

# Sheriff Hutton Village News



Number 507

January 2012

A Very Happy New Year to All Our Readers  
and our thanks to those groups which make donations towards the running costs of the News  
and our Advertisers old and new

## Parish Council News

[www.sheriffhutton.co.uk](http://www.sheriffhutton.co.uk)

There was a meeting of the Parish Council on 9th December 2011. Councillors attending were D Wooles (Chairman) (878469), Mrs P Bean (Vice Chairman) (878392), N Anfield (878738), S Wood (07834493302), Ms K Blakeborough (878214). Apologies were received from Councillors B Parkinson (878373) and B Kinloss (878346). Clerk B Taylor (878060).

County Councillor Mrs Clare Wood also attended.

County Cllr Mrs Wood confirmed that NYCC plans to cut its running costs by £69million over the next 4 years as a result of its savings programme. She said that if the programme is successful there will be no further financial difficulties and further cuts will not be required.

## Handyman

The handyman has resigned and it was agreed that the post would be advertised in the Village News.

## Winter Gritting and Snow Clearance

Arrangements have been made ready for the winter weather and a contractor has been appointed to deal with icy side roads and pathways. Equipment and materials are ready for collection from Ryedale DC and NYCC.

## Planning Applications

11/01126/FUL: Mr J Skelton: Installation of 16no. 4kwp solar photo voltaic panels to south elevation to generate electricity for business use at J Skelton, 3-5 Dale Road, Sheriff Hutton, YO60 6RZ.

Councillors agreed to support the application in its present form.

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on 13th January 2012 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30.

## Village Handyman

The post of Village Handyman is now vacant. The post is part-time and involves small maintenance and repair jobs as decided by the Parish Council to be required around the Village such as light pruning of trees, painting and minor repairs. Materials required may be purchased by the handyman who will be reimbursed by the Parish Council.

Salary by Negotiation

Applications should be made in writing by 20th January 2012  
to the Parish Clerk: Bev Taylor, The Mill House, Lilling, YO60 6RP

## Yorkshire Area Point to Point Club – Sheriff Hutton Steeplechases

Please come along and support your local race meeting run in aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance on Sunday 15th January 2012. The day starts at 11.15 with pony racing followed by the main point to point at 12 noon. There will be a licensed bar, hot food and lots of excitement!! Wrap up warm and bring the family for a fun day out on your doorstep. Entry £10 per person Children under 14 free

## **New National Non-Emergency Number ~ 101**

The national non-emergency number 101 was implemented in North Yorkshire Police in December 2011 and replaced the 0845 60 60 24 7 number. While 999 is a well-recognised number used to report emergencies, the 2010 British Crime Survey found that only 54% of the public knew how to contact their local police if they wanted to talk to them about policing, crime or anti-social behaviour. The introduction of the **101** number will offer the public one easy way to contact their local police force.

The benefits of this new number include:

- Calls from landlines and mobile networks cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call or how long you are on the phone.
- 101 is available 24 hours a day
- When you call 101, you will be able to speak to the force control room via the automated switchboard. When you call 101, we will act on the information we receive. Calling 101 will not result in your call receiving a lower priority than if you had called 999 about a non-emergency issue.

For those callers who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, the service can be accessed via textphone on **18001 101**

## **Happy New Year from The Jumbles.**

### **Welcome to 2012**

Our first Jumble Sale of the year will be on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January** and will be raising money for the Sheriff Hutton Preschool Playgroup. All donations of clothes, toys, bric-a-brac, household linen, tombola and raffle prizes and cakes will be very much appreciated.

We will be at the Village Hall from 9.00 am on the morning to receive anything you would like to donate. The doors will be closed at 12 noon in order to give us time to get ready for the sale to start at 2pm.

The November jumble sale raised an exceptionally good total of £2,055 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The members of the newly formed Malton Support Group were absolutely delighted and send their thanks to everyone who supported. Whilst we do not expect to raise that kind of total very often we do hope we are able to raise a good amount for the Playgroup which is extremely short of money due to the reduced number of children attending Playgroup and Toddlers. In order for them to continue to provide the excellent facility for children and families they need your support.

For your diary the dates of this year's sales are 14 January, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 16 June, 1st September, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 24th November. The book sale will be on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March in aid of the Parish Church (if you have books you would like to donate please contact Roy Thompson, John Oakley or Cheryl Smith.) The Macmillan Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Looking forward to your continuing support

Penny Bean 01347 878392

## **Sheriff Hutton Primary School**

I would like to thank everyone for such a warm welcome to the school and the local community. The friendships I have gained and support I have received since September have been wonderful. Everyone has made my first term at Sheriff Hutton Primary School so special and we have already achieved so much together.

The children have sung in Ripon Cathedral, participated in the Young Voices event at Sheffield Arena and visited RAF Linton-on-Ouse. The school community has played host to a group of Swedish children and we have enjoyed a fantastic Christmas Crafts open afternoon.

All the staff and children from Sheriff Hutton Primary School hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to an exciting 2012! Visitors to the school are always welcome and I would enjoy the opportunity to meet you.

Bev Stell – new headteacher.

## **A very Happy New Year from the United Christian Churches Committee!**

### **New Year Party – Saturday 7th January 2012**

Party invitations will be delivered after Christmas. If you are eligible to attend (residents of Sheriff Hutton and Lilling aged over 65 and their partners) and have not received your invitation by Monday 3rd January please contact Caroline Hunt on 878242 so that she can include you in the final number of guests expected. Your invitation will include a contact telephone number in case of any cancellations or changes. If you need to contact us ON THE DAY to cancel, please phone BEFORE NOON as we will be in the Village Hall for most of the time!

Any offers of help? Do come and join us in what is one of the greatest village events to start the New Year. If you would like to be a hostess, please call Sally Cliff on 878455 ASAP: it only takes 2-3 hours and is a very satisfying and appreciated gesture. Offers of transport are also needed to help with ferrying guests to and from the party and to deliver teas out to those unable to attend due to illness. Even one trip can make a big difference. Please call Andrew Hawkswell on 878426. As always gifts of cakes and pastries for the party are very much appreciated and can be left at the Hall between 10am and 12 noon, after 2pm or with a committee member.

We do hope you will be able to join us!

### **Friends of the Village Hall**

#### **The Foresters**

This proved to be a very enjoyable and well attended evening with The Foresters in good form with an excellent programme and plenty of audience participation. A big thank you to anyone who helped in any way –another great team effort! We raised £542 for Village Hall Funds.

#### **Christmas Coffee morning**

We were pleased to welcome friends old and new to this now annual event and delighted to raise £356 for funds. Many thanks again to those who helped and donated Raffle and Tombola prizes, Bring and Buy goods and delicious mince pies!

#### **Forthcoming events**

##### **A Musical Evening Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall**

To be presented by our very own resident Musicians – Jack, Caryn, Andy, Caroline and friends. Supper, Bar and Raffle.

Full details in the February News but for more information or to reserve your ticket phone Margaret Fisher on 878314.

#### **Queen's Jubilee**

The Friends would be happy to be part of a Village Celebration of this once in a lifetime event and invite other groups and interested individuals to join them at their next meeting on Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm in the Village Hall to discuss the way forward. The Friends meeting will begin at 7.30pm as usual to give time to plan other events prior to the Jubilee celebration discussions.

Any queries, comments or expressions of interest to Margaret Fisher 878314

### **Sheriff Hutton Field Naturalists**

The ups and downs of life for the Red Squirrel population in the North Yorkshire Dales National Park was in turns fascinating, thought-provoking and amusing. These russet-coloured native squirrels with their characteristic tufty ears face struggles with squirrel pox (carried by introduced Grey Squirrels) and encroachment on their habitat and food sources from felling. But there is some good news with populations slowly expanding in some parts of the National Park. A big thank you must go to Ian Court from the National Park staff for his lively and entertaining talk.

'A Year in the Life of a Botanist', will be the subject of our next meeting on Wednesday January 4th. Gill Smith, botanical recorder for Ryenats has a particular knowledge of wild flowers in the north east of Yorkshire and will be available to answer any questions you may have on wild flowers. This meeting will be a forum for discussion, so please come armed with your questions for Gill, all are welcome, only £3 including refreshments.

Anyone wishing to come along and join the group or needing more information about Field Naturalists, please get in touch with either Melanie on 878711 or Andy on 878785 or 878404.

# St. Helen & the Holy Cross Sheriff Hutton with St. Leonard Farlington

The Forest of Galtres Benefice of St. Leonard, Farlington: St Mary, Marton: St. Helen & The Holy Cross, Sheriff Hutton: St. Nicholas, Stillington; All Hallows, Sutton-on-the-Forest

## SERVICES IN JANUARY

<b>Sheriff Hutton</b>	1st	10.30am	United Covenant Service at Methodist Church	4pm	Benefice Epiphany Eucharist at Marton
	8th	9.30am	Holy Communion - CW-O1	4.30pm	Messy Church at Sutton
	15th	9.30am	Holy Communion - CW-O1		
	22nd	9.30am	Morning Worship		
	29th	10am	Benefice Eucharist - Sutton	4pm	Benefice Candlemas - Stillington
<b>Farlington</b>	1st	11am	Benefice Epiphany Praise - Stillington	4pm	Benefice Epiphany Eucharist at Marton
	8th	11.15am	Holy Communion - CW-O2	4.30pm	Messy Church at Sutton
	22nd	11.15am	Blessing of the Plough Service		
	29th	10am	Benefice Eucharist - Sutton	4pm	Benefice Candlemas - Stillington
<b>Marton</b>	1st			4pm	Benefice Epiphany Eucharist
	15th			4pm	Benefice Celtic Eucharist
	29th	10am	Benefice Eucharist - Sutton	4pm	Benefice Candlemas - Stillington
<b>Stillington</b>	1st	11am	Benefice Epiphany Praise	4pm	Benefice Epiphany Eucharist at Marton
	8th	9.30am	United Covenant Service - Chapel	4.30pm	Messy Church at Sutton
	15th	9.30am	Morning Worship		
	22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion		
	29th	10am	Benefice Eucharist - Sutton	4pm	Benefice Candlemas
<b>Sutton with Huby</b>	1st	11am	Benefice Epiphany Praise - Stillington	4pm	Benefice Epiphany Eucharist at Marton
	8th	11am	United Covenant - Huby Chapel	4.30pm	Messy Church
	15th	8am 10.45am	Holy Communion Village Praise		
	22nd	10.45am	Holy Communion		
	29th	10am	Benefice Eucharist	4pm	Benefice Candlemas - Stillington

## EVENTS

7th January	United Churches Party in the Village Hall
26th January	Deanery Synod - 7.30pm Parish Room, Sutton
31st January	Benefice Council Meeting – 7.30pm in Parish Room, Sutton-on-the-Forest

## **Plough Sunday at St Leonard's Farlington**

Once again it is time to sing *We Plough the Fields and Scatter* in January! Join us to celebrate the start of the farming year at the Plough Sunday Service in St Leonard's on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 11:15am. The service is followed by a rustic lunch in the Village Hall which will include our renowned home made soups. Adults £5.00, children free. A warm welcome is guaranteed for everyone.

**FITNESS PILATES** is coming to Sheriff Hutton Village Hall !!!

**Tuesday 10 January at 9.30 am**

**Thursday 12 January at 8.00 pm**

*The aim of a Fitness Pilates class is to improve strength, muscular tone and flexibility, core strength and back mobility and enhancing good posture.*

£3.00 per class if paying for the term or £4.00 casually

**Call Linzi Ainley 01347 878743 or 07807 331838 for more info**

## **The Methodist Church**

A very happy new year and we do hope that you will find peace and contentment throughout all its days.

There is always a welcome at the Church and if at any time you may feel we can help then do contact our minister Rev. Graham Peaden or any one of our fellowship.

Rev Graham Peaden 01904 491950

Stewards Eric Hayhurst - Joy Farnaby – Jean Shuttleworth - Joyce Killoran - Ken Dimmock.

The year commences with a United Covenant Service when the people of both village churches commit themselves to the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Services in January

1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30 a.m. United Covenant Service - Rev Ann Haith	
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m. Rev Graham Kidman	6.30 p.m. Rev Graham Peaden (Communion)
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m. Rev Graham Peaden	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 a.m. Mrs Jill Kidman	
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m. Rev Brian Tibbetts	

### Other Activities

Mondays 7.30 p.m. Guild see separate programme

Wednesdays 8.30 a.m. Morning Prayers

10.00 a.m. Drop in for Coffee in Miss Ward Room

6.15 p.m. Singing Group ( 4th only )

### Guild Programme

9 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Francis Nabieu from Sierra Leone
16 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Roberts will show pictures of his visit to the Chelsea Flower Show
23 <sup>rd</sup>	The development of the Victorian Music Hall with Ken Humphreys
30 <sup>th</sup>	A trip around the world in 45 minutes by Rev Ivan Howitt.

All meetings start at 7.30 p.m in the Miss Ward Room and you will be most welcome at any meeting. There have been 30 - 40 people to the meetings before Christmas so you will not be on your own for long and can be assured of a warm welcome.

## **Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association**

On December 14th 2011, 44 of our members enjoyed Christmas lunch at the Laskill Country House at Hawnby near Helmsley, where we had a superb meal.

Our next meeting is on January 11th 2012, which sees the return of The Yorkshire Swan and Wildlife Hospital, this was cancelled a few months ago due to Don Sidley being ill. He is now fully recovered and is ready to give us a talk about his work.

Sheriff Hutton Village Hall January 2012 at 7.30 pm All Welcome

Barbara Grinham

## **Sheriff Hutton Village Hall – 200 Club**

It is very pleasing to report a wonderful response to this year's renewal and new member canvass. We now have 247 members, which a record. Thank you so much to all who continue to support the hall in this way.

With more income, the number of monthly prizes is being increased to five at £25 (previously four); the three half-yearly £50 prizes also will be increased to four, and there will be one extra £70 prize in next November's draw. December winning numbers were 28, 45, 167, 199 and 202.

## **Planning Meeting for Castle Open Day Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

A meeting for anyone interested in having a stall or planning any activity for young and old or being involved in any way will be held at Castle Farm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. Will anyone who would like to attend please contact Richard or Jenny Howarth on 878341.

## Sheriff Hutton Pre-school Playgroup News

From all at Playgroup, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year!

We would also like to say a huge THANK YOU to all who supported our recent fundraising events. The Babies and Toddlers Coffee Morning, our Table Top Sale at St. Crux Hall and our December Toy Sale raised a combined total of £1800! ***Despite this fundraising success, we are sorry to report that Playgroup is experiencing financial difficulties due to rising overheads and a reduction in the number of children currently attending each session.***

Did you know that:

- We welcome all pre-school children of 2 years and over.
- Our sessions are based in the Village Hall and run during term time on Monday and Wednesday mornings and all day Friday. Further details on our session times etc. can be found on our website at: **[www.sheriff-hutton-playgroup.org](http://www.sheriff-hutton-playgroup.org)**
- At the start of the Autumn Term we welcomed Judith Wreglesworth as our new Team Leader. Judith is a qualified teacher with Early Years Professional Status. She leads a strong, well-qualified team, and has been using her considerable experience in Early Years provision to provide a fun and stimulating learning environment.
- In our latest Ofsted inspection (in June 2010) we were rated 'Good' with some 'Outstanding' features. Of particular note were the 'highly effective' relationships between staff and parents and the development of children's personal, social and emotional needs.
- There has been a playgroup in Sheriff Hutton for over 40 years and it forms a vital part of our community. We feel very fortunate that we can offer our families strong community-based childcare provision from Babies and Toddlers to Playgroup and on to our village school where staff have always worked hard to ensure a smooth transition from pre-school to primary school education. Children (and their parents!) often make long-standing friendships as a result of the contact made in these early years.

**We would appeal to families with children already attending our pre-school playgroup to recommend us to friends, and particularly to families in Sheriff Hutton and the surrounding area who are not currently accessing our provision, to consider visiting us at Playgroup to see what we can offer. There is a free of charge, no obligation trial session for parents and their children to experience the setting and meet Judith and the Playgroup team. Please contact Jo Pearson (Chair) on (01653) 618356 for more information.**

Finally, we would like to thank the Jumbles for agreeing to run a **Jumble Sale** to raise funds for Playgroup on **January 14th 2012** at the Village Hall. We will need donations of good quality jumble, bric-a-brac, toys, books, raffle and tombola prizes as well as lots and lots of baking for the cake stall and kitchen! Please bring donations to the hall between 9:30 and 11:30 on the morning of the sale. **Thank you for your support.**

## Sheriff Hutton Bowling Club

The Bowls Club would like to thank all of those whose efforts ensured the Christmas Bazaar was a great success. The event raised some £517 towards club funds and was very much appreciated by all.

Particular thanks go to raffle prize supporters for their valued help.

Pizzas World	Castle Quality Meats	Castle Inn
Sheriff Hutton Post Office	Allison Massingham Flowers	
Highwayman Inn	York Wines	

This month's Prize Bingo Night is on Friday 13th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when lots of prizes will be on offer for all of our regular players including the Jackpot house prize. All new players and visitors are most welcome to this the fourth monthly bingo session of the season.

## Village Ramble

A new year and another year of enjoyable Village Rambles starts on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January. Meet at the Village Hall car park at 9.30am. Back by 3pm after an exhilarating 4 – 5 mile walk, in glorious North Yorkshire countryside, followed by a pub lunch.

## **Sheriff Hutton Gardening Club**

Our first meeting of the year is Wednesday 18th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We welcome Martin Howe, from Wykeham Big Tree Nursery, to talk on the subject of 'Design With Plants: Dealing With Problem Places'. After a short talk, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss his answers. So please come armed with questions so that we can look forward to a lively evening.

At the meeting we will be collecting annual subscriptions of £10. Visitors are very welcome at £2 per talk but can only attend up to three times during the year without joining the club. Along with talks and visits to gardens, membership also gives you discounts at Dean's Garden Centre, Castle Howard Plant Centre, Yates' Garden Centre and Wykeham Mature Plants. Extremely good value!

This is an announcement for February's meeting. There will be a short Extra AGM for members at the beginning of the meeting to discuss Clause 5.2.3 of The Constitution which says, 'The Officers shall hold office for not more than three years.' The amendment to be discussed is to add, 'except in exceptional circumstances by majority agreement of the Committee'.

Helen Loynes

## **Sheriff Hutton Art Group**

Happy New Year to all budding artists.

The Sheriff Hutton Art Group Membership is now full, but anyone interested in going on the waiting list can telephone Jo Gibson on 01653 648301 and leave their details for future spaces.

Peter Reynolds classes are now fully booked – with the next class being held on Wednesday 11 January from 1.30 - 4.30pm.

The next painting workshop will be on Saturday 21 January from 9.30am to 3.30pm in the Village Hall with Jean Larcum a well known local artist, working with Watercolour and Mixed Media. If you haven't booked and would like to attend please contact Joan Smith on 01347 811214 for further details.

We also have a painting workshop with Catherine Inglis another well known local artist, coming up on Saturday 18 February – 9.30 to 3.30 in the Village Hall – this time working in pastels. If you would like to attend, again please contact Joan Smith to check availability.

All our workshops are designed to suit all abilities from complete beginners to the more experienced.

Happy painting...

## **Readers Beware**

Keep alert when you get unwanted phone calls from people trying to sell you things or obtain personal information from you. You can register your phone number with the TELEPHONE PREFERENCE SERVICE 0845 070 0707 in order to reduce the number of unwanted calls. However calls can still come through from abroad and you are unable to trace these phone numbers.

EXAMPLE :- I received a bogus phone call from someone who claimed they were working for the Telephone Preference Service and wanted a one-off payment of £29 which would stop all unwanted phone calls. I informed them that I had a letter from the T.P.S. that states that their service is **free of charge**. The person calling rang off.

I reported this call to the Telephone Preference Service and the Trading Standards Office. The Trading Standards said that this is the first time they have been told of this particular SCAM. They recommended that I inform my neighbours and friends and make them aware of this type of scam call.

Jim Day

## **Strensall Medical Practice has a 'new' Practice Manager**

Having now been in post for just over a year, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself.

I am completely new to General Practice, my background being senior management with mainly private but also public sector organisations. I have joined the Practice during a period of significant change within the NHS. With the launch of the new Health and Social Care Bill, the Government's White Paper heralds a new role for GPs in managing the national budget for commissioning Secondary Care Services. Change is constant within the NHS I am led to believe and so I'm certain that although there is a lot going on for Practices in general, we will all continue to provide the service that you have come to expect from us. Strensall Medical Practice's Patient Participation Group will help us to ensure that we are engaging with our patients, every step of the way. If you are a patient and would like to learn more about this group, please contact the Practice or look on our website at [www.strensallmedical.com](http://www.strensallmedical.com)

For those readers who are patients, I would like to take the opportunity to confirm that the Practice is open Monday to Friday, 8am til 6pm, although we also offer extended hours surgeries which are listed below. These extended hours surgeries are there to offer an alternative to those patients who simply cannot attend surgery during the 'normal' working day. Currently, these surgeries are manned purely by GPs but we hope to include nurse clinics at some point in the future and will advise when this is implemented.

Extended Hours Surgeries:

Strensall: Monday Evenings: 6.30pm til 7.30pm  
Saturday Mornings: 8.30am til 10.30am  
Stamford Bridge: Thursday Evenings: 6.30pm til 7.30pm.

We are a large General Medical Service Practice and offer an extensive range of NHS services. Additionally, we have the benefit of 4 branch surgeries and offer same day appointments; not necessarily with your Doctor of choice but if you feel you need to see or speak to a Doctor we will endeavour to provide this. Plus we provide a daily pharmacy delivery service to Sheriff Hutton Post Office.

As Sheriff Hutton and Lilling is an area within our Practice Boundary, I would like to let you know that we are happy to take on new patients, so if there are any new (or 'old') residents to the area that would like to learn more about the services we offer, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We can be contacted on 01904 490532, via our website, or just pop along to the surgery. Whichever way you choose to contact us, we will be happy to help in whatever way we can.

With kindest regards,  
Joanne Rowe

## **"Supermobile" Library Service**

The super-mobile will visit Sheriff Hutton Village Hall car park between 10.00 and 12.00 on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

**Exercise Classes** at Sheriff Hutton Village are changing for 2012 !!

### **Start Tuesday 10 January .... All Classes are NEW For 2012**

9.30 Pilates  
10.30 Mums and Babes .... all over exercise for mums, babes are welcome.  
11.30 Gentle exercise and stretch for the older adult (only £2 as 30 mins class)

### **Start Thursday 12 January**

6.00 Gentle exercise and stretch for the older adult  
7.00 Circuits .... High Level Endurance and Cardio Training (earlier time)  
8.00 Pilates .... NEW !!

£3.00 per class if paying for the term or £4.00 casually  
Call Linzi Ainley 01347 878743 or 07807 331838 for more info

Babies up to crawling stage welcome

## **Life in 21st Century Britain: Darkness and Light**

In the popular Handel's Messiah we hear the words, based on the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, **"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. And those that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, on them has the light shined."**

So Christmas is over and the birth of Christ has been celebrated – by SOME. Christmas has been celebrated by OTHERS without reference to Jesus Christ - as a jolly mid-winter festival to perk people up during the dark and cold winter. How I wish the latter celebration, which focuses on food and drink, excessive presents and works parties, would be celebrated at New Year. Ok, if people don't believe in God or Jesus Christ, but let's be honest about it, and leave his birthday celebration to those for whom he has meaning, however tentative. For those who don't believe in the coming of God in Christ, let's cut out the singing of Christmas carols, whose focus is precisely Christ's birth. Rather like planning the future of our nation - the time has come to make a choice. Either God in Christ means something to us and we are prepared to give him a central place in our lives - or he means nothing.

Isaiah and Handel speak of a brilliant light coming into the midst of a people walking in darkness in their daily lives. If we walk into a dark room it remains dark unless we switch on the light. Today our country, communities, places of work and many relationships are under-girded and pervaded by darkness. This condition has been developed by a people who have decided to live without any reference to, or active belief in, the qualities of God's life revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

The time has come, as we face another hugely difficult year, to make our choice - justice, equality, self-worth, kindness, realistic and truly fulfilling personal goals, and the development of communities and families in love and mutual self-respect, OR continuing with the dark paths of the recent three years where money, profit and materialism have been the goal of life. This has bred the greed, corruption, immorality, lack of self-worth and purpose in the nation's life – people have become 'disposable commodities' to the state, the media and the commercial world. This is life with a focus on selfish human interest – it is a life without reference to the selfless love which God shows us in Christ to be the real meaning and purpose of life. The financial recession MAY be over in 2 to 5 years' time, but the conditions of darkness will still enfold people unless we do something to transform them into light.

The choice is ours. LIGHT or DARKNESS? What do we want for ourselves and our families? IF people want light in the darkened room of their lives then they will need to switch on the light of God in Christ, which shows us how to live a contented, fulfilled and love-focussed life. But be aware, living in the light requires an active walking in God's way; otherwise it is all too easy for base human nature to pull us back into darkness. For 2,000 years, the Church has tried (not always without being shot through by human darkness itself) to help people explore the Gospel (good news) of God in Christ. Despite its failings, it is still the only agency which seeks to explore this good news – you are invited to come and see!

In 2012, why not give God, in Christ, a chance to walk with you in your life?

**I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year**

**'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'**

**And he replied, 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.**

**That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'"**

*1908 by Minnie Louise Haskins*

Happy New Year from Rev Chris Ellis.

## **Health Visitor Drop in**

The Health Visitor will be at The Village Hall from **9:30am - 11:30am on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January** during the Toddler Session for anyone with pre-school children who would like to see her. Anyone waiting to see the Health Visitor is more than welcome to pop into Toddlers (if not attending anyway) while they are waiting, but consultations with the Health Visitor are confidential and in a separate room.

**STEPHEN SHIPLEY**

T/A D R Shipley

**Builders and Contractors**

Peckitts Yard, Sheriff Hutton

Tel : 01347 878 481

**PETER BELLWOOD****Agricultural & Horticultural Engineer**

8 York Road, Sheriff Hutton, York

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Mobile : 07947 045 222

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**DENTAL SURGEONS**New Patients Welcome  
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## Village Regular Weekly Activities

Sun	9.30am	Holy Communion	Parish Church – But check in Church for Details			
	10.30am	Morning Service	Methodist Church			
Mon	9.30am	Playgroup	Village Hall	2.00pm	Ladies Tennis	Tennis Club
				7.30pm	Badminton	Village Hall
Tues	9.30am	Pilates	Village Hall			
	10.30am	Mums & Babes	Village Hall			
	11.30am	Gentle Exercise	Village Hall	12.30pm	Luncheon Club	Village Hall
Wed	8.00am	Morning Prayers	Methodist Church			
	9.30am	Playgroup	Village Hall			
	10.00am	Drop in for Coffee	Methodist Church			
	11.00am	Ladies Tennis	Tennis Club			
Thu	9.45am	Babes & Toddlers	Village Hall	6.00pm	Gentle Exercise	Village Hall
				7.00pm	Endurance & Cardio	Village Hall
				8.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Fri	9.30am	Playgroup	Village Hall			
	12 – 12.30	Playgroup Lunch Club	Village Hall	12.30 – 3pm	Playgroup	Village Hall

## Additional activities in January

Wed	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Field Naturalists 'A Year in the Life of a Botanist' in Village Hall
Sat	7 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm	United Christian Churches New Year Party in Village Hall
Mon	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Guild Rev. Francis Nabieu from Sierra Leone in Miss Ward Room
Tues	10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Friends of the Village Hall/Jubilee planning meeting in Village Hall
Wed	11 <sup>th</sup>	1.30-4.30pm 7.30 pm	Art Class in Village Hall Y.C.A. 'Yorkshire Swan & Wildlife Hospital' in Village Hall
Thurs	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 – 11.30	Health Visitor in Village Hall
Fri	13 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 12 noon 7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Mobile Library at Village Hall Parish Council Meeting in Village Hall Bowls Club Prize Bingo in Village Hall
Sat	14 <sup>th</sup>	2 -4 pm	Jumble Sale for Playgroup in Village Hall
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	11.15 am	Yorkshire Air Ambulance Point to Point at Sheriff Hutton
Mon	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Guild 'Pictures of Chelsea Flower Show' in Miss Ward Room
Wed	18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Gardening Club 'Design with Plants' in Village Hall
Sat	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30-3.30pm	Painting Workshop in Village Hall
Mon	23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 pm	Guild 'Victorian Music Hall' in Miss Ward Room
Wed	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Ramble
Fri	27 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 12 noon	Mobile Library at Village Hall
Mon	30 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Guild 'A Trip Round the World'

## Dates to Note

February	6 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Planning Meeting for Castle Open Day
	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – 3.30pm	Painting Workshop
	27 <sup>th</sup>		Musical Evening with Jack, Caryn, Andy and Caroline
March	11 <sup>th</sup>		Book Sale in aid of Parish Church
	12 <sup>th</sup>		Village Charity meeting in the Village Hall
	13 <sup>th</sup>		St Helen's Annual PCC in the Miss Ward Room
May	19 <sup>th</sup>		Castle Open Day
July	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Village Charity meeting in the Village Hall
August	11 <sup>th</sup>		Village Produce Show in the Village Hall
September	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Village Hall
November	12 <sup>th</sup>		Village Charity meeting in the Village Hall

~ To Hire the Village Hall call 07913 409 689 or e mail [villagehall@sheriffhutton.co.uk](mailto:villagehall@sheriffhutton.co.uk) ~

To contact the Village News production team call Richard and Wendy Haste (878581)  
or Lynne and Brian Shepherd (878310) or e mail [villagenews@sheriffhutton.co.uk](mailto:villagenews@sheriffhutton.co.uk)

Items for the **February Village News** should reach the editors by the **18th of January**