

The Parish of The Asterby Group

Newsletter

November
to December
2025



All information contained within this newsletter is assumed correct at time of publication.

Remembering and the unwrapping of Christmas

Dear Friends,

November is the month of remembering. On Remembrance Sunday we remember, with deep respect, those who have given their lives in the service of their country, those who continue to face the challenge of life-changing injuries, those who serve now, and the organisations which offer help and support. On All Souls Day, 2nd November, we remember our loved ones and the promise of God's everlasting care. As we remember, God remembers each and every one of us too – Jesus said, “I will be with you always”.

December is the month when advertising, selling and consuming reach their peak. Indeed for many businesses these four weeks of febrile trading are vital for their profits. The beautifully simple idea of the exchange of thoughtful gifts can so easily become buried in wrapping paper and glitz.

The most important giving and receiving we remember at Christmas is very different. At the very beginning of St. John's Gospel we read, 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us'. Another way of translating these words from the original Greek language is, 'Jesus came and pitched his tent among us'. The 'giving' was God sending His only Son Jesus to be born into this world. It was a costly gift because it involved Jesus suffering and going the way of the Cross. But it was done out of love for all of us. It was a gift that would make possible forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus is no remote figure. He is right where we are, beside us, knowing, understanding and caring about our individual situations.

So when we receive gifts at Christmas we are reminded that we can 'receive' the greatest gift of all, life through Jesus. The baby Jesus, laid in a manger, was born in the most humble of circumstances. It was the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks who heard the angels proclaim, “Peace on earth, good will to all people”.

This Christmas we are offered a gift that is for all time and for all people. As we receive this gift we are each challenged in some small way to help bring a little more peace and goodwill into the places where we are. We remember those whose only homes are tents, those who find themselves marginalised or overlooked, those who face the harshness of life with sometimes only a wrapping of newspaper to shield them from the bitterness of a winter's night.

Christmas is about God's gift for us all: unwrapped, wanted, needed and forever.

Mark

Rev. Mark Holden – Rural Dean, minister with oversight of the Asterby Group

**The Vicarage,
Wragby**

Benniworth Church



A meeting was held on Sunday 21st September to raise awareness of the sorry state of the roof and to consider the way forward. The Archdeacon, the Very Reverend Alyson Buxton and the Rural Dean, Reverend Mark Holden were unable to attend. The meeting was chaired by David Bailey, Benniworth Parish Clerk. The principal speaker was Steven Sleight, Secretary of Diocesan Advisory Committee who outlined the procedure should the Church have to be closed. It was agreed that the way forward was to form a formal group to find out what is and what is not practical and possible i.e. to repair or otherwise.

The verbatim Minutes and recording of the meeting can be found here <http://www.bubbling-brook.co.uk/files/StJuliansUpdate.pdf>

Or by contacting Kelda Spratt by email kelda.spratt@gmail.com

Harvest Festival

Reverend Canon Charles Patrick led a service (amid a selection of buckets to catch the rain) that was attended by 30 people. St Julians was beautifully decorated and everyone enjoyed the hospitality and the opportunity to chat.

Carol Service

The next big date is Thursday 11th December when, at 7pm the Banovallum Band will play at a service of readings and carols led by John Parkins. Everyone is welcome. Use this opportunity to exchange Christmas greetings with your neighbours. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and refreshments.

We may not have a pub, a school or a village hall but for the moment we have St Julians !

Parish Registers

Weddings:

Holly French & Luke Powell were married at St Martin's Church, Scamblesby on 11th October.

Funerals:

29/08/25 Ian Kirk service at St German's Church, Ranby.

25/09/25 Jean Scully graveside service at St Martins' Church, Scamblesby

22/10/25 Ronald Lines service at Alford Crematorium



Newsletter Autumn 2025

Council Membership Current Vacancies: Further to the last Parish Council of September one vacancy remains open.

It is still proposed to co-opt a new councillor at the next parish council meeting set for 7th October. Should interested parties not already have done so, anyone wishing to put themselves forward for a position of councillor please submit their intention either by email to clerk at the parish council or in person at the village hall council meeting scheduled for 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th October 2025.

Playground & Amenities Playground Refurbishment: Excellent News

The Parish Council are pleased to report having been successful in securing grant funding from the LCC Grass Roots Scheme along with that of a Lottery Commission grant award. This super news will not only allow us to improve the playground area space and fencing but also include that of several new rides, some of which will incorporate the disability access equipment as was recently been reported in previous newsletters.

We are currently considering all quotations for the replacement of fencing around the playground area which is to include a new gated entrance. The new fencing will afford that of additional space proposed for new equipment including the new sub-matting required for safety purposes. The above replacement fencing still remains our priority and it's intended to be in-place by late this autumn.

It had been intended to include a new 'play-field' entrance/access gate giving an improved pushchair wheelchair & disability access, this currently remains under review but subject to available funding.

Sports Field & Facilities : Having been so successful with our recent playground grant applications the parish council will continue to review all opportunities for any future potential upgrades of the sports field facilities and MUGA, it's hoped this could improve the complex with off-road parking & changing facility.

Allotments It was pleasing to see that some of our allotment holders contributed to the village scarecrow event. We are pleased to report all allotments are currently taken up until the end of next autumn 2026. .

Village Parking & Speed Limits : The long-running issues of speed limits and parking in and around our school area is currently under review and in consultation with LCC and their Highways and Byways department. The parish council will provide further information in regards to both once this becomes available.

Date of the Next Parish Meeting 7.30pm Tuesday 7th October 2025.

'Nature & Garden Watch'

Following the spring and summer paragraphs on our village visitors, the introduction of this feature has attracted considerable interest amongst our villagers with some extremely positive comments.

With so many of our villagers watching and or feeding the wildlife there appears to be considerable interest in the nature around us all. Going forward this would present an excellent opportunity for this particular article to grow especially as we head into the coming winter and look forward to spring of next year.

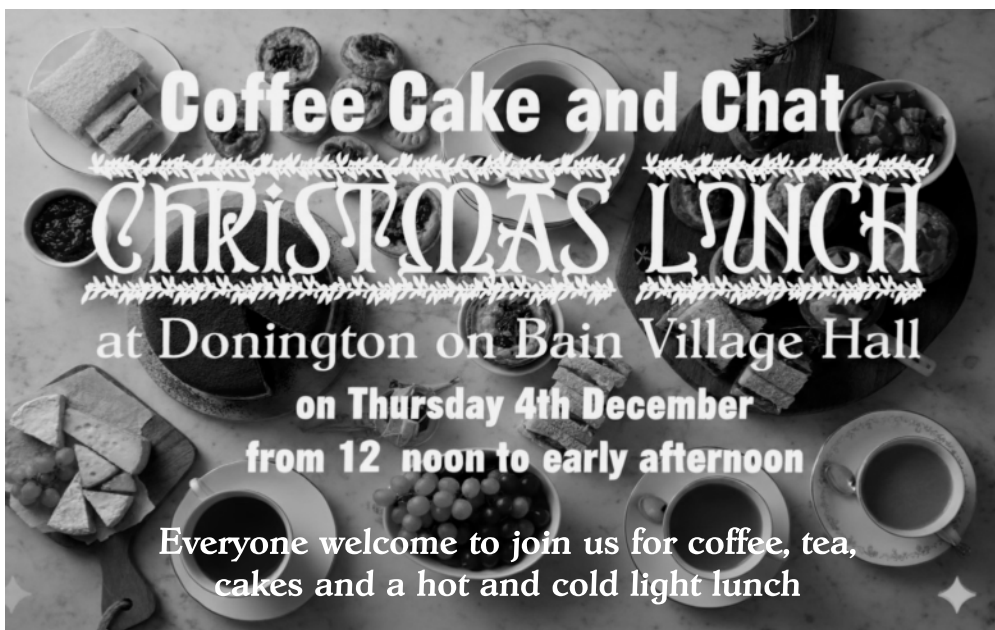
Worth asking again, would anyone be interested in contributing to a regular Nature & Garden-Watch seasonal feature if it were to continue ... if so, then please feel free to register your interest.

Deadline for next Newsletter

All articles and adverts for inclusion in the **January / February 2026** edition to be with Sue, on **07826 772452** or email: **moomoski@btinternet.com** by **10th December 2025**. Please let me have your items written out, or, preferably emailed, as you would like them to appear, and as early as possible, **please don't wait until the deadline**.

To place an advert please contact Sue on the above number. All items on behalf of the church have no charge. Any other events or adverts will have a minimal charge. This helps to maintain and develop your newsletter. Contact **Sue** by email here at **moomoski@btinternet.com**

Stamps, foreign coins, banknotes and postcards, used or new, are still being collected by Sue. All these items can be placed in the 'stamp collection boxes' in most of the churches or directly to me at Bramley House, Benniworth. **07826 772452**.



Coffee Cake and Chat
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
at Donington on Bain Village Hall
on Thursday 4th December
from 12 noon to early afternoon
Everyone welcome to join us for coffee, tea,
cakes and a hot and cold light lunch

Remember, remember the 5th of November or Forget, forget before regret?

What's your view on Fireworks?

The debate over banning fireworks is a fiery one, pun intended. Let's break down the key arguments on both sides so you can decide where you stand.

Arguments For Banning Fireworks

- Animal Welfare: Pets and wildlife often suffer from the loud noises and bright flashes. The RSPCA has backed petitions calling for restrictions due to the distress caused to animals.
- Mental Health Impact: People with PTSD, dementia, or sensory sensitivities can find fireworks deeply unsettling.
- Safety Concerns: Injuries from fireworks, especially when used by untrained individuals, are a recurring issue. Some campaigns call for limiting fireworks to licensed professionals only.
- Environmental Damage: Fireworks release chemicals and particulate matter that pollute the air and water.
- Noise Pollution: Events like the AC/DC concert at Murrayfield led to complaints and a proposed ban on fireworks at that venue due to excessive noise.

Arguments Against Banning Fireworks

- Cultural Significance: Fireworks are central to celebrations like Bonfire Night, Diwali, New Year's Eve, and Chinese New Year. Banning them could feel like erasing tradition.
- Public Enjoyment: Many people find fireworks joyful and awe-inspiring. A large portion of the population still supports their use, especially during festivals.
- Regulation vs. Prohibition: Some argue that better regulation, like restricting fireworks to specific dates or requiring licenses, is a more balanced solution than an outright ban.

Middle Ground?

- Some proposals suggest allowing fireworks only on traditional holidays and banning private use outside of those dates. This could reduce harm while preserving cultural celebrations

fireworkcampaign.com



I'm delighted to share with you that this year's Donington on Bain Scarecrow Festival raised an amazing £470 for Cancer Research UK!

A big thank you goes out to everyone who created scarecrows, donated, joined in the trail, and brought so much laughter and colour to the village. Your kindness, creativity, and generosity made it a truly special weekend. The feedback and kind words I received were lovely. Together, we've shown how much our little village can do when we all pitch in. I'm already looking forward to 2026!

Karl

one for your diary ...

Next Year's Festival will be held on 28th to the 31st August 2026



A STRAW-TASTIC SUCCESS!
OUR SCARECROW FESTIVAL RAISED
£470
FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED IN AND
stuffed the village full of fun!



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK



DONINGTON ON BAIN VILLAGE HALL

Winter Craft Fair

22nd November
2pm to 4.30pm

Get those extra special
handmade Christmas gifts

- Handmade cards
- Jewellery
- Country crafts
- Knitted and felted items
- Works of art
- Stained glass and mosaics
- Crystals
- Vintage clothes and accessories

Tea/coffee and delicious homemade
cakes will also be available



NOVEMBER	
SATURDAY 1ST 2PM	THE HAUNTED TREASURE CHEST
TUESDAY 4TH 2PM	AFTERNOON TEA CONCERT - KELLY ROX COUNTRY SHOW
WEDNESDAY 5TH - SATURDAY 8TH 7:30PM	NUNSENSE
THURSDAY 13TH 7:30PM	RUDDER - A COMEDY DANCE SHOW ABOUT BALANCE
FRIDAY 14TH 7:30PM	YOUNG ELTON
SATURDAY 15TH 7:30PM	YOU'RE THE VOICE
FRIDAY 21ST 7:30PM	BEATLEMANIA
SATURDAY 22ND 7:30PM	FLEETWOOD MAC & TOM PETTY LEGACY SHOW
SUNDAY 23RD 3PM	LOUTH & DISTRICT CONCERT SOCIETY PRESENTS EWAN MILLAR, OBOE & CERY'S MACALLISTER, SOPRANO
FRIDAY 28TH 7:30PM	A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY
SATURDAY 29TH 2:30PM	STEP INTO CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY 30TH 6PM	EDC PRESENTS - MUSICAL EXPRESS
DECEMBER	
TUESDAY 2ND - WEDNESDAY 3RD 7:30PM	A CHRISTMAS CAROL
SATURDAY 6TH 8PM	COMEDY NIGHT
SUNDAY 7TH 7PM	SING IT LOUD!
FRIDAY 12TH 7PM - SATURDAY 13TH 2:30PM	BLAZE YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE PRESENT - CHRISTMAS IS COMING
WEDNESDAY 17TH - SATURDAY 20TH	SANTA CLAUS AND THE ELF WHO STOLE CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY 21ST 7:30PM	SWINGIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE - STEVE WALKERS BIG BAND
JANUARY	
FRIDAY 9TH - SUNDAY 18TH	JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Tickets are available online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Tickets can also be purchased by calling the Box Office

Open Monday to Saturday 10am -1pm or visiting **www.louthriverheadtheatre.com**

Online booking for any performance closes one hour before curtain up.

On performance days the Box Office is open for 45 minutes prior to curtain up.



THE ANIMAL AUNTIE

Trusted Pet Care
When You Can't Be There

- ✓ Dog Walking
- ✓ House Sitting & Overnight Stays
- ✓ Horse Care
- ✓ Pop-In Visits for Cats, Dogs & Other Pets
- ✓ Friendly & Professional Service
- ✓ Flexible Scheduling
- ✓ Experienced in a Range of Pet Needs

Contact Me Today!

07933 126674

 The Animal Auntie



KK PodiCare DIP.FHP.

"Step into comfort"

- ✓ Initial assessment
- ✓ Toenail trimming filing
- ✓ Thickened nail reduction
- ✓ Ingrowing toenail relief
- ✓ Corn | Callous | Hard Skin
- ✓ Dried cracked heels
- ✓ Fungal nail, and skin infection
- ✓ Verrucas
- ✓ Therapeutic massage
- ✓ Fully Insured, DBS

TEL: 07576 167016



kkpodicare@gmail.com

HOME SERVICE ALL OF EAST LINDSEY



The Vikings Retreat
 Boutique Short Stay Accommodation
 at Donington on Bain, in the Heart of the Lincolnshire Wolds

vikingsretreat.com
vikingsretreat@gmail.com

Whatsapp, Call or Text 07713 175453

Awarded to **The Vikings Retreat**
 9.8 out of 10
 Booking.com
 Traveller Review Awards 2024
 Traveller Review Awards 2025

f i n G



**Are you seeking
 Homecare Support?
 We are here to help!**

Clarity Homecare Boston

The range of services we offer

Personal Care	Shopping Assistance
Home Help	Night Care
Companionship	Dementia Care
Respite Care	Palliative Care
Live-in Care	Hospital Discharge

For a free assessment
 give us a call on:

Regulated by
CareQuality Commission

www.clarityhomecare.co.uk/boston

01205 386 086

Middle Cottage Diaries

I have been very pleased with my sunflowers this year, even though they were not the "Dwarf" variety I planted, nor the "Giants", but something in between and the "Infrared" ones didn't appear at all! But they turned the heads of passers-by and at least I could see inside the lovely golden heads and what insects were enjoying them. Now we are conker spotting on our strolls, and planning where spring bulbs will be going. Still, on the subject of sunflowers, I, like many of us, have been putting out water for wildlife, all through this years hot weather, birds have not only called in for a drink, but to wash their beaks and feathers, and where I have emptied their dishes, lots of interesting plants have sprung up near our back garden, including some lovely sunflowers, without any help from me!

Although its easy to dread the darker evenings, it can make us use daylight hours more profitably, and we can snuggle up on our sofas at six-thirty pm guilt free, knowing it is much too dark to go out and do any weeding.

There have been lots of baby birds in our garden this year, and their parents obviously felt it was safer for them to feed and play there, with my Parsons Russell terrier Chester ready to keep any prowling cats at bay!

So our hot "Costa Del Sol" type summer has passed whether you liked it or loathed it. We have hoped and waited for rain, then it has done so just when we set off for our staycation! Soon we will have to protect our vulnerable plants from frost and storms, oh well the following quotation certainly seems to be very true " a garden makes sure that you always have something to worry about" I'm worrying about next years already.

Our cottage is home to many colourless spiders, who have done sterling work this year catching numerous irritating flies, they may not be top of everyone's popularity list, but they are very welcome to spend a cosy Christmas with us hibernating in nooks and crannies. They are like old friends that visit each year and help with spring cleaning, as we look forward to better days.

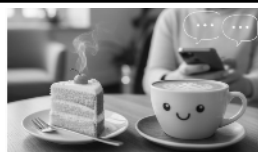
We are lucky here in the countryside as Autumn shows us her beautiful palette of colours, in towns leaves soon seem to turn slimy in the gutters and grey seems to be everywhere. Here it is more an Impressionist painting, perhaps with a title like "Sunrise at Benniworth" a little too fanciful? Well we can always dream.

Olwyn Metcalf

Coffee, Cake and Chat

Donington on Bain Village Hall

First and Third Thursday of the month from 10.30am - all welcome !



South Willingham Parish and Village Hall Activities

November

Wednesday 5th Free coffee & chat & Willingham Winner Draw 10:30 – noon

Wednesday 5th Arts & crafts group 2 to 4pm (Cecilia 07799156118)

Wednesday 5th Ballroom dancing group 6.50 pm (Paul 01507 313601)

Thursday 6th Tai Chi 11:00 –12:10 then Qigong 12.10 –13.10 (Carol 07592071523)

FRIDAY 7th FISH & QUIZ EVENING. DETAILS ON POSTERS AND FLIERS. FREE ENTRY TO QUIZZERS. Pre-ordered food purchased from The Lincolnshire Fryer van

Tuesday 11th Reel Issues FILM night 7pm (Roland 0794625905)

Thursday 13th Tai Chi 11:00 –12:10 then Qigong 12.10 –13.10 (Carol 07592071523)

17th to 23rd – The Hall will be closed for internal painting. Contact Jan if any queries
07834 598703

Thursday 27th Tai Chi 11:00 –12:10 then Qigong 12.10–13.10 (Carol 07592071523)

December

Wednesday 3rd Free coffee & chat & Willingham Winner Draw 10:30 – noon

Wednesday 3rd Arts & crafts group 2 to 4pm (Cecilia 07799156118)

Wednesday 3rd Ballroom dancing group 6.50 pm (Paul 01507 313601)

Thursday 4th Tai Chi 11:00 –12:10 then Qigong 12.10 –13.10 (Carol 07592071523)

Tuesday 9th Reel Issues FILM night 7pm (Roland 0794625905)

Thursday 11th Tai Chi 11:00 –12:10 then Qigong 12.10 –13.10 (Carol 07592071523)

Wednesday 17th Free coffee & chat 10:30 – noon

Wednesday 17th Ballroom dancing group 6.50 pm (Paul 01507 313601)

Thursday 18th Tai Chi 11:00 –12:10 then Qigong 12.10 –13.10 (Carol 07592071523)

Wishing you ALL a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026

Future events: January '26 – dog track racing game evening and raffle.

School Governor Vacancies at Scamblesby CE Primary School

Are you passionate about education and your local community?



Do you want to help shape the future of young learners at Scamblesby CE Primary School?

We currently have a small number of vacancies to join our friendly and committed governing body.

This is a rewarding voluntary role where you can make a real impact on children's lives and school improvement.

What does a Governor do?

- Supports the school's strategic direction
- Holds school leadership to account
- Oversees financial performance and ensures value for money
- Champions the school's vision, values, and ethos

Who we're looking for; No previous experience is needed, just enthusiasm, commitment, and a willingness to learn.

Professional experience would be advantageous but is not essential.

Time commitment: Typically, 5 meetings per year, plus school visits and training as needed.

For an informal, no obligation chat about the role, please contact:

Derek Elmhirst - Chair of Governors: 01507 343631

e: derek.elmhirst@scamblesby.lincs.sch.uk

Paul.Floyd – Executive Headteacher: 01507 343629 (school)

e: paul.floyd@scamblesby.lincs.sch.uk

What's On Locally ... at a Glance

6 November - 11am to 5pm
Wragby
Christmas Market

27 November
Christmas Lights
Switch On
Lincoln

8 November - 10am to 4pm
Christmas Craft Fair
Walled Garden, Baumber

30 November
Louth Victorian
Christmas Market

8 November - 2.30pm
Come & sing. Karl Jenkins'
Mass for the Armed Man
St Mary's Church, Horncastle

7 December - 11am to 4pm
Horncastle Christmas Market

8 and 9 December - 7pm
Carols by Candlelight
Lincoln Cathedral (booking required)

Asterby and Goulceby Parish Council

<http://asterby-goulceby.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>



The last meeting of the Council took place on 4th September at the Three Horseshoes, which was also attended by the District Councillor and two other village residents.

At the previous meeting the Council agreed to look into external funding for 'village gates' at the entrances to both villages. A number of grant funders had been contacted but to date no funding offers had been received. The quest for some sort of grant funding will however continue.

Public rights of way survey

The Council has been approached by the Countryside Access & Community Project Officer looking for volunteers to help collect the asset information for rights of way in their parish. The County Council is in the process of collecting data about all the assets found on Lincolnshire's public rights of way (gates, stiles, bridges, signs, steps, boardwalks etc). This information will allow the Authority to manage the assets better and provide information to users about what they will find along each right of way. The asset information is easy to collect using a mobile phone app. A guide on how to carry out the survey and use the app will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Community Project Officer (Debby Braund) on 01522 782070. Notices have also been placed on the Goulceby and Asterby notice boards.

Asterby Churchyard

The Parish Council has also been contacted by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) that covers the geographic area including Asterby. As Asterby church is now closed, there are no funds coming from a congregation to maintain the churchyard. The other churches in the group have their churchyards maintained by volunteers in their respective villages. Each village has a strong desire to keep their churchyards presentable and the PCC wanted to understand if there was similar sentiment in Asterby to keep its churchyard maintained. It is currently quite overgrown posing all sorts of hazards for visitors as well as looking a bit dejected. The PCC does not have the funds to undertake regular maintenance but funding might be available to undertake an initial overall clearance which would make future periodic maintenance more manageable. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Neil Walker, the PCC representative who approached the Council. He can be reached on 07771 861202 or neil@walker-trivett.uk.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in All Saints Church, Goulceby on Wednesday 10th December at 6.30pm. One item for discussion and decision will be the level of precept to set for next year (2026/2027). The current charge per household is £31.86 per year which is one of the lowest in East Lindsey. This charge raises £4,078 per year for the administration of the Parish Council. If anyone would like to make any comments on the current precept, its use etc, please email the Clerk ahead of the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

Asterby and Goulceby Parish Council

All Saints Church Goulceby

Thanks to a generous grant from the Lincolnshire Grassroots fund for community projects, and the Friends' hard work in fundraising this summer, we have been able to continue with the restoration work on the church. We now have an accessible path from the road to the church, making it much easier for those with reduced mobility to visit. The whole interior of the church has been repainted with an appropriate product for the walls, making it a warm, comfortable and bright place for all the community to meet. The monthly coffee mornings have restarted; there has been increased attendance already over last year's numbers. All are warmly invited to come; they run from 10 to 12 noon. The next dates are Thursday 13th November and Monday 8th December. Our thanks to all who have supported the church in any way.

Parish Council Vacancies

As previously reported, there are still three vacancies on the Parish Council, and should anyone be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor they should contact the Parish Clerk (Diane De Halle) by emailing Diane at agparishcouncil@gmail.com.

The current councillors are:

Jon Mold (Chair) - Sycamore Lodge, Goulceby

Ian Taylor - Lavoir, Goulceby

Graham Johnson - Lindores, Goulceby

Contact details are on the Council's website which can be found at <https://asterby-goulceby.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>

Three Horseshoes – Goulceby

Please note that the pub will be closing on Sunday 2nd November for the winter months and will re-open in 2026.

Goulceby Local History Project!

Is there someone in the Group who would be interested in doing a bit of local history research?

The records for the Old Graveyard at Goulceby need updating and adding to the original list of burials.

For further details, please contact Caroline Taylor, at carolinetaylor@btinternet.com, or 01507 343352 and 07885119902

Asterby Parish Services in November

Date	Location	Service	Time
2nd November	All Saints Church, Goulceby	Holy Communion for All Saints' Day	10am
3rd November	St Mary's Church, Horncastle	All Souls' Day Service	6pm**
9th November	St. Helen's Church Burgh on Bain	Morning Praise Remembrance Day	10.30am*
11th November	St. Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain	Remembrance Day with Primary School	10.45am*
16th November	St. Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain	Holy Communion	10am
23rd November	St Martin's Church, Scamblesby	Morning Praise	10am
30th November	St. Helen's Church Burgh on Bain	Holy Communion for Advent Sunday	10am

Asterby Parish Services in December

Date	Location	Service	Time
7th December	St. Julian's Church, Benniworth	Holy Communion	10am
9th December	All Saints Church Goulceby	Carols by Candlelight	7pm*
11th December	St. Julian's Church, Benniworth	Carol Service with Banovallum Brass Band	7pm*
14th December	St. Helen's Church Burgh on Bain	Morning Praise	10am

The Asterby Group of parishes has a web site, which is now kept up to date with details of contacts, services and events in the group. You can find it here > www.asterbygroup.org. Please let us have any suggestions for additional content.

We also have a Facebook page, where we post last minute changes and where you can interact with the rest of the Asterby Group community. You can find it here > www.facebook.com/groups/asterbygroup

Asterby Parish Services in December and early January '26

Date	Location	Service	Time
14th December	St Peter's Church, Gayton Le Wold	Carol Service	3pm*
17th December	St. Helen's Church Burgh on Bain	Carols with choir	7pm*
18th December	St German's Church, Ranby	Carols with choir	7pm*
19th December	St Martin's Church, Scamblesby	Carol Service	7pm*
21st December	St. Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain	Holy Communion with Carols	10am
21st December	St. Nicholas' Church Stenigot	Carol Service	3pm*
24th December	St Martin's Church, Scamblesby	Crib Service Christmas Eve	3pm*
24th December	Donington on Bain	Carols around the Christmas Tree	6pm*
24th December	St. Helen's Church Burgh on Bain	Bethlehem Mass Christmas Eve	9pm*
25th December	St. Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain	Holy Communion for Christmas Day	11am
28th December	St Martin's Church, Scamblesby	Holy Communion	10am
4th January 2026	St Martin's Church, Scamblesby	Holy Communion for Epiphany	10am

* Please note change of time.

** All Souls' Day Service – please let Debbie at the office know by 30th October if you would like the name of a loved one who has died to be read out during this service and a candle lit in their memory.

During November and December, as the busy seasons of Advent and Christmas approach, the PRAYER CIRCLE will be praying for the village of BURGH ON BAIN, for continuing enthusiasm and energy there as they search for new ways of coming together as community and giving thanks for the joy this is bringing. Our prayers will also be offered for the community of DONINGTON ON BAIN, for the growth and development of the Primary School, and for staff, helpers and pupils during this very busy Autumn Term. We will pray, too, for the renewal and growth of the Church there as it brings support and comfort to the needy, through gifts to local food banks, and in so many other ways.



We continue to pray for LOVE, HOPE and PEACE in our divided and seemingly hopeless world, and especially our prayers will be offered for families facing the burden of the many extra Christmas pressures they face, without always experiencing the true JOY of the season. We pray for them all.

Prayer requests, as always in confidence, during November and December to Neil on 07771 861202

Advent & Christmas 2025: Choosing Joy in Troubled Times

As we journey into November and December, we invite everyone to reflect with us on a simple, powerful theme: Joy. But wait...

Joy? Doesn't it seem an odd choice? After all, the world around us — economic uncertainty, political tensions, climate anxiety, wars — often feels as if it conspires against joy. Many of us carry burdens: grief, worry, loneliness, fear. In such times, singing "Joy to the World" or lighting candles of celebration can feel a bit, well, fake?

Yet, Advent is a season of hopeful resistance. Advent is the time of waiting, of growing anticipation, of the promise of light yet to come. In that tension, joy can take root. Joy is not the denial of sorrow; it is the courage to believe in possibility, the conviction that something deep and good can break into our world.

Working Against Joy

Before we rush to the lights and tinsel, it is probably good to name what fights against joy and tries to snuff out hope.

Cynicism and despair, consumer pressure, isolation and loneliness, loss and grief - if we don't acknowledge these, they can crush the very possibility of joy. But by naming them, we draw them into the light and can start to resist their negative power.

Why Joy Still Matters — and How Christmas Helps

So, what does joy look like in such times — and why choose it?

Christmas can bring a deeper joy, not superficial happiness. This is not about forced cheer or ignoring real pain. Rather, it is a steadier, quieter joy rooted in hope, trust and generosity.

Joy as a 'counter-witness'. When the world expects cynicism or gloom, choosing joy is a witness: it can say "I believe there is more than this."

Rooting joy in community. Joy becomes tangible when shared: in candlelit gatherings, acts of kindness, listening to someone's story, being together in a broken world.

For Christians, Christmas is the celebration of Emmanuel — "God with us." It is the belief that God does not stand apart from our suffering, but enters into it. The birth in Bethlehem is a reminder of his presence and that in the darkest night, a small light can appear.

But you don't have to share the Christian faith to appreciate the gift that Christmas offers more broadly: an invitation to hope. In the story of Christmas we find an emphasis on humility (the newborn in a stable), a call to welcome the outsider and a model of generosity and giving.

How to Cultivate Joy in November & December

Here are a few practical suggestions to help this season's joy take root — whether for people of faith or those simply seeking a bright point at the year's end:

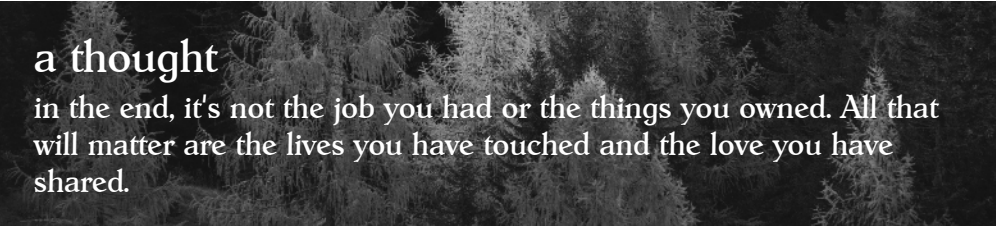
- Create a "joy journal"— each evening write one small thing that brought you hope or gratitude during the day.
- Serve or reach out. Join a community event, volunteer, send a card to someone lonely. Small gestures ripple outwards.
- Slow down rituals. Light a candle, pause, listen to music, reflect. Don't over commit — leave space for some family time, some 'me' time.
- Invite conversation. Use simple gatherings (cup of tea, walk, open door) to listen to others' hopes and burdens.
- Engage with art, music or stories. These help us name what is too deep for words.

From late November through Advent and Christmas, we can journey together as a community. In worship, music and prayer, or at community and family events, we'll try to inhabit joy in real time — trusting it is not just sentiment but medicine.

We do not pretend the world is pain-free. But we can make space for joy. Not because everything is perfect, but because hope is stronger. And in doing so, we might just find that joy, once glimpsed, lingers long past 25th December.

May these weeks ahead — however they find you — bring moments of light, peace ... and joy.

The Asterby Group Ministry Team



a thought

in the end, it's not the job you had or the things you owned. All that will matter are the lives you have touched and the love you have shared.

LINCOLNSHIRE PAIN CLINIC

Camille Bennett BSc (Hons) MBAC MAA

Extensive range of physical therapies, Specialising in pain management.
Acupuncture, Tui-na - Deep Tissue Massage, Hopi ear Candling, Cupping,
Hot Stone Massage, Detox and Cellulite Reduction, Massage & more.
Home visits or clinic-based appointments.



Lincolnshire pain clinic

www.lincolnshirepainclinic.co.uk

Tel: 07742 290845

Also Visit www.lincolnshireequinechiro.co.uk
for McTimoney animal chiropractic, massage
and manipulation for your four legged friends.



Lincolnshire equine chiro

Roger Lindley

For your small
Plumbing Repairs
Taps, Toilets,
Radiator Valves, etc



Also Painting and
Decorating



T : 01507 343007
M : 07908 183 283



Mobile Library Service



Donington on Bain, Post Office : Arrives 10.00am - 10.30am

Benniworth, Tennyson Close : Arrives 10.45am - 11.15pm

Nov	Dec
6th	4th

For enquiries or renewals contact the customer service centre on 01522 782010
at the time of this publication we were awaiting confirmation of the 2026 dates

A Decade of Dedication: Maggie's Final Garden Tea Party Hits £10,000 Goal

After ten years of opening her garden to the community, Maggie Lindley of Goulceby, Louth, has hosted her 10th and final Garden Tea Party in aid of Marie Curie – and ended on a high note!

Determined to reach her target of £10,000 raised in 10 years, Maggie celebrated with a lively event featuring a band, quiz, cake-weight competition, raffle, and plenty of home-baked cakes, plants, and cucumbers for sale. Local residents baked and donated treats, filling the garden tables with tempting choices.

With help from her husband Roger and a dedicated team of family and friends, Maggie raised an impressive £2,163.09 this year, bringing her total to £10,574.64. That's enough to fund 1,366 hours of Marie Curie nursing care, providing vital night-time support for people living with terminal illness in their own homes.

Maggie said: "The garden tea parties have brought our community together for ten years. I set the £10,000 goal hoping to inspire generosity, and our village truly delivered."

Lauren Alexander, Senior Community Fundraiser for Marie Curie, added: "Maggie's dedication has been nothing short of inspiring. Her events have become a beloved tradition, making a real difference to families across Lincolnshire."

For more information about Maggie's fund-raising or to learn how you can support Marie Curie, contact local Community Fund-raiser Lauren on 07525 801531 or lauren.alexander@mariecurie.org.uk



Coffee Cake and Chat Mornings .. you are all warmly invited

All Saints Church, Goulceby

on Thursday 13th November & Monday 8th December

10am to 12 noon - All welcome, Come along for coffee, cake and chat



Cook & Son

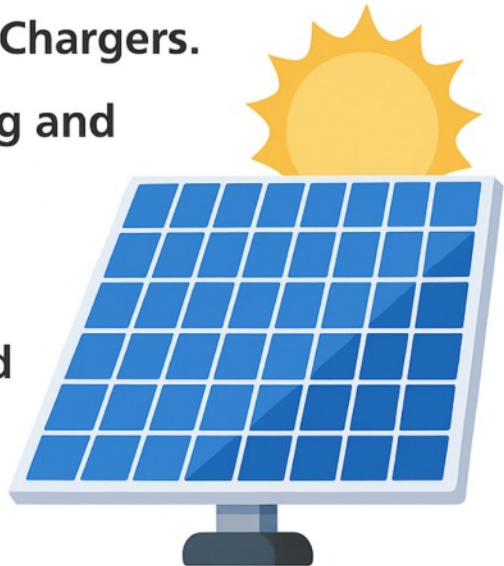
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS AND CONTRACTORS

01507 343144 or 07704 601323

- **Solar Panels & Battery Storage.**

Including repairs, upgrades & battery storage to existing systems.

- **Electric Vehicle Chargers.**
- **Electrical Testing and Inspection**
- **All aspects of Domestic, Commercial and Agriculture electrical work undertaken.**





Simply scan with
your phone camera
to book online.



WINTER SERVICE TIME!

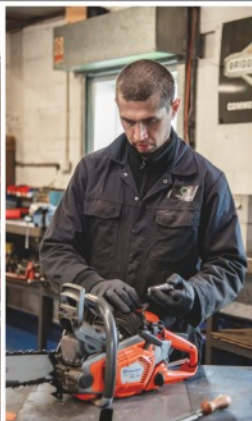
Give your mower, strimmer, hedge trimmer, or ride on the care it deserves. Beat the spring rush – get your machines serviced, cleaned, and ready for action!

☎ 01673 844250

📍 Bishopbridge, Market Rasen, LN8 3LY

FREE COLLECTION & DELIVERY!

Offer only applies with this advert.

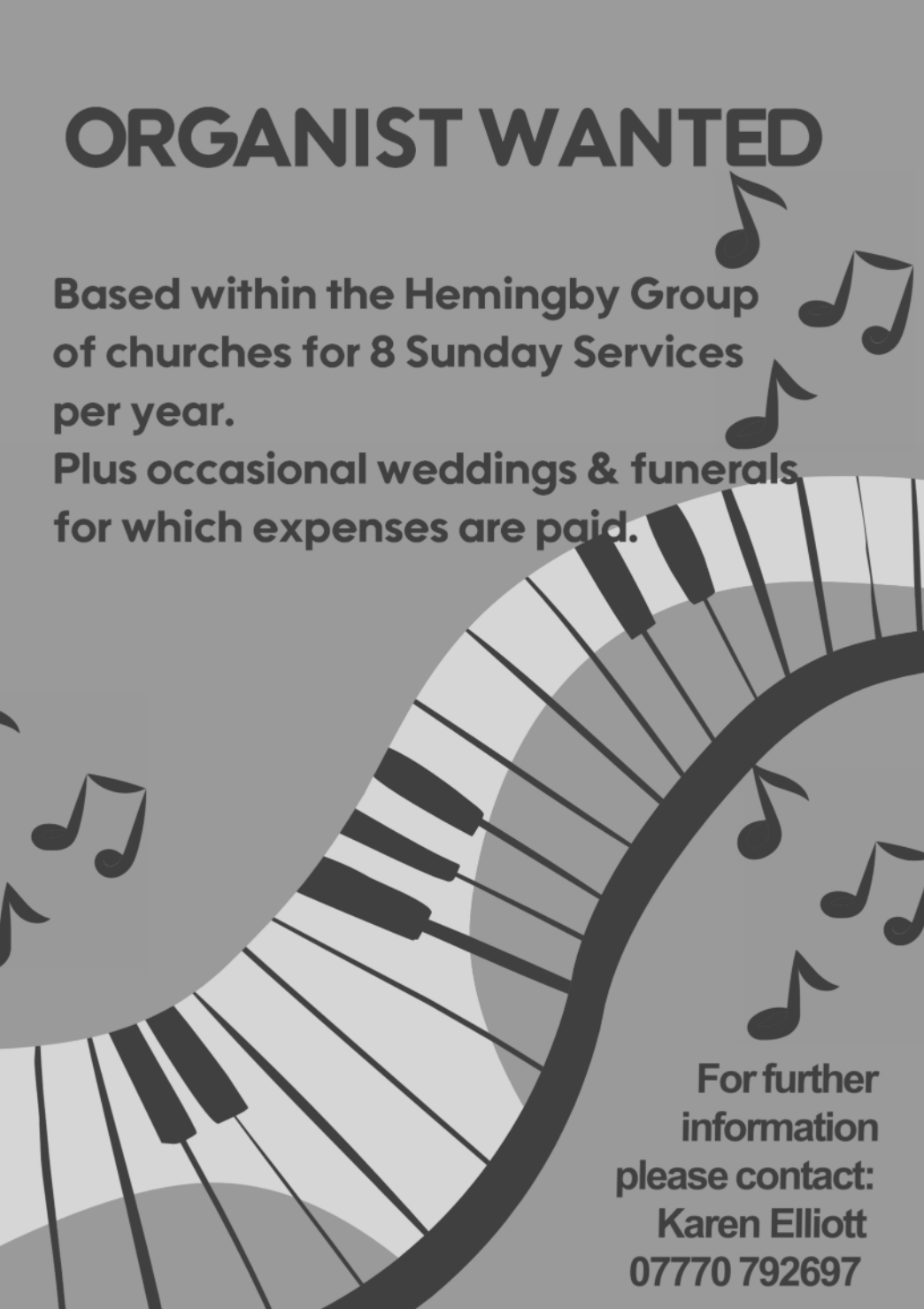


WE'RE NOW A STIHL DEALER!

We've joined the trusted STIHL network, offering expert servicing, genuine parts, and the full range of premium garden machinery, right here in Lincolnshire.



ORGANIST WANTED



**Based within the Hemingby Group
of churches for 8 Sunday Services
per year.**

**Plus occasional weddings & funerals
for which expenses are paid.**

**For further
information
please contact:
Karen Elliott
07770 792697**



*Teddy hand puppet
from Grimsby*

Shoebox Appeal

I continue to collect for this charity which transports and delivers children's toys and clothes to needy children in the UK and Eastern Europe. They now link with Jacob's Well and Grimsby Women's Refuge who collect blankets, sheets, duvet covers, but not the duvet, towels and curtains. As you move into sorting your children's clothing at the end of summer, please consider donating good used clothing & shoes to the appeal.

Other useful donations include toiletries, hair items, craft items, including odd bits of wool and buttons, stationery, costume jewellery, small ornaments, wallets, purses, candles. A full list of useful donations is in Donington Church together with a collection box and I am happy to collect any items if you Telephone 01507 343753. I have some large bags if you need one, just telephone me.

Thank you - Janet Croft



Please call
JADE
on 07578 201689

Est. 1990

JADE CHAPPELL

**JOINER, PROPERTY AND
GARDEN MAINTENANCE**

Who's Who in the Group

Priest in charge

Our Oversight Minister is the Rural Dean.
Contact the South Wolds Group Administrator.

Lay Minister

Ann South, 01507 313792

Partnership Office

Debbie Knight, South Wolds Group Administrator, 01507 525600
Caroline Taylor, Safeguarding coordinator, 01507 343352

Group Parish PCC

Chair: Rotates amongst PCC members

Secretary: Caroline Taylor, 01507 343352 (for 2025/2026)

Treasurer: Sally Cosgrove, 01507 343788

Ministry Team Coordinator: Neil Walker, 07771 861202

VCC Church Wardens, Treasurers and Secretaries

Asterby : Sally Cosgrove, 01507 343788

Benniworth : Please contact the South Wolds Partnership Office, details above

Biscathorpe (closed) Church DAC at the Diocese of Lincoln

Burgh-on-Bain Judith Varley, 01507 313342 Beverlee Bird, 01507 313667
George Ward 01507 313419

Donington-on-Bain Graham & Lynne Parkinson, 01507 343500
Rosemary Parkinson, 01507 343242

Gayton John Needham, 01507 313265 Ann Needham, 01507 313628

Goulceby Caroline Taylor, 01507 343352 Sylvia Taylor-Reed, 01507 343342

Ranby Jonathan Booth (acting), 01507 343278
Russ Hibbins (acting) 01507 343581 - Di Eddington, 01507 343336

Scamblesby Derek Elmhirst, 01507 343631 Peter Myers, 01507 343680

Stenigot - TBA

M. A. FIRMINER

Building Services



New Builds - Extensions - Alterations

Multi Fuel & Wood Burning Stoves

HETAS APPROVED INSTALLER



Free Quotes

Tel : 01507 343055 Mobile : 07984 289322

Pest Detective Ltd. Pest Control

All your Pest Control needs
by your local family company

**Tel Andy on
07707 727 770**

andy@pest-detective.com

www.pest-detective.com



Phil Bennett

Established 1977 - C & P Heating

- 🔧 Oil Service Engineer
- 🔧 Central Heating Repairs
- 🔧 New Boiler Installations
- 🔧 Aga, Rayburn and Stanley Cookers serviced



01507 343551 Mobile 07889 685003

Cawkwell House, Cawkwell LN11 9SG



Upholstered Unicorn

UNIQUE
UPHOLSTERY

Here at Upholstered Unicorn, we provide bespoke services in both modern and traditional upholstery.

You can find the upholstery studio in West Ashby (1 mile from Horncastle).

Get in touch with Georgina via :

Phone – 07774 389752

Email – upholstered.unicorn@gmail.com

Facebook - @UpholsteredUnicorn

Georgina Elliott

(Owner and Upholsterer)



BLACK HORSE INN

DONINGTON ON BAIN

Accommodation available with eight en-suite, comfortably furnished rooms

Guest Ales, wines and high quality meals using the very best of local seasonal produce.



**Our Special Festive Menu is available from the 1st of December
Get together here in the Black Horse over the festive season with Family and Friends !**

Also, come along on New Years Eve for a fun evening as food will be available followed by celebrations to bring in the New Year

Tel : 01507 343640

www.blackhorse-donington.co.uk

**Quiz Night
Last Sunday
of every
month**

**Monday - Closed - open for residents only - Tuesday - Closed - open for residents only
Wednesday - 11.30 to 2pm, 4.30pm to finish - Thursday - 11.30am to 2pm, 4.30pm to finish
Friday - 11.30am to 2pm, 4.30pm to finish - Saturday - 11.30am to 2pm, 4.30pm to finish
Sunday - 11.30am to 4.30pm - Closed in the evening, open for residents only* except quiz night**

Merry Christmas

Stay Warm this Winter



CALL
TODAY
FOR A
FREE
QUOTE

INSTALL NEW STOVES

We can also service & repair your existing stove

Gas or Oil Boiler
SERVICING, MAINTENANCE,
REPAIRS & BREAKDOWNS

Is your **HEATING**
SYSTEM ready?

Have you booked your **BOILER** in for a service?

Does your **HEATING SYSTEM** need
Powerflushing or upgrading?



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

GM Electrical

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
GAS SAFE REGISTERED

PERFECT TIME FOR A
NEW KITCHEN /
BATHROOM



Plumbing, Heating & Electrical Engineers

01754 611930 / 01507 435790

info@mjserviceslincs.co.uk

POST & PANTRY

Donington on Bain LN11 9TJ – Tel. 01507 343220

Lincolnshire Hampers & Gift Boxes



*A truly unique gift for family, friends and colleagues,
many designs available from only £20.*

MOUNTAIN'S MEAT DELIVERIES

Place your Christmas Meat order here for
guaranteed delivery on **Monday 22nd December.**

TURKEY BREAST KITS – only £55.00

order by 5th December 2025

Mountain's Turkey kits (2 to 2.5kg boneless turkey breast
with bacon, 1 pack of Sage and Onion stuffing and
8 of the finest quality Pigs in Blankets).

Serves 4 – 6 people