

Special opening
of
Stillington Chapel -
by request
Sunday 4th February
3pm

Come along and have another look at all that has meant so much to us over the years, The woodwork, the banners, photographs and pictures. Our links with the past as we move forward. Everyone is very welcome

Please email contributions for the **March** issue to news@stillingtonvillage.org by **Wednesday 14th February**

Primetime

Primetime is a seated, social exercise group for all ages and abilities, with a carer if necessary and held every

**Friday afternoon 1-3pm
in the Village Hall**

The first hour is spent playing boccia, with games organised and run by Joe McKechnie, accessible sports officer for NYCC. Following a refreshment break, competition resumes with kurling, the 'stones' being pushed on little rollers, by hand or with a pusher.

A donation of £4 per session is suggested to cover hall hire, but this does not apply to carers or PAs. You would be very welcome to attend a free introductory session to see if this activity is for you - just turn up, no registration necessary. Two of the following: Liz Cole, Yvonne Murphy and Angela Hawker are always in attendance to welcome you, provide refreshments and cover health and safety. We look forward to seeing you.

The Tuesday Pop - In

Our friendly welcoming Pop - In continues every week on.....



Tuesdays

from 10-30 until 12 noon

The days are chillier and sometimes grey and miserable, so why not join us in the warm Village Hall.

Relish good conversation with friends whilst enjoying a mug of our special hot chocolate (very popular) or one of the other drinks we offer. Tasty homemade treats and snacks are also available.

If you wish to make a small donation to help with expenses it will be gratefully received, but is quite voluntary.

Donations are given to local charities when we have accrued a useful amount. Dementia Forward, Prostate Cancer and York Against Cancer have all benefited from our support.

Stillington Primary School

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year from all the staff and pupils at Stillington Primary School. Christmas is a very busy time of year in school and in December we enjoyed delivering our Nativity and Carol Service to the parents and community members. The children also went to the Railway Museum, attended a Dodgeball Tournament, and planted some trees in the village.

I am very excited to start my new role as Head of School across Foston CE and Stillington Primary Schools and look forward to spending more time in each of the schools. Mrs Moore will continue her role as Executive Headteacher across the FST Federation and Langton Primary School.



January is not a quiet month for us as the children will be researching and debating on our new school charity. Please let us know if there are any charities which are close to the hearts of our community members that the children could explore further.

We are extremely proud of our school and the vibrant place it has become. We look forward to showing prospective

parents for nursery and reception around- please ring to book a visit. Keep your eyes peeled for the launch of our new school website which we are very excited about!

**Miss Katie Stringer
Head of Foston CE & Stillington Primary School**



General Knowledge Quizzes

The January Quiz was won by Deborah and Howard Williams with Liz and Alistair McIntosh; another close result with three other tables just two points behind. **£435** was raised for the next stage of refurbishment at the Sports and Social Club.

**2nd February Quiz will be for
the Village Hall.**

Your Village Defibrillator is kept in the Church Porch Available 24/7. A second Defibrillator is at the Sports and Social Club near the Squash Court entrance and a third on the front wall of the Village Hall. No code needed.

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



February Speaker

On Wednesday 28th February our guest speaker will be Simon Crawford. His topic is "Growing Tasty Tomatoes". Simon Crawford recently retired as a Director of Burpee Seeds. They focus on breeding and developing new varieties of vegetables, fruit and flowers.

He will talk to us about growing tasty tomatoes and will bring seeds to sell.

AGM

The 2024 AGM will be held on **Wednesday 24th April**.

2024 Plant Sale

This will be held on **Monday 6th May**. It will follow the very successful format of last year: plants on display outside Muriel Law's house and coffee and delicious scones in her garden.

Spring is in sight

This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There is plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as Wisteria as well as evergreen hedges.

Stillington Wanderers

The 18th December walk from Hovingham was mostly a hard track avoiding mud and flooded fields; via the disused railway line and Hovingham Spa.

New Year's Day walkers went north from Kirkbymoorside with views over Gillamoor and Fadmoor; returning past Ravenswick Hall to note the continuing development of the site.

15th January walkers had bright sun and frosty, hard ground for their circular route from Bulmer via Foston village. The noted English writer and Anglian Cleric, Rev Sydney Smith, lived in the village from 1809 and was parish rector from 1806 to 1829. North Yks Council must be proud of their 'elaborate' new footbridge over Standing Beck below Bulmer; the original being damaged beyond repair by the Boxing Day floods – was it 2019?

Next walks are 29th January, 12th and 26th February. Meet 9.30am outside the White Bear

Stillington WI

On Wednesday 10th January, Stillington and Farlington WI welcomed a retired Metropolitan Police Inspector who talked to us about some aspects of his career.

He joined the Force in 1972 as a beat bobby, then had training in amongst other things, firearms and traffic and qualified as an HGV driver.

In the 1980's drugs were a particular problem, much of it involving organised crime gangs, and in 1985 he became part of a unit specialising in gathering evidence against these criminal gangs. This unit was the first of its kind in the country.

He was sometimes required to work under cover, and on one such occasion, he posed as an HGV driver, driving back and forth to Spain. He was asked by a fellow driver if he was interested in carrying some "extra" cargo. Initially he said no, but then later, agreed. In England at a motorway service station the lorry was met by a van which off-loaded the 'extra' cargo (250 kilos of cannabis with heroin hidden inside the packages). The van was followed, stopped and 11 people arrested, some sentenced to 18 years imprisonment. This was just one of the many experiences related to us, a most interesting and enjoyable talk.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th February at Stillington Village Hall, 7:30, all visitors welcome (£4 entrance including refreshments). We will hear about the origins of Beningbrough Hall gardens.

Angela Hawker

Shop and Post Office News

We have a remarkable community business in Stillington and it's often visitors to the village who remind us how lucky we are to still have a village shop & post office.

The success of our community business is due not only to the support of our customers from the village and wider community but also to the many volunteers who have been involved over the past 21 years. Customers have a choice of a wide range of goods and the chance to meet someone for a chat & news update.

The Post Office counter services have changed over the years with shopping online, card transactions and internet banking. Most now benefit from the banks closing many of their branches. However, not everyone will realise that there is an increasing shortfall in the PO income which is well below our staff costs. More customers using the Post Office helps to reduce the shortfall and ensure we maintain this valuable facility in our village.

The original loan to buy the business and premises was repaid after 9 years and the operating surplus since then has been used to improve the shop fabric and equipment, to support the PO and to support many of our village organisations. Over £80,000 has been paid in grants in the last 10 years.

Going forward, there will still be a need for more volunteers as people retire or move on. This can be to serve behind the counter, fill shelves with stock or price incoming stock. Full training will be given and if you'd like to be involved, please contact **Kathy Berry on 238403 or 07933 301280**.

Newspaper sorters and deliverers are also required. Early morning sorters work from 6.30 - 9am: sort the papers for each delivery round and serve early village risers and passers-by as the day begins – just once a week or even once a fortnight. Deliverers can be any age between 13 and 15 to join our reserve list to replace our regular deliverers when they move on. In term time, it means collecting their papers between 6.45 am and 7.15am for a round that takes about 30 minutes. If you want to know more about either of the above positions, please leave your name and contact details at the shop or contact **Howard Williams on 07713 324125**

Have you considered becoming a shareholder? Membership is only £10 per person, this entitles you to attend and participate in the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary meeting. Application forms are available at the Shop.

Finally, 2024 will give us a chance to celebrate 21 successful years of our community Shop and Post Office. **All customers, staff, volunteers and shareholders will be invited to join us on 12th July to celebrate our 21st Birthday.** A buffet will be provided and free tickets available to pick up at the Shop beforehand.

From the Board of Directors

Countryside Notes

Tuesday, 16th January, it was a cold start this morning after a frost but the day evolved into a less windy one in comparison with Monday when the wind blew strongly. Today there was a snow shower this morning which didn't last too long. The old adage that "as the days begin to lengthen, so the cold begins to strengthen" is about right again. I had the privilege of gathering a Posy of Snowdrops on New Year's Day that are growing in an old nettle bed and doing well, and their season will be over long before the nettles wake for their summer flowering. How nature uses times and seasons is amazing. The Hazel Catkins are a little later this year, but Magnolia bushes, along with Camellias, are filling their buds. Different plants seem to have different trigger points to set them into seasonal mode.

I watched with interest a Buzzard being mobbed by a Carrion Crow which was no match for the bigger bird, however, a Kestrel joined in the fray with much more manoeuvrability and speed. The buzzard now had to act and retaliate with talons opened and legs ready to strike and the smaller kestrel made a hasty retreat. It was good to see the different wing movements of all three, each with their own skills. Yesterday, a different bird amused me: a Pied Wagtail was on its own, running on the ice where a little while ago it was picking food from the mud. It looked so much alone and yet was very active, dashing about. However, the numbers feeding at the moment are considerably less this year. There may well be more as the cold snap lasts. What better sight than Chaffinches and Yellow Hammers feeding in the sunshine.

Soon, the little Tommasine Crocuses that have self-sown in the lawn will suddenly be there to take in the warmth of the sun and lift our wintry hearts. Now, will February be a "Fill Dyke" month or are they already full at the start of the month?

R & M

Stillington Parish Council

The meeting was on Wednesday 4th January in the Village Hall with Cllrs Tim Drew (Chairman), Christine Cookman (Vice-Chairman), Richard Smyth, Graham Taylor, Robert Churton and Cllr Tim Milburn together with 2 members of the public. In addition, North Yorkshire Cllr Taylor. Apologies from Cllr Tracy Sinclair.

Public Session

Matters discussed: South Back Lane building site, footway outside the village hall and the village hall fence damaged by a vehicle.

North Yorkshire Councillor's Report.

Cllr Taylor reported that the horse and rider signs have been installed at the Mill corner. The uneven land outside the school is still under negotiation. Cancellation of part of HS2 will result in some monies being received by NYC. The budget will be set next month, and the last equalisation payment will be levied in April.

VAS Signs

Data has been collected and this will now be interpreted.

Gully Cleaning

Gully cleaning has taken place by North Yorkshire Council.

Demolished Barn

Information will be sought as to why the barn on North Back Lane has been demolished without notification to the Council.

North Back Lane junction

Concern was expressed about the blocking of sight lines for vehicles exiting North Back Lane opposite the village hall. An onsite meeting will be requested with North Yorkshire Council.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 7th February 2024 in the Village Hall, 7pm.

The Clerk to the Parish Council

Nigel Knaption at clerk@stillingtonparishcouncil.uk

Enough is enough

Every January I have the privilege of going on retreat to Ilkley. A retreat is a time of reflection and rest, most welcome after the intensity of advent, Christmas and new year. This year we worked through possible meanings of being enough, doing enough and having enough. So, I thought February would be a good time to share my reflection on what I learned.

I struggle with all three of these enoughts. I often feel inadequate in the role I have as a church minister. My colleagues appear to me to be more in control than me. But then I talk to them and find we share those same doubts and insecurities. Perhaps you sometimes feel the same. When faced with this I ask you to consider God's view of creation. Genesis, at the beginning of the Bible, tells us how God looked at what had been created and saw that it was 'good'. After creating everything, God upped the score to 'very good' but God never said it was perfect. None of us are perfect but we are good enough for God's love and grace.

Doing enough is another area for soul searching. We can become addicted to the adrenaline rush of doing more and more and more. Family life and personal time get squeezed by the incessant demands. The result is broken people and often broken relationships. I have a particular passion for encouraging everyone to take time for rest, time for family and time for personal space. I call it sabbath rest; we all need it. Make that time, you, your family and your work will all benefit.

Having enough is another area of difficulty for many of us. Not having enough to eat, a safe and warm place to live or not enough love in our lives, stunts our personal development and blights our lives. Equally, having too much puts us under pressure to have more, is wasteful of resources and blights our lives and the lives of others. Ancient wisdom recognised this 'give me neither poverty nor riches but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown God and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonour the name of my God.'

How much enough is enough? May you know that you are enough to those who love you; may you know the difference between doing enough and doing too much so that you might find your place of rest; and my God bless you with having just enough of the important things in life. Enough is enough. Amen

Reverend John Hayward

CHURCH SERVICES - February

St Nicholas, Stillington

Priest:

Rev Stephen Whiting **810251**
benefice.admin@gmail.com

Lay Minister:

Margaret Price **811262**
pricehm870@gmail.com

Church Wardens:

Janet Martin **822981**
jessie.jm158@gmail.com

Richard Mapletoft **811854**
rmapletoft@outlook.com

Canon Emeritus:

Robert Law **810940**
lrf43@kesonline.org

Sun 4th Morning Worship **10am**

Sun 11th No service at Stillington. You might support other Benefice services:

Holy Communion, Sheriff Hutton **10am**

Shortened Matins, Farlington **10.30am**

Weds 14th Holy Communion for the Benefice' six villages at St Leonard's, Farlington **2pm**

Sun 18th Holy Communion **10am**

Sun 25th Morning Worship **10am**

Visiting the church The church is open every day, from nine or earlier until four.

Prayers for the village Every Thursday, 9am. If you would like to join us or if you would like prayers said for anyone or anything please contact Margaret Price.

Holy Communion at home If you're unable to attend Church on a Sunday morning and would like a visit at home, please call Margaret Price to arrange a convenient time.

St Nicholas Church Rota

29th January - 10th February

CLEANING Mrs M Law

BRASSES VACANT

12th February - 24th February

CLEANING Mrs M Price

BRASSES Mr M Turvey

26th February - 9th March

CLEANING Mrs S Thompson

BRASSES Mrs C Cookman

200 Club Results

December: 1st Mrs Mackinlay - £50

R.U. Mr R Clark

R.U. Mr J Brenndorfer

January: 1st Mrs S Fawcett - £50

R.U. Mr E Richards

R.U. Mrs M Law

Drawn by "Our Ernie"

St Nicholas Flower Rota

4th Feb - Mrs J Ingham

11th Feb - Mrs J Ingham

LENT begins on Wednesday 14th

18th Feb - LENT

25th Feb - LENT

St Nicholas Parish Register

Funeral

Kathleen Bullock

on

Friday 13th December 2023

St Leonard's, Farlington

Priest:

Revd Stephen Whiting
810251

benefice.admin@gmail.com

Church Wardens:

Sally Wright **878745**

Richard Haste **878581**

richardhaste@btinternet.com

Lent Starts This Month

Lent is a period of 40 days - excluding Sundays - which starts on Ash Wednesday. It is the solemn period of preparation for Christ's crucifixion. But it is also the period of preparation for his resurrection which we celebrate on Easter Day. To emphasise this period of solemnity churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration.

Before the start of Lent is Shrove Tuesday, a day of feasting before the 40 days. This year, Lent begins on February 14th which is, of course, Valentine's Day!

Why '*Ash Wednesday*'? Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by people being marked in ash with the sign of the cross.

Sun 11th Shortened Matins (BCP) with hymns **10.30am**

Weds 14th Ash Wednesday service (this service is for all 5 parishes) **2pm**

Sun 25th Holy Communion (BCP) with hymns **10.30am**

We hope we may see you at one or more of these services.

The church is open daily for private prayer or 'quiet time'. The churchyard is open at all times and the spring flowers are just starting to push up through the grass.

Methodist Chapel

Minister:

Rev David Bidnell **01904 345429**
david.bidnell@gmail.com

Steward:

Robin Jackson **810250**
robinjacksonwoodside@gmail.com

Villages Together Methodist Church

Sun 4th Holy Communion, Rev Duck
Huby Methodist Church **10.30am**

Sun 11th Rev Bidnell
Alne Hall **3pm**

Sun 18th Cafe Service, Led by Elaine
Thompson

Huby Methodist Church **10.30am**

Sun 25th Cafe Service, Rev Hayward
Tholthorpe Methodist Church **3pm**

St Mary's Marton

Church Contact:

Caroline Hunt **878242**

martonintheforest@gmail.com

Sue Whiting **810251**

Sun 4th Communion **3pm**

Sun 18th Reflective Service **3pm**

Everyone is very welcome - but please dress up warmly!

Midday Prayers on Tuesday lunchtimes are going ahead, but until the weather gets a bit warmer we are currently meeting in each other's houses! Please contact Caroline for details as we arrange our venue week by week.

Many thanks to Sarah and Rome Sigsworth who came up to Marton Church at Christmas and cleared some more of the spreading ground ivy in the churchyard. This revealed that the native bulbs we planted in autumn are growing well - so in due course we are looking forward to seeing more snowdrops, winter aconites, wood anemones and then bluebells. We certainly won't be attempting to clear all the ivy though - according to tradition this evergreen and extremely resilient plant is a symbol of immortality and everlasting friendship!

Please don't forget to keep an eye out for any photos, stories or information which you would like to share with us for our **History Day on 17th August 2024**. It is always interesting to learn more about the people who have been associated with this beautiful, peaceful, historic building!

