

Cragg News

ISSUE 47
WINTER 25

WINTER DIARY

Sunday 30th November

Community Light Switch On Meet at the Robin, 5.00pm

DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY:

Every Sunday 9.30am

Communion or Morning Praise Service, St. John's

Every Tuesday 12 noon to 3.00pm

Community Hubhub, St. John's

Every second Monday 2pm

Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association St John's

Every Monday & Friday evening Yoga, St. John's

Every 2nd Wednesday (TBC) 5pm Chair Yoga, St. John's

DECEMBER

Monday 1st December Wreath Making, St. John's 7.00pm

Tuesday 2nd December Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

Thursday 4th December Landscapes for Water - Knowledge Sharing Event, St. John's 6pm – 9.30pm

Friday 5th December: Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools and gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

Friday 12th December Cragg Christmas Cracker – St. John's, 6.30pm

Thursday 18th December Christmas Extravaganza – St. John's 7.30pm

Sunday 21st December Carol Service followed by mince pies. St. John's 9.30am

December 25th - Christmas Morning Communion Service at St. Michael's, Mytholmroyd 10.30am (TBC)

JANUARY

Tuesday 6th January Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

Friday 9th January: Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools and gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

Thursday 15th January History Group St. John's 7.30pm

Saturday 24th January Burns Night Celebration. Robin Hood, booking required

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 3rd February Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

Friday 6th February Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools and gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

Saturday 14th February Valentines Curry Club – St John's 7.00pm

Thursday 19th February History Group St. John's 7.30pm

2025 TRACTOR RUN

The Annual Christmas Tractor Run will again take place on Christmas Eve, starting at Bridgeroyd at 4.00pm then heading through Todmorden and Littleborough before heading up Blackstone Edge and scheduled to pass the Robin Hood Inn, Cragg Vale at around 5.00pm.

The full route and timings can be found on the facebook page (search Tractor Run 2025 Hebden Bridge) and proceeds will be going to Forget Me Not Children's Hospice, so please give generously. The organisers are always looking for volunteer helpers (Marshals, Collectors etc) so if you'd like to help, please get in touch direct, by becoming a member of the facebook group.



MUSIC GROUP

The Music Group is still meeting on the first Tuesday each month, exploring new and creative versions of popular classics so if you fancy a singalong, you'll be very welcome.

Contact martynk666@outlook.com for inclusion on the mailing list for regular reminders of meetings.



Supported by Hebden Royd Town Council

Funded by Calderdale Council



COMMUNITY *News*

By the time this newsletter lands, everyone will be opening up the doors on their advent calendars and planning for the big event.

There are plenty of community offerings throughout December, from the candlelight procession and Christmas lights switch-on, the Christmas Cracker, on 12th Dec and the Christmas Extravaganza at St. John's Church on 18th Dec, and the Community Hubbubs each Tuesday, hosted by our lovely volunteers.

There's our 2 super local hostellers – The Robin and the Hinch, and then the tractor run on Christmas eve. So lots happening, but please spare a thought for those who need a bit of encouragement to join in. Take a moment to look in on neighbours who might otherwise be feeling a bit lonely, and drag them along for some festive company – but remember, communities are not just for Christmas! Take care everyone and have a lovely time.

Celebrating Together at The Ark Nursery

The end of the year is always a busy – and magical – time at nursery, with so much to celebrate! From Halloween to Diwali to Christmas, this season is filled with opportunities to come together as a community.

At The Ark, we love to involve parents in our celebrations and events. Shared experiences such as playing, exploring, and creating together not only make wonderful memories but also strengthen the bond between home and nursery life.



Twice a year we host Parents' Week, when families are invited into the nursery to join activities with their children or visit the rooms their little ones will soon move into. It's a fantastic way to see what's ahead – from exciting adventures like Forest School to new learning environments. These visits help parents see their child's world through fresh eyes, gaining insight into their interests, friendships, and developmental milestones. They also offer ideas for continuing that learning at home, as it's so important to extend the fun and discovery beyond the nursery gates.

This October 31st, we held a big outdoor Halloween party, and it was wonderful to see so many families join in the fun. As the evening grew darker, the twinkle of fairy lights and the glow of the campfire created a magical atmosphere. Children enjoyed pumpkin rolling, a Halloween scavenger hunt, mixing spooky potions, and exploring the spider web tunnel. No Halloween would be complete without something sweet - gathering around the campfire to dip apple slices in melted chocolate was a delicious highlight.

Events like these are more than just festive fun – they help build the strong sense of community and partnership that we value so deeply at The Ark. We can't wait to start planning for Christmas!



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COME & JOIN US FOR A Cragg CHRISTMAS CRACKER!



St John's Church, Cragg Vale
Friday December 12th @ 6.30pm

**FEATURING
HEBDEN BRIDGE JUNIOR BAND**

Adults £12 Children (u12) £6
Family ticket £32 (2 ad & 2+ children)

**SUPPER, MULLED WINE/JUICE
& CRACKERS INCLUDED!**

Book your place at gjwsa2@gmail.com
or text to 07443420907

Landscapes for Water Project.

The National Trust and partners, including Yorkshire Water, are working together in their 5-year Landscapes for Water project, to create 350 hectares of woodland in the South Pennines, install thousands of natural flood management interventions and restore peatland.

It is anticipated that the work will reduce flood risk for hundreds of homes, while improving habitats and water quality and capturing carbon.

The agencies are holding public meetings and Knowledge Sharing Events to give people the chance to learn more about plans.

The Knowledge Sharing Event for Cragg Vale is scheduled for Thursday 4th December 2025 from 19:00 – 21:00 at St John's Church, Cragg Vale.

Hosted by the National Trust, it will include

- An overview of the Landscapes for Water Project and the work happening/planned close by.
- A talk from the National Trust's archaeology expert Mark Newman, about the history and findings in the local area.
- An open discussion and Q&A on the history of the local area.

It will be free to attend, so please come along and find out more about this exciting project.

More information is available on National Trust website,

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/marsden-moor/landscapes-for-water#partner-panel>



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MAKE A BOLD CHOICE

CALENDAR for 2026

The Cragg Vale 2026 calendar is now hot off the press so if anyone is at a loss for Christmas present ideas, the calendar is the perfect gift to see people through the year!

The theme is "Out and About Around Cragg Vale", exploring the scenery, wildlife and showcasing some of the community events in the Valley that take place through the year.

Priced at just £6 (still !) copies can be picked up from the usual outlets - Mytholmroyd PO, The Robin, The Hinch, St. John's Church and Craggies Farm Shop.

A big THANK YOU to the fab local businesses who have supported the production - so please return the favour if you can, and shop local, and also to those who have submitted photos for inclusion.



CRAGG VALE TENNIS CLUB

On 13 September 2025, Cragg Vale Tennis Club celebrated its centenary - **marking 100 years of tennis in our community!**

In true Yorkshire style, the weather was mixed, but spirits remained high as everyone came together to celebrate a century of tennis, friendship, and community. Hidden away in the woods, behind the Hinchliffe, the Club has long been a place for players to exercise, socialise, hone their skills, and share their stories.

As part of the celebrations, the coaching team from CV8 Tennis ran a free programme of events, including cardio tennis, rusty rackets, and mini tennis. The afternoon concluded with a fiercely contested Mixed Doubles Club Championship - a fitting finale to an excellent day, as juniors and seniors combined to showcase some fantastic tennis and teamwork.

Additionally, the club has just been granted planning permission for four new floodlights on our show court - meaning we'll soon have two fully lit courts. Perfect timing in our centenary year! Work on the floodlights will start early in the new year.

The club offers opportunities for everyone. Coaching takes place on Mondays and Saturdays for both juniors and adults, with social mix-ins and competitive tennis also available to members. Cragg Vale Tennis Club holds a special place in our community, and we look forward to seeing what the next 100 years will bring.



If you'd like to enquire about the Club's fantastic-value membership packages email craggtennis@gmail.com or find out more by visiting <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/craggvaletenniscub>

To try tennis for the first time and book a free trial session contact cvtc@cv8tennis.com

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CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

HISTORICAL CRAGG VALE ALL OUR YESTER YEARS

AS THE LOCAL COTTON MILLS WENT INTO DECLINE, MANY WERE DISMANTLED AND THE HAND-CUT STONES RE-USED FOR OTHER BUILDING PROJECTS.



HERE IS A RARE PHOTO SHOWING THE VICTORIA MILL, IN OPERATION, WITH SMOKE COMING OUT OF THE CHIMNEY. THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN FROM ABOVE WHERE THE BUS TERMINUS IS SITUATED NOWADAYS.

IT CAN BE DATED TO THE MID 1920's, BECAUSE THE RUINS OF THE BURNT OUT NEW CRAGG HALL CAN JUST BE SEEN IN THE DISTANCE.

VICTORIA TERRACE AND VICTORIA BUILDINGS ARE PROMINENT ON THE ROADSIDE AS ARE THE ROOFS OF LITTLEWOOD.

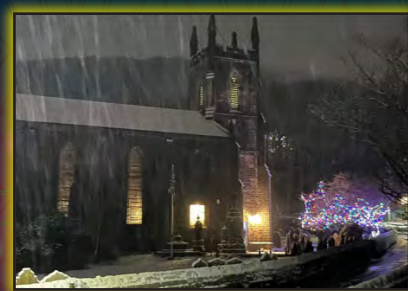
IT IS NOTICEABLE HOW FEW TREES THERE ARE ON THE HILLSIDE.

LEFT TO RIGHT ON THE HORIZON THE FARMS KNOWL, STONEY ROYD, HIGH GREEN, CRUMBERHILL AND BANK TOP ARE VISIBLE.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2025

By the time this newsletter reaches everyone, we'll be heading full speed into our winter programme of events, which start with the candlelight procession and Christmas lights switch-on on 30th November. Starting at the Robin, at 5.00pm, we lay out around half a mile of lights and lanterns, leading across the fields to St John's Church, where we have the very exciting countdown to the switch on of the lights.

To add to the mood, a couple of mince pies, washed down with either fruit juice or mulled wine leaves everyone feeling very Christmassy! Here's to a lovely festive season!



St John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Cragg Vale

Christmas Wreath Making

Monday December 1st from 7pm
Come & make your own Christmas wreath.

£22 – includes wreath base, greenery, wire, twine, ribbon, dried oranges etc. plus a glass of wine and nibbles. There will be a donations bar for wine & beer.

Feel free to bring along extra greenery and decorations plus secateurs if you have them!

Book your place by emailing Julie at gjwsa2@gmail.com or texting 07443420907



NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CRAGG VALE

Although still without a Priest-in-Charge at St John's, we continue to have a weekly service with 'borrowed' vicars or with members of our congregation providing a DIY service. We also keep up a full programme of social and fundraising events which now include regular yoga classes – see the "Winter Diary" on the front page of this newsletter.

The **BIG NEWS** that we are delighted to announce, is that after some years of fundraising, we have, with the awarding of 3 separate grants (from Hebden Royd Town Council, the Community Foundation for Calderdale and the Ethel and Gwynne Morgan Trust), donations from individuals and community groups and money from various social events we have reached our target of £25,000 to install a platform lift in church from ground to first floor! This will make our upstairs meeting room truly accessible to all including wheelchair users, those with reduced mobility and those with pushchairs etc. We hope that we will be able to increase the use of the spaces in church by the whole community, over the coming months and years.

Please check what's happening, and when, in this newsletter and sign up for or come along to anything you're interested in! If you'd like to run a class, group or event in the upstairs room or the main church space please get in touch to find out our (very reasonable) room hire costs.

We hope to see lots of you at the Community Christmas lights switch on, Wreath Making, Christmas Cracker, Carol Service or Curry Club. If you've never been to an event at St John's, why not give it a try? It offers the only spaces in the village where we can all get together as a community to socialise, raise money and generally have a good time!

Hubbub continues every Tuesday from 12 to 3pm. Please support this joint venture between St John's and CVCA by either coming along to use it on a Tuesday, encouraging others to come along or to be one of our volunteers who help run things (you can volunteer to be in the kitchen or in the hall).

Please keep an eye on social media and noticeboards for more information.

We're still receiving donations to cover refurbishing the Crowther room and any potential cost over-runs so if you'd like to donate please use the QR code below or get in touch with Geraint, our Treasurer.

Please contact the churchwardens (Julie & Geraint Harris) if you have any queries about anything related to St John's. (email gjwsa2@gmail.com or text 07443420907)

Please scan the QR code
To donate to St John's
Lift Appeal.



COSY HEATING CLUB

Created for our fixed monthly direct debit customers, the Cosy Heating Club is our way of thanking you for your loyalty. As a member, you can spread the cost of your oil and enjoy a host of other great benefits too.

Avoid the pain of unexpected bulk payments

Big heating bills are a nuisance, and can catch you out when you least expect it. We want to relieve some of that pressure, which is why we created the Cosy Heating Club to help you spread the cost of fuelling your home across the year using manageable monthly payments.

But that's not all!

Cosy Heating Club membership also provides a suite of great benefits:

- 📌 A chance to win 500l of heating oil in our quarterly draw
- 📌 Priority five-day delivery service
- 📌 Order as little as 300l
- 📌 Reduced boiler servicing costs save £45!
- 📌 Free boiler or Range cooker/AGA additive –
- 📌 one free update to premium heating oil per year
- 📌 Free tank sponge
- 📌 Free tank inspection
- 📌 £50 discount on a new oil tank
- 📌 Eco deliveries
- 📌 The Cosy Heating Club newsletter, for top tips and offers



Monthly direct debits from just £50*

Sound good?

Well, with the Cosy Heating Club that's what you could look forward to, and it's simple and free to join too.

All you need to do is to set up a monthly Direct Debit with us and you'll become an instant a Cosy Heating Club member.

Just call our helpful team today, and we'll walk you through the process. Once done, you'll instantly be entered into our quarterly heating oil draw to win 500 litres of oil.

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BROADHEAD CLOUGH NOVEMBER 2025 UPDATE



**Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust**

Broadhead Clough is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), in particular for its wet woodland habitat. As the trees grow to maturity, sometimes their canopy is so heavy or the wind blows so strongly that the wet ground causes them to first tilt and then topple over. Those which don't interfere with the path are left as they fall. However each year the Trust carries out a survey of all trees near to the path, which could become hazardous. You may have spotted a small, silver numbered marker on a trunk. This is a sign that this tree is under surveillance, and is being monitored to make sure it does not worsen and become a risk. However, nature is full of surprises, even before the first major storm of the year.

On Sunday 21st September, at 9am we found ourselves blocked in by a large limb that had fallen off the huge oak during

we managed to cut a "car shaped" hole to drive through and left the branches on the ground either side. Later, on our return, we began to widen the gap so that it was not such a tight squeeze to negotiate and gradually cut back a clear way through.

Whilst we worked, the small herd of five cows grazing the lower meadows wandered up to the water trough and realised there were acorns, and oak leaves on branches in abundance. You might think cows only eat grass, but our Highlands are hardy, stay out all winter and like people, they often crave a change of diet: chewing branches and leaves. These were in seventh heaven, stripping the fallen branches of bark, leaves and crunching acorns for several hours. They even came back for second helpings the next day too!



the night, above the main entrance gate. Luckily it had tipped forward, landing on its smaller branches, sort of "head first" and with the heaviest part of the bough off the path. Very quickly with hand saws

During the winter months we'll be continuing to cut back on holly and open up areas of the forest floor to daylight. It's also the time for step repairs and making sure the leaky dams and drains do their jobs: to slow the flow through the reserve whilst keeping the paths passable for people. If you'd like to volunteer at the reserve, we'd love to meet you at the entrance signboard at 10a.m. on Dec 5th, Jan 9th and Feb 6th. Bring food and a hot drink for the time you intend to volunteer. Dress for the weather: lots of layers are best. We usually work until 3pm but leave early if its bad weather. All tools are provided, including thick gloves.

Helen Pedley 07704032131





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