



# Wagtail

June 2017 • The parish magazine  
of Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham

This edition sponsored by



22288 hornbydaynursery.co.uk

## Monday 29 May from 7pm Bank Holiday Barbecue

Whittington Village Hall  
Bring your own food  
The bar will be open

## Friday 9 June 8pm A celebration of Simon and Garfunkel



performed live by Tim Chu and Ian Bailey  
*advance booking strongly recommended*  
Hornby Institute – £12 – 22227 or  
[ticketweb.co.uk/event/272575](http://ticketweb.co.uk/event/272575)

Saturday 24 June 7.30pm



## Whittington Race Night

Whittington Village Hall  
a fun evening with six races  
*you can be owner, trainer,  
or jockey, as well as a punter*  
free entry, supper, bar and raffle

## Sunday 25 June 11am Arkholme Patronal Festival

*of Saint John the Baptist*  
United Benefice Service  
in Arkholme parish church  
*The vicar will be reflecting  
on 25 years of ordination*



## Sunday 11 June 9.30am Sunday Morning Songs of Praise

Whittington Church

informal half-hour service of the best  
all-time favourite hymns with Anthony  
Smith at the organ, **solo pieces by some  
of our young people**, and refreshments  
afterwards – *everybody welcome*

## Sunday 25 June 12.30pm onwards Open Garden and lunch

*at Station House, Arkholme*  
£5 including lunch – home-made  
soup, sandwiches and cakes  
*in aid of Arkholme parish church*



Monday 12 June 7.30pm  
**Women's Institute**  
*Arkholme Village Hall*  
*'Making your own Jewellery'*  
*Jenny Wheeler visitors welcome*



**New buses**  
through the three villages  
run daily all year round  
**timetable inside**

**Free money for teenagers – back cover**

**Directory** [editor@wagtail.org.uk](mailto:editor@wagtail.org.uk)

**Arkholme Post Office** *Arkholme Village Hall* Mondays and Thursdays 2pm to 4pm

**Whittington Post Office** *Whittington Village Hall* Thursdays 1.30pm to 3.30pm

**Arkholme School** *Headteacher Joy Ingram* [www.arkholme.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.arkholme.lancs.sch.uk) 21418

**Arkholme Village Hall** [www.arkholme-village-hall.co.uk](http://www.arkholme-village-hall.co.uk) 07716 122940 Committee usually meets second Thursday of each month (email or phone to check) – all welcome

**Book Club** *May Levick* 21669

**Bowling Club** *Arkholme Monday evenings David Smith* 03330 119 303

**Drama Group** *Neil Read* 21339 [realneed@hotmail.com](mailto:realneed@hotmail.com)

**Kirkby Lonsdale Voluntary Car Scheme** Car and volunteer driver, 45p per mile measured from driver's house back to driver's house 07788 522511

**Lunch Club** *Carole Webb* 22202 or *Doreen Airey* 22023 for retired residents of the three villages – usually on the second Wednesday of the month from October to May

**Playgroup/Toddlers** *Danielle Barker* [wagtailplaygroupandtoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:wagtailplaygroupandtoddlers@gmail.com) 21921

**Police** *PC3573 Rob Barnsley* [morecambept@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:morecambept@lancashire.pnn.police.uk) telephone 101

**Whittington Village Hall** *Karan Metcalfe* 71287

Coffee Mornings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 10.30am to 12noon

**Women's Institute** *Janice McIlveen* 21693

**Vicar** *Revd Michael Hampson* [vicar@these4parishes.co.uk](mailto:vicar@these4parishes.co.uk) 21712

**Classified ads** [ads@wagtail.org.uk](mailto:ads@wagtail.org.uk)

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**Boarding Kennels and dog day-care** Aughton Road, Gressingham LA2 8LS [helen.burrow@hotmail.com](mailto:helen.burrow@hotmail.com) 07766 446272 [www.aughtonroadkennels.co.uk](http://www.aughtonroadkennels.co.uk)

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**Funeral Services** B&W Funerals (J G Macdonald) – 24 hour Service, Private Chapel of Rest. Covering the Lune Valley and the Dales. 39 Main Street, Ingleton LA6 3EH. Office 41293, Home 61390, Mobile 07758 002260, email [jmfunerals@gmail.com](mailto:jmfunerals@gmail.com)

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# Wagtail

Welcome to the June edition.

All local churches and community groups are invited to send in news of their activities to Wagtail – reports of recent events (with photographs if possible) as well as announcements of what’s coming up. Other local news is also welcome.

The next edition is the combined July and August edition. The deadline for items for inclusion is 19 May. Please submit all items to [editor@wagtail.org.uk](mailto:editor@wagtail.org.uk)

Wagtail is also available online at [www.wagtail.org.uk](http://www.wagtail.org.uk)

Many thanks as always to all our contributors and distributors.

*Michael Hampson*

## New buses run daily all year round

Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches is running a new daily bus service through the three villages, from Kirkby Lonsdale to Lancaster, around six in the evening, Monday to Saturday, including bank holidays and school holidays, all year round.

They are also running an early morning service from Lancaster to Kirkby Lonsdale on Saturdays and Bank Holidays, and through the school holidays, when the school bus service (open to all) isn’t running. They follow the same timetable as the school bus, thereby creating an all-year-round daily service.

This means that there is now a morning bus, and an early-evening bus, every day, Monday to Saturday, all year round – and on school days only, you have the additional afternoon option of the school bus as well.

In the morning, from Kirkby Lonsdale (Booths), you can connect to Lancaster, arriving at 0937. You can leave Lancaster at 1615 for Kirkby Lonsdale to connect to the new daily service that leave Kirkby Lonsdale for the three villages at 1750; and on school days you have the additional option of leaving Lancaster at 1315 to connect to the school bus back from Kirkby Lonsdale at 1545. At Lancaster Bus Station, the buses use stands 4 and 14 (make sure to check which one you need on the day).

Do let us know how you get on using these services: [editor@wagtail.org.uk](mailto:editor@wagtail.org.uk)

	<i>Daily Mon to Sat</i>		<i>QES school days only</i>	<i>Daily Mon to Sat</i>
Lancaster (Bus Station)	0745	Kirkby Lonsdale (Booths)	1545	1750
Caton (Station Hotel)	0758	<b>Whittington</b>	<b>1554</b>	<b>1759</b>
Brookhouse (Black Bull)	0800	<b>Arkholme</b>	<b>1601</b>	<b>1806</b>
Hornby (High School)	0812	<b>Gressingham</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>1812</b>
<b>Gressingham</b>	<b>0818</b>	Hornby (Hornby Bank)	1615	1820
<b>Arkholme</b>	<b>0824</b>	Brookhouse (Black Bull)	1626	1830
<b>Whittington</b>	<b>0830</b>	Caton (Station Hotel)	1630	1832
Kirkby Lonsdale (Booths)	0843	Lancaster (Bus Station)	1644	1845

# Notices

An exhibition in Gressingham church in April presented the work so far of Gressingham's *Pearson Trust Working Group*. The group is looking at the possibility of re-ordering the interior of Gressingham church to create a multi-purpose community space, to be used for church worship and for all other village activities, combining the functions of the church and the Old School Room in a single building. Full plans and reports are online in the Gressingham edition of June's Wagtail at [www.wagtail.org.uk](http://www.wagtail.org.uk)



**Many thanks to everyone in Whittington** who helped with the digging for the new gas main to church, in preparation for new heating to be installed in time for this winter – to John Pinch for organising, Rob Mackereth for bringing a digger, eleven men with spades (a reunion for the Whittington B4RN team), Manon and Paul Ogden for coffee and cake in the morning, and Phyllis Pinch and Marjorie Hall for sausage and bacon butties at lunch time. The team dug the trench and laid the pipe needed to get from the gas main to the new meter, then tunnelled under the wall and laid the pipe from the meter to the church. While they had the trench open, they put in a new drain in preparation for a possible future WC (for future connection into the drain serving the Old Rectory), and John also took the opportunity to replace the pipe for the water main into the building – *Judith Greenwood*

**Whittington Village Hall needs three new committee members.** Contact the clerk Gillian Hodgson on 21814 or [arkholmebrownies@hotmail.com](mailto:arkholmebrownies@hotmail.com) to find out more.

**The concert by Charlie Lewis's Divers Voyces choir**, held at Saint Margaret's church at the end of April, featured a delightful repertoire of pieces, many selected especially for the day. The concert raised £1150 as the final event in Bill Taylor's fundraising year for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Many thanks to Charlie and the choir and to everyone who attended and contributed.

**Hornby Singers** had its afternoon and evening groups come together for the concert in Saint Margaret's church on 6 May. "This was our first public appearance as a singing group and the audience seemed to appreciate our renditions, especially of Ezekiel's Wheel which is fast and furious. Many thanks to Gathered Voices who were the main attraction of the evening, and kindly allowed us to join with them. The event raised over £400 for the two charities. We are now learning new music so this would be a good time to come and join us. There are no auditions, and you don't need to be able to read music, so come and have a go." Evening group Tuesday 6 and 20 June, 7pm to 9pm. Afternoon group Tuesdays 13 and 27 June 1.30pm to 3.30pm . £4 per session including refreshments – *Pat 21449*

**The next Joint Churches Away Day** for Saint Mary's and the four parishes, led by the vicar and Fr Luiz, is from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 10 June, at Borwick and Priest Hutton Memorial Hall – the smart modern building half way between Borwick and Priest Hutton. The theme is 'The Bible in a Day', with an introduction to the Old Testament (what happened when, plus poetry, wisdom and the prophets), the Gospels, the epistles and the lectionary, a cartoon guide to all 66 books of the bible, practical bible studies and discussions, and scripture-based liturgies including *The Way of the Cross* and *1662 Evensong*. £5 per person, bring-and-share lunch. Sign up at the back of church.

**ARKHOLME VILLAGE HALL DRAW FOR JUNE:** £20 MR AND MRS DUXBURY, £10 MRS M LEVICK, £10 MRS M HODGSON, £10 MR AND MRS IRELAND, £10 MR AND MRS M BLACOW, £10 MR AND MRS COLLINGWOOD, £10 MR AND MRS P WOOD

# Arkholme and District WI



We were back in Whittington for May's meeting, where Janice welcomed eighteen members and two guests to our annual resolutions meeting.

Jane introduced the two resolutions which were:

- 1. Micro plastic fibres are shed from synthetic clothing with every wash and are the main contributors to micro plastic contamination of the oceans. The NFWI calls on government and industry to research and develop innovative solutions to this problem in order to stop the accumulation of micro plastic fibres in our oceans.*
- 2. This meeting calls on every WI and the NFWI to work alongside health and social care providers and their local community to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of loneliness, thus ensuring better identification of lonely people in order to be able to offer them the appropriate assistance and support.*

Jane then led a very thorough explanation and discussion of each resolution. We voted and each resolution was passed. Our results will be taken to the national AGM.

**'Denman College – The jewel in the WI's crown'**, was the subject of Rosemary Blanchfield's talk. Denman is the WI's own college, in a beautiful grade two listed Georgian building in Oxfordshire. When it first opened in 1948, the college offered courses in gardening, cookery and flower arranging. Now 650 courses on all kinds of subjects are offered as both day and residential courses. Residents are housed in beautifully appointed en-suite rooms, and the catering is excellent. All who have been attest to the informative, friendly and most enjoyable time they had at Denman.

Then came our quiz. Janice had devised one with lots of pictures of well-known places, buildings etc. All we had to do was identify them, plus the town or city and country. Sounds easy but some 'obvious' ones were not quite as easy as we thought. There was much laughter as we all guessed and picked each other's brains for answers.

*Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 12 June in Arkholme Village Hall when Jenny Wheeler will teach us how to 'Make Your Own Jewellery'. Visitors welcome as usual.*

## Gerald writes...

**The swallows returned** on 21 April, when I first saw them flying around the Church tower. Year on year the numbers returning get less and less, and even in my life time I have seen various varieties of birds getting fewer and fewer. I suppose our lifestyle is now so hygienic that the food chain that they feed on has disappeared. We are no longer bothered by house flies and swarms of butterflies – all good food for hungry birds to feed on. A pair of swifts were seen on 10 May, doing wonderful aerobatics. I have been watching a pair of buzzards that are nesting nearby, they fly so gracefully, soaring away with hardly a wing beat whilst climbing high in the air on a thermal. We are so lucky to be able to view these birds whilst sat in the back garden.

**For over forty years I have been digging my vegetable garden**, and during that time I have raked off barrow-loads of fragments of broken stones – limestone, fossil-limestone, sandstone, sedimentary rock and river stones – so many different types of stone that I think my back garden was once the stone masons yard when the Church was built. But this spring I dug up some iron slag probably raked off an iron founder's crucible – so has my garden once been a cottage-industry iron foundry?

**My neighbour's son Christopher Bibby** has just won the coach driver of the year title at the Blackpool National Coach rally, well done Chris.

*Gerald Hodgson*

# County High Sheriff

## Visit to Kirkham Prison

*Arkholme's Robert Webb is County High Sheriff for the year. As the local vicar, I am serving as his chaplain.*



My first outing with Robert after the Installation Ceremony in April was a visit to the open prison at Kirkham.

They are doing superb work there with prisoners moving towards release on parole.

It is all about rehabilitation. The entire operation is geared up to preparing prisoners for the day they step out of the security of the prison back into the rigours and temptations of life outside. The last thing anyone wants is for newly-released prisoners to find that their only practical option is to return to crime. With the final phase of life 'inside' being in an open prison, and the first phase of life 'outside' being on probation, everyone is working towards making the transition as smooth as possible, not just to 'life outside', but to becoming valuable members of society with a whole range of positive options for the future.

As a result, life for prisoners in their final months or weeks at Kirkham can look a lot like being on probation already, with little more than a curfew to bring them back to their rooms on site for fewer and fewer days each week. But prisoners have to work extremely hard to earn that level of trust, and to move from that stage to the even greater trust of release on parole, into the care of the probation service.

On the day of our visit, we attended a 'graduation ceremony', where prisoners are formally awarded certificates marking their progress through the four different stages or regimes of life at Kirkham, as they learn the skills and earn the trust to move towards release on parole. Progress through the system is based on learning skills and earning trust, not just time served. Some prisoners move through all the stages in a matter of months. Others take years, and can even be demoted, or returned to a secure prison, if they fail to take advantage of the opportunities on offer.

And the opportunities on offer are genuinely inspiring. There is a whole range of both educational and employment opportunities available, both on-site and off-site, as well as all manner of practical and personal support for the transition towards an outside world that some prisoners may not have encountered for several years. Examples on our visit included the farm and farm shop, the garden nursery, the hairdressing salon, the recycling centre, and the distribution logistics centre.

The most inspiring part of our visit was probably our tour of the library. The head librarian showed us round. Many of the activities and items available are designed to get non-readers into the library for the first time, so that they begin to feel comfortable browsing what is available and improving their reading skills. The facility is a full part of the Lancashire Public Library system, with access to all its resources. The art department has won grants and prizes competing with non-prison facilities. The prison's own in-house 'parish magazine' is produced there.

The head librarian was incredibly impressive, committed to the work and to the benefits that the library could bring. We wondered whether he was there after training as a county librarian, or after training as a prison officer. He smiled and said, "No – I'm a prisoner". It's like that throughout the facility. Prisoners who run the place are called Orderlies. They're earning their place outside, proving themselves ready.

I look forward to joining Robert on more inspiring visits through the rest of his year in post.

*Michael Hampson*

## Lancaster Priory Service

There is a service of Thanksgiving for the High Sheriff – and for the whole system of justice and rehabilitation that the High Sheriff represents – at Lancaster Priory at 11am on **Friday 9 June**, with the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor in attendance. Everybody is welcome, but please do allow plenty of time for parking, and everyone is asked to be in their places by 10.45am for the formal processions and a prompt 11am start.



## The weather in Arkholme

*Robin McIlveen*

### April Weather in Arkholme

14 Slightly Wet Days (less than 5mm) together adding up to 11.3mm

1 Decidedly Wet Day (from 5mm to just under 25mm) giving 6.1mm

0 Extremely Wet Days (25mm and over)

**15 Rain Days** in total adding up to **17.4mm** (1.4 inches) – leaving 15 dry days

Wettest Day 16th-17th had 6.1mm

**April has been most unusually dry**, with fifteen completely dry days instead of the usual ten, and fourteen of the fifteen rain days adding only 11mm in all – the remaining 6mm falling on the wettest day. In my seventeen-year record in Arkholme, only four months have had rainfall totals less than 20mm: 14mm each in August 2003 and February 2009, 18mm in September 2014, and now 17mm this April.

**The cloudless nights typical of such dry spells** produced quite low dawn temperatures, including weak air frosts on the 8th, 18th and 26th, and a harder one on the 25th, some of which may have blighted budding or flowering plants exposed to the night sky. These cold nights meant that afternoon temperatures were held below 15°C, despite the lengthening days and the rising noonday sun, apart from April 8th and 9th, where warmer airflows allowed temperatures to reach 17°C.

**The dry weather continued into May**, with only one ‘trace’ (ie a rainfall too small to be measured) recorded in the first eleven days. Coming after April, this meant that by 12 May only 17mm of rain had fallen in six weeks, which is a rate of rainfall that would give an annual total of 150 mm if it persisted, compared with our typical annual totals of about 1000mm. Six days of lightish rain in the middle of the month then added 23mm, which is the May total as I write on the 18th. There will have to be substantial rainfalls in the rest of the month if the final May total is to approach a typical 80mm.

**Our changeable and cloudy norm** leaves us unprepared for this level of dryness, though it would need to persist for months to reach the crisis levels of June, July and August 1976, which in addition were preceded by an unusually dry twelve months. On September 1st or 2nd that year, the Minister of Sport was rebranded Minister for the Drought, and a respected rainmaker arrived in West London from Pakistan. The heavens opened a day or two later, and September 1976 was gloriously wet, to the great relief of many upland farmers who had lost their normal water supplies earlier in the year. A few weeks later, fields on the way to Whittington were literally white with an absolutely gargantuan wild mushroom crop.

**By the end of April** there have been 37 dry days in 2017, 62 Slightly Wet Days giving 82mm of rain, 21 Decidedly Wet Day giving 215mm, and no Extremely Wet Days. That makes 83 Rain Days giving 296mm of rain (11.7 inches). At this rate the year’s rainfall would be a rather low 888mm.

# Free money for teenagers

The Whittington and Arkholme charities make small cash grants to young people from Whittington and Arkholme who are in further education.

If you are aged 16+ and in full-time education this September, send your contact details and details of your course and year to [vicar@these4parishes.co.uk](mailto:vicar@these4parishes.co.uk).

*The charities hold old educational endowments associated with the two villages. Trustees include the vicar and representatives of the two parish councils.*

## Sunday Services in June

### Hornby

**10.45am** Parish Communion every Sunday *except 25 June, service in Arkholme 11am*

**8am** Holy Communion on 4 and 18 June

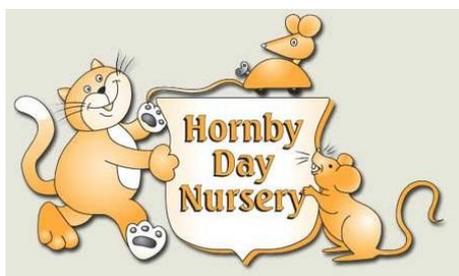
*Midweek Communion is at 10am every Wednesday in Hornby*

### Whittington Arkholme Gressingham

<b>4 June</b>	-	9.30am HC	6.30pm EP
<b>11 June</b>	9.30am SoP	9.30am HC	8am HC
<b>18 June</b>	9.30am HC	9.30am HC	-
<b>25 June</b>	<i>United Benefice Service, Arkholme 11am</i>		

SoP – Songs of Praise  
 HC – Holy Communion  
 EP – Evening Prayer (evensong)

This edition of Wagtail sponsored by Hornby Day Nursery. For ads and sponsorship information see [www.wagtail.org.uk](http://www.wagtail.org.uk)



## Hornby Day Nursery

Care & Commitment for your Peace of Mind

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- 30 hours free childcare from September for eligible 3 & 4 year olds
- 15 hours free childcare for eligible 2 year olds
- Dedicated Baby & Toddler facilities
- Home cooked meals with special diets catered for
- **Holiday club for ages 4 to 11** during all school holidays

**We are holding an Open Day on Thursday 15 June between 10am and 2pm**

*Come and have a look around our fabulous nursery*

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