

# Stillington News

Issue 361

[www.stillingtonvillage.org](http://www.stillingtonvillage.org)

February 2025

## Tuesday Pop In



I hope everyone is keeping warm and cosy in the winter weather.

Why not come and join us at the Village Hall, every Tuesday from 10.30 - 12 noon? We will be serving hot drinks... and a variety of treats to eat.

It's a lovely morning so come and join us, enjoy greetings from everyone, chat with valued friends and make new acquaintances in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

It'll make a lively change from sorting all the jobs which can be delayed until tomorrow, won't it?

Looking forward to seeing you all, so do come and enjoy everyone's company during our relaxed, friendly TUESDAY mornings.

## The three village defibrillators:

1. Church Porch available 24/7
2. Sports and Social Club near Squash Court entrance
3. 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\**



## Registered Charity No 1148225

We are here to take your calls and support anyone affected by dementia in North Yorkshire on 03300 578592. Please share our helpline video, and spread the message:

## You've Got a Friend in Us!

## Stillington W.I.

In December, we learned how to make a Christmas wreath: Using a twig circle and a variety of greenery raided from our gardens, and trimmings mostly supplied by Margaret, she showed us how to create a unique festive wreath. More importantly, we had a really fun evening.

Next month's meeting will be our belated, Christmas dinner just for members; from February onwards we will welcome visitors.

A reminder to everyone that the next book sale is in March, so once Christmas is over, your mission (should you choose to accept it!) is to sort through your books to decide which to recycle

## Quizzes at Sports and Social Club

January quiz winners were Janet and David Martin with Kathy and Alan Berry, with at least two other teams in close contention. £350 was raised for the Village Hall. Friday 7 February quiz will be for St Nicholas' Church. Transdev timetable for our No 40 bus service between York and Easingwold A link to their timetable is available: [www.stillingtonvillage.org](http://www.stillingtonvillage.org) under Useful Information. CC

## Eco Top Tips from St Nicholas' Church

Every month the Eco-Working Group at St Nicholas' Church gives a few handy tips for every household to understand and control their carbon emissions.

**February:** Get to grips with your bills

Energy bills: The information on a typical energy bill can be confusing, but understanding it can go a long way to helping you get to grips with your energy use.

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins)

Switch your electricity supplier so that you support renewable electricity generation rather than electricity made by burning fossil fuels. Try the Green Journey price comparison site [greenjourney.switchgasandelectric.com](http://greenjourney.switchgasandelectric.com)

More than half the money spent on fuel bills goes towards providing heating and hot water. Installing a room thermostat, a programmer, thermostatic radiator valves and using them efficiently could save you around £75 a year.

If you already have a full set of heating controls, turning down your room thermostat by just one degree can save £80 a year.

**Please email contributions for the March 2025 issue to [news@stillingtonvillage.org.uk](mailto:news@stillingtonvillage.org.uk) by Wednesday 19th February 2025.**

**Submissions after this may not be able to be included.**

## Huby, Stillington & Sheriff Hutton Newsletter February 2025

The few days we spent in Aquae Sulis, the Roman name for the city of Bath, turned out to be a fascinating time of discovery. Bath's history largely focuses on two particular phases: the Romans in the first four centuries, the centrepiece of this being the extensive Roman baths, and the Georgian period of the 18th century, with its innovative architecture reaching the heights of the Royal Crescent, sometimes used as the background to period dramas on our television screens. The natural hot springs, and their supposed healing properties, drew both the Romans and the Georgians. One visit was to a museum on the Royal Crescent, set out as a typical 18th century house. In addition to all the period pieces of furniture and furnishings we were encouraged to think about image and 18th century selfies. We know how popular it is these days for people to take photos of themselves and to post these pictures on social media for others to see. The same kind of focus on image was just as true three hundred years ago, particularly among the wealthy, as portraits. What the exhibition invited us to do was to look carefully at a series of portraits and to ask ourselves how these individuals were wanting to be seen: what was the significance of their clothing, the background, whether they were sitting or standing, who else might be in the painting ... and then came the question of what was missing – what had been airbrushed out by the artist! How do we see ourselves? How are we seen by others? These are questions which go to the heart of our identity, of who we are, of how we understand ourselves, of how we value ourselves, of how we are honest with ourselves: They are ultimately questions of truth. Why is this so important? Because how we see and understand ourselves has a significant impact on how we see, understand and relate to others.

David Bidnell, Methodist Minister

## Stillington Wanderers

It was a clear day for the Oulston walk on 16 December, west past Manor Farm to Thornton Lane and return via the Foss. Walk along the extended Thornton Lodge site, River Kyle and the new development of Low Buildings.

On 30 December, the walk from Aldwark headed east to the rear of Aldwark Manor and through Hall Moor woodland; then north over to Straight Lane past the Rising Sun Farm and Haddock's Plantation, returning via Rice Lane.

Lying snow and fallen timber from December's Storm Darrugh faced 13 walkers on 13 January walking the northern edge of Rievaulx Moor from Newgate roadside and return via Newbiggin Bank: all worth the effort.

**Next walks:** Monday 10 and 24 February 2025. Meet outside the White Bear at 9.30am CC

## Countryside Notes

Sunday 19th January brought a dreary and chilly day, with most of the yard's ice melted. As the saying goes, 'As the days begin to lengthen, so the cold begins to strengthen.' With the cold snap arriving alongside the new moon,



it's a sign the chill may linger. We've not faced such a cold spell in years, and the wildlife has reacted accordingly. Birds are feeding eagerly—long-tailed tits visit regularly, and a male greater spotted woodpecker, distinguished by the red nape on his neck, has been busy at the nuts. Pheasants and red-legged partridges have discovered the corn in the buildings, appearing daily for breakfast. The french partridges, shy breeders, rarely rear more

than three chicks annually, though they've been around the farmstead for years. Meanwhile, grey squirrels, anticipating the cold, have built dreys in the tall hedges. These round nests of twigs and leaves resemble smaller, less thorny magpie nests. While entertaining to watch as they perform acrobatics in the trees, their numbers should be controlled, as they can be a threat to bird nests. On 3rd January, I was delighted to gather a posy of snowdrops. Though they don't last long in water, they spark the hope of spring. Around the same time, an orange japonica flower bloomed, and a white camellia was bursting forth—both out of season. I trust nature will soon restore its rhythm. Those who missed the sunsets leading up to Christmas missed a spectacle, especially on Christmas Eve. The sky brimmed with colour, filling half the horizon. Returning from Malton, I was lucky to witness it and see photographers capturing the moment. It reminded me of people travelling to Scandinavia to glimpse the Northern Lights at great expense, while such beauty was available here, free of charge. Different phenomena, yes, but the natural world offers much to marvel at throughout the year. Last year, I found the complete skin of a dragonfly larva on an iris stalk - a reminder of nature's transformations - from nymph to exquisite dragonfly. So, keep your eyes open for the remarkable in your daily rounds. Happy days to you, dear Readers. R&M

### **St. Nicholas' Church**

**Priest:** Steve Whiting 01347 810251  
revstevewhiting@gmail.com

**Lay Minister:** Margaret Price 01347  
811262 pricehm870@gmail.com

**Churchwardens:** Janet Martin 01347  
822981 jessie.jm158@gmail.com  
Richard Mapletoft 01347 811854  
rmapletoft@outlook.com

**Canon Emeritus:** Robert Law 01347  
810940 lrf43@kesonline.org

### **Worship in Church in December**

Sunday February 2nd 10.00am Morning  
Prayer

Sunday February 9th No service at  
Stillington. Services at: Sutton BCP  
Holy Communion 8am; Sheriff Hutton  
Holy Communion 10am; Farlington BCP

Shortened Matins 10.30am.

Sunday February 16th 10.00am Holy  
Communion

Sunday February 23rd 10.00am Songs of  
Praise. Sing along to your favourite  
hymns and tell us your favourite in  
advance.

### **Visiting the church**

The church is open every day, from nine  
or earlier until 4pm..

### **Prayers for the village**

These take place every Thursday at 9am.  
If you would like to join us or if you  
would like prayers said for anyone or  
anything please contact Margaret Price  
(01347 811262; pricehm870@gmail.com)  
or leave a note in the side chapel of St  
Nicholas.

### **Holy Communion at Home**

Would you like to receive Holy  
Communion at home?  
If you are unable to come to Church on  
Sunday mornings, would you like a visit  
at home? Do make a phone call to arrange  
a convenient time. Margaret Price 01347  
811262.

### **St. Nicholas' Church Flower Rota February 2025**

February 2nd Mrs J Ingham  
February 9th Mrs J Ingham  
February 16th Mrs W Walton  
February 23rd Mrs W Walton  
March 2nd Mrs G Churton

If anyone would like to join us or help by  
sponsoring flowers for Sundays please  
get in touch with Mrs G Churton 07779  
629616

We would very much appreciate more  
help with the flowers; please phone Gelda  
Churton as above. Thank you

### **Stillington Church**

Many thanks to everyone who  
supported the Christingle service: we  
raised for the Children's Society.  
Also a big thank you to the twenty six  
people who came along to join the  
choir at the Christmas Carol service,  
and to Les Bresnen for organising it.  
The music was much appreciated by  
the large congregation.

### **St. Mary's Church, Marton in the Forest**

It was a shame that we had to cancel  
our very first service of 2025, but the  
weather was just too grim! If we have  
to cancel, we send an email to all  
Marton Friends and post information  
about this (usually by midday) on our  
Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/martonchurch>  
or phone the churchwardens:  
Caroline 878242 or Sue 810251.

In February we are hoping to have  
two services:

Sunday 2nd February at 3pm - a  
Celtic Communion for Candlemas  
Sunday 16th February at 3pm - Celtic  
Worship.

Our Midday Prayers group  
on Tuesdays continues to take refuge  
in a nice warm house - please contact  
Caroline for venue details.

Many thanks to the White Bear Inn,  
Stillington, for a donation of £90  
from their recent quiz night.

We also received a surprise donation  
of £300 from Sheriff Hutton  
Jumbles, following the sale of a few  
donated items of jewellery. This will  
help towards the cost of our 2025  
quinquennial (5-yearly) architectural  
inspection, which is likely to be  
around £2000; the Church of England  
no longer subsidises any part of this  
cost. Regular visitors to Marton  
Church will also be pleased to hear  
that Sheriff Hutton Village Market  
has given us a grant of £300 towards  
the cost of replacing the round bench  
in our churchyard this year. This is a  
popular place for a picnic or just to sit  
and admire the views. With  
snowdrops and the first daffodils  
heralding the approaching spring.

### **Villages Together**

Minister Rev David Bidnell 01904  
345429

[david.bidnell@gmail.com](mailto:david.bidnell@gmail.com)

Steward Robin Jackson 810250  
[robinjacksonwoodside@gmail.com](mailto:robinjacksonwoodside@gmail.com)

### **Services for February**

Sunday 2nd 10-30am at Huby  
Rev David Priestnall service of Holy  
Communion

Sunday 9th 3pm at Alne Hall  
Rev David Bidnell

Sunday 16th 1.30pm at Huby  
Cafe Service led by Rev Ruth Duck

Sunday 23rd 3pm at Tholthorpe  
Cafe Service led by Rev John Hayward

Sunday March 2nd at Huby 10-30am  
United Covenant Service conducted by

Rev David Bidnell and  
Margaret Price, this service was

postponed from January  
Christmas Day

Thank you for your donations to Action  
for Children; we raised £80

### **St Leonard's, Farlington**

In January we started the new year  
with our Plough Sunday service  
accompanied by an excellent,  
warming ploughman's lunch.  
Now, spring is very much in the  
air with snowdrops in the  
churchyard and the days getting  
longer.

### **Services at St Leonard's in February**

Sunday 9th 10.30am Shortened  
Matins (BCP) with hymns

Sunday 23rd 10.30am Holy  
Communion (BCP)

with hymns

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.

### **St. Nicholas' Church Cleaning Rota Cleaning**

10th - 22nd February Mrs M Price

24th-February - 8th March

Mrs S Thompson

Brasses

10th - 22nd February Mr C Torlesse

24th February - 8th March Mrs C  
Cookman





**.SGC NEWSLETTER –  
February 2025**

**February Speaker**

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February our guest speaker will be Martin Walker. His topic is **Gardening Grumbles**; this sounds very interesting.

**AGM**

The 2025 AGM will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April. The AGM starts at 7.15pm which will be followed by our Speaker at 7.30pm.

**2025 Plant Sale**

This will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May. It will follow the very successful format of previous years except it will be held in the Village Hall. Plants will be displayed on tables. And, oh yes there will be coffee, tea and cream scones!!

**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. 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.

**Top gardening jobs this month**

Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover.

Knowing which vegetables to sow where, when and how means you can maintain constant supplies throughout the season.

Sow vegetable seeds and chit potato tubers

It's important with earlies, and a good idea with maincrops, to chit the seed potatoes before planting. This means allowing them to start sprouting shoots.

Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches from frost.

**Top Tips for this month**

-Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off

-Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering

-Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green'

-Prune Wisteria

-Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges

-Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea

-Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

**Stillington Community Primary School**

EYFS are looking forward to their fairy trail visit when they return after the half term linking to their learning of woodland areas. Our children have been exploring seasonal changes throughout the year and what different environments offer to the creatures that live there such as in rainforests, polar environments and woodlands.

We are very excited to build upon our learning!

Key Stage One are enjoying exploring printing as part of their Art learning this half term where they will experiment with patterns from natural materials. We are looking forward to a visit from a distinguished artist to visit our school to enhance our pupils' learning of printing.

Key Stage Two are learning about percussion in Music where they will explore different sounds and how to make them. The pupils will explore using body percussion, tuned and untuned instruments to create a performance piece.

If you would like to book a visit to our school, please contact the admin office on:

[stillingtonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:stillingtonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk) for more information.

Kind regards,  
**Miss India Tordoff**  
**Head of School**

**200 Club Results**

The results are

1st Mr R. Smythe

2nd Master Eli Price

3rd Mr P. Tomlinson

Drawn by "Our Ernie"

**Church Register**

The wedding between Bernard Smith and Karen Peters took place on the 8th December at St Nicholas' Church, Stillington.

**Your editors are Lorraine Chamberlain and Wanda Szajna-Hopgood.**

**If you would like to contact us please use the Stillington News email:** [news@stillingtonvillage.org.uk](mailto:news@stillingtonvillage.org.uk)

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**Thank you**