Stillington High St - 1935



Stillington News

June 2026 Issue 377

Email: news@stillingtonvillage.org

How well are the wildflowers doing in the churchyard?

Inviting anyone who would like to help count the wildflowers in the field next to St Nicholas' Churchyard on North Back Lane.

Saturday 6th June 10.00am - 12 noon

Help will be given to identify the flowers and all materials provided. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Children should be accompanied.

Margaret Price 07528 768848

Krafty Ninjas

As many of you may have seen, our village postbox has now gone solar, certainly giving us plenty to talk about! Naturally, we've been discussing what this might mean for our much-loved postbox toppers. But we were determined not to be defeated; instead, we're rising like a phoenix. So please keep an eye out for our brand-new pop-up postbox toppers, which will be appearing around the village very soon. Is there anything you'd love to see featured on a topper? Let us know!

That's not all, we've also been busy planning and creating a very special Harry Potter–themed event for the upcoming summer holidays. So, get your wands at the ready and watch out for the Marauder's Map… coming soon.

Meet weekly at The Bay Tree, Main Street, Stillington every Tuesday 7.00pm – 9.00pm.



What's On at Stillington Sports & Social Club

- **Friday 19th June** - Quiz Night 7.30pm start followed by Higher/Lower Cards
- **Sunday 28th June** - York Joe Lumb 18 Cricket Match
- **Friday 17th July** - Quiz Night 7.30pm start followed by Higher/Lower Cards
- **Saturday 22nd August** – Ladies Day at the Club. Afternoon watching the Ebor Festival Racing, Afternoon Tea, fizz and lots of laughs.
- **Sunday 30th August** – Family Fun Day, Bouncy Castle, BBQ & Live Music
- **Saturday 26th September** – 80s / 90s Music Night. Let's go back in time!
- **Saturday 24th October** - Line Dancing to include supper. Max 40 £12.50

Please support your local Sports Club.

Stillington Post Office and Stores

Following guidance released by the RSPB we will not be selling bird seed and nuts until October. We do, however, have a stock of fat balls which the RSPB have advised can still be put out for the birds.

Recycling

We recycle the following items: Our supplier's egg boxes for reuse; old glasses and hearing aids; used stamps and used batteries.

You can drop off these recyclable items when you call in for your daily essentials.

Thanks for supporting your local store.

200 Club results are as follows: **1st** Mrs A Parkhouse; **R U** Mrs D Hugill; **3rd** Mrs S Roberts, drawn by Our Ernie.

Church Register: The funeral of Bernard "Bernie" Smith was held on the 14th April at St Nicholas' Church, Stillington.

Notes from the Editors

The Stillington News is made possible through the generous support of local organisations and individual donations from members of the community. The publication is produced entirely by a small team of volunteers, with local printing costs representing our principal monthly expenditure. Each month, 425 copies are printed and distributed throughout the village, with a small number also available in the Village Shop. It is with the support of donations we are usually able to meet our annual expenditure. Submissions need to be within a 350-word limit, as it allows more people to have an input into the newsletter.

Many thanks, Lorraine and Wanda.

Please email contributions for the July issue to news@stillingtonvillage.org **by Friday 19th of June.** Submissions received after this date may not be included.

If you would like to donate to the Stillington News, you can do so either by BACS (Stillington News Account no: 41651089; sort code: 09 01 54) or by sending cheques to 1, Chantry Gardens, Stillington, YO61 1NF. We operate within a tight budget, so new donations would be very gratefully received.

Stillington Surgery – Covid-19 Spring Boosters and RSV vaccinations

Thank you to all patients who supported our Covid-19 Spring Booster Campaign. To date, we have vaccinated over 250 eligible patients.

We are also currently running our RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) vaccination campaign. This is a one-time vaccination which from 1st April 2026 now includes all patients aged 80 years and over. We will continue to contact eligible patients over the next few weeks.

Later this year we will be offering the Covid-19 autumn booster with our seasonal influenza vaccinations, and we look forward to receiving your continued support with these. **Drs Metcalfe and Keen**

New system for our Household Waste Recycling Centres

North Yorkshire residents are now required to register at our local recycling centre when visiting or before we visit. The new system started 27th April and if residents have not already registered, they will be handed explanatory flyers. If you have any queries, please refer to the FAQs: Household waste recycling centre registration North Yorkshire Council. Alternatively, you can contact waste.management@northyorks.gov.uk, and a member of the team will be happy to help.

STILLINGTON GARDENING CLUB

Plant Sale - The Bring & Buy Plant Sale was again held in the Village Hall this year. The quality of plants was very high, so a big thank you to all those who brought plants and to those who bought them. The coffee and cream scones were again very popular with all six tables full most of the time. The takings on plants and coffee were similar to last year which is very good and many members collected their new programmes while paying their membership subscriptions. We started at 10.00am and we left the Hall looking very tidy at 12noon. **Well done and many thanks to all the Committee and those who helped.**

The AGM took place on Wednesday 29th April. Thank you to all who came to the evening. It was followed by a very good talk on Beningbrough, The Treasurer's House and Goddards.

Annual Flower Show Sunday 9th August - Plans are well ahead for this year's show. Sarah Raper has prepared this year's schedule, with one or two alterations from last year. The schedules for the Show will be available in the Village Shop in June. If you would like an early copy please ask Sarah or Gelda.

Gardening Tips for June –

- Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside.
- Choose vibrant bedding plants for a short-term show or herbs, shrubs and evergreens for a long-lasting display.
- Be water-wise, especially in drought-affected areas, and pinch outside shoots on tomatoes.

Stillington Tennis Club

Matches have started for the two mixed teams in the York and District league with home matches played on Tuesday evenings. **Captains Jennifer Jones and Anne Barfoot welcome anyone interested in playing matches to join the practice nights on Sundays at 5.30pm. Coaching for all ages and standards can also be arranged: details are on the website** www.stillingtontennis.org**.** For more information, please contact Ken Stirk, Chairman 07768 635086; Jennifer Jones, Secretary 07599 498843; or Graham Cookman, Treasurer 01347 810047.

Stillington Wanderers

A select group of four undertook 4th May Bank Holiday walk from the City of Troy maze, north of Skewsby. With forestry works completed near Potters Hill, the Mugdale footpath is open again with its spread of bluebells, primroses, wild garlic and other unidentified flowers; walkers eventually returning via Scackleton Grange on a beautiful May morning.

Next walks: Mondays 1st and 15th June. Meet outside the White Bear at 9.30am.

'Stillington Live'

Elastic Band and Mrs Bumbys famous hot supper

Stillington Village Hall

Saturday 6th June 7pm

Bar available

Tickets available from the Village Shop - £15

Advanced notice- Steve Cassidy Band - 26th September

W.I. Report

Our May meeting of the WI was just for members and there was no speaker, so after the business was concluded, we turned it into a tea party with bring-and-share nibbles! and a catch up of everyone's news.

We will welcome Beverley Potter on the 10th June at 7:30pm in Stillington Village Hall, who will tell us about keeping goats, and the products she makes from the milk including soap. Some of you may have met her already as she is a regular at local craft fairs.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, £4 including refreshments.

Yorkshire Air Ambulance Clothes Bank

A bright yellow Yorkshire Air Ambulance Clothes Bank has just arrived at the Sports and Social Club. It's at the top left-hand side of the car park near the squash courts building.

Any donations of clothes and shoes should please be IN BAGS



Countryside Notes

Friday 15th May. The morning is bright but a cold wind blows as it has done over the last few days. The lambing is about over and has gone reasonably well. One ewe had struggled to accept a spare lamb but has this morning accepted it and looks happy about it after ten days of not letting it suckle. The hedgerows are decked in May blossom and the Blackthorn gave a wonderful show of white flower in March. I like the May with its distinct smell, strong in the air. I am especially enchanted by the May blossom up in the Dales among the white-grey stone walls.

Just as I came in, a pair of Oyster Catchers flew over calling out to each other. Annually we seem to get a pair of these handsome birds who are marine birds by nature. We have a pair of Water Hens who are busy raising a family on the pond and have had much pleasure in watching them come to the bird feeder to get crumbs dropped by other birds. This morning there are three young birds on the lawn with their parents. We moved a feeding station in winter so we could see the visiting birds more often, a good move. One day the male found a fair-sized piece of bread and was intercepted by his bossy wife who took the bread off him to take to the hungry brood. One day a squirrel crossed their path and was given the ' get off my patch' in no uncertain manner. There have been many smaller birds coming to feed: Robins are very busy taking food for a hungry family, Chaffinches, Goldfinches, Dunnocks, House Sparrows and occasionally Tree Sparrows, a pair of Bullfinches are about, and Siskins were with us for a day or two.

The pond sees a pair of Mallards and a majestic, tall grey Heron silently drops in to feed. The garden is in good flower at the moment but much of it needs some attention to the ever-present Nettle, and Ground Elder which is forever making a take-over bid. As summer unfolds, so nature's paintbrush does its artwork for us all to enjoy. R&M





Village Defibrillators

The village has three defibrillators. All three are available 24/7, no codes are needed.

The defibrillators are kept:

1. The church porch

2. The Sports and Social Club, near the Squash Court entrance

3. The front wall of the Village Hall



Remember: Call an Ambulance, start CPR, get the defibrillator – it will tell you what to do.

A fond farewell.

Over the years of my ministry, I have watched the social and political landscape change in many ways: habits shifting, communities adapting, and people facing new challenges and uncertainties. Yet through it all, one thing has remained constant: people need one another, and still need hope.

One of the clearest reminders of that came during the pandemic. At a time when life felt uncertain and people were isolated from family and friends, our villages showed the very best of community spirit. Neighbours checked on neighbours, shopping was collected, phone calls were made, and simple acts of kindness carried people through difficult days. We discovered again that even when we are physically apart, we are never meant to live life alone.

I often use the phrase, 'ministry happens,' because it happens every day, often unexpectedly, in conversations, in chance meetings on the street, or in moments of joy and sorrow. Ministry is never confined to Sundays alone: it is woven into ordinary life. One of the greatest privileges of being a parish priest is being invited into important moments in people's lives – baptisms, weddings, funerals, celebrations, and times of grief. These moments bring us together at the deepest points of human experience, and I have always counted that as a gift.

As many of you know, this is my last letter before I retire at the end of July. Looking back over my years serving these five parishes, I feel deeply grateful. Whether you are a regular churchgoer, visit only occasionally, or simply belong to the wider village community, thank you for allowing me to share part of your lives. You have touched mine more than you may realise. As summer begins and village life moves outdoors once again, my hope is that we continue to look out for one another, to value kindness, and to cherish the communities we are part of. Small acts of care and friendship still matter enormously.

Thank you for your support, your humour, your friendship, and your kindness over the years. It has been a real privilege to serve among you.

With every blessing,

Revd. Steve Whiting

Villages Together Methodist Church Updates

After many, many delays (mainly due to planning issues) the sale of the Methodist Chapel in Stillington has been completed. Neither the York Circuit nor the local trustees of VTMC now have any connections with the building or the land. This draws to a close one chapter in the life of Methodism in the village, however, it is not the end of the story.

Members of VTMC still worship in the village, usually with friends at St Nicholas' Church. Some of us are also involved in other ecumenical activities such as children's work and community engagement activities such as Pop-up cafes and Cream Teas. The church has a regular pattern of Sunday worship at Huby and Tholthorpe Chapels, and also at Alne Hall where there is a flourishing community. We are supported and encouraged by our minister, Rev Alex.

As a group of Methodists in the York area we are also in the process of discerning a viable way forward for all our congregations. In our local area we see this as involving more shared activities and worship with friends in Easingwold, Strensall and Sheriff Hutton. We hope that this will enable us to minimise the amount of effort we spend on paperwork and legalities and maximise our efforts on more exciting and fulfilling mission opportunities.

We feel there are good times ahead and we hope our village community will continue to support us as we evolve.

St Nicholas' Church - Priest: Steve Whiting 01347 810251 revstevewhiting@gmail.com Lay Minister: Margaret Price 01347 811262 pricehm870@gmail.com Churchwarden: Richard Mapletoft 01347 811854 rmapletoft@outlook.com Canon Emeritus: Robert Law 01347 810940 lrf43@kesonline.org

Worship in Church in June, all are most welcome for every service.

Sunday 7th 10.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 14th 10.00am *This is Your Life* - come and learn whose life we are celebrating: Richard Wurmbrand? Ignatius? Elizabeth Fry?

Sunday 21st 10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th 10.00am Pet Service, outdoors. Bring your furry (or not so furry) friends to celebrate their lives with us.

Sunday 28th 4.00pm Deanery Evensong at St John's, Easingwold

Visiting the church: The church is open every day, from 9.00am (or earlier) until 4.00pm.

Prayers for the village take place every Thursday at 9.00am. If you would like to join us or like prayers said 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 cannot come to church, would you like a visit at home? Do make a phone call to arrange a convenient time. Margaret Price 01347 811262.

June Flower Rota: 7th Mrs J Martin; 14th & 21st Mrs E Morse; 28th Mrs M Price

St Mary's Church, Marton in the Forest

We have two services planned for June:

A Celtic Communion at 6.00pm on Sunday 7th and a Celtic Evening Service at 6.00pm on Sunday 21st. Everyone is always welcome, and a group of us usually stays behind afterwards to enjoy refreshments and have a chat.

Our annual Count on Nature is from 6th- 14th June. If you are interested in wildlife, come and see what you can spot! We would love you to record your findings on one of our checklists in the entrance, and there are also some useful guides in the bookcase at the back of the church.

We'll be hosting a Quiet Day on Saturday 20th June, led by Rev Steve Whiting. This is an open opportunity to retreat from the busyness of everyday life and enjoy some quiet reflection. The programme for the day starts at 9.30am with refreshments and ends with an informal afternoon communion, but you are also welcome to come and go. We will provide drinks and cakes, but participants should bring their own packed lunch. Hopefully, the weather will smile on us and we'll be able to spend some of the time outside, soaking up the scenery.

If you would like to find out more or book a place, please email martonintheforest@gmail.com or call Caroline on 878242.

St Leonard's, Farlington

It was a little chilly out in the churchyard but the sun shone and the rousing singing kept everyone who had come to celebrate Rogationtide warm. Rogationtide is one of the farming-related events in the church calendar and is an occasion of thanks and blessing for the work of farmers, their livestock and their crops – very appropriate in rural Farlington. Traditionally, Rogationtide is followed by three days of fasting, but not at St Leonard's. Ours was followed by an abundance of sandwiches, cakes, scones and delicious desserts. It was lovely to see so many people. The orphaned lambs in their pen enjoyed having so much attention and a crowd of cows hung over the fence to enjoy the occasion.

Services in June

Halfway through the year! Our services this month:

Sunday 14th 10.30am Shortened Matins (BCP)

Sunday 28th 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

We hope you will be able to join us for one or both of these services.

The Church is open daily for private prayer; the peaceful churchyard is open at all times.