

THE GRAPEVINE



DECEMBER 2021

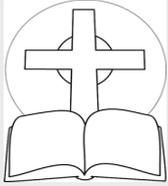
40p

Edition 111



PARISH MAGAZINE

serving the Parishes of
Dunnington, Stockton on the Forest
Warthill & Holtby



Readings for December 2021

5 December—Advent 2

Malachi 3.1-4; Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

(St Nicholas: 1 Timothy 6. 6-11; Mark 10. 13-16)

12 December—Advent 3

Zephaniah 3.14-end; Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

19 December—Advent 4

Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-55

24 December—Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52.7-10; John 1.1-14

25 December— Christmas Day

Isaiah 9.2-7; Luke 2.1-20

26 December—Stephen, first martyr

Acts 7.51-end; Matthew 10.17-22

From the Registers

Dunnington, Holtby
Warthill, &
Stockton on the
Forest



Weddings

Julia Chipps and Michael Thompson
30 October, Dunnington

Funerals

We commit to God's loving care:

Andrew Carr
3 November, Dunnington

Advent and Christmas services 2021-22



Christingle

5th Dec. 10.30am Stockton on the Forest
4.00pm St Nicholas, Dunnington

Carol Services

12th Dec. 4.00pm Holy Trinity, Holtby
6.00pm Holy Trinity, Stockton

19th Dec 6.00pm St Nicholas,
Dunnington

Thursday 23rd December

12.30pm at St Nicholas, Dunnington

Crib services

24th Dec. 3.00pm St Mary, Warthill
4.00pm Holy Trinity, Stockton
5.00pm St Nicholas,
Dunnington

Christmas Eve Communion

24th Dec. 7.00pm Holy Trinity, Holtby
9.00pm Holy Trinity, Stockton
9.00pm St Nicholas,
Dunnington

Christmas Day Services

25th Dec. 9.00am St Mary, Warthill
10.30am Holy Trinity, Stockton
10.30am St Nicholas,
Dunnington

St Stephen's Day

26th Dec. 10.30am Benefice
Communion, St Nicholas,
Dunnington

Carols by Candlelight

2nd Jan. 6.00pm St Mary, Warthill

Star Party and Family Worship

9th Jan. 2.30pm St Nicholas,
Dunnington

We are expecting numbers at our Christmas Services to be high, so please be aware of this and make your own decision about attending. The Church doors will be open to allow (cold) air in so please wear something warm.

A letter from Rev Dr John Schofield, Methodist minister at Heslington Church, Dunnington and Stamford Bridge Methodist Churches, and Methodist Chaplain at the University of York

Dear Friends,

As is always the case in December we find ourselves in the church season of Advent. This is a time to acknowledge the awesome workings of God to bring salvation in and through Christ. We consider the voice of God speaking over the centuries through the prophets and poignantly through John the Baptist, and Mary's acceptance of God's using her for divine purposes. The season in some ways is a preparation for the Christmas season which continues into January. Somehow the two seasons have become mixed up, and even in churches, carols (supposedly to be sung during the Christmas period) now dominate December, and push out the Advent hymns. I feel this is a shame because there is a power in the message of God preparing the way, although I do love carols.

My wife was asked, recently, when we put up our Christmas Tree. Her reply shocked the questioner, as she said it would go up in the second week of December. It appears most people think December 1st is when the 'decs' should be up. I write these words in the middle of November, and I am surprised I have not seen Christmas decorations and lights anywhere as yet. But I expect to see some house lights blinking in the evenings any day now. The season for such things does appear to get earlier and earlier. You could say this is a good thing, however, as Christmas for many folk ends on 25th December – and they sing the '12 Days of Christmas' without realising that it is not just one day.

Of course Christmas is a festival to mark God being born amongst us, as Emmanuel (God with us); and that is actually something we should mark every day not just in December.

Blessings for the season,

John



It's Christmas Time



Friends,

Halloween has passed, and so, commercially speaking, this means Christmas has begun. No one is safe from tinsel and baubles until the 26th December, when, presumably, everything in the shops is taken down and another festival takes over. The only saving grace, speaking personally, is that I've not yet heard any festive songs played over a tinny tannoy, initiating a migraine-like response in my fevered brain. Yes, this is my favourite time of year.

My main issue is that we often give so much time and attention to the preparatory phase of life's milestones (and, really, I'm a big fan of feasts and festivals, saints days and seasons), that we can struggle to attend to them when they actually arrive. We hear people talk about 'living in the moment', but even in Santa-season it is quite possible to spend 60 days in anticipation, and then still manage to resent it when the day arrives. To be honest, I think it is the same for weddings, and I have advised many a couple that, should they want to actually enjoy the day, they may best keep things simple.

It can feel as though we become the *object* in the annual movements, rather than the *subject*, especially at Christmas. Things happen to us and around us, but we are divorced from the action, bystanders to the crescendos, and diminuendos in our lives, without the opportunity to observe, own and have agency in the great occurrences. Instead, we are washed along with the great flow of financial foolery, forgetting that shops and supermarkets, advertisers and salespersons do not have our best interests at heart. They do not care whether we are happy, but, are using us for commercial gain. We are sucked in then spat out, and soon become object rather than subject.

If we were subjects then we would have the freedom to stand witness to all that is happening around us; freedom to respond without compulsion or obligation. We could walk through the grotto-like shops as observers rather than purchasers. In the same way, we might find great freedom in walking through a forest, not wishing nor trying to possess all that we see. We might identify the birds and trees, naming them as we go, but with the freedom to leave them where found. Consumers are rarely free, but the subject-witness keeps their liberty, and enjoys everything, whilst dominating nothing.

I wish you all the joy and freedom of the season.

Nick Bird

Your Rector

DATE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All items for the **JANUARY 2022** edition of the magazine must be received by the Editor no later than **MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER**

Email grapevine.rey@gmail.com

For all other enquiries, please call the Editor on 01904 489817 or e-mail as above.

Contents

Readings & Registers	2
Advent and Christmas services	2
A letter from Rev Dr John Schofield	2
Advent & Christmas Services	2
It's Christmas Time - a letter from Nick Bird	3
Date for Contributions	3
Church News & Events	4-7
– Regular Worship & Prayer	4
– Christian Meditation Gp	4
– Holy Dusters	4
– Coffee at St Nicholas	4
– Light a Candle Café	4
– Sunday Mornings at St Nicks	5
– Light a Candle Café	5
– Re-Ignite Youth Gp	5
– Little People Play and Praise	6
– Christmas Menu Parish Lunch	6
– Christingle Services	6
– Loss & Bereavement	7
– Christmas Communion	7
– Carol Singing	7
– Christmas Gifts for IDAS	
Warthill	8
Holtby	9
Editorial Policy	9
Stockton on the Forest	10
Quiz	11
Password tips	11
Dunnington Info & Diary	12-17
Friends of Hagg Wood	18
Advertising	18
Dunnington Christmas Craft Stalls	19
Stamford Bridge Netball	19
Contact Lists	20
Adverts	21-31
The Birds in Your Garden	32
Subscriptions & Contributions	32

The Grapevine is produced by the Church of England Benefice of Rural East York, comprising the parishes of Dunnington, Stockton on the Forest, Warthill and Holtby.

The Editor is Louise Dover

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

Christian Meditation Group

Wednesday 22nd December 7.30pm

The Meditation Group is meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month at St Nicholas Church. All welcome.

Fairtrade

There are now some Fairtrade catalogues in the Tower Room, from which orders can be made.



St Nicholas Church are looking for 'Holy Dusters'!

Now Church is open we need to have it clean.

If you could spare time to give the Church a good clean, on a monthly basis, please contact Carole White, – 07508 834565 (carolewhite333@hotmail.com)

All cleaning materials and equipment are provided

The more volunteers we have the less often your turn will come around!!



Regular Worship

... in the church buildings

Holy Trinity Stockton on the Forest

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion or Morning Worship

Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas Dunnington

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion or Morning Worship

Wednesday 9.00am Morning Holy Communion.

St Mary Warthill

Sundays (1st and 3rd) 9.00am Holy Communion

Sundays (2nd and 4th) 10:30am Morning Worship

Tuesday 9.00am Morning Prayer

Holy Trinity Holtby

2nd Sunday of the month 9am Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month 4pm Evening Prayer



... online

A simple service of worship is posted on our YouTube channel each Sunday and remains available thereafter. <https://tinyurl.com/y28h5aec> (or search YouTube for 'St Nicholas Church, Dunnington').



Weekday Worship via Zoom

Morning Prayer

Mondays & Thursdays at 9.00am

LIVE worship via Zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/y2whk8c9>

Compline (Night Prayer)

Wednesdays at 7.00pm

LIVE via Zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/y3upjx3k>

Both Morning Prayer and Compline are short services (c. 15 minutes). You are welcome to leave as soon as the service is over or stay for a chat.



Coffee @ St Nicholas

Come and meet others over Coffee, or tea

Wednesday Coffee Time

9.45 to 11.00am every Wednesday

(except 29th December)

Bereavement Café

Wednesday 22nd December

9.45 to 11.15am

Community Café

10.00 to 11.30am every Saturday
(except 25th December)



Sunday mornings at St Nick's

What do you remember about Christmas 2019? Does it seem like a far-off innocent time? Whatever experiences our lives had brought us before, the pandemic was something new and unwelcome. Our sorrow came in many forms, and some will not easily heal.

Our church life was thrown into turmoil when our buildings were ordered to shut and public worship was stopped. When everything we knew was taken away, we had to think carefully about what our worship was for.

As life returns to something more like normal, we are searching for ways to use the lessons we learned during lockdown. At St Nicholas Dunnington, we're looking to adapt the worship we offer on a Sunday morning. We are not entirely sure where this will lead us, and there are plenty of unanswered questions, but we will be led by one another and by prayerful reflection on our experiences.

Our early morning worship will begin, as before, with our traditional 8 o'clock service. Then for those who would like a time of peace, the church will be open from 9.30am.



From 10am, we are inviting people to meet for a chat over a morning coffee. Opportunities to pray or sing together will be available for those who would like to do that.

Then for those who are comforted and fed by the familiar church service, that worship will continue at 10.30am.

We know that we will make mistakes. We ask for your prayers, your patience, and your gentle correction when things don't work out as planned.

As a church, we believe that we are loved and welcomed by God. We believe that in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God has shown us the depth of that love. We believe that we are called to welcome others as we have been welcomed, supporting one another through the sorrows and joys of life.

Please, do come and join us.

David Marles,
Director of Music,
St Nicholas Church

Light A Candle Café

Last Wednesday of the month
9:45-11:15am
Tower Room St Nicholas Church

22nd December



A space to.....

- Talk about loss, bereavement & hope
- Remember loved ones
- Connect with others.

Free refreshments!

All welcome!

Children & Young People at St Nicholas

Re-Ignite (Youth Group)



5th December 7pm

Our youth group 'Re-Ignite' will be meeting for a Christmas Special in early December.

This is a group for youth in school year 6 and above (most of the current members are aged 10-15).

If you would like to know more, or get involved, please contact Revd Mark Poole, our curate on revmarkpoole20@gmail.com

Little People, Play and Praise

Tuesday afternoons during term time

1.45pm to 3.00pm

Tower Room, St Nicholas Church

We look forward to seeing pre-schoolers and their carers



CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS



Christmas Menu Parish Lunch Sunday 12th December

1.00pm

St Nicholas Tower Room

12.30pm Communion Service

To keep everyone safe numbers will be again be limited

Christingle Services Sunday 5th December

10.30am Holy Trinity, Stockton

4.00pm St Nicholas, Dunnington

Come and share in this magical service as we begin to turn towards Christmas and Jesus coming as the light of the world. It is also an opportunity to support the work of the Children's Society as they support vulnerable children.

We will be making Christingles in the Tower Room from 3.20 until about 4.00 on Friday 3rd December.



Loss and Bereavement

The 'Light A Candle Café' at St Nicholas Church is a place of support and friendship for those who have been bereaved.

This month the café is on
22nd December.

If you are unable to attend the 'Light A Candle Café' for whatever reason, such as you work or have prior commitments, but feel you would benefit from talking to someone about loss and bereavement, then please get in touch with one of the ministry team and we would only too pleased to spend time with you.

Rev Canon Nick Bird (Rector) 489349

Rev Mark Poole (Curate) 426522

Judith Hewitt (Reader) 488331

Christmas Communion followed by Soup and Pudding **Thursday 23rd December** **12.30**

We are aware that some people find it difficult to be in Church on Christmas Day, and this can be for many reasons. You are very welcome to come to this quieter service when numbers will be low.

To help with catering, please let Judith 488331 know you are joining us, and let her know if you would like a lift.



Carol Singing in Dunnington **Gather to sing in The Glebe carpark** **Monday 20th December** **4.00pm**



Carol Singing on The Green Following last year's successful event we sing again **Tuesday 21st December** **6.00pm**

Carol sheets, including the key we will be singing in, will be available from St Nicholas Church website.

Don't forget to bring your musical instrument with you to add to the occasion.

Christmas Gifts for IDAS

If you would like to support the work of IDAS (Woman's Refuge), this Christmas, they would once again like supermarket vouchers, so the 'mums' can do their own shopping. They can accept a limited number of toys and toiletries. Please take your donation to a Benefice Church service, or leave at 7 Water Lane, Dunnington, by 9th December.



WARTHILL

Services in St Mary Church

Do join us at St Mary as we worship together.

On the **1st and 3rd Sunday of the month** there is a 9.00am service of Holy Communion.

On the **2nd and 4th Sunday of the month** there is Morning Worship at 10.30am

Every Tuesday there is a 9.00am service of Morning Prayer

All welcome!



Thank you!

Pat Adams of Mill House, Warthill, would like to thank all those who supported her Coffee Mornings throughout the summer at which she raised £2,000.00 for her charity the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Well done everyone.

Diary - Warthill - December 2021

			Church Services	Church / Community Events
Wednesday	1	7.00pm	Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Thursday	2	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Sunday	5	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion : St Mary <i>p. 4</i> Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>	
Monday	6	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Tuesday	7	9.00am	Morning Prayer : St Mary <i>p. 4</i>	
Wednesday	8	7.00pm	Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Thursday	9	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Sunday	12	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship: St Mary <i>p. 4</i> Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>	
Monday	13	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Tuesday	14	9.00am	Morning Prayer : St Mary <i>p. 4</i>	
Wednesday	15	7.00pm	Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Thursday	16	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Sunday	19	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion : St Mary <i>p. 4</i> Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>	
Monday	20	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Tuesday	21	9.00am	Morning Prayer : St Mary <i>p. 4</i>	
Wednesday	22	7.00pm	Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Thursday	23	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Friday	24	3.00pm	Crib Service : St Mary <i>p. 4</i>	
Saturday	25	9.00am	Holy Communion : St Mary <i>p. 4</i>	
Sunday	26	10.30 am 10.30am	Benefice Communion : St Nicholas <i>p.4</i> Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>	
Monday	27	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Tuesday	28	9.00am	Morning Prayer : St Mary <i>p. 4</i>	

Health Walks

This month's featured walk is taken from the booklet *Holtby Hikes* available from Dunnington Newsagents for a recommended contribution of £1.50, all proceeds to the NSPCC. It's a leaders' favourite, featuring the modestly iconic Brecks Wood— see p 15

Ash - there's still life in them

We were fortunate to have a visit recently from two experts in tree health: Nicola Spencer and Amanda Mitchell, of the Farming and Environment Research Agency in nearby Sand Hutton, inspected the many ash trees in Holtby Wood which have been affected by Ash Dieback. They agreed that the policy of taking out dead trees and pruning back affected trees – some of which appeared quite healthy - was correct, and that similar large-scale experiments were taking place nation-wide, in the hope that resistant varieties would emerge. In the meanwhile we are planting saplings as replacements in the areas where ash predominate and may leave gaps. Hope springs eternal.

Diary - Holtby - December 2021

			Church Services	Church / Community Events
Wednesday	1	7.00pm	Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Thursday	2	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Sunday	5	10.30am	Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>	
Monday	6	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Wednesday	8	7.00pm	Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	Mobile Library <i>p. 10</i>
Thursday	9	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Sunday	12	10.30am	Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>	
		4.00pm	Carol Service : Holy Trinity <i>p.4</i>	
Monday	13	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Wednesday	15	7.00pm	Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Thursday	16	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Sunday	19	10:30am	Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>	
Monday	20	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Wednesday	22	7.00pm	Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Thursday	23	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	
Friday	24	7.00pm	Holy Communion : Holy Trinity <i>p.4</i>	
Sunday	26	10:30 am	Benefice Communion, St Nicholas	
		10.30am	Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>	
Monday	27	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	

Parish Magazine Editorial Policy

We warmly invite contributions to The Grapevine. However, owing to limitations of space, we cannot publish everything received. Our priorities are to represent the four villages and publicise news and activities of local interest. Contributions must follow these guidelines:

- Articles are a **maximum of 350 words**.
- Articles are received as **unformatted text** in a Word document
- Text is in sentence case, **not all CAPITALS**
- Articles are received in **black and white**
- Articles are of relevance and interest to local people.
- Pre-formatted posters can sometimes be accommodated **by arrangement with the editor**. The text **must** be clearly legible when the poster is reduced to A7 size.
- Articles are, where possible, accompanied by a photo or other image. These should be submitted as **separate files** to the text.

NOTE: All articles are subject to acceptance by the Editorial Committee and may be edited as necessary before publication.

STOCKTON ON THE FOREST

Mobile Library

Every fortnight on
Wednesday

**Note: only 8
December this
month**



09.55-10.05 Hopgrove Lane South
10.10-10.30 Stockton Ln, Beansway
10.40-12.00 Stoneriggs
12.05-12.15 The Village Hall
12.20-12.35 Westfield House
13.30-14.20 Holtby - Church Rise

For more information

Tel: (01904) 552655

Email: mobile@explore.org.uk

Website: www.explore.org.uk

IT'S DECEMBER AGAIN AND WITH IT OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT!

Chris Powell will be with us again. Chris is firmly established as one of the UK's premier entertainment organists and an international ambassador in the field of electronic and theatre organ music. In his teens Chris became one of the team of organists at the Tower Ballroom Blackpool; since then, has gone on to become one of the most popular performers in the UK. His talents are known also in Holland, USA, Australia, and New Zealand. We are privileged and delighted to have him come to entertain us here in Stockton on the Forest on 9th December at 7.30. Come and enjoy a wonderful evening's music with refreshments during the interval, free of course with your entrance fee.



Christmas Special—Silver Service

At Holy Trinity Church, Stockton-on-the-Forest

7th December, 2.30pm—4pm

Have you signed up?

The 100 Club Draw is up and running, so subscriptions to Arnie, please. £12 for a year with a draw every month and 2 at Christmas.

Diary - Stockton on the Forest - December 2021

		Church Services		Church / Community Events	
Wednesday	1	10.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion : Holy Trinity <i>p. 4</i> Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>		
Thursday	2	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>		
Sunday	5	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship: Holy Trinity <i>p. 4</i> Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>		
Monday	6	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>		
Tuesday	7			2.30pm	Christmas Special—Silver Service
Wednesday	8	10.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion : Holy Trinity <i>p. 4</i> Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	various	Mobile Library <i>p. 10</i>
Thursday	9	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	7.30pm	Christmas Concert with Chris Powell
Saturday	11				Christmas Coffee Morning
Sunday	12	10.30am 6.00pm	Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i> Carol Service : Holy Trinity <i>p.4</i>		
Monday	13	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>		
Wednesday	15	10.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion : Holy Trinity <i>p. 4</i> Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>		
Thursday	16	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>		
Sunday	19	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship : Holy Trinity <i>p. 4</i> Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>		
Monday	20	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>		
Wednesday	22	10.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion : Holy Trinity <i>p. 4</i> Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>		
Thursday	23	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>		
Friday	24	4.00pm 9.00pm	Crib Service : Holy Trinity <i>p.4</i> Holy Communion : Holy Trinity <i>p.4</i>		
Saturday	25	10.30am	Holy Communion : Holy Trinity <i>p.4</i>		
Sunday	26	10.30am 10.30am	Benefice Communion : St Nicholas Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>		
Monday	27	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p.4</i>		

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Holtby Trader Christmas Quiz

Ho! Ho! Ho! What's missing here?



1. When a poor man came in sight _____
2. Christians awake, salute the happy morn, _____
3. Angels from the realms of glory _____
4. It came upon the midnight clear _____
5. _____ Glory to the new-born King
6. Rise to adore the mystery of love _____
7. Glad tidings of great joy I bring _____
8. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep _____
9. Ding dong merrily on high _____
10. A saviour who is Christ the Lord _____
11. In the bleak midwinter _____
12. Come and worship _____
13. He came down to earth from heaven _____
14. Where the snow lay round about _____
15. Where like stars his children crowned _____
16. Earth stood hard as iron _____
17. In dulci jubilo _____
18. _____ Joyful and triumphant

The answers are on p. 16!



Password tips

Whether it's your Facebook, Amazon, or Netflix account, the explosion in popularity of online apps and services means more and more of us have to remember an increasingly long list of passwords.

Unfortunately, some of us cope with this challenge by resorting to practices that leave our data, devices and money at risk - by using the same password across multiple accounts, or by creating simple passwords that could easily be guessed by hackers.

Bad password practice is more prevalent than you might think - the UK's National Cyber Security Centre carried out analysis of passwords leaked in data breaches and found that more than **23 million users worldwide used 123456 as a password.**

Here are some top tips that will make your life easier and your online accounts more secure:

1. Creating memorable passwords

A good way to create strong, memorable passwords is by using 3 random words. But remember, don't use words that can be guessed (like your pet's name). You can include numbers and symbols if you need to. For example, "RedPantsTree4!"

2. Saving passwords in your browser

Saving your password in your browser means letting your web browser (such as Chrome, Safari or Edge) remember your password for you.

3: Email account passwords

If a hacker gets into your email account, they could:

- reset your other online account passwords
- access personal information you have saved about yourself or your business

Your email password should be strong and different to all your other passwords. This will make it harder to crack or guess.

This is from a Neighbourhood Alert from Action Fraud—For more advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware>

DUNNINGTON

Dunnington Library

01904 552668

explore

SUPPORTED BY
YORK

OPENING TIMES

Mon 10.00 - 1.30 Thur 2.00 - 5.00
Tue 2.00 - 5.30 Sat 9.00 - 12.30

Our next monthly coffee morning is on Monday December 13th, 10am – 12.30pm (refreshments served until 12 noon). Join us for tea, coffee and delicious cakes!

We are now selling “What’s on the menu” quiz sheets for £1 per copy, perfect for entertaining the family over the Christmas holidays! Return your completed sheets by 29th January to be in with the chance of winning a £20 garden centre voucher. Good luck!

Are you brave enough to take part in Eric Bloodaxe’s book challenge? Sign up now, read four books by 15th January to collect stickers and get your certificate.

Please note that Dunnington Library will be closed for the Christmas period from Friday 24th December until Monday 3rd January, reopening on Tuesday 4th January at 2pm. We would like to wish all of our customers and volunteers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

York Cards available

£6 for over 18’s/under 18’s free

Explore York Libraries

For more information see www.exploreYork.org.uk



Dunnington WI

At our Annual Meeting last month, we had 36 members and 1 visitor during an evening of fun alongside the business.

Two committee members stood down after years of service and were thanked by Margaret and each given a bouquet of flowers.

The new committee was introduced with two new members joining and welcomed by everyone.

Margaret Eastwood stepped down as President after three years of unstinting care and Chris Bayne was nominated to take on this role.

The monthly meeting followed, with Chris Carr giving the group a demonstration on present wrapping. She showed many examples of beautifully wrapped presents, using unusual materials and innovative methods.



Joan Williamson gave a short talk on recycling greetings cards, explaining how she started and how it has since developed. She offered to hold sessions for members to learn this craft and to sign up for them.

Julie Higgs won the competition for The Best Wrapped Gift.

The evening ended with a Prosecco toast, with thanks for the last year and looking forward to the next one.

Our Christmas dinner is being held at the Gold Cup, Low Catton on Tuesday 7th December at 7pm.



The next meeting is on January 4th at 7.15pm when our speaker is Graham Watson who will be telling us about “The Bees’ Story”.

The competition is “Anything Bee Related”.

On Tuesday, January 18th between 2-4pm we are serving tea and cake

in the Reading Rooms, open to anyone. Come for a cuppa and good company.

You can contact us on chris.dunningtonwi@gmail.com

Dunnington Cancer Support Group

DUNNINGTON CANCER SHOP SUPPORTING YORK AGAINST CANCER



As we are unable at the present time to hold our monthly jumble sales. It has been decided to have a “Rummage Sale” which will take place in the Reading Room on Wednesday 8th December from 10am - 11.30. Rummage meaning none of the clothes will be sorted, they will just be put on the tables for you to rummage through. Shoes will be on a separate table. Please come and have a look, there will be plenty of bargains

We would like to thank everyone who supported us at our coffee morning. It was lovely to see so many people attending, after such a long delay of restrictions due to covid. We raised the fantastic sum of £1,463.91 which was way beyond our expectations. Thank you. We really are very grateful for all your support.

Shop takings for the month of October 21

Monday. £109.35
Tuesday am. £65.80
Tuesday pm. £80.70
Thursday. £115.40
Saturday. £510.20

Shop opening times

Monday. 9.30 - 12 noon
Tuesday 9.30 - 12 noon. 1.30 - 4pm
Thursday 9.30 - 12 noon
Saturday 9.30 - 12 noon

TOTAL SALES £881.45

Funeral of Alf Deuchars: £570

Diary - Dunnington - December 2021

		Church Services		Church / Community Events	
Wednesday	1	9.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion : St Nicks <i>p. 4</i> Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	9.45am 6.45pm	Coffee Time : St Nicholas Tower Room <i>p. 4</i> Dunnington Bridge Club : Reading Rooms <i>p. 15</i>
Thursday	2	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	various 9.00pm	Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i>
Friday	3			3.20pm 8.00pm	Christingle Making : St Nicholas Tower Room Steve Cassidy : Dunnington Sports Club <i>p.14</i>
Saturday	4			various 10.00am 8.00pm	Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i> Community Café : St Nicholas Tower Room Opening of Bairstow/Graves Long room : Dunnington Sports Club : <i>p14</i>
Sunday	5	8.00am 10.30am 4.00pm	Holy Communion : St Nicks <i>p. 4</i> Holy Communion : St Nicks <i>p. 4/</i> Benefice Worship: YouTube <i>p. 4</i> Christingle : St. Nicks <i>p. 4</i>	5.30pm	Derwent Lions—Rocking Rudolph <i>p.15</i>
Monday	6	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	various 10.00 am	Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i> Library Coffee Morning <i>p.12</i>
Tuesday	7			10.30am various 1.45-3.00pm 7.00pm	Health Walk : Meet at The Cross Keys <i>p. 15</i> Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i> Little People, Tower Room, St. Nicks <i>p. 5</i> PCC Get Together : St Nicholas Tower Room
Wednesday	8	9.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion : St Nicks <i>p. 4</i> Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	9.45am 6.45pm 12.30pm	Coffee Time : St Nicholas Tower Room <i>p. 4</i> Dunnington Bridge Club : Reading Rooms <i>p. 15</i> Diamond Club Xmas Lunch : Dunnington Sports Club <i>p.14</i>
Thursday	9	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	various 9.00pm	Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i> Quiz Night at Sports Club <i>p. 14</i>
Saturday	11			various 10-11.30am	Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i> Community Café : St Nicholas Tower Room <i>p. 4</i>
Sunday	12	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion : St Nicks <i>p. 4</i> Morning Worship : St Nicks <i>p. 4</i> Benefice Worship : YouTube <i>p. 4</i>	1.00pm	Parish Lunch, St Nicholas Tower Room <i>p. 6</i>
Monday	13	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	various	Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i>
Tuesday	14			10.30am various 1.45-3.00pm	Health Walk : Meet at The Cross Keys <i>p. 15</i> Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i> Little People, Tower Room, St. Nicks <i>p. 5</i>
Wednesday	15	9.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion : St Nicks <i>p. 4</i> Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	9.45am 6.45pm 2.30pm	Coffee Time : St Nicholas Tower Room <i>p. 4</i> Dunnington Bridge Club : Reading Rooms <i>p. 15</i> Tea and Chat with Rev Dr John Schofield : St Nicholas Tower Room <i>p.4</i>
Thursday	16	9.00am 9.30am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i> School Services : St Nicks <i>p.4</i>	various	Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i>
Friday	17			various evening	Dunnington Christmas Trail <i>p.17</i> Sports Club Christmas Meal and disco : Dunnington Sports Club <i>p.14</i>
Saturday	18			various various 10-11.30am 2.00pm	Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i> Dunnington Christmas Trail <i>p.17</i> Community Café : St Nicholas Tower Room <i>p. 4</i> Christmas Craft Stalls : Ashfield Touring Caravan Park, <i>p. 19</i>
Sunday	19	8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion : St Nicks <i>p. 4</i> Holy Communion : St Nicks <i>p. 4/</i> Benefice Worship: YouTube <i>p. 4</i> Carol Service : St Nicks, <i>p.4</i>	various	Dunnington Christmas Trail <i>p.17</i>
Monday	20	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom <i>p. 4</i>	various 4.00pm	Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i> Carol Singing : The Glebe carpark <i>p.7</i>
Tuesday	21			10.30am Various 1.45-3.00pm 6.00pm	Health Walk : Meet at The Cross Keys <i>p. 15</i> Library & Cancer Support Group Shop <i>p. 12</i> Little People, Tower Room, St. Nicks <i>p. 5</i> Carol Singing : The Green <i>p.7</i>

DIARY CONTD./DUNNINGTON / THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Wednesday	22	9.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion : St Nicks p. 4 Compline (Night Prayer) : Zoom p. 4	9.45am various 7.30pm 6.45pm	Light a Candle Café : St Nicholas Tower Room p. 7 Christian Meditation Group : St Nicks p. 4 Dunnington Bridge Club : Reading Rooms p. 15
Thursday	23	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom p. 4	various 12.30pm	Library & Cancer Support Group Shop p. 12 Communion followed by Soup and Pudding : St Nicks p.7
Friday	24	5.00pm 9.00pm	Crib Service : St Nicks p.4 Holy Communion : St Nicks p.4	1.00pm	Children's Christmas party : Dunnington Sports Club p.14
Saturday	25	10.30am.	Holy Communion : St Nicks p.4		
Sunday	26	10.30am	BENEFICE COMMUNION St Nicks p.4/ Benefice Worship : YouTube p. 4		
Monday	27	9.00am	Morning Prayer : Zoom p. 4		
Tuesday	28			10.30am Various	Health Walk : Meet at The Cross Keys p. 15 Library & Cancer Support Group Shop p. 12

Dunnington Playing Fields & Sports Club

If you have any spare time, please help at the Sports Club. Run by volunteers we need more helpers to continue maintaining this wonderful village facility. Contact Josette on 488322 or Linda on 481697.

Events coming up:

Steve Cassidy – Friday 3rd December. Book a table if you would like food as well.

Opening of Bairstow/Graves Long room—Saturday 4th December at 8pm. Food available from 6 to 9pm.

Diamond Club Xmas lunch – Wednesday 8th December 12.30. Contact Nick to book. Contact John/Josette on 488322 to book.

Sports Club Xmas meal (2 courses) and disco – Friday 17th December - £15

Children's Xmas Party – Friday 24th December 1 to 3pm. £5

New Years Eve Party – Friday 31st December from 8pm. Free entry.

The New Derwent dining

Friday 6-9pm

Saturday 6-9pm

Sunday Lunch 12-4pm – prebooking required – Nick as below or Gemma on 07772038484

Quiz— every Thursday evening with a 9pm start.

Lots of live sport taking place on the big screen – Football, Rugby Union, Rugby League and Cricket.

Contact Nick on 01904 481039 or 07905677559

Dunnington in Bloom

It was a great disappointment to have to cancel our Autumn Coffee Morning but the necessary covid restrictions would have made it impossible for us to provide anything approaching the variety and interest of stalls which always accompany Bloom's coffee event. We can only hope that 2022 will allow us not just to resume business as usual but to do something a little extra too.

Meanwhile Bloom has been very active in the village itself.

Unless you happened to be on Common Road at the right time you may not have realised that a generous donation has enabled us to plant many more bulbs on the Green – but you will certainly see the welcome difference as spring approaches and all those daffodils break through the earth. In Julia's Garden a major hedging project is starting to take shape. Watch this space in 2022.

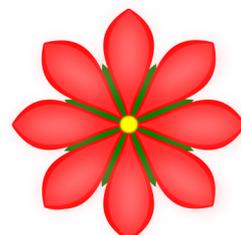
As for Manor Drive, may I reassure you that the horse and cart have only temporarily disappeared! Both were in need of tender care. We are very grateful for Simpsons' most generous contribution of free materials and labour as they work to restore the cart to its former sturdy state. It was in serious need of major repair and it is a relief that we can now look forward to seeing it return to take pride of place early next year. The horse too needs professional help to regain its proper shape and strength. It will shortly be examined and assessed by the original creator prior to her starting work. This will be a very costly project but the village would be much the poorer without restoration of this link to Dunnington's past. Are there any horse lovers among our readers who would like to contribute towards this very worthwhile project?

It is disappointing for everyone that Advanced Windows are after all unable to erect the village Christmas trees, but when you are enjoying them (they will go up on 24th November) do give a thought to the generosity of the tree providers, who have offered them to the village at a remarkably reasonable cost – thank you indeed for that.

Finally, Bloom would like to record that we were sorry indeed to hear of the death of Alf Deuchars this autumn. He was a very good friend to Bloom and as chair of the Parish Council was always to be found at our committee meetings and directly supportive of the work. We miss him.

Barbara Windle

Dunnington in Bloom committee member



DUNNINGTON / THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Health Walks

Warthill and back - 3.4 miles

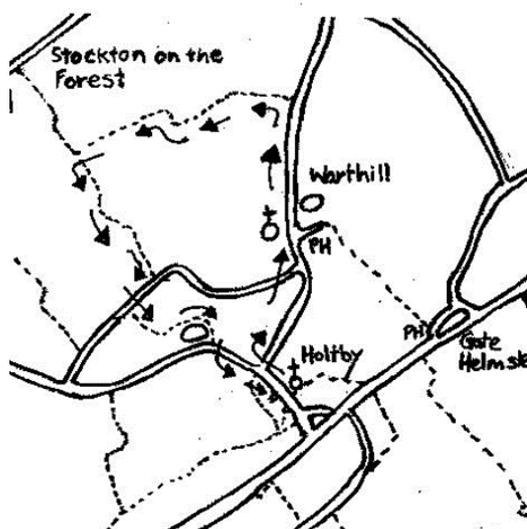
A walk from Holtby through Warthill and a return taking in Brecks Wood and Brockfield Hall.

From Holtby Church turn right down Main Street and at the bottom carefully negotiate the junction, turning right towards Warthill. Follow this road for ½ mile into Warthill. Pass the Agar Arms on the right and proceed along the main street.

After about 400m and a slight right bend in the road, find on the left a narrow sign-posted track between the houses. Cross the footbridge and emerge onto a rectangular field. The way out is through a stile across this field at '10 o'clock'. The next field is easier: cross it to exit by a stile in the far corner. Negotiate what is in winter a muddy corner and bear left along a rough track skirting the fence. After 300m turn right through Brecks Wood. At the end of the wood angle left along the hedge. After another 300m this track joins the one coming from Stockton on the right. Bear left and wend your way towards Holtby for ¾ mile, passing Brockfield Hall on the right. Emerge on to Rudcarr Lane between Warthill and Holtby Lane.

Turn right, then after 300m left towards Mount Pleasant Farm. Just before you reach the farm take a gap in the hedge on the right, and turn immediately left by the side of the house. Just after the house go through a gap in the hedge and right between the hedge and a high metal fence. Take care over the stile.

Continue through a metal gate, across a field towards another field towards Weir Pond House. Come out on to Holtby Lane, with Weir Pond on the right, turn left and proceed carefully over the junction back to the Village Hall.



Caption: Coming out of Brecks Wood



Dunnington Bridge Club

Dunnington Bridge Club meets **every Wednesday** at 6.45pm in the Reading Room.

Anyone who would like to join the club please contact Janice Kay on 01904 488357.



Derwent Lions

Rocking Rudolph

Rocking Rudolph will be visiting Dunnington on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th December

Starting around 5.30pm

Although we can't guarantee the route we intend to visit the Intake Lane / Petercroft lane side of the village on Saturday. Whilst on Sunday we tend to cover the York Street side of the village.

To track Santa please visit <https://derwent.lionsclub.co/> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

If you would like to volunteer to help us please ring Lion John 0345 833 2816

Derwent Lions Christmas Tree Recycling in Dunnington Saturday 8th January

On Saturday the 8th January 2022, Derwent Lions will be recycling Christmas trees in the Dunnington area. If you book your collection through our website, we'll collect your tree from your house, recycle it and save you getting needles all over your car! When booking online you have the option to make a voluntary donation, with proceeds to St Leonards Hospice Please see <https://derwent.lionsclub.co/>, locally distributed flyers for more information, or contact us via email Derwentlions@gmail.com Although the website is the preferred option if it's not for you ring Lion John on 0345 833 2816

Registrations closes 23.59pm 5th January 2022

Derwent Lions are very grateful to all the help Toby Johnson, Tree Surgeon gives us with this project.

DUNNINGTON/QUIZ ANSWERS

Answers to the Holtby Trader Christmas Quiz on p. 11

1. When a poor man came in sight
gathering winter fuel
2. Christians awake! Salute the happy morn
whereon the Saviour of the world was born
3. Angels, from the realms of glory
wing your flight o'er all the earth
4. It came upon the midnight clear
that glorious song of old
5. **Hark, the herald angels sing**
glory to the new-born King
6. Rise to adore the mystery of love
which hosts of angels chanted from above
7. Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind
8. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by
9. Ding dong merrily on high
in heaven the bells are ringing
10. A saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign
11. In the bleak midwinter
Frosty winds did moan
12. Come and worship
worship Christ the new-born king
13. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all
14. Where the snow lay round about
deep and crisp and even
15. Where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around
16. Earth stood hard as iron
water like a stone
17. In dulci jubilo
Let us our homage show
18. **O come all ye faithful**
joyful and triumphant

2nd Tuesday Rides from Dunnington

The small group of cyclists go out on the 2nd Tuesday of the month leaving the Cross Keys at 10-30am for a ride of approximately 10 miles but sometimes further.

On Tuesday 9th November five riders went to Sand Hutton, Bossal, Buttercrambe in beautiful sunshine. Calling at Stamford Bridge for our usual bacon sandwich then back to Dunnington on Route 66.

There is no ride in December.

Tuesday 11th January we will ride to Deans Nurseries where we will plan next years rides.

All rides are subject to change on the day depending on weather conditions.

Helmets and bright clothing are recommended, please bring a spare inner tube in case of puncture, do come & join us.

Any queries to Margaret Eastwood 07791 599661 or Tony Hudson 07979 793066



DUNNINGTON CHRISTMAS TRAIL



Friday 17th, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th December '21

Let us spread some Christmas community cheer

Last year we had 49 houses enter, let us see if we can get more this year

How Dunnington Christmas Trail works –

You can register your Christmas decorated house/business to be added to the Christmas Trail Map sponsored by Simpson (York) Ltd. Trail walkers can choose their favourite 3 (text or email, no group numbers to be submitted) and the 3 properties with the most votes will win a prize 🏆 sponsored by ISF York.

On Saturday 18th of the Christmas Trail there will be -

- A limited number of pre-booked slots to see Father Christmas sponsored by Dunnington Motor Care.
- Weather permitting there will be a surprise on the driveway at Ashfield Touring Caravan Park 13.00-20.00 sponsored by Blacker Steel Fabrications Limited.
- Available to purchase - Christmas treats donated by Pattacakes the Bakery and The Old Butchers Coffee Shop, mulled wine donated by Twine & Barrel, hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows donated by Miller Food Service.
- A giant Christmas cookie donated by Just Baking Marvellous for a raffle.
- Craft stalls selling items.

Add your house/business to the map 🏠?

Will you be - Decorating your house 🏠🌲 - Have a display in your garden 🦌🎅👶 - Have lights up 🌟 - Do a Christmas window display 🌨️🔥🎁?

👍👏👏 DEADLINE TO BE ON THE MAP IS FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER 🙌👏👏

Map - £5 (cash) - these will be available at Costcutter during the week of the event.

Father Christmas - £6 - limited time slots available on Saturday 18th December 2.30pm-5.30pm.

How to add your house/business to the trail map, order a map or book a slot to see Father Christmas

Get in touch by messaging 07762067005 / email – info@dunningtoncommunityevents.org.uk or on Facebook - Dunnington Community Events.

All updates leading up to the event will go on the Facebook page Dunnington Community Events so please like the page to keep up to date.

ALL profit will be going to York Foodbank so please bring some money to join in the fun and support this amazing cause.



Thank You 😊

GET MORE BUSINESS

Find me a plumber - fast!

When your radiator starts leaking, a roof-tile comes loose in the wind, or you realise that the garden is getting a bit too much to manage on your own, where do you look?

In this situation, many Grapevine readers (and it is received by over 1000 households) will turn to the blue pages at the back of the magazine and look for a local business.

Do you offer a local service and are you looking for more business? Why not advertise with us.

Adverts start at just £99 per year (12 issues), so it's an affordable way to promote your business.

If you want to place an advert, or would like more information, please contact the editor of The Grapevine.

Email grapevine.rey@gmail.com

Alternatively, phone 01904 489817 and leave a message.

ADVERTISE IN THE GRAPEVINE

Friends of Hagg Wood

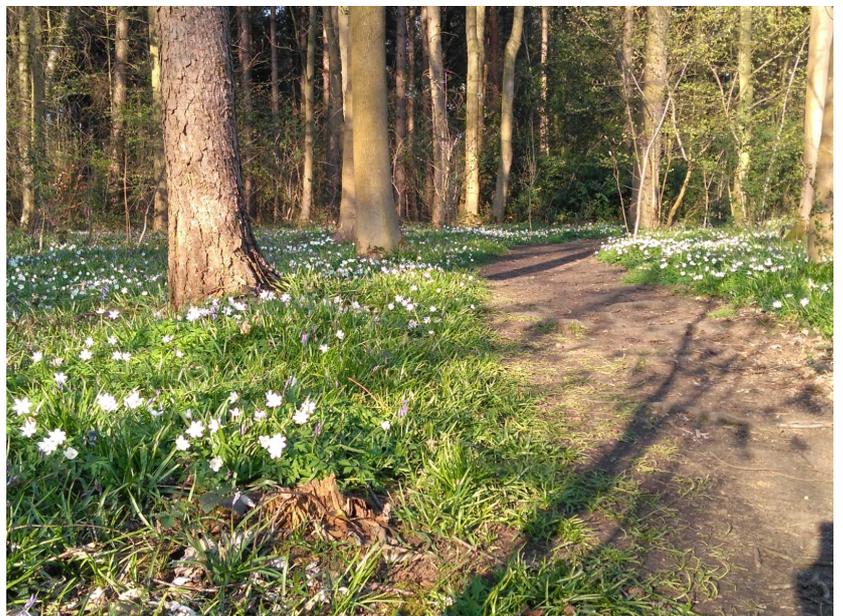


At the time of writing the Climate Change Conference, COP26, is still convening in Glasgow. It is difficult not to be rather cynical about the difference between the statements made and the actual actions taken. This is after all the twenty sixth time the Conference has met and the progress made is a long way short of what is required. It was typically annoying to see, just one day after signing a major agreement on Deforestation, several countries backtracking on their commitment. However, we must not let these thoughts distract us from taking action at a local level. Climate Change presents many problems for our woodland with the prospect of warmer wetter winters, drier summers and more extreme weather events putting many species of flora and fauna under threat.

The rate of climate change is unprecedented, natural selection processes may not be able to keep pace, and a more active management intervention may be necessary. This will ask many questions of our group strategy. We have planted many native tree species in the past, but over recent years we have concentrated on biodiversity, creating a mix of glades and woodland. If we plant trees again, are we planting with carbon capture as a priority? Oak and maple are the best native trees for carbon capture when their whole life is taken into account (an 'average tree' sequesters about one tonne of carbon over its lifespan), but new growth conifers could be more effective in the short term. There is much contradictory advice on this topic.

One positive effect of climate change is a faster tree growth as long as water is not a constraint. Hagg Wood is naturally a low lying wet woodland, and anyone who walks in the wood in winter will know that drainage can be a persistent problem. We largely rely on the Forestry Commission for this work but do keep an eye on problems and lobby for solutions. For further study of these challenges, we recommend "Managing England's woodlands in a climate emergency" available for download on the Forestry Commission website.

We constantly review our plans to return to 'normal' with meetings and work parties, so please see our website www.fowh.org.uk for further details.





Dunnington
Community Events

CHRISTMAS CRAFT STALLS

- 10 amazing craft stalls
- Mulled Wine
- Hot Chocolate
- Christmas Treats

Snow Machine

18 DEC

A FREE EVENT FOR THE FAMILY!
Ashfield Touring Caravan Park
Hagg Lane, Dunnington
STARTS AT 2.00pm-5.30pm
FOR MORE INFORMATION
info@dunningtoncommunityevents.org.uk



A friendly Netball Club based in the heart of Stamford Bridge Village.

Always recruiting new players; to join our existing junior and senior teams who participate in weekly league matches.

All ages and abilities welcome to come along and meet likeminded people, get fit, have fun, and get involved.

Whether you have played Netball recently, not touched a ball since school or just fancy trying something new then come down to training and give it a go.

Find us on Facebook "**Stamford Bridge Netball Club**" for regular updates or contact:

Juniors – Ruth 07886926420

Seniors – Michelle 07753565461

All training takes place at Stamford Bridge Sports & Social Club, Low Catton Road – Wednesday evenings from September.





THE BIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN



Jays and acorns

A phone call last week induced me to have a closer look this year's acorn crop. My main chance to see any number of oak trees close to is on the golf course, and judging by the number of squirrels looking for acorns and apparently caching them, (whilst dodging golf balls – the safest place for them being, of course, on the fairway!) I had assumed the crop to be pretty good. However, having done a bit of reading and asking around it seems that there is more to it, and in reality, the crop is rather poor.

We had a bumper acorn crop last year, an event which is generally followed by a poor one, as the trees have used up most of their resources. Which means that it is likely that the larger than usual number of Jays and squirrels currently seen is a combination of two factors. Last year's glut of food increased survival rates, whilst this year's less bountiful harvest is forcing them to compete harder to find enough food to cache. If this is true, it will be interesting to see how Jays, which rely on the acorn crop more than most, get on over the winter. We may well see more of them on our feeders, particularly in rural or semi-rural areas. Although a wary species, individual Jays can be emboldened by hunger and may become surprisingly approachable when they visit gardens.

The spring months are important for the development of most trees and shrubs. It is when the buds burst, the leaves grow, and the flowers bloom. Oak trees usually flower between the end of April and mid-

May, but as their flowers are wind pollinated, the wet weather we had last spring will have impeded pollination, and yet further reduced the acorn crop this year.



Jay—John Harding/BTO

It is in autumn that Jays are at their most conspicuous in most years, hunting on the ground for the acorns which are their staple food. They can be seen collecting them, and can carry three or four in an adapted gullet plus one more held in their bills, taking them away from the immediate vicinity of the tree under which they found them, to be cached, typically in a hole that they have made in the ground with their beaks. In many years their numbers are increased by the arrival of birds from the near continent.

Jays appear to be able to relocate quite a lot of the acorns they have stored, some will be found by other birds or animals, including other corvids which have been seen watching the caching process and then raiding the store as soon as the cacher departs. Of the remainder, some will germinate to form seedlings, a good source of food for grazing animals, with

those hidden in thorny patches being protected and able to grow into trees. It is this action of burying acorns away from the tree under which they found them that makes Jays, along with squirrels, such effective dispersal agents for the seeds, helping oak woodland to establish in new areas. Other corvids do behave in the same way, though to a lesser extent

This close cooperation has, over millennia, been vital for the oak tree since, when growing closely together, the dense canopy formed prevents saplings from establishing themselves, so some form of dispersal is vital.

Squirrels, having a rather more varied diet might not fare so badly, as other nut bearing trees, such as horse chestnuts, are available for them. Time will tell, but this sort of weather variability is only going to become more common as climate change makes what are now extremes much more common.

Will we see more Jays in our gardens this winter.....?

If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest, and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please contact me or visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (www.bto.org/gbw). If you know of an organisation no more than 30 miles from York which would like a talk on garden birds contact Mike Gray gbwmike@gmail.com.

Contributions to THE GRAPEVINE are very welcome.

Please e-mail your news to Lou at grapevine.rey@gmail.com or place, together with your name and contact details, in the tray in the Tower Room at St Nicholas Church, Dunnington.

The **deadline date for contributions is on page 3**. Please refer to the **editorial policy on Page 9**

For all other enquiries, please call 01904 489817 (leave a message if I'm out) or e-mail as above.

Subscriptions to THE GRAPEVINE

To receive a copy of the Grapevine delivered to your door every month, contact Barry Hewitt 01904 488331. At £4.00 for the year this is not only more convenient, but also cheaper than buying individual copies.

Alternatively, you can buy a copy in any of the four parish churches, Dean's Garden Centre, Dunnington Newsagents or Stockton Village Stores.

