



Stillington News



Issue 347

www.stillingtonvillage.org

December 2023

the Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Friday, 15th December 2023, 6pm

The Pageant starts in St Nicholas' Church and then proceeds down the Main Street to the end of Mill Lane with scenes at venues on the way. The final scenes will take place in the Village Hall. Join in with Christmas Carols.

Entry into the Village Hall will be by a FREE ticket, which will be available at the village shop from December 1st.

A huge amount of preparation has been done already, so we think (!) we're set, but if you would like to be involved please contact

Richard Mapletoft 811854
rmapletoft@outlook.com or
Margaret Price 811262;
pricehm870@gmail.com

Do dress warmly, and bring a torch. All children must be accompanied.



Traditional

Carols by Candlelight

St Leonard's, Farlington

Friday, December 22nd, 6.30pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for this Joyous start to Christmas



*from the
Stillington News team*



With a delightful blend of humour, silly songs and a tale of camaraderie, this production promises to be the perfect festive treat for the entire family.

*Stillington Village Hall
on*

Wednesday 27th December, 2pm

*Tickets available from
www.ruralarts.org*

Or

Stillington Village Stores

Adults £12 / 5-18s £6

Under 5s FREE

Please email contributions for the **January** issue to news@stillingtonvillage.org by **13th December**

The

**Tuesday
Pop In**

Enjoy a relaxing break from your Christmas preparations by joining us on **Tuesday mornings in the Village Hall between 10.30 - 12** with a few treats lined up for the festive season.

**Open 5th, 12th and 19th
December**

Reopen on January 2nd
Best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and New Year and to all our friends who support us so well. Thank you



STILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Invites you to a

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

With Ceilidh Band

FIDDLERS WRECK

on Friday January 26th 2024 at

Stillington Sports and Social Club at 7pm

Traditional Scottish 4 course Supper

with vegetarian option

Tickets £28

*Tickets available from the
village shop in January*



St Nicholas Church



Singers are required for two events during the Christmas season

**The Christmas Pageant on
Friday 15th December**
starting in Church at **6pm**.

There will be a rehearsal on

Friday 8th December, 5pm
at Church and then in the Village Hall.

A traditional **Carols by Candlelight** will take place on

Tuesday 19th December, 7pm
with a choir rehearsal at **6pm**

On both occasions well known carols and hymns will be sung.

Please join us if you can

Enquiries to - **Adryenne Hope: 811039**
or **Rita Bresnen: 810024**

Thank you's

We have written before about the rise in the cost of producing the Stillington News and we are regularly reviewing different ways we can meet these rising costs, including reducing the number of pages currently produced. We will keep everyone informed about any permanent decisions we make.

For now, we at the Stillington News Team would like to **thank** all of our contributors, new and old, for their continued support; we could not exist without the generosity of these individuals and organisations.

Anon - all our generous readers who have donated, Farlington Parochial Church Council, Friends of Stillington School, The General Knowledge Quiz, Stillington Bonfire Committee, Stillington Bowling Club, Stillington Community Association, Stillington and Farlington Women's Institute, Stillington Gardening Club, Stillington Methodist Chapel, Stillington Parish Council, Stillington Parochial Church Council, Stillington Sports and Social Club, Stillington Village Hall, Trustees of Stillington Charity and The White Bear Quiz. **Thank you!**



Thank you once again for your contributions to the Foodbank box which is kept in the church porch.

I am sometimes asked "What are the best things to contribute?" This month these are the things that would be especially appreciated: tinned meat, jars of pasta/curry sauce, UHT milk, tinned tomatoes, long life fruit juice, jars of jam, jars of coffee, long life sponge puddings, toilet rolls, laundry detergent.

Alan Hetherington

Friends Of Stillington School (FOSS) would like to say a **big thank you** to everyone who joined us for our Pie, Pea and Bingo Night in October. It was a very enjoyable and successful event and raised **£360**.

All funds raised from this, and all our events, go towards helping to supply Stillington Primary School with books, equipment for the classrooms, fun events for the children and anything else the school needs our support with. This year we are again sending all the children to see the Christmas Pantomime in York thanks to the generous donations we have received this past year. **Thank You!**

Stillington Post Office & Stores were one of the finalists for the 2023 Plunkett Rural Community Business Awards. There were seven different categories and we were entered for the "Inclusivity Award". Christine Cookman attended the award ceremony in London on 15th November on our behalf.

Community groups from all over the country attended....shops, cafes, pubs, farms, gardening, crafts etc.

We were one of four finalists for the Inclusivity award with Church Fenton Community Shop (near Tadcaster) the eventual winners. The other two finalists were Amberley Shop on the Common (a Shop and Café within a working church, near Stroud, Glouc.) and Upper Eskdale Development Group (using the old school for a shop, café and bar at Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway).

Thank you to all our volunteers, past and present, for your continued support and hard work in achieving this excellent community service.



Stillington Post Office & Stores

Owned by the community. Run by volunteers



Christmas/New Year opening times

The shop and post office will be open as normal until
Saturday 23rd Dec.

Christmas day, Monday 25th **closed**.

Tuesday 26th Dec. and Monday 1st Jan.

Shop only 6.30am -10.30am

Our hamper raffle will run once again throughout December One raffle ticket for every £10 spent in the shop (excluding the sale of tobacco, stamps and payment of newspaper accounts). The draw will take place on Friday 22nd.

Orders for Thornton's pork pies, Hampers, Brymor Christmas ice-cream and Sara's homemade mince pies are now being taken. Final dates for orders depend on the item so please check in the shop.

Latest date 11th Dec. for Thornton's pies.

Come along and check out our wonderful selection of Christmas goodies and our Martin House charity cards.

Please note Stillington now has three defibrillators: one in St Nicholas Church porch, one on the Squash Courts' wall at the Sports and Social Club and the latest addition on the front wall of the Village Hall.

Stillington Charity for Relief in Need

The charity exists to aid people resident in the Stillington Parish.

If you require help or know of anyone who does please contact the secretary:

Mrs Adryenne Hope Tel. 811039 in confidence

Your editors are: Emma Johnson & Tracy Sinclair. If you would like to contact us please do so using the Stillington News email. If you would like to make a donation to the Stillington News you can do so either by BACS: Stillington News; Account no: 41651089; Sort code: 09 01 54 or sending cheques to 1 Chantry Gardens, Stillington, YO61 1NF

Village Hall Diary - December

Fri	1st	Primetime	1-3pm
Sat	2nd	Stillington Methodist Church	1-7pm
Sun	3rd	Bakery Pod	10am - 3pm
Mon	4th	Bridge Club	1 - 4pm
Mon	4th	Yoga with Annie	6.30 - 7.30pm
Tues	5th	Tuesday 'Pop In'	10am - 12pm
Tues	5th	Short Mat Bowls	1 - 5pm
Tues	5th	Short Mat Bowls match	7 - 9pm
Weds	6th	Parish Council Meeting	7pm
Thurs	7th	Table Tennis	10am-12pm
Thurs	7th	Hearts and Craft	2 - 4pm
Fri	8th	Primetime	1-3pm
Fri	8th	Rehearsal Christmas Pageant	5 - 7pm
Sun	10th	Bakery Pod	10am - 3pm
Mon	11th	Bridge Club Party	11am - 4pm
Mon	11th	Yoga with Annie	6.30 - 7.30pm
Tues	12th	Tuesday 'Pop In'	10am-12pm
Tues	12th	Short Mat Bowls	1 - 5pm
Weds	13th	Ladies Lunch	11am - 3pm
Weds	13th	Gardening Club	7.30pm
Thurs	14th	Table Tennis	10am - 12pm
Thurs	14th	Village Hall Meeting	7 - 9pm
Fri	15th	Primetime	1- 3pm
Fri	15th	Pageant	5 - 9pm
Sun	17th	Bakery Pod	10am - 3pm
Mon	18th	Bridge Club	1 - 4pm
Tues	19th	Tuesday 'Pop In'	10am - 12pm
Tues	19th	Short Mat Bowls	1 - 5pm
Tues	19th	Short Mat Bowls Match	7 - 9pm
Thurs	21st	Table Tennis	10am - 12pm
Thurs	21st	Hearts and Craft	2 - 4pm
Sun	24th	Bakery Pod	10am - 3pm
Mon	25th	Methodist Service	9am - 12pm
Weds	27th	Panto - Robin Hood	2pm
Thurs	28th	Table Tennis	10am - 12pm
Sun	31st	Bakery Pod	10am - 3pm

These events may be subject to change or cancellation. Please check the online calendar for up to date information

thevillagehallstillington.org/calendar.asp

How can you book your Village Hall?

The best way is through the contact form on our website.

Alternatively Text, or WhatsApp, **07726421287**

General Knowledge Quizzes

A closely fought Quiz on 3rd December was won by Howard and Deborah Willaims with Liz and Alistair McIntosh just two points ahead of the Turvey family. **£340 was raised for the Tennis Club.**

1st December Quiz will be for the Bowls Club (noting their entire green was under water on Tuesday 14th November.

Stillington Parish Council - November Meeting

The Council meeting was on Wednesday 1st November 2023 in the Village Hall with Cllrs Tim Drew (Chairman), Christine Cookman (Vice-Chairman), Richard Smyth, Graham Taylor, Robert Churton, Cllr Tracy Sinclair and Cllr Tim Milburn together with 1 member of the public. Apologies were received from North Yorkshire Cllr Taylor.

Public Session

Matters discussed 20mph zones and speed limits.

North Yorkshire Councillor's Report.

Cllr Taylor had reported that the consultation on the setting of the 2024/25 budget was ongoing.

Parish Council Website

The new Parish Council has been updated at **www.stillingtonparishcouncil.uk** and all agendas, minutes and policies can be found there

Defibrillator

The defibrillator in the church porch has been swapped for a loan unit whilst CardiAid service the original one. Both units are identical in operation.

Village News

A grant of £200 was agreed to Stillington News and further consideration would be given once their fundraising drive ended.

Restriction of Lorries

No reply has been received from NYC Highways regarding the increasing number of lorries through the village.

20mph Zone

It was agreed not to request NYC Highways to implement a 20mph zone in the village.

Budget & Precept

The 2024/25 budget was agreed and a precept of £13,500 set for 2024/25.

VAS Signs

There was a technical issue with the new Vehicle Activated Speed Signs which will hopefully be resolved soon.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 6th December 2023 in the Village Hall at 7pm. The meeting closed at 8.47pm.

The Clerk to the Parish Council

Nigel Knapton at clerk@stillingtonparishcouncil.uk

Stillington and Farlington WI

On Wednesday 8th November we met in Stillington village hall, originally we were to hear about some decorating ideas for Christmas cakes, but due to family commitments, our speaker could not be present. Instead, we had each brought along some ideas and recipes for 'what we do at Christmas'. These included places we go to, decorations we make, remedies to keep winter chills at bay, recipes for winter warmers and Christmas food. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening in the company of good friends.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas dinner so it will only be for members. Our January meeting will be open to visitors, more details to follow on our posters and in the Stillington news.

Angela Hawker



In March 2022 our Gardening Club organised the planting of 195 saplings in the Cemetery field beside the railings. Our Secretary, Dick Tregea, has managed to secure some more sapling. These will be planted on Tuesday 5th December (correct at time of going to press!). The school children will be helping us as they

did before. If any member would like to help please join us, further details at the next meeting.

Christmas Party

This festive evening will take place on Wednesday 13th December at 7pm for 7.30pm. We look forward to a great night with lots of food, drink, quiz and raffle. Arrangements for food will be made at the November Meeting.

Village Flower Troughs

We would like to thank those who have helped look after the flower troughs. Thank you Mike Walker for your help with the trough at York Road, throughout the year.

Gardening Tips-December:

If you need a bit of relief over Christmas here are a few jobs in the garden to get you out of the house.

1. Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls)
2. Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding
3. Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops
4. Trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted
5. Take hardwood cuttings
6. Keep mice away from stored produce

Robert Churton

Stillington Wanderers

23rd October walkers followed the River Rye, Riverside Walk, into Duncombe Park, Helmsley; joining the Country Walk and climbing up through Spring Bank Wood with views across to Duncombe House (restored to a family home by 6th Earl of Feversham after over 60 years as a girls' school) and into Blackdale HowlWood. Leaving the wooded area, it was an open meadow walk across Park Plain and past the National Centre for Birds of Prey. Returning along the main vehicle track, the grand ruins of 12th Century Helmsley Castle came into view. The castle is now managed by English Heritage.

6th November walk started in Easingwold, following footpaths weaving through housing estates and then southwards past Brickyard Farm and across the A19 onto Crankley Lane; northwards along a green lane onto Raskelf Road and back through the Marketplace.

Next walks are 4th and 18th December. Meet 9.30am outside the White Bear

Reliance Buses - No 40, Service Cancellations

We recently reported that Reliance buses were adding some additional late night buses on Fridays and Saturdays. We are really sad to report that this service has now been withdrawn. In addition, the Sunday and Bank Holiday Service has also been withdrawn. Please see Reliance Live or the timetable pages on their website for an updated list of days and times.

Weather Report - November 2023

Rainfall

The second half of October was wet. The total rainfall of 105.5mm was the second highest for the month in the past fifteen years. Only in 2019 was it greater.

The first half of November has continued the trend with 77mm in the first half. No wonder there are fields under water!

Temperature

Both highest and lowest temperatures in October occurred in the first half, as reported last month (21.5°C on the 9th and 2.5°C on the 15th).

The solar panels delivered only 156kWh, the lowest for the month in eight years.

Temperatures in November so far have been unremarkable. There have been some chilly mornings, 1.2°C on the 12th , but no minuses. The highest was 13.1°C on the 1st .

MT

Eco Top Tips from St Nicholas' Church

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

December - Christmas ideas

1. Be creative in the gifts you give this Christmas; make sure your desire to be loving is not damaging the environment.
2. Getting ready for the festivities of Christmas. Buy as much locally produced, in-season food and particularly veg as you can. Try not to over cater and waste food.
3. Wrap and rewrap. Why not reuse your wrapping paper? Take a bit of care unwrapping your presents (it adds to the gift experience), save the paper and reuse next year.



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

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

Countryside Notes

Tuesday 14th November. Through the night and this morning there has been very heavy rainfall that has left the land flooded badly. The Foss burst its banks just below Stillington on the eastern side and cut across the fields into a ditch that runs down to meet itself again just below the humpbacked bridge on the road south out of Farlington. That ditch could not take it all, so it spread over autumn sown fields of corn. How it will cope, we do not know, but serious loss is likely to occur. There was a flood bank, where it is now breached, that was put in more than fifty years ago. It was in the floods of three or four years ago that the bank was washed away and we had assumed that the Drainage Board had rectified it.

Recently, the little birds have come to the feeders and are devouring Fat Balls with fervour. I was concerned by how few birds were around, as we are not sure how Avian Flu has decimated the bird population. The Long-Tailed Tits are busy and it is good to see them about again. The Pheasants are coming on an evening onto the lawn on the way to the Orchard, where they roost in the apple trees. On the flood water in the Vale north of Sheriff Hutton, there were a lot of swans. I suspect they would be Whooper Swans, who migrate here for winter. They were on water too far away, however, to be sure. From one white bird to another, there were five or six Egrets on a field near the farm.

On our travels in good weather, the autumnal colours were remarkable. I was surprised to see the variety of shrubs and trees that lined the roadsides with their many different colours. From the deep red of Guelder-rose, the yellow/gold of vast numbers of Field Maple, a tree that looks good all year round; the odd Apple tree, no doubt growing from a discarded apple core; the fluffy Old Man's Beard seed heads, this is the Wild Clematis; along with red and orange berries on various bushes. In one garden, a tree with greeny yellow leaves and yellow large fruits were in profusion. I am sure it was Quince, but not the Japonica Quince that is seen more up here. However, the winners for colour were the Oak Trees full of leaves of bronze, gold, brown and green, wonderful with the sun on them.

After the gales, so many trees have had their leaves groomed off them. The Holly berries are reddening up because Christmas is coming, enjoy this busy time of the year.

R & M

Advent – Which Direction?

Over the last few weeks some of us have been delving into Stephen Cottrell's Advent book entitled *Walking Backwards to Christmas*. It is a series of imaginative reflections from the perspective of different characters involved in the Christmas story. Instead of starting at the beginning, however, it approaches the narratives in reverse order, providing an alternative way of engaging with the characters. The opening chapter takes us towards the end of Luke's prologue and focuses on Anna, an 84-year-old widow, who encounters the infant Jesus when his parents bring him to the Jerusalem temple. As we move into the season of Advent once again this year, perhaps the story of Anna might provide us with a helpful point of entry.

Anna, along with Simeon, spends a lot of time in the temple precincts. She has been a widow for many years, having lost her husband after only seven years of marriage. She is described as someone who seeks to discern and articulate the truths of her own contemporary context – a prophet. She is devout and looks to the future with a sense of hope and purpose. The narrative comes from Luke 2:22-38.

Anna spends a substantial amount of her time in the temple, at the most significant building connected with her faith and its history. She is also the daughter of Phanuel, a descendant of the ancient tribe of Asher. She has a clear sense of **identity** and a strong sense of **belonging**. Anna knows who she is and who she is connected to, both in terms of the past and where she has come from and in terms of where she is now, where she is at home, where she feels safe.

And yet...and yet this sense of identity and belonging is not simply about looking backwards, but anticipates a new future, a new opportunity embodied in the experience of encountering the infant Jesus. Here, Anna is saying, lies hope. There is a glimpse of how meeting someone or something for the first time, or for the first time with new eyes, might just offer an opening for justice and peace, for understanding and compassion, for freedom. Anna may well be our starting point for walking backwards towards Christmas, but, might she also be a possible starting point for venturing forwards into new encounters and new relationships, into a world that might look a little bit different from the way it looks currently?

David Bidnell

The Great Stillington Bonfire

The annual village bonfire and fireworks extravaganza took place on Saturday 4th November. It was our second time attending and the four of us were part of the high-spirited crew selling tickets on the gate. Quite a few spectators rolled up early, but some of us gate crew still managed to find a lull in which to fuel ourselves before the procession from the village hall engulfed us. The bonfire got going and didn't hold back. All of a sudden everyone had arrived and the gate went quiet; we dropped off the hi-vis jackets and melted into the crowd. We realised that those who hadn't followed the recommendation to wear wellies were in deep trouble.

It was joyful. The weather held off perfectly as all ages ooh-d and ahh-d at the fireworks and warmed themselves near the blazing heap of village pallets and tree prunings. The crowd was thick and every face was to the sky. When the fireworks eventually came to an end the bonfire carried on with a vengeance for those who stayed. We tried to spot our own broken furniture in the inferno.

On paper it does seem like a bizarre activity to carry out in November, given that few of us seem to pay much heed to its historical origins these days. For me at least though, the sparkle and the chill ignite a sense of adventure and an escape from the everyday. They are a reminder of the childlike joy that all ages can experience and they hint at the wonder of the festive season to come. We weren't involved in the evening's organisation but it's also quite moving to me, when I watch the shimmer and glitter, that a small team of people work so selflessly to bring this enjoyment to other people, year in and year out. Thank you to Andy and the whole team for all of your time and care. The small and large details that are carefully attended to are too numerous to list, but are greatly appreciated. Thank you too to farmer Sparrow for the generous use of his field, without which there would be no event. Wishing you all a sparkling December!

The Bowles family

CHURCH SERVICES - December St Nicholas, Stillington

Priest:

Rev Stephen Whiting 810251
benefice.admin@gmail.com

Lay Minister:

Margaret Price 811262
pricehm870@gmail.com

Church Wardens:

Janet Martin 822981
jessie.jm158@gmail.com

Richard Mapletoft 811854
rmapletoft@outlook.com

Canon Emeritus:

Robert Law 810940
lrf43@kesonline.org

Sun 3rd Advent Sunday Service 10am

Sun 10th St Nicholas / Christingle Service 3pm

Fri 15th Christmas Pageant from Church 6pm

Sun 17th Holy Communion 10am

Tues 19th Carols by Candlelight - mulled wine and mince pies. Be a member of the choir (see page 2). 7pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11pm

Christmas Day Methodist-led family worship in the village hall 9.30am

Sun 31st Benefice and Ecumenical Communion. All churches together, welcoming friends from Sutton, Sheriff Hutton, Farlington and Marton, whatever their denomination. 10am

Visiting the church The church is open every day until 4pm.

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

Holy Communion at home If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home please contact Margaret Price to arrange a convenient time.

Saint Nicholas Church Rota

During the month of December everyone helps.

If you can help to keep the church clean and would like to be included in the 2024 rota please ring **Adryenne Hope: 811039**

St Nicholas Flower Rota

3rd December

ADVENT - Christmas Decorations

24th December

Christmas Day Altars, Mrs G Churton

31st December

Mrs R Bresnen

St Leonard's, Farlington

Priest:

Rev'd Stephen Whiting 810251
benefice.admin@gmail.com

Church Wardens:

Sally Wright 878745
Richard Haste 878581

richardhaste@btinternet.com

Here we are at the end of another year and we look forward to all the joy and happiness which Christmas offers us including, at St Leonard's, our **Carols by Candlelight** and **Christmas Day services**. And then, just around the corner, is a new year with new beginnings to look forward to. This includes our celebration of the start of the farming year which we celebrate with our **Plough Sunday service** and **Ploughman's Lunch on January 14th**.

But, for now, **A Very Happy Christmas** to you all.

Sun 10th Shortened Matins (BCP) 10.30am

Fri 22nd Carols by Candlelight followed by seasonal refreshments 6.30pm

Sun 24th Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am
This is the only daytime service in the Benefice on this Sunday

Mon 25th Christmas Day
Our much-enjoyed celebration of Christmas for all the family embracing a shortened Holy Communion 10.30am

St Leonard's Christmas Grand Prize Bingo

Friday, December 1st
in Sheriff Hutton Village Hall

Eyes Down at 7.30pm

Join us for a Fun, Fundraising Evening!
(please note - there will be no cash prizes)

Methodist Chapel

Minister:

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

Steward:

Robin Jackson 810250
robinjacksonwoodside@gmail.com

Villages Working Together

Sun 3rd Huby - Rev Ruth Duck
Holy Communion 10.30am

Sun 10th Alne Hall - Rev Bidnell
Carols 3pm

Sun 17th Tholthorpe - Rev Scholfield
Holy Communion 3pm

Christmas Eve Huby - Rev Bidnell
Carols 6pm

Christmas Day Stillington Village Hall
A service for all the family conducted by Come and join the celebration. 9.30am
Sun 31st Easingwold - Rev Foster 10.30am

St Mary's Marton

Church Contact:

Caroline Hunt 878242
martonintheforest@gmail.com
Sue Whiting 810251

Sun 3rd Advent Celtic Eucharist 3pm

Sun 17th Carols by Candlelight 3pm

Our Carol Service collection will be for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) Christmas Appeal. Their vision is that no one in the farming community should ever have to face adversity alone. You are welcome to join us for this atmospheric all-age friendly service followed by light seasonal refreshments. Please note, we always try to reserve parking in the layby immediately outside the church for anyone with mobility difficulties.

Over the last few years we have started to collect baubles and other decorations on our church Christmas tree which are dedicated to the memory of a loved one. If you would like to add your own this year, then please visit Marton Church any time, write their name on a tag (these are on the altar) and attach it - so we can make sure your decoration comes out each year!

Marton Church will remain open throughout Christmas and the New Year and you are always very welcome to visit for some peace and quiet!