



*Billesdon & District
Parish News & Views*

February 2025

The Churches of Billesdon cum Goadby and Rolleston; Skeffington; with Hungarton and Keyham

For ZOOM services, contact the Administrator – Area Dean & Coplew Benefice: [Linda Jones L.jones2k@btinternet.com](mailto:Linda.Jones2k@btinternet.com)



BILLEDON ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Please see the notice in the Church Porch for the more regular “in person” services in addition to the regular Zoom services. The Church is now open on Thursday morning for private prayer.

1st Sunday Choral Evensong at 4pm. **2nd & 4th Sunday:** Holy Communion. **3rd Sunday:** Songs of Praise.

If there is a **5th Sunday:** a service will take place at different churches within the Deanery.

There is an additional ZOOM service at 11am each Sunday.

Churchwarden:	Mr K Evans, 6 High Acres	(0116) 259 6438
Secretary:	Mr J Williamson	(0116) 259 6448
Treasurer:	Mr D Mills 6 High Acres	(0116) 259 6975
Organist & Director of Music	Dr Simon Ainge	07971 833110
Children's Groups:	Mr & Mrs Ratcliffe	(0116) 259 6246

GOADBY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday Services: See Church noticeboard

Churchwarden: Keith Evans See contacts above

Hon Secretary &

Churchwarden: Charles Stewart, Hillcroft, Goadby (0116) 259 8310

Hon Treasurer: Hugh Stevenson, The Dower House, Goadby (0116) 259 8294



SKEFFINGTON ST. THOMAS BECKET

Sunday Services: see church porch and printed notice.

Churchwardens:	Mrs B Preston	(0116) 259 9147
	Mr W G Ginns, White Lodge	(0116) 259 6301
Secretary:	Mr D Holland	(0116) 259 6550
Treasurer:	Mrs Valerie Chouler	(0116) 259 9477
Organ:	Mr D Holland & Mr M Griffiths	(0116) 259 9254

ROLLESTON ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



HUNGARTON ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday services: 1st Sunday see church porch

Churchwardens: Cynthia McLaughlan (0116) 259 5680

KEYHAM ALL SAINTS

Sunday Services: 2nd Sunday see church porch

Churchwardens:	Richard Windle	(0116) 259 5281
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Please let the Vicar or Churchwardens know of anyone who is sick, or who would appreciate a visit. Holy Communion may be brought to anyone who is unable to get to Church.

Welcome

Happy February! As I write this, it is the last day of weeks of freezing winter weather, which has been accompanied by blue skies, winter sun and deep frosts. The fresh days can certainly help to inspire ways to ‘cosy up’ indoor spaces.

I find myself cleaning and baking more, and keeping the fire going not only for the heat, but also for the ambience.

We tend to keep one room cosy and warm, and that, of course,

is where the whole family congregates.

Small spaces seem to be made for cold days. And this is where I am putting together the February issue of the *Billesdon & District Parish News & Views*.

Many thanks to Jo Edwards, who has provided this month’s cover photo, which was taken shortly before 8am on a cold December morning. As Jo points out, ‘Our elevated position in the village allows uninterrupted views of some glorious winter sunrises and sunsets’.



As you cosy up inside and start flipping through the pages of this issue, you will find a lot to interest throughout, including many ‘thank you’ messages. Saturday Coffee Concerts are back at St John the Baptist (see page 14), and there is an article inviting you to share your views about health and social care services (see page 23).

I know when I turn to the national news, it always seems to be doom and gloom, but if you turn to page 21, you can bask in some local news that is good: Funding was received for new sound and lighting for The Coplow Centre. As if on cue, Take@That will be back early April to put it all to good use (see page 21).

A reminder, too, that whenever you need goods or services, a great first stop is this magazine. Without our many local, loyal advertisers, this magazine would not exist. I hope you will have a good, long look at all the ads and see what is on offer.

Enjoy the February issue!

Lynn Milburn

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Church News

Christmas celebrations went very well, and it was good to welcome many people from our community here in Billesdon and from other villages around. We are always happy to have people come and share our celebrations with us and any of our other events and services which take place throughout the year.

The next great celebration will be Easter Sunday when we remember how Jesus, our Saviour, came back to life after submitting himself to death on the cross – to sacrifice himself so that we may all have our sins forgiven and one day be able to claim his promise that we can live with him forever.

Before we get to Easter, however, there is the season of Lent when we remember that before Jesus began his work on earth he went away into the wilderness to spend time praying and preparing to begin the work that his Father, God, had sent him to do, and he would have been seeking for God to show him how to go about it. This is something that all Christians should do and most of us try to do, knowing as we do that God's way will be the best way for us and for those we are seeking to help and serve.

Lent has become a time of fasting and giving things up in recognition that Jesus did this and was tempted on three occasions by Satan to give up God's plans and serve him instead. Jesus did not give in to any of these temptations,

knowing as he did that Satan would not have wanted God's plan to go ahead as this would lead to Satan's own defeat and God, through Jesus, would ensure that all people who came to know, love and serve Jesus would not come under the power of Satan, the evil one.

Lent is much more than just being about giving up chocolate or whatever other pleasure we decide on. I think we need to see how we can turn it into something more positive. Perhaps we could give the money we are saving to those in need through some groups or organisations who are known for caring for people in our country and in the world who are in real need of help. There are many to choose from.

Each year during Lent our bishops have an appeal for one of these organisations to raise funds to enable them to get on with their work and to help us to direct our giving to those in real need through a worthwhile and trustworthy group.

This Lent they have selected to give to The Leprosy Mission (TLM). Leprosy has been with us for a very long time – Jesus healed lepers while he was here on earth. It has largely been eradicated in Europe but is still very much present in Asia and other parts of the world. It is a particularly cruel disease as it carries with it a great deal of prejudice and people with leprosy are often put

out of their homes and communities and forced to live in what used to be known as 'leper colonies'.

TLM provides hospitals where sufferers can have treatments and also be cared for, make a home and often receive training to enable them to support themselves when they are able to return into the world.

The church I retired from had supported TLM for many years before I joined them and each year we had a speaker who came to update us on their work. One of the greatest advances was the development of a multi-drug therapy which, if begun when the first symptoms showed themselves, could save a lot of the nastier and more serious developments.

If you felt able to support this appeal, you will be able to find details on Leicester Diocese website or go direct to the website of The Leprosy Mission itself.

One of the things Jesus taught us and demonstrated to us in the way he lived was to be a good neighbour. As members of the village church, we do want to fulfil that calling so, please do let us know if you're needing help and if there is anything we can pray about for you. Come along to a service or leave a note in church for us or speak to one of us in the street. We are here to help.

Revd Christine Blodwell

Village 'Welcome Packs'

For some years now the Billesdon Good Neighbour Scheme (BGNS) has been delivering Welcome Packs to people moving into the village. This includes useful telephone numbers and contact details of things such as the doctor's surgery and various groups that are run in the community. There are a significant number of houses for sale or rent in the area at the moment, which makes it easy to miss someone moving in, and if this has happened to you, we do apologise. If you let us know that you have been missed using any of the contact details below, we will be happy to get a pack to you as soon as possible.



If you become aware that someone new has moved in near to you, it would really help if you could let us know so that we can make sure that they receive a Welcome Pack. You can do this by calling us on the BGNS phone (07548 621777) or by contacting Val Hill on valandedwardhill@gmail.com or 259 6679.

You can also contact Val if you run an organisation and would like details to be included in the Welcome Pack. Please note, however, that it will be your responsibility to provide enough written copies of these details to go in the packs. Please also note that we cannot include details of individual businesses.

Many thanks!

BGNS



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look at proverbs in the Bible on Sundays, so why not come and join the conversation as we seek this wisdom together?

Brian Boley

February Diary Dates

Sunday Gatherings 10.30am

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper during the service on 2 February. Come and join us in a relaxed, informal environment to explore the important things in life in a safe place. There will be singing, praying and reading the Bible. Relax with a cuppa before, during and afterwards if you want to! Wowzers and Wows (children's groups) will be meeting too.

Sunny Days *Fridays 7, 14 and 28 February 10-11.15am (No session half term 21 February)*



A friendly group for parents and carers of young children (0-5 years). Children can play, adults chat and refreshments provided with snacks for the younger ones. For more information and updates see

www.facebook.com/chapelsunnydays.

Cuppa and Chat *Thursday 27 February 10am-noon*

Please come and meet with friends for a relaxing cuppa, chat and cake. Everyone welcome.

For information on any of these activities please contact Brian Boley on 07968 346127 or email pastor@thechapelcentre.org.uk.

'Wisdom begins in wonder' – this is a quote attributed to Socrates (an ancient Greek philosopher), and I love the sentiment of bringing together wisdom and wonder. Last month I wrote about the wisdom that can be found in proverbs in the Bible – but what is real wisdom and how can we wonder at it? A definition of wisdom includes this: the ability to make sound decisions based on experience, knowledge, and deep understanding, balancing both intellect and emotions, and considering the consequences of actions.

Here is a proverb that brings together wisdom and wonder:

Wisdom is sweet to your soul. If you find it, you will have a bright future, and your hopes will not be cut short.

The wonder of wisdom being sweet to your soul – I want wisdom like this, with a bright future and hope. Do you want this too? If so, how do we grab hold of this wisdom? How do we wonder at it? We are continuing our

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Billesdon WI

The winter months are a little quieter for WI. In January we enjoyed hearing about the Parkers on their travels, and in February we are looking forward to learning more about the volunteers who give up their time to work for the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes, delivering blood, samples, human milk and many other things for the NHS, usually in emergency situations. This will be an open meeting – everyone welcome.

In March we are planning another game of curling, which proved to be great fun last year.

Come and join us! Ring Sylvia on 259 6260, or Lois on 259 6312.

Lois Parker

Billesdon Good Neighbour Scheme

The Billesdon Good Neighbour Scheme (BGNS) provides short-term help (shopping, transportation, IT issues, mentoring and more) that complements help already available in the village which is not provided by statutory services.

If you would like assistance or would like to become a Good Neighbour, please ring **07548 621777**.

The Anthony Cade Billesdon Trust

We are here to help with contributions towards the cost of educational needs, employment expenses or any other unexpected bills.

All Billesdon residents, and those attending our primary school, are eligible, so please apply in confidence by email to anthonycadebillesdontrust@gmail.com or in writing to 8 High Acres, Billesdon LE7 9FB.

Billesdon Drama Society

Rehearsals are now under way for our next production, *The Odd Couple* (female version) by Neil Simon, which will be performed April 9-12.

Putting on a play presents lots of challenges. Back stage will be busy looking at the props list and wondering where they can find all the items needed.



Jo, our director, will be busy plotting moves and planning the set. The actors must get to grips with learning their lines and perfecting an American accent as the play is set in New York! All these challenges are part of the fun of putting on live theatre.

If you fancy getting involved in any way, you would be most welcome, especially if you can teach the cast to speak like native New Yorkers!

Why not pop up to rehearsals Monday and Thursday, 7.30pm, at The Coplow or call me on 07900 522227.

Sally Cook

Billesdon Golf Society

I have booked our next meeting for Saturday 24 May



at Priors Hall Golf Course, Corby.

The cost will be £30 including bacon and coffee on arrival, and our first tee time will be 12.08.

I have booked four buggies for anyone who requires them.

Anyone wanting to play please contact me.

Michael Geddes, Chairman –

Billesdon Golf Society, 07866 854078

michael.geddes@yahoo.co.uk



Village Christmas Trees

A big thanks once again to the Davis clan for setting up the village Christmas tree.

Thanks also to the Symingtons for their overwhelming generosity in contributing the tree each year, for many decades!

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What's On

As we move into February, our calendar starts to become a bit more eventful.

Enjoy what this month has to offer, and don't forget to see page 6 for the full Chapel Centre calendar.

February							2025
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28		

Day	Event	Where	When
2	Choral Evensong, Candlemas	St John the Baptist	4pm
9	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist	11am
10	February magazine submission deadline	lynnm19230@gmail.com	--
12	BGNS Coffee Morning	the Old School	10.30-noon
13	Houghton on the Hill Foodbank	Methodist Church, Main St.	11.30-12.30pm
16	Songs of Praise	St John the Baptist	11am
19	WI Meeting	The Chapel Centre	2.30pm
22	Coffee Concert	St John the Baptist	10.30am
23	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist	11am
26	BGNS Coffee Morning	the Old School	10.30-noon
27	Houghton on the Hill Foodbank	Methodist Church, Main St	11.30-12.30pm

Houghton on the Hill Foodbank

Sessions for February are shown above. Parking is available at the Old Black Horse Inn opposite.

Save the Date!

Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* (female version) will be our next performance 7.30pm Wednesday 9 April to Saturday 12 April at The Coplow Centre.



Coffee Concert

Saturday 22 February. Coffee from 10.30am followed by a 40-minute concert at 11. The season opens with an organ recital by David Whittle, playing music by Bach, Buxtehude and others! Admission free, all welcome.





Carols and Cake Thank You



Thank you to everyone who managed to battle with the wild weather on Saturday 7th December and come to Carols and Cake in the church. It was fabulous to see so many people.

There was a wonderful atmosphere with lots of chatter and laughter along with wonderful carol singing; new and old. Thank you very much for the very generous donations, altogether we collected £240. All the money will go to the Leicester based charity: Toys on the Table, <https://www.toysonthetable.org.uk/how-can-you-help/>.

*Thank you to everyone who was involved in this lovely event, especially Simon Ainge who very kindly organised the singing, all very much appreciated.
Jo Payne and Cherry Abrams.*



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Why Not Get Paid to Recycle?

In an increasingly environmentally conscious world, more people are opting to purchase – and sell – pre-used items. There are many benefits to this, not only environmentally but also financially and mentally.

Have you ever gone through your rooms and sorted items into three piles: essential, non-essential and junk.

Many who do this exercise find that the largest pile is junk, and the smallest pile is essential. Those not sure which pile to put something in ask themselves, ‘Have I used this item in the last 90 days?’ to decide which pile suits.

But, as the saying goes, one person’s trash is another person’s treasure, so why not turn what you consider ‘trash’ into cash?

Have a look around and see what might be re-usable to someone else. Clothing is a great place to start, as clothing is one of the areas where you can use the ‘three piles’ exercise and make a real impact. Did you know that fashion production comprises 10% of total global carbon emissions? It dries up water sources and pollutes rivers and

streams, while 85% of all textiles go to dumps each year. Cotton for the fashion industry uses about 2.5% of the world's farmland, external synthetic materials like polyester require an estimated 342 million barrels of oil every year, external clothes production processes such as dyeing require 43 million tonnes of chemicals a year.

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But enough statistics on clothing production! Why not have a look around and see what you have that others might need (or want), be it clothing, electronics, sporting goods or other.

There’s likely enough ‘stuff’ around to keep up with need, so why not redistribute some of yours and make money doing it? And let *me* do all the work!

Mitchell Burnell

Goadby Gleanings

The annual Christmas Carol service was held on Sunday 15 December, just after the closing date for the January issue of the *Billesdon & District Parish News & Views*. Despite concerns expressed during the past two years, support for the service was great. The church was packed and there was



standing room only at the back. The service was led by Canon Philip Norwood, the organist was Graham Lightburn and the choir consisted of Nicola Lightburn. The church was decorated under the guidance of Paula and Uel Sandford, the centrepiece being a magnificent tree.

The service included nine readings, poems and gospel extracts interspersed

with eight popular carols. The readings covered different aspects of the Christmas story, some serious, others with an amusing twist, and were given by residents of all ages.

The service concluded with the village party, the food being contributed by all in the community, and mulled wine provided by Pam and David Collins.



Charles Stewart

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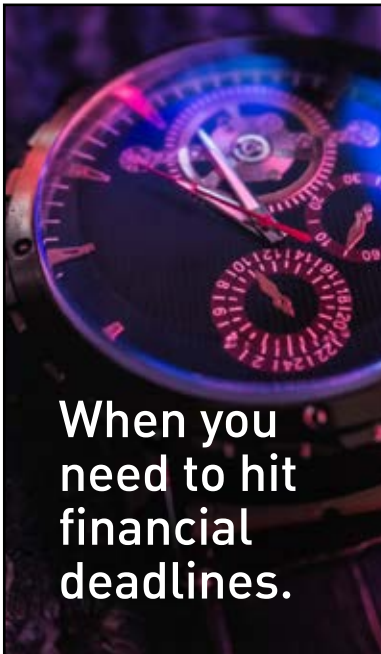


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Take@That

Back by popular demand, Take@That returns to The Coplow Centre. Following their previous sensational sold-out performance, Take@That, the ultimate Take That tribute band, is back at The Coplow Centre on 4 April. Get ready to relive the magic!

TAKE@THAT
The Coplow Centre, Billesdon

Friday 4th April, 2025 at 7.30pm
Tickets £15 online at www.coplow.org
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www.takeatthat.co.uk [take@that](https://www.facebook.com/takeatthat) [@takeatthat](https://twitter.com/takeatthat)

Known for their pitch-perfect renditions of Take That's greatest hits, including *Never Forget*, *Back for Good* and *Shine*, these talented performers will have you dancing in your seat and singing along to every word. Their last visit left the audience buzzing for weeks, with a second date added due to the first selling out so quickly. Demand for their return has

been overwhelming, and we are thrilled to announce they're back.

Whether you're a lifelong Take That fan or simply love an evening of top-tier entertainment, this is the perfect night out for friends, family or a special date. The Coplow Centre's intimate atmosphere ensures you'll feel like part of the action as Take@That delivers all the energy and charm of the original boy band.

Tickets are expected to sell out fast (again!), so don't wait. Book your seats today for a night to remember. Let Take@That take you back to the best of British pop. Tickets available now.

Lights! Sound! Aahh...



Your Coplow Centre committee is delighted to report that we have been successful in applying for grant funding from two different funds: *Harborough District rural arts, creative, heritage and cultural activities grant* and The National Lottery Community Fund. £25,000 to upgrade the sound and lighting systems over the next months to bring them into the 21st century. Exciting. Well done team.

Peter Francis
Chair, The Coplow Centre



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Woodland Pool

At the end of my January article I mentioned that the Woodland Pool was one of Leicestershire and Rutland's 'Wild Places', sites of wildlife interest which encourage people to visit and record their sightings, so I thought it worth revisiting what this means and how it came about.

To be recognised as a Wild Place, the Woodland Pool had to undergo an assessment of its wildlife value against Local Wildlife Site (LWS) designation criteria, LWS being '*...important reservoirs of rare, local, and declining native species and are the best examples of typical Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland habitats*'.

Having been in touch with one of the trustees of Naturespot for identification help, I was assisted in arranging a meeting, so in November 2021 was accompanied on one of my visits by a county ecologist. She assessed the habitat quality and diversity criteria by questioning me and recording species seen during her visit. Woodland, scrub, hedgerows, mature trees, neutral grassland, and wetland criteria were all considered, as was public access and usage by the community.

Tentative verbal acceptance came on the day, but official confirmation followed a few days later and I quote, '*The pool is an excellent habitat fringed by a belt of Common Reed, and together with marginal plants provides good shelter for nesting water birds*



and a habitat for dragonflies and damselflies. It meets LWS criteria along with the other habitats on site and as long as the reed bed stays over 500m sq. it would meet the LWS criteria in its own right. Around the pool's north, east and south areas is some species rich grassland...and it meets the LWS criteria for neutral grasslands with 11 indicator species recorded.' The remaining areas of grassland, scrub and woodland did not meet the LWS criteria in their own right but '*were part of the overall habitat mosaic*'.

The Parish Council hold a copy of this report and citation and are mindful of it in their management plan for the pool.

Jo Edwards



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Village People #174

Malcolm Moss

Left school at 15 with no qualifications and is now Malcolm Moss MBE. Now there's a headline! Malcolm was born in Billesdon and went to the local school at the time when it still featured an air raid shelter. He remembers Johnnie Hunt collecting the dinner leftovers for his pigs. He 'hated school' and left Kibworth to work as a self-taught gardener at East Norton Hall. At 19 he got a job in the Marshall Handling Equipment factory in Billesdon and joined those others from there who comprised the retained fire station crew. He gained top marks in his City & Guilds Engineering training, where he had found his niche after the poor school experience. Other engineering jobs and redundancies led him back to gardening, this time self-employed and still very much part of the Fire Service team. By this time (in 1988), the family had moved to Illston, still within time-frame distance of a 'shout' from the station. In those early days they had bells fitted in their houses before the arrival of beepers.

Malcolm's career there spanned 36 years, during which time he rose to become station commander in 1988. He retired in 2008, shortly followed by the award of the MBE from the then Prince Charles for his long and distinguished service. Chatting with him about his life in the Fire Service, it's noticeable how he retains his



cheery demeanour whilst describing some of the most harrowing experiences imaginable: presumably a useful prerequisite.

He's proud to report that Billesdon was the first station in the country to appoint a retained female fire fighter, and that a national recruiting campaign was developed from Billesdon in the light of such successes here.

Finally, two memorable incidents from the many he can recount. The first was attending a road traffic fatality where he discovered the body of someone he knew locally. Unimaginable. The second was a call to a petrol-doused man in Rolleston, threatening to set himself alight. Once again, someone Malcolm knew. A long chat with him ended when disaster threatened, but Malcolm managed to grab the man's hand and grappled him to safety. I was shown the framed bravery commendation that resulted.

So, a life of service, duly rewarded. These days he settles for being chairman of the Market Harborough indoor bowls club, and has recently returned to live in Billesdon, nearer to the fire station than he's ever been.

Peter Francis



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