



### Stillington Shop and Post Office

#### OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

##### Christmas Eve Thursday 24 December

Shop and PO close at 4.00pm

##### Christmas Day Friday 25 December SHOP AND POST

OFFICE CLOSED ALL DAY (no papers)

##### Bank Holiday Saturday 26 December:

Shop open 7 – 10.30am Post Office closed

##### Sunday 27 December – Shop and PO closed

##### Boxing Day Monday 28 December -

Shop open 7 – 10.30am Post Office closed

##### New Year's Day Friday 1 January

Shop open 7 – 10.30am; Post Office closed

#### PORK PIE ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Please leave your orders at the shop by

##### Saturday 12 December

##### Collect on Wednesday 23 December.

Payment on collection

#### POSTING FOR CHRISTMAS

Please post as early as possible as there is likely to be an increased volume of post nationally.

In Stillington Post Office on Mondays queues are long and the number of parcels is huge so if you can visit on other days of the week this would be appreciated

#### Last dates for posting for UK inland:

2nd class Friday 18th December

1st Class Monday 21st December

For Europe and worldwide posting  
please ask the Post Office staff

#### RAFFLE FOR CHRISTMAS HAMPER FROM THE SHOP

From 1 December shoppers spending more than £15 will receive a raffle ticket

The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 23 December

The winner will receive a hamper from the shop value £25

Thanks for supporting your  
community owned and run shop

Good Luck

### A Big Thankyou

I hope there will be others wanting you to give a big thank you to the people who collected all the rubbish outside people's houses. Mine was only a small amount but I was very grateful for its disposal. Janet Johnston

### Yorkshire Air Ambulance

The collecting box in the Shop & PO had raised £71.14 when last emptied. Thank you to all contributors.

### Stillington Surgery

Our Senior Partner, Dr Peter Jones, will be retiring at the end of this year. Having had a career of 41 years within the NHS, Dr Jones has worked at Stillington Surgery for the last 33 years and is known and well respected by many local residents. We all wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Dr Mike Potrykus has now joined us for the next few months. We will also be joined by Dr Laura Bradley in January and Dr Kate Keen at the end of February.

#### A message from Dr Jones:

After 41 years working in the NHS, I will be retiring at the end of December. I joined Dr Willis as a partner in 1987, working from the surgery at The Folly in Stillington, seeing patients at his dining room table. In those days we only had 2 part time receptionists and 1 part time nurse. Life in general practice was a lot simpler. No computers! We moved to our purpose built surgery in 1990, since then the health service has undergone several reorganisations, and medicine has changed enormously. I consider myself very fortunate to have worked in Stillington all this time. I have had excellent colleagues, some great staff, and wonderful patients (who have always been very generous to us in the annual national patient satisfaction surveys). I'm proud that our small practice has managed to resist pressures to become larger over the years. By design we have kept our patients per doctor ratio much lower than the national average, leading to easier access and greater continuity of care (the value of which cannot be overstated). Long may this continue. It's been a privilege being a GP for many of you, and I wish you the best of health in the future, and hope to see you around for a long time to come.

Dr Peter Jones



FRIENDS OF  
ST MONICA'S  
HOSPITAL

### TRUSTEES WANTED

The Coronavirus pandemic is affecting all our lives and will continue to do so for some time to come. Good health and mental wellbeing have never been more important. You can do something positive.

The Friends of St Monica's Hospital in Easingwold has provided support and equipment at the hospital for many years. We are now looking for new trustees to help change the way in which we support the hospital and the patients registered at the surgeries in Ampleforth, Tollerton, Stillington, Hovingham and Easingwold.

This is an exciting opportunity to become involved in your community, particularly in making grants and ensuring that our funds achieve maximum impact.

The way that health services are delivered in our area is changing. These changes will significantly affect St Monica's hospital. You can help to shape the future of our healthcare.

The trustees welcome applications from people from all walks of life. Previous experience of charity or trustee work is not essential. Full induction will be given.

Full details of the work of the Friends can be found on our website [www.fosmh.org.uk](http://www.fosmh.org.uk) or phone David Kenworthy on 01347 821948 or 07710 439771 for an informal chat.

### Stillington Bonfire

This year's bonfire and fireworks display was cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, burnable rubbish was collected around the village as usual, for the benefit of those in the village who use the bonfire to dispose of garden waste etc. A big thank you to the volunteers who turned out to help with the collection!

Thanks also to those who kindly left donations for the bonfire funds in the Post Office. An impressive total of £77 was collected. This enabled the Bonfire Committee to make its regular contribution to the production cost of Stillington News and also contribute to the Village Poppy Appeal.

We hope the Covid situation will improve so that Stillington Bonfire can return in 2021.

**Meals on Wheels** service is for anyone living here in Stillington, in Easingwold and other surrounding villages. A freshly cooked two course meal is delivered to your door by a team of friendly volunteers between 12 noon and 1pm. The service runs every week day and the meals cost £6.80 per day. For more information call Helen Beck 07541 356046 or email [helen.beck@edcca.org.uk](mailto:helen.beck@edcca.org.uk)

### Stillington Wanderers

This is the Monday morning walking group that met alternate weeks until mid March 2020. We shall return! Meanwhile, the accumulated contributions used to cover any expenses have been donated to Children in Need and latterly £55 to the Royal British Legion.

### Warm & Well in North Yorkshire

gives support to anyone with heating worries or can't afford their heating bills. They support people to check and if relevant switch to a cheaper energy supplier; they support people on low incomes; families with young children and anyone with physical or mental health issues. Tel. 01609 767555

### Easingwold Community Library Art project

The aim is to create a feature of 1,000 wooden butterflies as a reflection of the year 2020 and how it has affected us all. You will receive a blank wooden butterfly to decorate as a butterfly on one side and a message / name on the other side. Please contact the Library if you would like to take part.

### Stillington Community Primary School

Stillington Primary School is having a very busy time despite the current National Lockdown.

Our topic in the juniors at the moment is the Ancient Greeks and we are loving learning about all of the exciting Greek characters. Our science topic is electricity and we have been having great fun making circuits. In the Early Years / Key Stage 1 our topic is Toys. We have been learning about toys from the past, how toys move and we are currently designing and making a toy vehicle.

Our group of 3 schools has organised a virtual multi skills event for local primary schools. We undertook the activities today and will be sending our scores in to see how we did. It is, however, the taking part that is most important. We have been doing our collaborative work with Foston and Terrington over class Microsoft Teams sessions. This is a really fun way to get to know each other until we can meet up properly.

We are also taking part in the Connecting Classrooms Project and we hope to link up with a school in Nepal in the near future. We have been accepted by Connecting Classrooms to run a project as part of global learning with a cluster of schools, consisting of: Dunnington and Wheldrake Primary Schools and three schools in Nepal. This will give us the most wonderful opportunity to work on projects with children in other schools and in another country focusing on two concepts: 'Mental health and well-being' and 'Zero Waste'. Two of the schools we are connecting with in Nepal are situated in Bhaktapur and the third is in Kathmandu. We have had correspondence with the schools and they have shared their learning experiences with us which has then been shared with our pupils. We are very much looking forward to developing our pupils' knowledge of diversity and community across the world.

Unfortunately, we had to close school for a fortnight due to a Covid case, however, we turned this negative into a positive by implementing our new home learning strategies. Teachers held virtual registration sessions which outlined the work for each day and turned their classroom practice into online expertise in a number of taught sessions. Teaching Assistants heard all our children read over Microsoft teams. We were so proud of the way adults and children alike adapted to this new style of learning.

Whilst we are in lockdown, and have had to postpone our workshops and preschool sessions, we are still able to show prospective parents around after school. Our fantastic new staff team would be delighted to show you our fabulous learning environments. **If your child is due to start school in September 2021 please don't hesitate to contact us by email at [stillingtonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:stillingtonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk).**

Mrs Sarah Moore – Headteacher

### Proposal to Lower the Age-Range of Stillington School - Update

Thank you again to everyone who responded to the Governors' consultation; you can view the report to the NYCC Executive, and follow the progress of our proposal here: <https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4302>



### CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES AT STILLINGTON SURGERY

Closed Friday 25 December reopen Tuesday 29 December  
Closed Friday 1 January 2021 Please order your medication in good time, preferably allowing a week. Please do not order more than one month's supply of prescriptions Email your requests to:

[VOYCCG.B82079prescriptions@nhs.net](mailto:VOYCCG.B82079prescriptions@nhs.net)

Wishing all our patients a pleasant Christmas and New Year

## OBJECTS OF INTEREST No 6

Each month we will show an "Object of Interest" in the Stillington area.

An extract from Rudyard Kipling's poem, The Elephant's Child.

"I keep six honest serving men. (They taught me all I know).  
Their names are: What and Why and When and How and  
Where and Who."

### THE ENTRANCE GATES

#### QUESTIONS:

**WHAT** was there originally?

**WHY** was it changed?

**WHEN** was this done?

**HOW** did this happen?

**WHERE** are these posts?

**WHO** was the previous owner?

2020



#### ANSWERS:

**WHAT.** Plain brick pillars.

**WHY.** Mrs Elizabeth Croft wished to remodel Stillington Hall after the death of her husband Colonel Harry Croft.

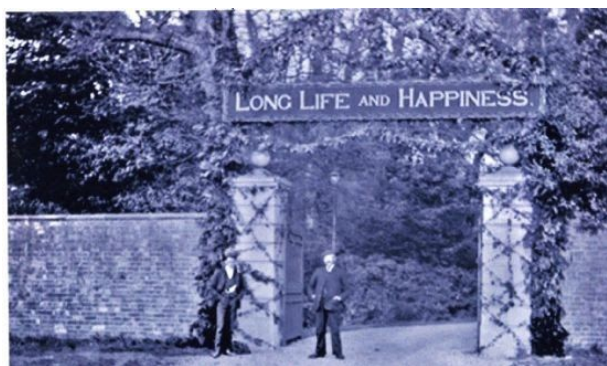
**WHEN.** c1855.

**HOW.** The pillars were rendered to match Stillington Hall.

**WHERE.** At the entrance to Parkfield off Main Street.

**WHO.** The Croft Family.

1922



Written by Robert Churton.

Researched by Liz Cole.

## STILLINGTON GARDENING CLUB DECEMBER NEWS SEED ORDERS

Dennis North has done a magnificent job collating some 37 orders totally £650. Members benefitted from a 40% discount on their purchases of seeds.

### THE WINNERS CLUB

The two winners for November are:

Christine Cookman. Ticket No. 17. Chard

Pat & Robin Conway. Ticket No 16. Sweet Pea – Blue.

Congratulations to our winners. There are still 5 more draws (10 winners) so not too late to buy a £10 ticket.as a Christmas present? Details ring 810513or churton234@btinternet.com

### QUIZ

As we know the Christmas party has been cancelled so no quiz on the night. So the winners of last year's Christmas quiz are putting together a "Gardening Quiz", with a difference, for Christmas. It will be emailed to members before Christmas. There will be a prize!

### SEED POTATOES

Potatoes are one of the most rewarding vegetables to grow. There's the nurturing process of chitting, planting and earthing up, the anticipation of a good harvest as you dig through the soil and, of course, the unbeatable taste of fresh, home-grown, potatoes.

Potatoes can be divided into five categories, planted from March to July

1. First Earlies – Ready June to July (earlier in some sheltered areas) 2. Second Earlies – Ready July to August 3. Early Maincrops – Ready August 4. Late Maincrop – Ready September onwards 5. Second Cropping / Late Cropping – Ready September to December

Chitting - The chitting process allows strong green shoots (chits) to develop on the tuber before planting. Although not essential it is particularly beneficial for the earlier cropping potatoes, because it gives the potato a quick start thus cropping earlier. Later cropping potatoes are less likely to need chitting as warmer soil temperatures can make a greater difference. Start chitting by setting the seed potatoes out, side by side, blunt end uppermost, in single layers in seed trays or a wooden box. Place in a light, cool, well-ventilated spot to encourage the development of shoots 2-2.5cm (¾-1in) long, prior to planting.

### GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER

1. Prune Wisteria.
2. Don't delay summer pruning fruits as restricted forms.
3. Deadhead flowering plants regularly
4. Watering – particularly containers and new plants, preferably with stored rainwater.
5. Collect seed from garden plants.
6. Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready.
7. Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries.
8. Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners.
9. Keep ponds and water features topped up.
10. Feed the soil with green manures.

**Your Village Defibrillator is kept in the Church Porch Available 24/7**

**\*Remember: Call an Ambulance, start CPR, get the Defibrillator - it will tell you what to do\***

## Countryside Notes December 2020

Tuesday 17th November. A fine day with a little cloud and promised showers that did not materialise, thank goodness. We have had enough rain. I have been busy fencing some Green Stubble (green being the grain that was ungettable in harvest that has grown). The wet and wind when it was ready for cutting drove the ears down to the ground where they could not be picked up and, coupled with the straw being brittle, it proved difficult to cut. The sheep are not objecting to it at all. They watched me preparing another lump of land for them and took no inviting over the electric fence wire when the current was switched off; one sniff and they know when it doesn't bite!! Soon after writing the last notes on the Thursday night at about 7.00pm, I heard the exciting chorus of Wild Fowl. I listened: the sound didn't sound like Geese, then in the moonlight a clear clarion call of a Whooper Swan sounded above the higher pitched excitement of the herd of Swans. I guess that they were birds just arriving from Arctic Tundra or Iceland. There would be all ages in the herd, some making their first holiday (no lockdown or social distancing for them!). I said "Welcome".

I have gathered a good Apple harvest to store for winter use; the apples are a good size and colour. I weighed two large ones. The largest, a Howgate Wonder, weighed in at 17½ ounces. They are good cooking apples and will keep until April or May. The other, a Lord Derby, made 15 ounces. They are a superb cooker that fills well and is good for Baked Apples, stuffed with Sultanas and Brown Sugar. However, they do not keep beyond February. The Pears have cropped well: some keepers are stored away; some are stewed and frozen; and one usually gets eaten at breakfast time, lovely and sweet and embarrassingly juicy. Unfortunately, this geriatric doesn't like very long ladders these days, so we have to rely on a telescopic loader and available help to get the high grown pears. Consequently, we didn't gather as many as we should. However, the windfalls were enjoyed by the late Wasps and Red Admirals and now by Fieldfares.

The other giant in the garden is a Mullein Plant. They have grey downy green leaves and a stalk growing upright like a Foxglove, with lemon coloured flowers. There are a number of flowers in the garden still having a last fling. I noticed at the weekend that a Campanula that flowers in mid-summer, with Harebell blue flowers, has some late flowers; they are almost white with lack of sunshine. With the strong winds, most of the leaves are off the trees. How good they have looked, especially with the late sunshine or dawn light. There is still much to see and enjoy so keep looking. **R & M**

## Advent and Christmas 2020

At the writing of this letter I am anticipating the end of the second COVID lockdown and the re-opening of nonessential shops and stores and hoping that we can at least find a degree of normality in the run up to Christmas. We know that Christmas is going to be different this year, that there will be regulations on how and where we can meet, and the family get-togethers' may not happen in the usual way. It is with this thought in mind that I have made a conscious decision, call it an early resolution if you like. I am not going to allow this virus to rob me of the joy of this season.

Christmas may be different; Jesus is the same!

Jesus is God's perfect, indescribable gift. The amazing thing is that not only are we able to receive this gift, but we are able to share it with others at Christmas and every other day of the year. Here's my request to you, take a moment or two to reflect on your loved ones and the blessing they are to you, and recall moments of care, love and kindness with family, friends and neighbours, those we love, re-experience moments and what they mean to you. When we remember a special Christmas, it is not the presents that made it special, but the laughter, the feeling of love, and the togetherness of friends and family that made that Christmas special.

Advent is a time of waiting, of anticipation, a time to make ready for Christmas, it is the time of year when Christians prepare to celebrate the first coming of Christ the first Christmas and await and make ready for the second coming of Jesus Christ. They prepare their hearts and minds to receive their Saviour and Lord, King of Kings.

As you prepare for Christmas I hope and pray that we can see beyond the sparkling tinsel and see that Christmas is also about renewing within us the radiance of the inner meaning of this season. I also pray that the spirit of Christmas is in every shared joy and in every act of kindness during what is this wondrous time of year.

**Wishing you the blessings of the season. Rev Steve**

## Weather Report - November 2020

### Rainfall

October continued to be wet. The total rainfall was 101.5mm, compared with an average figure of 64mm.

So far, November has been rather less wet. Rainfall, up to the 15th, came to 25mm, as compared with 70 mm for an average whole month.

### Temperature

The highest temperature in October was 17.8°C on the 20th. It was a fairly mild month, with a minimum overnight temperature of 5.2°C.

Sunshine, as measured by my solar panels, was a pathetic 180kWh.

The first half of November has been generally temperate, with daytime highs usually in double figures. It reached 17.1°C on the 1st, falling only to 9.3°C overnight. But there were also some cold nights in the first week, with a low of 2.1°C on the night of the 3rd/4th. **MT**

### St Leonard's, Farlington

Although we were unable to hold our annual **Service of Remembrance in November** we did open the church specially on November 11th for people to be able to go into St Leonard's to pray and remember privately and quietly. For the three days the church was open that week we had a collecting box for donations to be split equally between **The Royal British Legion and BLESMA (British Limbless ex-Servicemens' Association)**. **Donation to these two important organisations totalled £180.00 and £90.00 each has been sent to them**



### CHRISTMAS AT THE CHURCHES IN STILLINGTON

St Nicholas Parish Church and Methodist Church

Christmas will be different this year, but do join us for our celebrations of Christ's birth

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

All worship is at

St Nicholas Parish Church

The Methodist Church will not be open Christmas Morning Celebration

**OUTDOORS** in front of the church – short informal worship for all ages

Unfortunately we will not be able to hold our usual services which children and families enjoy so much –

celebrating our patron saint St Nicholas and the Christingle Service.

## CHURCH SERVICES

### St Nicholas, Stillington

**Priest:** Revd Stephen Whiting 810251  
[benefice.admin@gmail.com](mailto:benefice.admin@gmail.com)

#### Church Wardens:

Janet Martin 822981  
[Jessie.jm158@gmail.com](mailto:Jessie.jm158@gmail.com)  
Richard Mapletoft 811854  
[rmapletoft@outlook.com](mailto:rmapletoft@outlook.com)

The following assumes that lockdown finishes on 2 December. Please see separate notice about worship over Christmas.

**Sun 6th** Festival of St Nicholas  
Holy Communion 10.00am  
**Weds 9th** Prayers for the village 1.30 - 2pm  
**Weds 16th** Prayers for the village 1.30 - 2pm

**Sun 20th** Morning Worship and  
Blessing of the Crib 10.00am

#### Christmas Eve

(Midnight Mass) **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

**Thu 24th** Christmas Communion 11.00pm

#### Christmas Day

**Fri 25th** Christmas Morning Celebrations  
Outside the Church 9.30am

**Weds 30th** Prayers for the village 1.30- 2pm

#### Stay safe in church during the pandemic

Please sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the church, wear face covering in church and sit in the marked places in church to maintain social distancing. Family groups can sit together. Use the NHS app, and/or leave us your name and phone number in case tracing is needed (information stored securely and destroyed after 3 weeks). **And sorry – we are not allowed to sing – but we can enjoy listening to Christmas music on the organ.**

During the service of Holy Communion we remain seated and the priest will bring the wafer to us. We are not allowed to share the cup of wine. **For the outdoor service on Christmas Day** Wear suitable clothing to keep warm and dry. Please maintain 2 metre distance between family groupings. We will provide a few chairs for those who need to sit down.

#### Booking for the Christmas Communion on Christmas Eve

The church has less capacity than usual so it is essential that you book a place if you wish to attend this popular service. Please phone Richard Mapletoft 811854 or email to [rmapletoft@outlook.com](mailto:rmapletoft@outlook.com) – leaving name, phone number, the number of people you are booking for and whether all can sit in one group or bubble.

Booking closes on Monday 21 December.

**Come and enjoy the beautifully decorated church at other times and find some peace:**

**Sunday 27 December 10 - 12 noon**  
**Wednesday 30 December 2 - 4pm**

## Methodist Chapel

**Minister:** Rev E Cushion 821460  
**Stewards:** Robin Jackson 810250  
Gareth Papps 810094

Although we still cannot worship within the Chapel we can zoom together with Easingwold with our Minister Rev. Elizabeth Cushion on Sunday mornings.

Our Village Chapels worship together on Zoom on Sunday afternoons. You are welcome to join us.

**Contact Rev. Elizabeth Cushion on 821460 or Tricia Mitchell on 838569.**

**We hope to be worshipping together at St Nicholas' over Christmas.**

**Do look out for the Advent Windows around the Village.**

200 Club -1st Mrs S Archer £50  
2nd Mr T Wells £20  
3rd Mrs M Chapman £10  
Drawn by "Our Ernie"

## St Mary's Marton

### Church

**Contact:** Caroline Hunt 878242  
[cjhunt.home@gmail.com](mailto:cjhunt.home@gmail.com)  
Sue Whiting 810251

We are still opening the church for personal prayer on Thursday mornings (9am-12pm) and Sunday afternoons (2-5pm).

Please just let us know if you would welcome any support, prayers or a friendly phone call.

Do get in touch if you would like to hear more about how the churchyard is being maintained or if you would like to receive a weekly email with worship material from Rev Steve as part of our online church community as 'Marton Friends'.

[facebook.com/martonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/martonchurch)  
[achurchnearyou.com/church/18888/cjhunt.home@gmail.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18888/cjhunt.home@gmail.com)

## St Leonard's, Farlington - Services in December

At the time of writing this in mid-November we cannot be certain which services we shall be allowed to hold in December. However, the current plan is :

**Sun 13th** Shortened Matins (BCP) 11.15am

#### Christmas Day

**Fri 25th** A Family Celebration for Christmas Day 10.30am  
with Holy Communion

**Please note. We are required to have a booking system for people attending church on Christmas Day. If you would like to express an interest in attending St Leonard's for this service please ring 01347 878581 or email [richardhaste@btinternet.com](mailto:richardhaste@btinternet.com)**

**Sun 27th** Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am

## St Leonard's Decorated for Christmas - 15th Dec to 1st Jan

We regret that it will not be possible to hold our annual, and very popular, Carols by Candlelight this year but the church will be decorated as usual for Christmas in celebration of Christ's birth – well, perhaps not quite so many candles!. The opening days and times over Christmas are as follows :

- **Tuesday 15th** Church open 10.00am – 3.00pm
- **Friday 18th** Church decorated and open 10.00am – 7.00pm
- **Saturday 19th** Church decorated and open 10.00am – 7.00pm
- **Sunday 20th** Church open 10.00am – 3.00pm
- **Christmas Day** Church only open for the service at 10.30am
- **Boxing Day** Church open 10.00 – 3.00pm
- **Sunday 27th** Church only open for the service at 11.15am
- **New Year's Day** Church open 10.00am – 3.00pm.

During the period when the church is decorated for Christmas, any **donations** put in the box in church will given to the work of **The Salvation Army**.

From **January 5th 2021** St Leonard's reverts to the Tuesday and Saturday pattern of church opening.

**Please remember – face masks must be worn at all times when you are in church. They are not a requirement in the Churchyard.**