the STAR

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The Knowledge

A very warm welcome for Rev. Louise Bearder, the new vicar for Blyth, Scrooby and Ranskill, already bringing warmth, enthusiasm, and a genuine love of community to her parishes - *page* 5

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theteam

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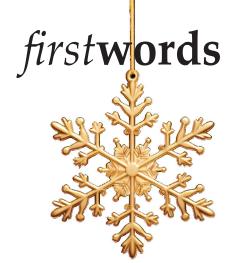
Last Words

Preparing for Christmas, dismal deliveries and a lot of noise being made about fireworks - page 34

Have your say

Do you have something you feel passionate about and would like to share with our community? We welcome contributions from readers who want to tell their story or express their views. If you'd like to contribute, please email your article to us at copy4star@yahoo.co.uk, or give your written piece to your village representative. Please keep submissions to around 350 words and ensure we receive your copy in good time for

the following month's publication.



December has arrived with its unmistakable sense of anticipation, and there's an energy in the air that feels uniquely festive. The shops are sparkling, carol singers are warming up their voices, and those of us who swore we'd start our Christmas preparations early are suddenly wondering where the year went!

We're thrilled to share this month's edition with you, but we should mention that this is our special December/January combined issue. That means we'll be taking a short break and returning fresh in February.

But we absolutely don't want to miss out on all your festive news and New Year adventures! Whether it's your village celebrations, New Year's resolutions, or simply how you spent those cozy winter days, we'd love to hear from you.

Email us your stories, photos, and updates at copy4star@yahoo.co.uk – we're already looking forward to catching up on everything that happens over the holiday season and into early 2026.

And while we're on the subject of staying connected, The Star is still looking for wonderful people to join our volunteer team! If you've ever fancied getting involved in your community newsletter, there's no better time to reach out. Drop us a line – we'd love to hear from you.

Here's to a December and January filled with joy, connection, and plenty of village spirit!

George

Scrooby Community Cinema presents



The Knight Jean de Carrouges must settle the dispute over his wife Marguerite by challenging his former friend to a duel to the death.

Sunday 11th January
8:00 pm
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theknowledge

From nurse to vicar: A life of caring and calling

We're delighted to welcome Rev. Louise Bearder, the new vicar for Blyth, Scrooby and Ranskill. Although new to the area, she's already bringing warmth, enthusiasm, and a genuine love of community to her parishes.

Before answering her call to ministry, Rev. Louise spent an incredible 38 years in the NHS — beginning her nursing career at Sheffield's Northern General Hospital in 1985 and later moving to Bassetlaw Hospital in 2003. "It was a privilege to serve for so many years," she says. "Looking after people in their most vulnerable moments taught me so much about compassion and faith."

Born into a Christian home, Louise's faith grew and deepened over time. She first felt called to ministry in 2013, was licensed as a Reader in 2015, and after training at St Mellitus College was ordained Deacon and then Priest in 2023.

Her parishes are part of an exciting new Southwell & Nottingham Diocese pilot scheme seeking to Revitalising Rural Churches. The project brings together 21 local churches, known as 'The Riverfold', under the guidance and direction of Rev. Becky Hancock of the River Idle Benefice. The aim is to strengthen rural ministry, share resources, and inspire new disciples across the Blyth, Scrooby & Ranskill, Oswaldbeck, Idle & Sands and River Idle benefices. 'The Riverfold' will also work



closely with local Church of England primary schools and state primary schools, nurturing faith and community through collective worship and shared projects.

When she's not visiting parishioners, Rev. Louise enjoys crafts, knitting, sewing, and walking — usually with Charlie (above), her friendly 10-year-old labradoodle, who's a regular at coffee mornings and loves joining in a good Happy Birthday song!

This Christmas, she looks forward to welcoming everyone to:

Christingle at Ranskill – Christmas Eve, 4pm Carol Service at Blyth – Christmas Eve, 6pm Midnight Mass at Scrooby – Christmas Eve, 11:30pm

Christmas Day Service at Ranskill – 9:30am "I've always believed faith is about community and kindness," says Rev. Louise.

"Whether it's in a hospital ward or a church pew, caring for others is what it's all about."





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Wednesday Group prepares for Christmas



The Wednesday Memory Group is looking forward to its annual Christmas celebration lunch at the West Retford Hotel this December. The special day gives members a break from the usual routine, with no cooking, washing up or activities to organise.

Instead, it's all about enjoying good food and spending time with friends and supporters. The group says it's grateful to all those who support its work, including one particularly generous donor who prefers to contribute financially rather than attend, believing the day should be for members to enjoy with those they work with regularly.

"Whatever we are giving this Christmas, let us try to make sure that above all, we give kindness," the group said in its festive message. "The Wednesday Group wishes everyone a kind and happy Christmas."

The Wednesday Memory Group supports people with dementia and their carers. Sessions cost £10, which includes lunch, and the first visit is free.

The group currently has a short waiting list but welcomes enquiries as vacancies can arise unexpectedly.

For more information, contact Jan on 01777 709974 or 07969180067, or email jan-williamson133@gmail.com.

Useful contacts



Guides: Sandra McIvor 07876 787959

Brownies & Rainbows: Janet Symonds 01777 818713

Scouts: Mark Mounde 01427 849130

Cubs: Mark Mounde 01427 849130

Beavers: leuan 07778 702914

Methodist Church: Circuit Office: 01777 702786 (Mon,Tues,Thurs. 9.30 -3.00)

Bawtry Amateur Dramatic Society: Louella Chesterman:

07754 547652

Scrooby Village Hall: Izzi Marshall 01302 719190

Torworth & Ranskill & Scrooby Allotment Ass'n Stephen Cole: 01777 818779

Bassetlaw Cardiac Support Group: Christine Coldwell 01909 730629

Ranskill & Torworth Afternoon Fellowship Club: Carol Head 01777 705077

Ranskill Top Shop: 01777 818864

Mattersey (with Ranskill) Wraparound and Holiday Club: 01777 817265 / 07973 870299 office28@mattersey.notts.

wraparound@mattersey.n otts.sch.uk

Ranskill Bowls Club: Simon Wallis 07876 285593 Ranskill Investment Club: David Smith 01777 818400

Ranskill Nursery Preschool: Rachel Clayton

01777 816066

Ranskill Primary School, Head Teacher, Mrs J Throssell, 01777 818468

Ranskill Reading Room: Peter Parkin 01777 818852

Ranskill & Torworth W.I: Pat Blatchford 01777 818519

Neighbourhood Watch Representatives In Ranskill: Barry Bown 01777 816325

Scrooby: Alyson Goldsmith 07507 493430

Ranskill Parish Council: Bryn Kinsey 07305 129849

Scrooby Parish Council: Tony Smith 07974 836978

Torworth Parish Council: Claire Challener 07557 104323

District Councillors: Ranskill & Torworth: David Bamford Scrooby: Jack Bowker County Councillors: Ranskill & Torworth: Tracy Taylor 01777 816781 07770 847086

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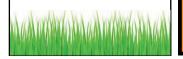
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Christmas Cafe Hub returns with festive treats

The Christmas Cafe Hub will take place on Saturday 13th December from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Alongside the usual cakes, tea and coffee, there will be mince pies to enjoy. Entertainment comes from the popular ukulele band, who will be playing throughout the morning.

Visitors can browse a Christmas raffle, a cards and gifts stall, and a plants and Christmas gifts stall.

There is room for two more stallholders, and the organisers don't charge for stall space at the cafe hub. Anyone interested in having a stall should get in touch.

The first Cafe Hub of 2026 will be on Saturday 10th January from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Penny Trail raises £2,659

The Mile of Pennies fundraiser at Saint Barnabas Church in Ranskill has exceeded all expectations, now stretching 3 miles and 776 yards as of Christmas 2025.

The penny trail has raised £2,659 for the church, with organisers encouraging residents to keep contributing.

Every penny counts as donations continue to pour in for the popular fundraising effort.



Are you a STAR person?

The STAR is still looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help keep our three villages connected through local journalism.

We need reliable distributors for monthly walks around Scrooby, Ranskill, and Torworth – perfect for staying fit while meeting neighbours. Most routes take about an hour and can be done at your own pace. We're also seeking editorial helpers to assist. While unpaid, volunteers say the rewards come from being part of the village conversation and seeing their work appreciated across the community. Contact us copy4star@yahoo.co.uk to find out more. No experience necessary – just enthusiasm for keeping our villages connected!

Ranskill and Torworth WI programme for 2026

Ranskill and Torworth Women's Institute will not be meeting in December, with the next meeting scheduled for January 2026.

The group has announced its programme for the year ahead, featuring talks on topics ranging from scam protection to hearing dogs for deaf people.

The 2026 programme is as follows:

27th January: Richard Kubon on fraud and scam protection; 24th February: Benita Nelson on

Women's Aid (abuse); 24th March: Peter Whitham on Vintage Bakery; 28th April: Mr Brown on It's Hell on Wheels; 26th May: Resolutions meeting; 23rd June: Angela Richards on hearing dogs for deaf people; 28th July: Social (afternoon tea); 25th August: Irene Tissington on Scottish Vikings; 22nd September: Annual meeting

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at St Barnabas Church, Great North Road, Ranskill, starting at 2pm.



goodtimes

Thursday 4th December

Christmas Concert at the Mansion House, Mansion House, 6:00pm. The Friends of Doncaster Mansion House present a festive concert featuring The Cusworth Singers. Tickets include interval refreshments. Tickets £10.

Rock the Season, Doncaster Corn Exchange, 7:00pm. A festive celebration of Peace & Light featuring internationally renowned rock violinist Daisy Jopling and friends. Daisy and her band will be joined on stage by talented young musicians from Hill House School for a magical night blending rock energy and festive spirit. All profits go to local charities. From £27.50.

Friday 5th December

Christmas LIVE at Doncaster Racecourse, Doncaster Racecourse, 7:00pm. Christmas Live returns with ROUGE 2025!. Step into a night of dazzling decadence and Parisian allure where the spirit of the Moulin Rouge comes alive. Includes red carpet arrival, festive three-course meal, live entertainment, and after-dinner disco. From £20.



Hansel & Gretel, Cast Theatre

Friday 5th December – Wednesday 24th December

Hansel & Gretel, Cast Theatre, various times. Step into an enchanting storybook adventure perfect for ages 2–6. Join bold Gretel and her loveable brother Hansel in their magical woodland den as they find a delightful gingerbread house and defeat the Wicked Witch. A joyful, festive theatre treat packed with magic and music. From £13.

Saturday 6th December

Artisan & Craft Fayre, Lakeside Village, 10:00am. A showcase for small independent makers, bakers, and creators including children's entertainment, handmade crafts, and traditional food. Discover local businesses from the Doncaster and Yorkshire area selling cakes, fashion, and homeware. Free.

Breakfast with Santa at The Mayfair, The Mayfair, 10:00am. Families can enjoy a festive morning filled with joy where children are treated to a delicious breakfast and a chance

to meet Santa himself. Each child receives a special gift and a photo opportunity. £12 per child.

The Buzz Fair, The Yorkshire Hive, 11:00am. Presented by Vintage Buzz, this event highlights vintage and antique treasures, jewellery, toys, vinyl, and collectables. Located near the Yorkshire Wildlife Park with free parking available.

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G4 Christmas, Doncaster Minster of St George

That'll Be Christmas, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:00pm. The cast of That'll Be The Day celebrates their 40-Year Anniversary with a show packed with Christmas classics and comedy sketches. The perfect family night out full of festive cheer.

Sunday 7th December

Doncaster Santa Dash, Sandall Park, 9:30am. Santa has dusted off his trainers to raise money for local good causes!. Dash, jog, stroll, or wheel in festive style—adult entry includes a full Santa outfit, and children receive an antler headband. Dogs welcome on a lead. From £14.

The Snowman Live, Askern Miner's Welfare Club, 12:00pm. Hatfield & Askern Colliery Band bring Raymond Briggs' magical story to life with live music accompanying the iconic animated film on the big screen. Includes a Christmas singalong to get you in the spirit. £8 per ticket, under 5s free.

The Grinch Party, Empress Building, 12:00pm. Powered Up Parties presents a high-energy celebration with everyone's favourite green troublemaker. Expect party games, music, surprises, and plenty of dancing. A brilliantly bonkers way to kick off the season.

Christmas Afternoon Tea Dance, The Earl of Doncaster, 1:00pm. Step back into the age of decadence and glam up in 1940s and 1950s costume. Enjoy a succulent selection of sandwiches and sweets with live music from the classically trained Miss Marina Mae. From £32.95.

Wednesday 10th – Thursday 11th December

Christmas Afternoon Tea at Flourish, St Catherine's House, 12:00pm. A Christmas afternoon tea with a difference in a beautiful heritage room. Menu includes roast turkey sandwiches, festive savoury parcels, and mince pies with brandy cream. From £20.

Thursday 11th December

Bingo & Ballads, Holiday Inn Doncaster, 12:00pm. Includes a two-course lunch with traditional roast turkey. £21.95.

Artisan Christmas Craft Market, St Catherine's House, 4:30pm. An evening of local handcrafted artisan products showcased in a beautiful setting. Free entry.







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Wildlife Trust quiz is a night offers festive fun

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's North Nottinghamshire Local Group is holding its Christmas quiz and social night. The Christmas quiz will take place at the Idle Valley Centre on Thursday 11th December from 7pm to 10pm.

The format varies each year, with the committee deciding whether to include picture rounds, specimen identification or other wildlife-themed challenges. What's guaranteed is a fun, informal evening with a buffet to keep participants well fed. Tickets cost £8 and can be purchased in advance from Maureen Holgate at mohol45@aol.com.

Those interested in receiving email updates about the North Notts Local Group's talks and activities can contact Jan on 01777 709974 or 07969180067, or email

janwilliamson133@gmail.com. Membership is not required to receive updates. The group holds regular talks and activities throughout the year for anyone interested in local wildlife.

Friday 12th December

Darts at the Dome, Doncaster Dome, 7:00pm. Four legends of the game -- Adrian Lewis, Steve Beaton, Simon Whitlock, and Mervyn King -- take to the stage for a night of topclass darts. Features a Q&A, head-to-head battles with the audience, and a special competition format. From £30.

G4 Christmas, Doncaster Minster of St George, 7:30pm. Experience sumptuous harmonies in an idyllic setting as G4 return with their biggest Christmas tour to date. Expect timeless classics like Silent Night and All I Want For Christmas delivered exquisitely. From £49.50.



It's A Wonderful Life, Doncaster Minster of St George

Saturday 13th December

Caged Steel 41, Doncaster Dome, 5:00pm. "Night of Champions" returns with a live Mixed Martial Arts event featuring 8 championship title fights. A thrilling lineup of bouts with electrifying walkouts and knockout finishes. From £35.

Christmas Country Night, Doncaster Corn Exchange, 7:00pm. A festive evening of country music and dancing featuring live performances from Cooperative Connection and Simon Roberts. Put on your cowboy boots and celebrate the country way. Free.

An Evening of Magic and Mayhem, Bawtry Phoenix Theatre, 7:00pm. An evening of entertainment featuring magic and mayhem. Tickets available by calling or emailing the venue. £15.

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Sunday 14th December

NMTO - 'Songs From The Shows 2025', Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. The Northern Musical Theatre Orchestra presents a celebration of stage favourites. Featuring a live orchestra, chorus, and special guest performers from London's West End with iconic numbers.

Monday 15th December

It's A Wonderful Life, Doncaster Minster of St George, 7:00pm. Doncaster Film Club presents their most prestigious screening yet in the Grade 1 listed Minster. Frank Capra's tale of redemption is accompanied by mulled wine, hot chocolate, and mince pies included in the ticket. £10.84.

Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th December

An Evening with Father Christmas, Mansion House, various times. Join Father Christmas, Mrs Claus, and cheeky elves for an hour of stories, music, and chat. Includes cookie decorating in The Great Kitchen and a small gift. From £13.55.

Thursday 18th December

An Evening with Father Christmas (Quiet Session), Mansion House, 5:30pm. A special session with fewer people and no music for an all-round quieter experience. From £11.55.

Sunday 21st December

City Centre Christmas Finale, Sir Nigel Gresley Square, 2:00pm. Wrap up the Frost Festival with a spectacular finale featuring children's rides, a snow globe, and food vendors. Enjoy performances by Hatfield & Askern Colliery Band and a special appearance from Father Christmas. Free.



Winter Afternoon Jump Racing, Doncaster Racecourse

Friday 26th December

Boxing Day Lunch, Holiday Inn Doncaster, 1:00pm. Relax with a three-course carvery style lunch featuring roast leg of lamb, honey roasted gammon, and all the trimmings. From £29.50.

Monday 29th December

Winter Afternoon Jump Racing, Doncaster Racecourse, 11:00am. A post-Christmas family fun day featuring live racing and entertainment on Town Moor. Enjoy the fresh winter air and thrilling sports action. From £18.

Tuesday 30th December

Toy Collectors Fair, Doncaster Racecourse, 10:00am. One of the country's leading fairs with more than 350 stalls packed with toys, Adults £6, Children £1.

January 2026 Events

Saturday 3rd – Sunday 11th January Jack and The Beanstalk, Majestic Theatre, Retford, various times. Trio Entertainment Limited presents the classic pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. A fun-filled show for the family recommended for ages 3+.



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https://www.ranskillprimary.co.uk

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Saturday 17th January

Jive Talkin', Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. Renowned as the original and best Bee Gees tribute show, featuring members who have performed with the original Bee Gees.

Saturday 17th – Sunday 18th January

England's Strongest Man & Woman, Doncaster Dome, 9:15am. Witness the nation's finest athletes go head-to-head in a brutal test of strength. From £11.

Thursday 22nd January

The Eternal Shame of Sue Perkins, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. In her first live show in over a decade, Sue Perkins shares unlikely happenings from her career. From £30.50.

Saturday 24th January

The Upbeat Beatles, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. A journey through the earth-shattering sounds of the Fab 4.

Sunday 25th January

Bubble Show with Wiktoria, Bawtry Phoenix Theatre, 11:30am & 3:00pm. A new act to the Phoenix Theatre stage featuring beautiful, brilliant bubbles. Join Wiktoria for a night of entertainment like no other. £15.

Thursday 29th January

ABBA Sensation, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:30pm. Widely considered one of the best ABBA tribute acts. Audience participation is encouraged – clap, sing, and dance along! From £22.50.

Historical society explores Victorian life and times

Retford & District Historical & Archaeological Society has two talks lined up for the coming months, both focusing on Victorian times.

On Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm, Jan Reade will present 'A Victorian Christmas'. Tea and mince pies will be served afterwards.

The following month, on Wednesday 14th January at 7.30pm, Roy Evans will give a talk on 'Life in a Victorian Village'.

Both meetings take place at Chapelgate Hall, which is situated behind Grove Street Methodist Chapel. All are welcome to attend.

For further information, contact Joy Tudberry on 01777 818419 or Colin Witham on 01777 702475.

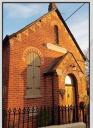
Friday 30th January

Chuckl. Retford with Headliner Simon Brodkin, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. A spectacular evening of live stand-up featuring household names and the best club comics. Previous acts have appeared on Live at the Apollo and Mock the Week.

Saturday 31st January

The Cavern Beat Club starring The Fabs, Doncaster Little Theatre, 8:00pm. The Fabs return to recreate the excitement of the 1960s Cavern Club. Hear songs made famous by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, and more, performed by a group with a brick in the Cavern Wall of Fame. From £16.

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accommodating our good turn-out and array of trophies. The recipients were very pleased with the trophies. It was a wonderful afternoon with lots of chat and laughter. It was nice to see a mixture of new and old players getting their awards.

We are indoors now and welcome new members. We are flexible now and can fit around work times etc. If you are over 12 yrs, why not give bowling a try - phone 07876 285593.

downtime

Your Star festive forecast and outlook for 2026

Aries

December sees you treating the family mince pie eating contest as an Olympic sport. Victory is essential, digestion is secondary. Looking to 2026, your boundless energy remains a marvel. You will likely start three major home renovation projects by March, though finishing just one of them before next Christmas would be considered a major triumph. A good year for buying power tools; a bad year for reading the instruction manual. More action. Less planning.

Taurus

This festive season is purely for indulgence; defend the quality chocolates with your life and leave the fruit creams for guests. In 2026, stubbornness becomes your superpower. You will

successfully refuse to upgrade a perfectly good appliance, eventually proving everyone wrong when the new 'smart' models break down. A good year for comfortable slacks; a bad year for anyone trying to make you hurry. More pudding. Less pacing.

Gemini

You are the Christmas party chatterbox, circulating news faster than the village broadband. December is a blur of sherry and socialising. The year ahead brings a period of intense communication. You might finally sit down to write that memoir, or simply talk for twelve months straight. Both are acceptable. A good year for unlimited minutes; a bad year for keeping a secret. More chin-wagging. Less quiet reflection.

Cancer

Expect a sentimental December; you'll cry at three separate supermarket adverts and insist on traditions everyone else forgot. The year 2026 sees your hoarding instincts peak. By mid-summer, your "might come in handy one day" drawer will have expanded to colonise the entire spare room. A good year for Tupperware; a bad year for throwing anything away. More keeping. Less chucking.

Leo

You will be the star of the nativity play, even if you are just sitting in the audience. A festive outfit change is mandatory. In 2026, your dramatic flair finds a new, worthy outlet. Perhaps leading a softly lit, impassioned protest about the rising price of first-class stamps? A good year for sequins; a bad year for being ignored. More flair. Less beige.



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Ranskill and Torworth—Friday, 19th December, 16th January 2026

Ranskill -

Grange Cottage-Blyth Road	10.25 - 10.35	Station Road No 7	12.20 - 12.30
Whitton Close	10.40 - 10.55	Station Avenue No 57	13.40 - 14.00
Arundel Drive / Oaks Close	11.00 - 11.40	Torworth Holds Lane	14.10 - 14.25
Arundel Drive No 38	11.45 - 12.15	Torworth Underwood Ave	14.30 - 14.50

Scrooby - Tuesday 2nd December, 27th January 2026

Station Road / Low Road 14.45 - 15.15

For information about requested titles or particular items of stock, please contact: 01909 535353. email: worksop.library@inspireculture.org.uk

Virgo

Christmas wrapping will be executed with military precision; corners will align, or the paper will be discarded. 2026 is the year of the list. You will organise something chaotic, likely the parish council rota or your own spice rack, to a level of perfection that terrifies your family. A good year for label makers; a bad year for improvisation. More sorting. Less slouching.



Libra

Gift-buying indecision strikes hard this December. You'll spend hours weighing up bath salts versus socks. Keep the receipts. The year ahead focuses on aesthetics. You'll spend six months choosing a shade of off-white paint for the hall, only to decide the original colour was fine. A good year for sitting on the fence; a bad year for quick decisions. More balancing. Less biting the bullet.

Scorpio

You'll navigate the festive period with an arched eyebrow, quietly noting exactly who re-gifted what to whom. 2026 brings vindication. A suspicion you have held since 1994 will finally be proven correct. Try not to look too smug when you say, "I told you so." A good year for intuition; a bad year for forgive and forget. More observing. Less forgetting

Sagittarius

A festive foot-in-mouth moment is likely; blame the brandy butter. Your honesty is refreshing, mostly. In 2026, the wanderlust hits hard. If a world cruise isn't feasible, a determined quest to find the county's absolute best pub lunch will suffice as a grand adventure. A good year for elasticated waistbands; a bad year for tact. More wandering. Less worrying.

Capricorn

You'll ensure the turkey is timed to the split second, tolerating absolutely no kitchen interference from amateurs. The coming year rewards your stoicism. While others panic about baffling new technology, you'll be the one fixing the boiler with a spanner and a stern glare. A good year for common sense; a bad year for suffering fools. More pragmatism. Less panic.

Aquarius

Your alternative Christmas tree decorations may baffle traditionalists. Good. Conformity is for other people. 2026 is a year for innovation. You will likely invent a labour-saving device for the garden that takes twice as long to set up but is, technically, brilliant. A good year for sheds; a bad year for reading instructions. More tinkering. Less tradition.

Pisces

You may drift through December in a festive haze, possibly forgetting to turn the oven on until noon. No matter; charm will save you. The year ahead is for artistic pursuits. You'll start a watercolour course, or just spend a lot of time staring beautifully out of the window. A good year for naps; a bad year for deadlines. More drifting. Less dusting.





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To sign up please go to www.literacyvolunteers.org.uk/contact-us/



www.literacyvolunteers.org.uk









Christian perspective: Purpose

When I wake up in the morning, the first thing I usually think is -- what day is it? And then what is today for, and what is my purpose today?

Most of us will think about what we have to do. If you have a job and a family, there will be some obvious things that will need to be done, often more than can be fitted into the day!

Depending on personality, there will be different ways of dealing with this kind of day. When my children were young, I used to like to make sure they were clean and tidy, had had some breakfast, and then pray with them for God's care during the day, before going to school. Whether you are a parent, a worker, retired, or whatever stage of life you are in, the same question comes -- what is my purpose today?

It's important to have purpose in our day; this is what we were created for. Without purpose life is featureless and wearisome. If you are feeling like that, it's time to get out your Bible and start to read. We find there God's purpose for our lives. If we ask him he will guide us into his ways, which are positive and fulfilling.

When Jesus came to this earth he had a

certain purpose before him. We read in Mark's Gospel chapter 10:45:

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

In John's Gospel we read about the love of God for each one of us, that caused him to send his Son to die for us. (See John 3:16). This opens the way for each one who believes in him to have assurance of everlasting life. In verse 17 of this chapter he continues: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

God's purpose in sending his son was to bring many people into his kingdom. It was a purpose in his heart from the beginning. We find all through the Old Testament the promises of God to send a Saviour, a Messiah, One who would bring God's love and saving power to all who would believe in him. There are many blessings that come when we believe in Jesus. Paul writes in Galatians 4:4, 5: But when the set time was fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might received adoption to sonship.

So as we come to celebrate Christmas, the birth of Christ coming into the world, it's a good time to remember his purpose, and also the purpose he has for us as we believe in him, both to do and to become. Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

* Brenda Critchley

Your festive Sudoku puzzle

Sudoku is a number placement puzzle. The aim of Sudoku is to complete the grid by entering numbers from 1 to 9 in each empty cell of the 9x9 grid which comprises 9 sub-grids each with 9 cells in a 3x3 pattern.

Each row, column and sub-grid must contain only one instance of each number.

Solution on page 34.

7....

WARM SPACES IN SCROOBY 2025



Ripples and **Warm Spaces** are in Scrooby Village Hall.

Ripples happens on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month an **Warm Spaces** on the first, third and fifth.

If you would like a little time out, in pleasant company with a cup of tea an cake, please join us. **Both are open to everyone**.

The venue is Scrooby Village Hall.

The day is Tuesday

The time is 1.30pm to 3.00pm

There is no charge but a small donation towards costs will help.

Dates for the next couple of months of Warm Spaces are:

December 2nd December 16th

January 6th 2026 January 20th 2026

All are welcome

Your festive STAR pop-up pub quiz

- 1. Which one of Santa's reindeers has the same name as the god of love?
- Which angel visited Mary?
- 3. If you are born on Christmas Day what star sign are you?
- 4 Which plant is always associated with Christmas?
- 5. What does Santa give to naughty children?
- 6. In which country did Eggnog originate?
- 7. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
- 8. In what year was the Queen's speech first televised?
- 9. The Christmas wreath originated as a symbol of Christ True or False?
- 10. What type of food did Christmas crackers originally contain?
- 11. Which Christmas plant supposedly wards off demons?
- 12. In which country did Christmas carolling originate?
- 13. When does the Russian Orthodox Church celebrate Christmas?
- 14. The idea of Santa Claus originated with a monk in Turkey True or False?
- 15. Who wrote 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'?
- 16. In which song is 'everything calm and bright'?
- 17. Which Christmas movie sequel features a cameo by Donald Trump?



- 18. According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the 9th day of Christmas?
- 19. Kurt Russell stars as Santa in which films?
- 20. Which country has piñatas for children at Christmas?

Answers on page 34.

Letter to the editor

The traffic parking at the traffic lights on double yellow lines had got worse on Station Road.

Yes, traffic wardens have been more visible, however they leave at 6 pm which is no good. There have been a few arguments with drivers that I have witnessed and a few near misses with accidents.

We need metal ballards installed, before someone gets hurt!!!!

One fed up local resident

Church notices for December and January

Church Notices for November 2025 (CW = Common Worship, HC = Holy Communion, BCP = Book of Common Prayer)

December:

7th - Ranskill 9.30 CW HC 14th - Blyth 9.30 CW HC 21st - Ranskill 9.30 CW HC 24th - Ranskill 4pm Christingle; Blyth 6pm Carol Service; Scrooby 11.30pm Midnight Mass 25th - Ranskill - 9.30 CW HC; Blyth - 10.30 Family service 28th - Blyth - 9.30 CW HC January:

4th -Ranskill 9.30 CW HC 11th - Blyth 9.30 CW HC

18th - Ranskill 9.30 CW HC 25th - Blyth 9.30 CW HC

Churches are open, and all are welcome to services, please wear a mask if you feel safer.

If you would like to arrange a baptism, wedding, funeral or other function, please contact one of the churchwardens: Ranskill, David Stacey 01777 818303; Scrooby, Gordon Ashworth 01777 818322.



Merry Christmas

M is for a merry Christmas morningE an eager wish for peace on Earth

RR is Robin Redbreast, cards adorning

V is for the Ville log on the boarth

Y is for the Yule log on the hearth.

C is church bells, chimneys, children singing

H is for the Holly in the hall

R is for the reindeer, sleigh bells ringing and red-robed Santa with his gifts for all.

I the Inn with no room for a stranger,

S is for the Stable, dark and bare and soft sweet straw that lines a simple manger

T three Kings who came to worship there.

M a Mothers tender adoration, Her tiny child a gift of purest worth.

A for Anthems sung in adulation,

S a Star – the Symbol of His birth.



Joy T

The STAR recipe: Rum and raisin ice cream

Ingredients

- 4oz raisins, soaked for 30mins in four tablespoons of rum
- 4 eggs, separated
- 4oz icing sugar
- 1/2 pint double cream

Method

Whisk yolks and sugar together till thick.

Beat cream thick and fold into the yolks mix.

Add rum and raisins then stiff-beaten egg whites.

Freeze an hour then stir to re-distribute raisins. Freeze firm.



28 - December & January 2025/2026





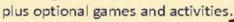


Ripples Social Group (Dementia friendly)

2nd and 4th Tuesdays 1.30pm - 3pm at Scrooby Village Hall.

(and on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays run by Scrooby PC)
Our last session before Christmas is 9th Dec and
we return again on 13th Jan.

Come along for a cuppa, cake and a chat,





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We also have a digital edition at the-star.org.uk

Looking for village information, see the village websites:

https://ranskillparishcouncil.gov.uk

https://www.torworth-pc.gov.uk

https://www.scrooby.net/parish-council

https://www.scrooby.org/



Community, Celebration, and Thanks

As the year draws to a close, we'd like to say a **huge thank you** to all our amazing **volunteers & supporters** who help make **Scouting** in our villages possible. From weekly meetings to weekend adventures and over night camps, none of it could happen without your **time, energy, and generosity**.



This December, our youngest members, the Squirrels and Beavers, will be spreading festive cheer by singing carols and delivering handmade Christmas cards to local our nursing homes. The Beavers are also taking part in the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal, helping to share kindness with children around the world.

Across all sections, our members continue to challenge themselves, learn new skills, and support our **community** in countless ways.

We're also **fundraising** to support **future camps, equipment, and activities**. If you'd like to **help us continue** providing adventure for local young people, you can donate via our **JustGiving page**:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ranskill-2nd-scouts?utm_medium=CR&utm_source=CL

Every contribution makes a difference.



From all of us at 2nd Ranskill Scouts, thank you & Merry Christmas!

ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES OF SCROOBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Monday 10 November 2025 in the Scrooby Village Hall

- Present: Chair Stephen Cordery, Lindsey Buxton, Jean Ogden, Terry Goldsmith, Dan Blount, County Cllr Mike Robertson (Part), District Councillor Jack Bowker (Part), Tony Smith (Clerk & Treasurer), Parishioners / Public present: Sandra Withington.
- **2. Apologies** Elaine Gargett.
- 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:
 Minutes were accepted, No corrections Proposed by Terry Goldsmith,
 Seconded by Jean Ogden.
- 3.1 Confirmation of last meeting's action points Completed or ongoing listed, but: Procurement Thresholds updates are carried forward, as are the Parish Key and Equipment Register, New Model Financial Regulations review, Tesco funding application, Salt Bin locations, Stolen Plaques from The Whinze, Websites, Church Clock, Hedges on Church Lane, and Leaf clearance / Cherry Tree on Low Road...

4. Agenda

- 4.1 Confirmation of Agenda Items Glass Bins and the Bush on The Croft (See below).
- 4.2 Public Discussion None
- 4.3 Parish Councillor Vacancies Sandra Withington offered her services to the Council and was unanimously voted in as a full voting Scrooby Parish Councillor..
- 5. Correspondence: The usual number of notices, e-mails and letters had been received over the last months and were listed before the meeting. Those of note: What's on in Half Term.
- 5.1 The clerk reported notice of BDC issuing Black bins for glass collections every 6 weeks. These are delivered up to the start of the collections in March 2026.

6. District and County Councillor's Report

County Councillor – The new County Councillor – Was welcomed again. He reported Primary School Applications would close in January 2026 and that he had held a visit to Scrooby with the Leader of Notts CC which was both interesting and successful. On site meetings were also scheduled for the hedges / footpaths on the Great North Road and the provision and placement of winter salt bins.

District Councillor Jack Bowker – Discussed consultations on Car Parking (dearer but better) and a Mobile Vendors License scheme. JackB also mentioned the new glass collections black bins but said normal glass recycling would continue as now.

7. Finance Report

7.1 The Treasurer presented his report, which included Village Hall costs and salaries, Grass Cutting, the playground inspection report and the Harvest Supper donations. Full details of the report can always be viewed at

www.scroobv.net.

- 7.2. Other activities: Scrooby Cinema is in jeopardy due to lack of regular support, may be outdoor screenings? 7.2.3 The funding from Tesco's is active at the Worksop Tesco.
- 8. Police Report

Local PCSO. Tel: 07525 989445, did not attend. PCSO continues to be requested to attend.

9. Planning & Neighbourhood Plan
9.2 Planning issues: New Applications:
None

Existing Applications: Trees at New Farm Bungalow (no objections).
9.3 Others: Our own SNAP plan is to be revisited and it was agreed to restart it to completion. First though a Parish

Wide questionnaire would be held to see the appetite to complete within the parish. (Watch this space)

10. Play Area

The Rope Climbing Frame is out of commission and under repair.

11. Village Hall

- 11.1 Village Hall Operations: The hall is in good use, operating well.
- 11.1.001 The village hall lights are to be switched on on Sunday, 30th November with snacks and drinks to celebrate.
- 11.1.01 The treasurer report the current Village Hall electricity provider had ceased and steps were in place for a new one.
- 11.1.3 Village Hall Management System, Keys and Equipment in progress.

12. Village Environment

- 12.0 A flood update has been received and circulated..
- 12.0.3 Salt Bins work continues to agree their location with ViaEM. Salt bags ordered. A Green Bin (private bin) is to be ordered and placed on Low Road.

- 12.0.4 Village Hedges, Trees, Road Sweeping. progress on a number of points continues.
- 12.1 Grass Cutting, continues. Investigations are started to remove or refurbish the "bush" in the centre of The Croft.
- 12.2 The development of The Whinze and Gibbet Hill Common The annual bracken cut is in place.
- 12.6 St Wilfred's bell repairs our assistance is ongoing.

14. Items for Information Only / Next Agenda

Notts CC Highways to be asked if a road mirror on the Hawksnest roundabout is possible.

All minutes from Scrooby Parish Council meetings are always published after acceptance at www.scrooby.net

Next meeting to be held on Monday, 8th December 2025, 7.30 pm, in the Village Hall.

This will be the last meeting until February 2026.

This Month's Issues for you to note or muse: Stay Safe, Stay Well

- →Criminal activity? If life threatening call 999, else 101
- →SLOW DOWN on Chapel Lane and all the Village Roads. Report incidents of dangerous or inconsiderate driving in Scrooby to the Police.

And please do NOT park on the Croft, Station Road.

- →Can we afford to loose the Scrooby Community Cinema???.
- →Look at the Noticeboard / Information Hub
 (Chapel Lane) / Scrooby.net website for all the
 latest information and consultations. And for
 information from Notts CC and Bassetlaw DC
 Use the "MyNotts" smartphone app !!!!

 →The Village Hall sessions on Tuesdays continue, as
 do the Bassetlaw Mobile Community Shop on Mon-

days.

- → PLEASE follow the procedure for using the Defibrillator, Call 999 first.
- →Dogs and cars are **NOT** allowed on the Croft or in the Village Hall, unless an organised dog event,
- →PLEASE CLEAR YOUR DOG 'POO', including the Whinze!
- → Have you got your Black wheelie bin yet!! It is for glass BUT it will not be emptied until March 2026 and every 6 weeks after that. Can you last that long???
- →But do you know of any vandalism either.
- Watch out, there's a thief about !!

 →Go to Tesco at Worksop, use your token vote for the Scrooby Children's prize!
- →We apologise for closed the dangerous Rope Climbing Wall, repairs started.
- →Be warned SNAP is coming back (The Scrooby Neighbourhood Action Plan), to get it over the finish line.



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Size D: 8.8cm wide by 9.6cm high £12 per month or £120 per year

Size E: 13.3cm wide by 4.7 cm high £9 per month or £90 per year

Size F: 13.3cm high by 9.6cm high £18 per month or £180 per year

Full Page: £25 per month or £250 per year

Please note a year is for 11 issues a year as there is no issue in January.

Please send this page, with details of your advert to:

The STAR, Cornerstones, Low Street, Torworth, DN22 8NX

Or send an email to copy4star@yahoo.co.uk

lastwords

December has arrived with its usual mixture of festive cheer and mild chaos, and our village social media has been working overtime to capture every moment of it.

We've been keeping our ear to the digital ground, and the view from the online village green has been particularly illuminating. The lighter side of community life continues to shine through.

Someone's been checking on a wandering tabby frequenting Station Avenue, the sort of gentle neighbourhood concern that warms the heart. Turns out this puss has been taking advantage of their owner's shopping trips to explore, as cats do. Crisis averted, cat accounted for, community reassured.

Christmas preparations are underway too, with local crafters enquiring about festive fayre stalls; pebble pictures, pet portraits, and wooden items all seeking their seasonal moment.

Meanwhile, Evri continues living down to expectations, with parcels allegedly delivered at 23:28 (they weren't) and additional mysterious failed deliveries that never occurred. Someone even paid extra for guaranteed next-day delivery and still waited an extra day. One does wonder what "guaranteed" means in this context.

But the real talking point has been fireworks. Or, more specifically, when it's appropriate to set them off.

Early November saw someone sensibly requesting advance warning about New Year's Eve pyrotechnics so they could prepare their terrified pets.

Then Remembrance weekend arrived with what can only be described as Bonfire Night: The Sequel.

The social media response was swift and divided. Dogs cowered under beds, cats refused to emerge.

9	6	8	4	2	5	7	3	1
7	2	5	1	3	8	9	4	6
1	4	3	6	9	7	2	5	8
3	5	1	9	8	4	6	7	2
4	7	9	2	5	6	1	8	3
2	8	6	3	7	1	4	9	5
8	3	2	7	1	9	5	6	4
5	9	4	8	6	2	3	1	7
6	1	7	5	4	3	8	2	9



The timing particularly rankled – Remembrance Sunday seems an odd choice for explosions, given we're meant to be thinking of veterans with PTSD. As one person rather pointedly noted, some people hear fireworks while others hear gunshots.

Defenders emerged to explain that the Saturday after Bonfire Night traditionally hosts organised displays. Fair point, though advance warning might have helped, they felt.

The great irony is that several people insist they heard nothing at all, suggesting our lovely part of England has developed selective acoustic properties.

As we head toward New Year's Eve – traditionally a night of midnight bangs – one can only hope

for a little neighbourly consideration and perhaps a "heads up" post or two.

A final note: if you weren't already in the know, be aware this is our combined December/January issue, so we'll be taking a quiet month while everyone recovers from festivities.

We'll see you again in February, presumably with tales of ambitious resolutions and the return of proper winter weather.

Quiz answers: 1. Cupid 2. Gabriel 3. Capricorn 4. Poinsettia 5. Coal 6. Britain 7. Germany 8. 1957 9. True
 10. Sugar Coated Almonds 11. Mistletoe 12. Austria 13. January 7th 14. True 15. Dr Seuss
 16. Silent Night 17. Home Alone 2 18. Nine Ladies Dancing 19. Christmas Chronicles 20. Mexico

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