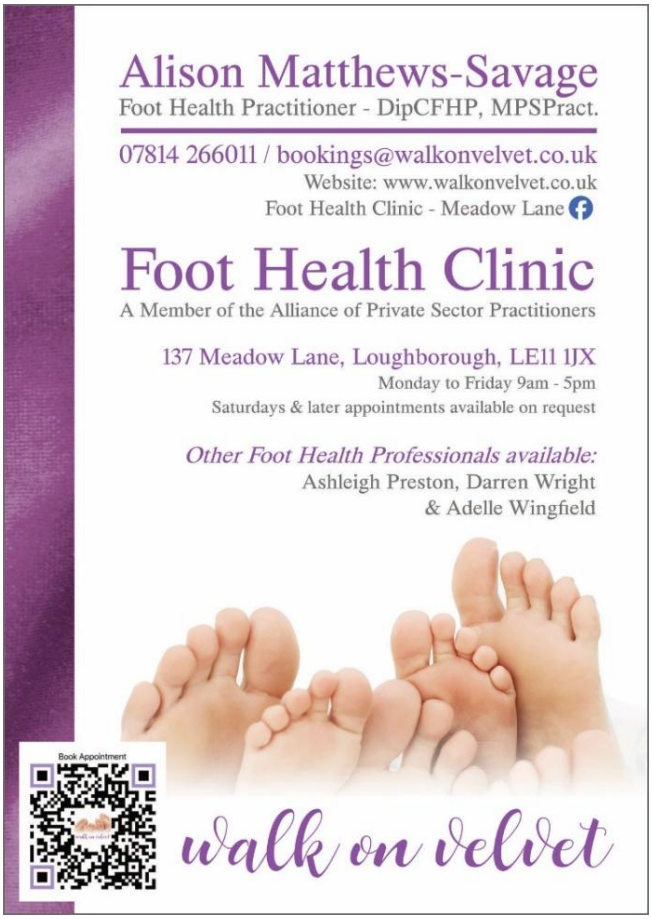
TEL: 08006 990785/07880 870785

Email: adamandallison-nicholsons@hotmail.com

FROM THE PRAYER DIARY
Please pray for:
November 1st – Associate Minister: Pam Knowles, Rex Shaw, Mike Hyde Jay Jones
November 8th – Hall Orchard CofE Primary, Wymeswold CofE Primary, Burton on the Wolds Primary and Humphrey Perkins Secondary Schools
November 15th – Organists, musicians, church choirs and visiting choirs
November 22nd – All who visit our churches or who come to worship during Advent or Christmas
November 29th – Those who arrange flowers or decorate our churches

December 6th – Benefice Administrator Collette Webster-Jones
December 13th – Pastoral Care Team and all our Pastoral Care Volunteers
December 20th – Churches Together and our ecumenical partnerships
December 27th – Little Angels Pram Service, leader Vicky Bowman

If you would prefer to receive a large-print version of this magazine please contact Richard Hudson (editor)





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