

The Parish of The Asterby Group Newsletter

March
to April
2026

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

From Ashes to Alleluias

As March arrives and then turns into April, the Church invites us on a familiar yet ever-new journey: from the quiet seriousness of Lent into the joy and surprise of Easter. It is a path many of us have walked year after year, and yet it never quite feels the same twice – because we ourselves are not the same people we were last time.

Lent begins with honesty. On Ash Wednesday we hear the stark words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” They can sound severe, even uncomfortable, in a culture that prefers optimism and quick fixes. Yet there is also something deeply freeing about this moment of truth. Lent does not ask us to pretend that everything is fine; instead, it invites us to slow down, take stock, and bring our whole selves – strengths, failings, hopes and regrets – before God.

Traditionally, Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and generosity. Some give things up, others take things on. Some find space for extra stillness; others focus on acts of kindness and service. What matters is not the impressiveness of our efforts but the direction of our hearts. Lent is less about self-improvement and more about re-orientation: turning again towards God, and towards one another, with honesty and humility.

As the weeks unfold, Lent leads us steadily towards the events of Holy Week. Palm Sunday brings both celebration and unease, as joyful crowds give way to betrayal and silence. Maundy Thursday reminds us that at the heart of Christian faith is not power, but service – Jesus kneeling to wash his disciples’ feet. Good Friday confronts us with suffering and loss, and with love that goes all the way, holding nothing back.

It is tempting to rush past these darker moments, eager to reach Easter morning. Yet the Church gently encourages us to linger. The pain of the cross is not an unfortunate detour on the way to resurrection; it is part of the story of how God meets us in the reality of the world as it is. In a time when many people carry quiet burdens – of grief, uncertainty, anxiety or exhaustion – Good Friday speaks with a strange and steady compassion: you are not alone; God is here too.

And then, quietly at first, everything changes.

Easter does not begin with fireworks, but with an empty tomb discovered in the half-light of early morning. Confusion comes before understanding; disbelief before joy. Only gradually does the truth dawn: death does not have the final word, and love has not been defeated. When the Church breaks the Lenten fast and fills the air with Alleluia once more, it is not a denial of the world’s pain, but a proclamation of hope within it.

Easter is not just a single day but a whole season – a time to dwell in the mystery of resurrection and to ask what new life might look like here and now. Where might God be calling us to begin again? What habits, fears or assumptions might need loosening, so that something new can grow? Change is rarely neat or instant; it unfolds gently, often unexpectedly, in ordinary places and conversations.

As a parish, this March and April offer us an opportunity to walk this journey together – supporting one another through the reflective quiet of Lent and sharing in the joy of Easter.

Whether you are a regular worshipper, an occasional visitor, or someone who picks up the magazine out of curiosity, you are warmly part of this story. The invitation of Lent and Easter is not to have everything sorted, but simply to come and see and be welcomed. You will find various services taking place in the area, to which you are most welcome wherever you are on your faith journey. Of particular note is the open-air service at Red Hill which those attending in previous years have found quite special. Full details can be found later in the newsletter.

May this season be one in which we find space to breathe, courage to be honest, and hope to carry forward into the months ahead. From ashes to alleluias, God is with us every step of the way.

The Asterby Group Ministry Team

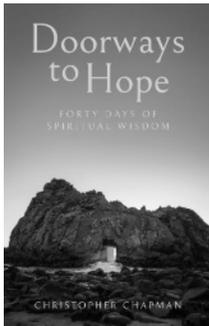


Draw Near – Life-Giving Habits for Lent **By Kate Bruce, Michael Leyden and Jessica Martin, CHP**

Draw Near invites you to develop a rhythm of life that will help you grow as a disciple of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

Each week a different contributor explores an activity central to Christian discipleship: worship, prayer, Scripture, communion, service to others and sharing the good news. It offers daily Bible readings, images, short reflections, prayers and practical responses to help you draw near to God.

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books>, £2.99 (£5.94 including P&P).



Doorways to Hope – 40 days of spiritual wisdom **By Christopher Chapman, Canterbury Press, £12.99**

When so much seems to be falling apart, it is a struggle to find ground for hope.

This book explores the nature of hope, and offers ways of cultivating it. Avoiding wishful thinking, it offers instead a hope that is incarnate and redemptive, forever coming along side us to renew what is broken. This is a liberating, encouraging book for all who feel powerless in the face of the pain of the world or hemmed in by personal circumstance.

Deadline for next Newsletter

All articles and adverts for inclusion in the **May to June 2026** edition to be with Sue, on **07826 772452** or email: **moomoski@btinternet.com** by **15th April 2026**. 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**.

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 : Acting Treasurer, Judith Johnson,
Acting Church Wardens, Bella Campbell and Gillian Stewart

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

Springtime Breakfast and Walk at Goulceby Church

Join us for Breakfast between 9am and 11am on Saturday 18th April

Pick up a map with details of a couple of Spring walks around our village which you can do either before or after you have eaten.

Suitable for all ages, walk is optional !

Interested ?

It would be helpful, for catering purposes, if you can let us know by contacting

Marcelle : marcellecoker59@btinternet.com or

Caroline : carolinetaylor@btinternet.com with name and likely numbers. Or just turn up!



Birthday thanks

Les Gray would like to thank all friends who came to wish him well on his 95th birthday. It was greatly appreciated

For Sale : Ladies motorbike trousers and jacket

The jacket and trousers are both Weise brand. Trousers small size regular length and jacket medium. Synthetic not leather. Trousers plain black jacket black and blue second hand good condition £50 for two or £30 each. Buyer to collect unless local to Goulceby area or buyer pays postage - Contact Maggie on 01507 343007

Coffee Cake and Chat Mornings in 2026.. **you are all warmly invited** **All Saints Church, Goulceby**

on Thursday 12th March and Tuesday 7th April



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



Newsletter - March 2026

The first 2026 meeting of the Donington on Bain Parish Council took place on Tuesday 10th February at the Village Hall.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm when members of the public could ask questions or make statements from this time with the full Council meeting commencing at 7.45pm.

There was an introduction of the new Clerk – Alan Vassar.

Apologies for absence were from Cllr Beaney who is to attend at 8.00pm.

Councillors absent from this meeting : none.

To receive any declaration of interests under the localism act 2011, being any pecuniary interest in agenda items not previously recorded on members' register of interests and any written requests for dispensation. Cllr Bellamy, declared with regards to the pruning of the tree in the cemetery

To co-opt any new bodies onto the Council - It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Richard Wright onto the Parish Council. This vacancy had been advertised as per the 2011 Localism Act.

To receive reports from outside bodies - None

Approval of Minutes from the meeting held in November 2025 - The Minutes had not been sent out to the Councillors in November and the new Clerk was asked to find these and forward to all concerned. The approval of these Minutes and the ones from the February meeting will be ratified on March 3rd 2026.

Fully approved minutes will be published and available to view on the notice boards and the Post Office in due course and all can be viewed on line.

Key points of immediate interest during the meeting were for the **Ramblers Day regarding the 50th Anniversary of the Vikings Way**, on 26th May and parking arrangements. This walk is for charity and they requested parking facilities for approx. 10 vehicles on or near the MUGA and this was approved.

Donington on Bain Litter Pick on Sunday 29th March (from 10am to 2pm) starting at the MUGA a request was received to approve spend for litter picking tools and hi-viz vests.

Cllr Taylor offered to donate some brand new and various size hi-viz vests, Cllr Wright added that he would provide bags, which only left the actual Pickers to purchase. A suggestion that the school may have some as they had done this sort of thing before, so this will be queried by the organiser, Tina. If not, then the PC voted unanimously that it is authorised to spend up to £30 on purchasing these. A full Risk Assessment has already been done by the Clerk, and also an 'on the day' briefing note. An advert regarding this litter pick appears on page 7 of this newsletter.

Date of Next Meeting : Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30pm.

Please submit all queries for any activities and official parish Council business such as allotments, cemetery or agenda items for discussion **directly to the Clerk, Alan Vassar** please, using this email address doningtononbainpc@gmail.com

DONINGTON ON BAIN COMMUNITY LITTER PICK



Sunday 29th March • 10am – 2pm
MEET AT THE MUGA

*Help keep our beautiful village and countryside
tidy and welcoming!*

*Donington on Bain sits in the heart of the Lincolnshire Wolds
with valley views and rolling farmland all around.*

Organised by Tina 07526 127477 and Donington on Bain Parish Council



**Donington on Bain, Village Hall Committee
Annual General Meeting
on Tuesday 14th April at 7pm - all welcome**

Coffee, Cake and Chat

Donington on Bain Village Hall

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



Saturday March 7th at 6pm

All Saints Church Goulceby

Teams of 2-4

Tea, coffee and sandwiches provided

Bring your own wine & nibbles

Prizes for the winning team

£10 entry per team

Book in advance by email to marcellecoker59@btinternet.com

**Join us for
a fun evening!**





Box Office Tel 01507 600350

Date and times	Performance
March 10th - 14th at 7.30pm	Keeping Up Appearances
March 17th at 7.30pm	An evening of clairvoyance with Steve Holbrook
March 21st at 7.30pm	Nothing but a good time - The rock athems show
March 27th at 7.30pm	The Manfreds - Get your kicks tour '26
April 7th at 2pm	Afternoon tea concert with Michael Courtney & Gary Stakie
April 17th at 7.30pm	Them Heavy Souls
April 18th at 7.30pm	The California Dreaming Show
April 25th at 7.30pm	T Rex and Marc Bolan tribute
April 30th at 7.30pm	Forbidden Nights

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.



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HOME SERVICE ALL OF EAST LINDSEY

Good Friday Service

3rd April 2026

Do join us

with Revd Mark Holden, Rural Dean & Revd Andrew Roberts

Meet at 9.30am at the bottom of RED HILL for the procession to start at 10am.

Please be aware that the service is held on uneven terrain

OS Map Ref: TF 264806 (LN11 9SN)
What3words:///organisms.users.tonality

PARISH OF THE ASTERBY GROUP



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Horncastle LN9 5HP

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www.clarityhomecare.co.uk/horncastle

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Minutes of the meeting of Benniworth Parish Council, held at Spring Bottom Farm, Main Road on Wednesday 7th January 2026

Present : Cllrs. Olivant (acting chair), MacAllister, Mann, Willoughby, Kerr,

In attendance - Cllr Oliver, LCC.

Apologies for absence : Cllrs. Dyas, South Clerk, D Bailey

Attendance by members of the public ; No members of the public in attendance
To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and consider any requests for dispensations ; No declarations were received

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th July 2025.

The minutes were accepted, Proposed – Cllr. Willoughby, Seconded – Cllr. Mann

Matters Arising, There were no matters arising

Clerk's report

The clerk stated that the precept has now been agreed with the Chair and was circulated. This was agreed

To agree progress with website

Noted that LALC had agreed to undertake a three hour session with the clerk to bring the website back into use.

Proposed- Cllr. Olivant, Seconded – Cllr. Mann

Planning matters

Noted that Mr. Temple had changed the proposed entrance to the dog park.

Clerk asked to advise ELDC that this area was prone to flooding

Speeding in village and on Caistor High Street

This item was deferred at Cllr. Dyas was not in attendance

Update on defibrillator

Clerk has now received a cost for replacement of £1,170.00 inc. VAT and delivery. As this has already been agreed, clerk to order it.

To discuss opportunities for funding.

ELDC appear to have monies available to fund projects. Councillors were encouraged to consider projects which might attract funding. Cllr Oliver noted that there were pots of funding for each area of the District Council and it would be worth considering these for future projects.

Benniworth Parish Council

To note progress on St. Julians Church

Clerk noted that a Church Restoration Group had been formed to try to access funding for a new church roof, and to develop community activities.

Cllr Oliver was thanked for her attendance and contribution

Meeting closed at 20.50 : Next meeting - 15th April at Benniworth Moor Farm



Benniworth VCC & Church Restoration Group

We have ambitious aims to restore St Julian's Church to ensure it can be enjoyed by everyone for years to come. The VCC and Church Restoration group are working together and we met in January 2026 to discuss how to move forward. We have identified two phases.

Phase One is to apply for funding to repair the roof. A temporary repair of the leaking roof has been successful in the short term organised by the VCC members. We are in the process of exploring different funding opportunities and liaising with relevant people and organisations prior to applying for grants.

We have set up easy-fundraising: this can turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations when you use them to shop with over 8,000 retailers such as eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Booking.com and many others. Retailers make a small donation to say 'thank you' and easy-fundraising gives those free funds to the cause. **You can register by scanning the QR code above** – and then click to sign up

Once you've raised your first donation, easy fundraising will give Benniworth, St Julian's Church Restoration a £1 bonus donation. No catches or hidden charges and your donations will go to Benniworth, St Julian's Church Restoration Fund we will be very grateful for your donations.

Other fundraising activities will be advertised in further updates.

Phase Two in the long-term is to work towards updating heating, lighting and installing sanitation which will encourage people to regularly visit the church.

Benniworth VCC and St Julians Church Restoration Group.

SME NEWS
Best of British Getaways 2025
Winner
Vikings Retreat
Best Adults Only
Holiday Home in 2025

Vikings Retreat
Lincolnshire

The Award Winning Vikings Retreat

at Donington on Bain in the Lincolnshire Wolds

vikingsretreat.com
vikingsretreat@gmail.com

Whatsapp, Call or Text 07713 175453

Mobile Library Service



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

Benniworth, Tennyson Close : Arrives 10.45am - 11.15pm

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
26th	23rd	21st	18th	16th	13th	10th	8th	5th	3rd & 31st

For enquiries or renewals contact the customer service centre on 01522 782010

Middle Cottage Diaries

Spring is almost here, the evenings are getting lighter, and birds that left our shores for warmer lands, are returning much to the annoyance of those who have had bird tables to themselves all through the winter. Many people enjoy feeding our feathered friends and providing a lifeline on cold frosty days, but the RSPB claim that we have lost thirty million birds since the 1960's, due to loss of habitat, disease and that old culprit climate change. So lets keep on feeding, sensibly and responsibly of course.

Now is this going to be the year when I don't have to lose sleep over yes-my sunflowers once again. Will they grow? Will the slugs get them? Will they be as shown on the packet?

Will they be six foot or six inches? I hope to plant vegetables amongst my wildflowers this year, to, hopefully confuse any insect pests, at least that's what old Monty Don says, there again, dear old Monty is blessed with a near perfect plot, and a dog that is never ever seen cocking his leg up against delicate blooms! I wish my two were the same.

Its time to stroll past other peoples gardens and then hurry home to copy their ideas, and ask ourselves, just where did they get that lovely pot/shrub or water feature? Some folk make gardening effortless, I never can. I'm always grubby and disorganised, losing bits of string, secateurs and usually one garden glove, but I'm always happy albeit tired at the end of another day. So to make me feel positive about digging, planting and weeding, I remember the following Chinese proverb. "Those who plant a garden, plant happiness".

Spring is a lovely time so lets not make our gardens a chore, but our own little piece of paradise, whatever it looks like, large or small, neat or pleasantly disorganised. If we have put love, care and effort into it, we can and should stand back and feel proud, because every spring is the beginning of a new green fingered journey, and finally, remember, it's never too late to put up a bird box.

Olwyn Metcalf

Shoebox Appeal

Many thanks to all those who contributed in 2025. Grimsby Shoeboxes were delighted with the range & quality of your gifts. They filled 7,120 shoeboxes and these were distributed by Teams4U to children in Eastern Europe (including Ukraine) and Africa, 431 Easter Eggs were also sent to displaced children in Ukraine. Local families and children referred by local agencies were given baby & children's clothing, bedding, household goods and Christmas Bags with new toys in them.



I take all of your donations to Grimsby Shoeboxes who operate from The Christian Centre in The Old Ice House in Grimsby. They re-open for 2026 collections on 8th Jan & I will be collecting any time from now. As your children grow out of their winter clothes & outdoors items, please consider donating these to the Appeal. Coats, jackets, anoraks, hats, scarves & gloves are particularly needed. Also, any re-gifting items will be gratefully received.



Full lists of items that the Appeal collects are available in the churches at Donington & Goulceby and I can email a copy if you send me your email address, mine is jancroft9740999@aol.com.

My telephone number is 07802 537239 and I am happy to collect any items if necessary.

Thanks again for all your help for this worthy cause

Janet Croft



... a message from Maggie Lindley - I sent in £3600 raised for Aspire, after completing my 14th Channel Swim Challenge in December. Thank you to all of those lovely people who sponsored me locally, making the event such a success again !

Asterby Parish Services in March 2026

Date	Location	Service	Time
1st March	St. Julian's Church, Benniworth	Holy Communion	10am
8th March	St. Helen's Church Burgh on Bain	Morning Praise	10am
8th March	St. Nicholas' Church Stenigot	Holy Communion	3pm
11th March	St. Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain	Celtic Worship	11am
15th March	St. Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain	Holy Communion Mothering Sunday	10am
22nd March	St Martin's Church, Scamblesby	Holy Communion Passion Sunday	9.30am
29th March	St German's Church, Ranby	Holy Communion Palm Sunday	10am

Parish Registers

Funeral : 4th February 2026, Sally Anne Shillington, burial at Ranby

Funeral : 10th February 2026, John Simms, funeral at St Andrew's Donington on Bain.

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 April 2026

Date	Location	Service	Time
2nd April	St Mary's Church, Horncastle	Maundy Thursday Agape Supper *	7pm
3rd April	Red Hill Service (see page 24)	Good Friday Service	9.30am
5th April	St. Helen's Church Burgh on Bain	Easter Day Holy Communion	10am
8th April	St. Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain	Celtic Worship	11am
12th April	St Peter's Church, Gayton Le Wold	Morning Praise	10am
19th April	St. Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain	Holy Communion	10am
19th April	All Saints Church Goulceby	Evening Praise	6pm
26th April	St Martin's Church, Scamblesby	Morning Praise	10am

(* If you are planning on attending the Agape Supper, please let the South Wolds Partnership Administrator know in advance on 01507 525600.

Note the return of the mid-week Celtic services at St Andrew's, Donington on Bain. Hope to see you there.

Prayer Circle

“Circle us, Lord. Keep love within and hatred without. Keep peace within and fear without. Surround us with your presence, protecting us, guiding us and filling us with your grace as we prayer for one another. Circle us Lord.”

During Lent and Eastertide this year, let us pray especially for our new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Dame Sarah Mullally, as she assumes responsibility as Primate, the most senior bishop, in the Church of England. The first woman ever to assume this role. We pray for her as she begins her ministry among us all.

We also hold in our prayers the vast number of families currently facing severe financial hardship, many having to choose between food and warmth, and not knowing where to turn for help in their struggles. Help us to help all in need.

All prayer requests will be received in confidence by Prayer Circle members through Ann South, 01507 313792. Be with us in our prayers.

Asterby and Goulceby Parish Council

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



Parish Council Business

The last meeting of the Council took place on 10th December at All Saints, Goulceby, which was reported in the last magazine. Therefore, there is no further Parish Council business to report.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in All Saints Church, Goulceby on Wednesday 18th March at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

New email for the Parish Clerk

In line with new guidance a new gov.uk email has been set up for the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. Parish Councillor email addresses will remain unchanged. The website has already been updated as much as possible, policies will be updated as they are renewed and the agendas and minutes will be amended from March 2026 with the new email.

The new email is: Clerk@asterbygoulceby-pc.gov.uk

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 Clerk@asterbygoulceby-pc.gov.uk

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/>

Temporary Road Closures

Road Closure Order - Main Road (Between Shoe Lane & Horncastle Road)

Telegraph Pole replacement:

Period of restriction: 20/03/2026 - 20/03/2026 06:00 to 18:00

(Restrictions to be implemented for 1 day as and when required during this period, signage detailing accurate dates and times will be displayed on site in advance)

Road Closure Order - Butt Lane (Between 50m & 100m Southwest of Shop Lane)

Stop tap replacements:

Period of restriction: 05/03/2026 - 09/03/2026

Flood Monitoring Equipment in Goulceby Village

Lincolnshire County Council has identified our Parish as one of the areas that may benefit from flood monitoring devices. The location currently proposed by the Council is adjacent to the bridge (water course/beck) at the bottom of Watery Lane, Goulceby. The equipment is a tube that goes to the river bed and attaches to the masonry. This will be set at the lowest point and the river bank will be set as the second point. After installation we will have an account login to access the data. There will then be a meeting for any interested residents with a demo' when it goes live, then the public will have access.

The Ford is being looked at as another possible second monitor location.

These devices will:

Monitor water levels year-round in ordinary watercourses

Feed data into an online dashboard accessible to residents

Deliver a simple alarm when water reaches predetermined levels

Asterby and Goulceby Parish Council

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

Once the devices are installed a drop-in session will be arranged for residents in order to:

- Share more details about the flood alarm system
- Encourage residents to discuss their flooding experiences
- Discuss possible property flood resilience (PFR) measures
- Allow and encourage residents to register for free flood alarms

These devices DO NOT replace the existing Environmental Agency systems, they are merely there to compliment it by monitoring other watercourses as well as the river, and providing a holistic view of the water network across the county.

Local Government Reorganisation

The government's consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for Greater Lincolnshire has now started.

You will remember that we submitted our 'Your Lincolnshire' proposal for one unitary authority for Lincolnshire, last year. Other proposals were also put forward and they can all now be viewed at www.GreaterLincolnshireLGRhub.org

All four proposals are out for consultation at the same time and you can take part on the government's consultation website before 26th March.

The government will also be specifically asking key stakeholders, including the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils (LALC), for their views.

Following the consultation, the government will make a decision about which proposal to take forward. In the meantime, a number of workstreams are underway between all councils to look at what will need to be done to take LGR forward, whichever model is chosen.

Three Horseshoes – Goulceby Re-opening after winter

The village pub will be re-opening after the long damp winter on Friday 20th March 2026.

All Saints Church Goulceby

The newly restored harmonium has been ably played by Ken at three church services now; so good to hear it after years of neglect. The church has been used for some community events too. The monthly coffee mornings have continued successfully through the winter months, attracting villagers and some from further afield. The first of the Four Seasons Breakfast and walk was held on one of the few sunny days in January. Marcelle's bacon or sausage baps were very popular, with some visitors enjoying breakfast, a walk, then second breakfast! The Spring breakfast and walk will be on 18th April. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Goulceby Village Defibrillator

Just a reminder that the village has a fully maintained and registered Defibrillator which is located in the porch of the Three Horseshoes. In the event that the defib' is needed, dial 999, give the location (Three Horseshoes, Shoe Lane, Goulceby, LN11 9WA) and the cabinet access code will be provided.

St Peter's Church Churchyard, Asterby

As previously reported in this newsletter, the churchyard at Asterby St Peter's needs stewards. Since the last edition, the churchyard has been cleared sensitively, paid for by a Councillor's Community Grant via local District Councillor Daniel Simpson, and a grant from the Asterby Group Parochial Church Council. We are now looking for some enthusiastic people to look after the churchyard as a local amenity, and in line with current priorities at local and national level, in a way that encourages wildlife and bio diversity. Similar churchyards in other parts of the country have secured grants to provide advice and materials to develop the space around churches for this purpose. Are you local to Asterby or Goulceby? Do you have a connection with St Peter's? Or do you know someone that does? Are you interested in conservation, bio diversity and the environment? Do you want to help preserve our outdoor heritage? Would you be willing to be part of a project to look after the churchyard at St Peter's for future generations? Please contact Neil Walker on 07771 861202 if the answer to any of the above is yes, or you just want to know a little more.

'NO UNEXPECTED CALLERS OR VISITORS' signs

'Able Community Care' have advised the Parish Council that door/window notices are available for households which do not wish to receive uninvited or unexpected callers. These can be obtained by calling 01603 764567 or by visiting the website <https://www.ablecommunitycare.com/>

The Parish Council Clerk will also be holding some of these notices which will be available to collect. Please make contact using the new email as stated above.

Additional information on WWI and WWII Local History

The Parish Council has recently received further details regarding Asterby and Goulceby in WWI and WW2 relating to residents either born or connected to the villages through family. We have also received further details on the two Hurricanes which crashed in mid-air over Asterby after a night patrol over Mablethorpe and the Wellington Crew from RAF Snaith which crashed at Asterby Top Farm – all the details will be collated and added to the website as an additional page to "Asterby and Goulceby Remembers". A great deal of work has already been compiled and we are grateful for this additional information received from Lincolnshire County Council – Historic and Culture departments.

The following link will also be added: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/88624>; which details the 'Asterby and Goulceby Book of Remembrance' on the Imperial War Museum's War Memorials Register website, which is a copy of the WWI information held at Goulceby All Saints Church.

Anyone wishing to see the records of the inscriptions from Asterby St Peters Church can access these via a copy of 'A History of All Saints Church Goulceby' for £4 via Goulceby Church.

The Parish Council have installed planters on Goulceby road bridge to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II, received a portrait of King Charles III and installed two new notice boards. As we have a memorial plaque for WWI in Goulceby All Saints Church, we have been looking at a memorial for WWII to commemorate those who lost their lives, if anyone has any thoughts or suggestions on this, please contact the Clerk.

We have been closely working with LCC Cultural Services in locating the old records for Asterby churchyard. In the meantime can we please ask if there is anyone in Goulceby or Asterby with knowledge of the records from the 1980's on how they were compiled in relation to the churchyard to get in touch with the Parish Clerk. This is to try and establish their location. We are particularly interested in the location of the Jollands family plot and find the WWI memorial for Billie Jollands.

WWI 1914 – 1918

Moses Griffin (service no. 13508) – Private, 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. Son of Moses and Mary Ann Griffin, of Roughton, Woodhall Spa. Possibly born in Goulceby (detailed in the Goulceby 1911 Census), enlisted Baumber, resident Woodhall Spa. Died 29th November 1915, aged 29. Buried at Azmac Cemetery, Sulva, Turkey, I. D. 8. Commemorated Hemingby St. Margaret and Roughton St. Margaret.

William Smith (service no. 13817) – Private, 7th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, born Goulceby, enlisted Louth, resident North Elkington. Died of wounds 17th February 1916 (16th in SDGW), buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, II. B. 41., commemorated Louth United Methodist and Tathwell W.M.

William is already detailed in our WWI "Asterby and Goulceby Remembers".

Henry William Stones Smith (service no. 203109) – Private, 2/4th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. Killed in action 26th September 1917. Aged 30 years. Born Gayton le Wold, enlisted Grimsby and resident Louth. Commemorated Dochy Farm New British Cemetery. VI.D.8., and Stenigot St. Nicholas. Reported wounded and missing, now reported killed on 26th September, 1917. A loving husband and father kind. A beautiful memory left behind.

From his sorrowing wife and family, Goulceby. L&NLA 21st September 1918. [Obits.]

Albert Edward Holland (service no. 49407) – Private, 10th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. Son of Henry and Mary Elizabeth Holland, of Hainton House, Eastgate, Louth, Lincs. Born Lincoln, enlisted Louth, Lincs, resident of Goulceby. Killed in action 24th March 1918, aged 19, commemorated Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Bay 3 and 4.

Albert is already detailed in our WWI "Asterby and Goulceby Remembers".

Billie William Jollands (service no. 19074) - Private, 7th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment. Born and enlisted in Gainsborough and was resident in Louth on Little Lane. He was killed in action on 3rd July 1916, age 30, during the Battle of the Somme and is presumed buried in France. From research we believe Billie had a memorial at Asterby St Peter Church in the family plot with his grandparents (entry 72). He is recorded on the Lincolnshire Regiment Roll of Honour. There is an obituary in the Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser - 2nd September 1916 (2510) and 14th March 1917 (2926). His next of kin were his grandparents Thomas and Eliza Jollands. Inscription on the grave: "In loving memory of Thomas Jollands died November 10th 1914 aged 75 years. Also Eliza wife of the above died May 29th 1917 aged 84 years. Also Billie grandson of the above died in France July 3rd 1916 aged 30 years."

WWI ALFORD (St Wilfrid), LINCOLNSHIRE - WAR MEMORIAL / ALFORD MEMORIALS

As noted in the above Alford War Memorial, the following were presumed to be born in Asterby:
Scott Burkitt - Private 22910. 1st Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. Killed in action 4th July 1917. Son of Joseph and Fanny Burkitt of East Street, Alford, Lincs. Brother of Jesse Scott. Born c1883 Asterby, enlisted Lincoln and resident Alford, Lincs. Commemorated Boyelles Communal Cemetery Extension. I.E.9.

Jesse Burkitt - Roll states: Private, Lincolnshire Yeomanry, died 27th May 1919. Born c1889, the son of Joseph and Fanny Burkitt and brother of Scott Burkitt. Unable to identify as casualty and no further information currently available.

WWII 1939 - 1945

WWII HURRICANES - CRASH 22nd FEBRUARY 1941 - ASTERBY

A source from Aviation Heritage Lincolnshire was able to find out the following additional information on the WWII crash involving Hurricanes from 46 Sqn RAF Digby on 22nd February 1941 which was caused by a mid-air collision in bad weather between the two aircraft. The aircraft were part of 'Blue Section' sent to patrol over Mablethorpe at 8000ft. The aircraft both came down near Cadbourne Green Farm, Asterby.

Flight Officer Morgan-Gray was subsequently buried with military honours at Scopwick Church near Lincoln (war grave) and is located on Row 2 Grave 36. He was 22 years old.

Sergeant Cyril Edgar Hudson (Service Number: 936012 - volunteer reserve) age 20. He was presumably returned to his family for burial as no record shows any parade. However, on the Commonwealth War Graves Register information on his burial are as follows: Buried or commemorated at Birmingham (Yardley) Cemetery Grave 51260

WWII VICKERS WELLINGTON MK 1C - CRASH 22nd FEBRUARY 1942 - GOULCEBY

The 150 Sqn Wellington crashed in a field at 0330hrs near Asterby Top Farm near Goulceby whilst descending through cloud to determine their position. No further information can be found and the diaries have been checked at Snaithe. Further information was sourced through www.cwgc.org Commonwealth War Graves Commission on their ages and burial locations:

Flight Sergeant D. Wormleighton (service no. 1162813) - killed - age 21 - buried Manby St Mary
Flight Sergeant J.E. McAllister (service no. 631875) - killed - age 20 - buried Derby cemetery
Sergeant J.E. Blackburn (service no. 1051863) - killed - age 21 - buried Irlam St John the Baptist
Sergeant E.F. Rawlings (service no. 1306695) - killed - age 21 - buried Manby St Mary
Private Officer J.B. Birkes - injured
Flight Sergeant O.D. Lland - injured

In a previous newsletter (May/June 2025) there was a letter from Sergeant E.F. Rawlings to his parents.

OTHER WWII

Benjamin Stanley Eyre (service no. 4807250). Trooper, 49th (West Riding) Regt, Reconnaissance Corps, Royal Armoured Corps. Son of C. Farrow Eyre and of Margaret A. Eyre of Goulceby. Born and resident Lincolnshire, presumed killed in action 22nd August 1944, aged 31, interred St Desir War Cemetery, Calvados, France, III. A. 3. No known Lincolnshire Memorial.

Mrs Wiles of No. 1, Council Houses, Goulceby, received the news from the War Office of the death in action in the North West European theatre of war, of her eldest son, Trooper Benjamin Stanley Eyre, of the Reconnaissance Regiment, R.A.C. He joined up in 1940 and before worked at East Lincs Garage, Louth. He was 31 years of age (Horncastle News 9.9.44).

LINCOLNSHIRE HERITAGE EXPLORER

Asterby and Goulceby has a great deal of heritage and this can be found through the Lincolnshire Heritage Explorer. It is simple to use by adding the village you wish to look at and then 'click' on the 'map' for the detail.

Link as follows: <https://heritage-explorer.lincolnshire.gov.uk/recordsearch>

It is a record of archaeology, historic buildings and landscapes across Lincolnshire. It has records from the earliest Stone Age to the 20th century and single finds to military airfields and parks. The database acts as an index to lots of other sources held in Lincolnshire County Council's offices which the public are welcome to come and peruse in person (it needs to be by appointment though as the public viewing space is very small).

Looking at the resource there are a lot of records for Asterby and Goulceby - it's a place rich in history and archaeology going back to early Neolithic, late Saxon and Medieval, various monuments and many sites of interest, etc.

In terms of WWII there are records of the remains of a searchlight battery at Red Hill. The image below is the record on the Lincolnshire Heritage Explorer website: <https://heritage-explorer.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Monument/MLI84911>. This has been plotted from aerial photographs - the remains show up as crop marks in the arable fields. All the lines within the marked boundary are crop mark remains of the searchlight battery. The curving line just to the west is thought to be a prehistoric trackway. The rectilinear enclosure to the south is of unknown date, but might be associated with the searchlight battery. Across the road to the east are what have been interpreted as being prehistoric enclosures. Within the red/marked line the two circular features are probable searchlight positions. The features to the north are probable building platforms, generator and shelter locations. This would have just been searchlights, and there does not seem to have been any anti-air guns here. The lights were helping to spot and triangulate incoming aircraft, for either fighters or gun positions in the area to target them.

We have been advised the 2 crash sites identified from WWII will be added to the website at some point.



Image: Searchlight Battery (Source: Lincolnshire County Council - Heritage Explorer)



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Louise Brewitt 07900 372 653 Instagram @ruralwreaths

Celtic Christianity, what does it mean? Surely Christianity is Christianity?



Well, yes and no, which sounds like a typically Church of England reply!

Towards the end of the Roman occupation of Britain, Christianity was the official religion throughout the Empire. When the Roman Empire crumbled in the fifth century, the Roman Army was recalled from Britain to help to defend Rome itself from Germanic barbarians. Christianity in this country faded away and was replaced by the pagan religions which had never been far below the surface throughout the Roman occupation. It returned to the British Isles from Brittany, and was then developed by Irish and Welsh missionaries, like St Patrick, who was in fact from the Cumbrian coast originally, and St Columba, and spread from the Western fringes of Britain into the North of England. Then, in a separate move, Pope Gregory sent Augustine to take Christianity to the South of England. The two traditions, the Celtic and Roman Churches, had very different forms of worship. The Roman tradition, backed by the power of the Pope, began to take precedence, and at a meeting, or Synod, at Whitby, in 664, the Roman rites were

universally accepted. The formal rites and forms of worship of the Roman Church replaced the less structured forms of worship favoured by the old Irish, Northumbrian and Welsh saints and their followers.

So what's the difference? For me, the big thing about Celtic worship is the fact that it sees God as being present in all of nature, all of creation. I think that is really important anywhere, but especially in a part of the world like ours, where the beauty of creation is everywhere around us. Celtic prayers and worship helps us to see more clearly the beauty of creation and God's place in it all. Why not come to one of our weekday Celtic services at Donington, and see what you think? The music we shall have will be different to what we normally have in church, but hopefully leads us into a deeper spiritual experience.

Rev'd Andrew

South Willingham Parish and Village Hall Activities

March 2026

Wednesday 4th – Coffee and chat + Willingham Winner draw 10.30am to noon

Wednesday 4th – Art & crafts group 2 to 4 pm (Cecilia 07799 156118)

Wednesday 1st & 15th – Ballroom Dance group 6.50pm. (Paul 01507 313601)

Thursdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 23th – Tai Chi 11:00 to 12:10 then Qigong 12.10 to 13.10 (Carol 07592 071523)

Tuesday 14th – Reel Issues FILM night 7pm. (Roland 07946 259053)

Wednesday 15th – Coffee and chat 10.30am to noon.

Friday March 20th – Quiz + fish van supper. 6.30pm for 7pm.

£5 per person entry + your food order. See posters and fliers.

Contact Jan 07834 598703 or email janseward54@gmail.com

April

Wednesday 1st – Coffee and chat + Willingham Winner draw 10.30am to noon

Wednesday 1st – Art & crafts group 2 to 4 pm (Cecilia 07799 156118)

Wednesday 1st & 15th & 29th – Ballroom Dance group 6.50pm. (Paul 01507 313601)

Thursdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th Tai Chi 11:00am to 12:10pm then Qigong 12.10pm to 13.10pm (Carol 07592 071523)

Tuesday 14th – Reel Issues FILM night 7pm. (Roland 07946 259053)

Wednesday 15th – Coffee and chat 10.30am to noon.

Friday April 24th Live sing-along music with guitarists Steve & John.

See posters and fliers nearer the date. Call or text Jan 07834 598703

Plans include afternoon tea and their life stories told by villagers – if you would like to give a talk/presentation please contact Jan 07834 598703, a Mediterranean supper, a curry night and a games evening/afternoon

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Friday - 11.30am to 2pm, 4.30pm to finish - Saturday - 11.30am to 2pm, 4.30pm to finish
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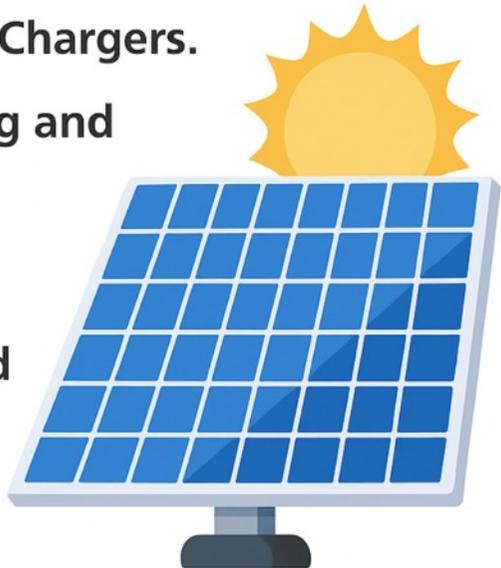
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