

Easingwold & Raskelf

Parish Magazine

December 2025



Christmas Greetings

*Silent Night, Holy Night
Christ the Saviour is Born*

60p



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IT'S GOOD TO SMILE

From the Mouths of Babes

At a school Nativity Play in Derby, three six year olds were cast as the Kings. Presenting their gifts at the stable, the first said: "Gold", the second: "Myrrh", and the third: "And Frank sent this".

("Peterborough" in Daily Telegraph)

A mischievous boy was asked by his mother, "How do you expect to get into heaven?" He thought for a moment and said, "Well, I shall just run in and out and keep slamming the door until they say, 'for goodness sake come in or stay out', and then I'll go in". (C.H.)

From "Christian Crackers" compiled by Phil Mason
ISBN 0 948852 05 4 Norheimsund Books and Cards

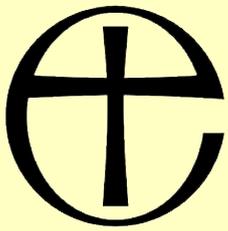


The Editorial Team thank all of our contributors for their input to the magazine. In particular, thanks go to Allan for producing superb front covers, Ian for checking the copy prior to printing, the Distribution Team for circulating the issues and to everyone at G.H. Smith and Son for their assistance in dealing with the occasional last minute glitch.

We wish you and all of our readers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Sue T, Editor

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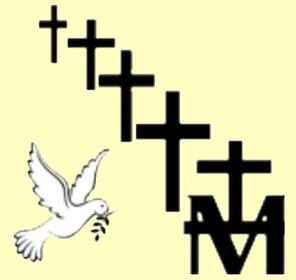


THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

PARISH OF EASINGWOLD WITH RASKELF

St John the Baptist and All Saints Church,
Easingwold and
St Mary's Church, Raskelf

✉ vicar@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org



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	Laura Varney	☎ 07581 213805
Retired Clergy assisting in the parish	Rev'd Robin Davill	
	Rev'd John Hetherington	
Authorised Lay Minister/ Anna Chaplain	Sara Beaumont	

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From Rev'd Richard Grant



Dear All,

Christmas is coming! Advent is here, the beginning of a new church year is upon us, and the countdown has begun. Advent candles will be lit, calendar doors will be opened, and carols will be sung. Thinking of carols – I wonder what your favourite carol is?

I find it hard to pick a favourite, but one advent carol I'm very fond of is 'O come, O come, Emmanuel', which includes this fantastic verse:

*O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

It's a cracker of a hymn, rooted deeply in the bible, and it ties in particularly with one of my favourite Christmas bible readings, from the gospel of John: '*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*'

This is a tricky time of year for many: The nights definitely feel like they're closing in, and the festive joy of the nation can sometimes serve to highlight our own pain, sorrow, and loss. If that's something you are experiencing, then I hope you will find some comfort in the promise that '*the darkness has not overcome*'. Just as in less than a month the days will start to get longer and the nights shorter, we are promised in Christ a better time to come. A time when we will be reunited with those we have loved and lost, a time when pain will be no more, a time when the darkness will not even be a distant memory.

We all approach Christmas differently, but I hope that each one of you will experience Christ's presence in this season. My prayer is that we would all experience light in the darkness, know joy this Christmas, and grow in love for one another and for the God whose incarnation we celebrate.

Yours,

Rev'd Richard

EVENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

December:

Monday 8th, 7.30pm:	Raskelf Carol Service with Easingwold Town Band
Friday 12th, 11.00am:	CTAE Crib Service in the Market Place on the Green by Towlers
Saturday 13th, 2.00pm:	Riding Lights Nativity at The Galtres—see posters to book
Sunday 14th, 3.00pm:	Springhill Court Carol Service—all welcome to join us, especially those who cannot manage to attend the church Carol Service
Saturday 20th, 5.30pm:	Easingwold District Lions: Carols in the Market Place
Thursday 18th, (morning):	Easingwold Primary School Christmas Service
Sunday 21st, 6.30pm:	Easingwold Carol Service with Easingwold Town Band
Wednesday 24th, 4.30pm:	Easingwold Crib and Christingle Service
Wednesday 24th, 11.30pm:	Raskelf Christmas Eucharist
Wednesday 24th, 11.30pm:	Easingwold Christmas Eucharist
Thursday 25th, 10.30am:	Christmas Family Communion at Easingwold



CHURCH DECORATION

We will be making Christingles and decorating the church for Christmas on

Tuesday 23rd December from 9.30am

All help will be appreciated

History of Christingle: Christingle services have been taking place for over 50 years. The first Christingle took place at Lincoln Cathedral in 1968, but Christingles themselves go back much further to the Moravian church in Germany. At a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus, and created a symbol – the Christingle – to do this. Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story.

The orange represents the world

The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ

The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations

The candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness



AN EXCITING NEW ERA FOR EASINGWOLD AND RASKELF



We were delighted to welcome Rev'd Richard Grant as the new Vicar of Easingwold and Raskelf at his collation service on 21st October by Rt Rev'd Flora Winfield, Bishop of Selby, Canon Liz Hassall, Archdeacon designate of York, and Rev'd Nikki Eastwood, Easingwold Area Dean. The very well attended service included representatives of the Town Council, local organisations and other churches, the Deanery Choir in its customary fine voice, and members of Richard's previous parish in Thirsk.

Richard said of his appointment: "I'm very much looking forward to taking up this role, to joining the churches of Easingwold and Raskelf in their mission to the parish, and to seeing what God has in store for us together. I have felt very much welcomed by those I've met so far, and am very excited to work with all in the parish as we seek God together and try to do his work. At interview I had the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' words: 'You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others.' Those words have stuck with me as I have prayed since, and I'm excited to join the lights that shine in Easingwold and Raskelf and bring glory to God. While an exciting new season awaits, I've had a fantastic curacy and it's sad to say goodbye to the benefice of Thirsk. I'm very grateful to the people of Thirsk, South Kilvington, Sandhutton and Carlton Miniott for all they have taught me during my time with them and for the many joyful times we've shared. Despite moving on, they will remain in my prayers".

It was a truly moving and most happy occasion, and the congregation enjoyed a host of home-made cakes and refreshments afterwards.

Richard is joined by his wife Tess in this new chapter in their lives, and the churches in Easingwold and Raskelf offer them both a very warm welcome as they join our community.

Ian Peel



Pictured are Richard with (l to r) Churchwarden Pat Allen, Canon Liz Hassall., Bishop Flora, and Churchwarden Laura Varney.

'Welcome' banner produced by Little Seeds



YOU and ME

.....bringing people together

Beetle Drive—the name conjures up nostalgic images of vintage cars but, on the evening of Friday 21st November, thirty people in teams of four joined in the fun of this favourite family game. Nothing to do with cars but everything to do with a pencil, a piece of paper and a dice, a game played at a fast pace. Held in the warm and comfortable function room at the Galtres centre this simple game proved to be an entertaining and inclusive way of bringing people together on a cold evening. The event was enhanced by a break for refreshments which were very well received and welcome on such a cold evening. Thank you to all those people who supported this event

The next event will be
Card School

**Wednesday 21st January 2026 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm
at The Galtres Centre**

Come along and join the fun—bring a friend

Hazel, Christina, Caroline, Julia & Sara



Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2025



Thank you to all who have filled a shoe box this year, to those who have knitted hats and to those who have made a donation towards the costs of sending these boxes. Forty-eight shoeboxes were collected from us by Terry (Area Coordinator) on the 17th November, together with the surplus hats and the donations which amounted to £125. I am not sure where our boxes will end up, but I do know that they are always valued by the children who receive them. Do start collecting for next year!!

Chris

Chaplain's Corner

Christmas Pudding



Do you like Christmas pudding?

Over the years I've come to the conclusion that this is one dessert you can't be indifferent about, you either like it or you don't.

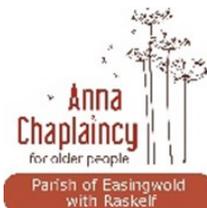
If you fall into the 'like it' group there's then the question of what type of sauce you have with it. Are you a traditionalist who likes a rum or brandy sauce or someone with slightly more modern tastes for fresh cream or ice-cream.

Then for those who don't like Christmas pudding there's the problem of what you have instead. There's sherry trifle, profiteroles, chocolate mousse.... The list is endless!

Whatever you're having for dessert at Christmas, just ENJOY IT!

Heavenly Father, help us to be grateful for the food we will enjoy at Christmas and to remember those who will not have enough to eat. Amen

*Sara Beaumont
Anna Chaplain*



SERVICES AND EVENTS: DECEMBER 2025

To contact Rev'd Richard Grant, tel: 07857 007 847
or email: vicar@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org

The Vicar's day off is Friday

Children are welcome at all our services



Normal Services at Easingwold Parish Church

Sunday and Wednesday 9.00am—Holy Communion

NB: there will be no 9.00am Holy Communion on Wednesday 31st December

Sunday 10.30am—Holy Communion



Christmas Services

Thursday 18th December (am)

Easingwold Primary School Christmas Service

Sunday 21st December

Carol Service at 6.30pm joined by Easingwold Town Band

Wednesday 24th December—Christmas Eve

Crib and Christingle Service at 4.30pm

Christmas Eucharist at 11.30pm

Thursday 25th December—Christmas Day

Family Christmas Communion at 10.30am

Services at Springhill Court, Manor Road, Easingwold

Holy Communion
Tuesday 9th December
at 3pm

*All are welcome at both services,
especially those who are unable to
attend the ones in Church*

Carol Service
Sunday 14th December
at 3pm

Caring and Sharing

(formerly known as the Widows' Group)

will meet again on

Sunday 7th December

after morning service in the choir vestry at the
back of the church.

Do come if you feel it will help you.

Nancy Kilburn

Christians Together around Easingwold (CTAE)



The monthly prayer meeting will be on
Saturday 13th December at 9am
at the Methodist Church

Come and join this short time of prayer for our
churches, town, country and world.

"In unity God will grow his Church"

ST MARY'S CHURCH, RASKELF

Sunday 7th December: Holy Communion at 9.30am



Raskelf Carol Service

with Easingwold Town Band

Monday 8th December at 7.30 pm

Mulled wine and mince pies to be served after the service

Sunday 21st December: Holy Communion at 9.30am

Wednesday 24th December:
Crib & Christingle Service at Easingwold at 4.30pm

Wednesday 24th December: Christmas Eucharist at 11.30pm

Children always welcome



RASKELF CURRY NIGHT



A huge thank you to everybody who came and supported St Mary's Church Curry Night we made an astonishing £1365 towards our restoration fund.



Open The Book at Easingwold Primary School

Forthcoming dates: 4th & 18th December

For further information please contact Andrew Neville-Smith at
a.nevillesmith@btinternet.com

Children's Church Services at Easingwold

Little Seeds

for 4 to 9 year olds on Thursdays during term time
at 3.30pm in the Parish Church

Please note that there will be no Little Seeds session on Thursday 11th December.

Please contact Andrew Neville-Smith at a.nevillesmith@btinternet.com
for more details or just turn up

Readings

Eucharist

Evening Prayer

7th December

Advent 2

Isaiah 11.1-10
Romans 15.4-13
Matthew 3.1-12

1 Kings 18.17-39
John 1.19-28

14th December

Advent 3

Isaiah 35.1-10
James 5.7-10
Matthew 11.2-11

Isaiah 5.8-end
Acts 13.13-41

21st December

Advent 4

Isaiah 7.10-16
Romans 1.1-7
Matthew 1.18-end

1 Samuel 1.1-20
Revelation 22.6-end

Carol Service 6.30pm—readings TBA

24th December

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

(Isaiah 52.7-10)
Hebrews 1.1-4 (5-12)
John 1.1-14

25th December

Christmas Day

(Isaiah 9.2-7)
Titus 2.11-14
Luke 2.1-20

Isaiah 65.17-25
Philippians 2.5-11

28th December

Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Numbers 6.22-27
Galatians 4.4-7
Luke 2.15-21

Deuteronomy 30.11-20
Acts 3.1-16

From the Registers



Baptism

2nd November: Harry Forth

Wedding

29th November: Benjamin Frost and Nicola Mannion

Funeral

10th November: Dorothy Johnson (Raskelf)

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer is at the heart of what the church offers to the community, and the prayer corner in St John the Baptist and All Saints' is used regularly. It is a space where you are able to write the names of people you would like to have remembered in the book there. At St John the Baptist and All Saints', we join with you in your prayers for family, friends and all for whom you care.



If you would like prayers for yourself or another, or for those who, at this time, are struggling with anxiety, loneliness and isolation, our small, confidential and dedicated group of people will pray for you/them. To be included in prayers, please contact Chris Peel on 01347 823548.

Please include in your prayers this month:

- ◆ All Christmas planning and activities; that all may think of others less fortunate than themselves
- ◆ Those who will be alone this Christmas - the poor; the homeless; refugees; all those who feel forgotten and unloved.
- ◆ Christians Together Around Easingwold – shared worship and activities
- ◆ Charities and individuals - who try to support those especially in need at this time, but also providing support throughout the year

Why Not Pray?

In the parable of the judge and the widow (Luke 18:1-8) we learn something about prayer. The widow is persistent in her seeking justice and in the end the judge gives in and grants her request. If even such a respectless man can do the right thing in the end, how much more might our actual prayers affect the course of history, the course of our lives? Prayer changes us. If we don't lose heart, it's the way we keep seeking after God's own heart, the way we keep channels of communication open between us and God. The parable is a plea to keep praying, even when it seems we are shouting into a vacuum. It's a plea not to get stuck in hopelessness, but to keep going, keep trusting, keep praying. God is not the unjust judge. God is God, who hears our prayers and draws closer and closer to us through them. We might not know the best outcome as we move forward in life, but God does.



Nancy, Sara and Chris

BIBLE CONVERSATIONS

The next meeting for Bible Conversations will be on
Tuesday 2nd December — 10.00am to 11.15am
at 11 Whiteoak Avenue, Easingwold

Please arrive early so we can start promptly at 10.00am

We are discovering more about the Book of Esher.

*If you would like further information, contact Chris Peel (01347 823548) or
Sara Beaumont (sarabeaumont.church@gmail.com)*



Remembrance Day/Armistice 2025



On Sunday 10th November, we commemorated Remembrance Day following the town's tradition of a service at St John the Baptist and All Saints Church where a wreath was laid at the memorial.

A parade to the War Memorial in the Market Place followed where we were joined by clergy and worshippers from other churches in the town for the civic wreath laying ceremony. We were blessed with good weather for the large crowd which attended to pay respects and to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in WWI, WWII and the many other conflicts that have taken place over the years. It was noticeable that, during the two-minute silence in the Market Place, not a sound was heard save that of birds as they flew overhead.



A further service was held on Tuesday 11th November at the War Memorial for Armistice Day when a lone piper played and, following the names of the fallen being read, a wreath was laid by the Easingwold Branch RBL



A huge thank you to all who decorated the church so beautifully for this special occasion and also credit to all the young people who took part in the parade, especially the students from Outwood Academy and Easingwold Primary School for giving the readings in the church service.

**“WHEN YOU GO HOME, TELL THEM OF US AND SAY,
FOR YOUR TOMORROW, WE GAVE OUR TODAY.”**

Anna Chaplaincy – What is it?

Anna Chaplains are out and about visiting older people in care homes, cafes, groups and in their own homes. They visit those of faith or none and will talk about anything from God to ‘what’s for lunch’! Anna Chaplains love to talk but are mostly there to listen.

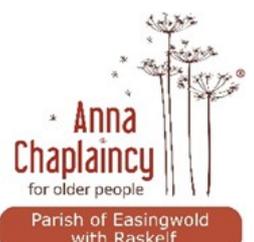
They hope to bridge gaps where other services are not able to help, to support the isolated, listen to the lonely, comfort the bereaved and sit with the dying.

They are privileged to walk alongside those in need.

If you, or someone you know, would like a visit from Sara, our parish

Anna Chaplain please call 07985080161 or email

sarabeaumont.church@gmail.com



Easingwold & District u3a

COME & JOIN US - £16 per year

The u3a offers a monthly speaker meeting on the 3rd Tuesday 2pm at the Methodist Church and over 30 leisure, educational & recreational activities for those no longer in fulltime work.

December is our Christmas lunch so the next meeting is on 20 January 2026

**AGM followed by
Galapagos & Ecuadorian Adventures
by Claire Scott**

easingwold-u3a.org.uk



OASIS

Coffee Morning

Easingwold Methodist Church
Chapel Street

Please note that the next coffee morning will be on Friday 30th January when all are welcome to join us and enjoy a friendly chat.



Christian Meditation

Most Fridays at 2.30 pm to 3.15 pm at the Galtres Centre Function Room (upstairs)

It includes periods of music and silent meditation

In today's culture this is an opportunity of being together in a reflective mood including silence. After a brief period of spoken reflection we experience some reflective music. We then enter a period of silent meditation for about 20-25 minutes. Some people use a 4-beat mantra such as "Ma-ra-na-tha" (or Come Lord Jesus), said twice, (not out loud!) breathing in and then when breathing out. After this, another period of music precedes a final prayer. It doesn't suit everyone but it is something worth trying. Sometimes we have a few comments, even laughter, afterwards! In today's busy-ness people often find this simple and yet cathartic. Even children in school use silence as a restful experience!

Perhaps, give it a try? Join us, you are most welcome.

Contact Marko Jakic - 07951 333639



PARISH PASSES FOR YORK MINSTER

Any member of the Parish may obtain a digital pass from the PCC Secretary.

It is valid for one person for one visit only.

Visiting and closure times are on the York Minster website:

<http://www.yorkminster.org> or by telephoning 01904 557275

Email: hazelhenebury@aol.co.uk or phone 01347 239178



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Operated by volunteers from Easingwold Community Library with the support of NYC, we deliver books (including Large Print and children's books), audio books, music CDs, DVDs and information to the homes of people who find it difficult to get to the library.

You may be eligible for the free home delivery service if you cannot visit the library or carry books because of ill health or disability, or if you are a carer. We deliver to people who live in residential and nursing homes, too.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please ring Easingwold Library on 01609 534584 or email ecl.generalenquiries@gmail.com with your contact details.

One of our volunteers will be in touch.

EDCCA: Easingwold District Community Care Association



What can we do for you today?

Foodbank/Foodshare: For those in need. Available 24/7 call message line 0772 44 44 7507

Befriending Scheme: For those who would like someone to chat with

Hub Club: Tuesdays & Fridays, for people living with Dementia

Charity Boutique: 71 Long Street, open 4½ days a week. Telephone 01347 820078

Monthly Citizens Advice: Minibus in the Market Place and Advisor at the office. Call for details

Wheelchair hire

Knit & Natter Club

Weekly Crossword Club

Men in Sheds: Social group for men

Shopping: You supply the list, we do the rest

Community car scheme: For those who have difficulty with public transport

Carers sitting service: A service for those caring for a friend or relative

Meals on Wheels: Two course hot meal delivered to your door, Monday to Friday

Tea and Tarts: Monthly get together with cake on **16th December!!**

Christmas Meal: We will be going to Strikes Garden Centre, Stokesley on **Friday 5th December** for our Christmas meal, 2 or 3 courses available, either £20.95 pp or £24.95 pp, why not join us, book your place by calling the office.

On Saturday 6th December, we will be having a stall at the Galtres Christmas Fair. We will have our popular bottle tombola plus a selection of beautiful handmade knitted items.

For further information on any of the above or, if you are interested in volunteering with us please contact the office or for any related enquiries.

We can be contacted by telephone on 01347 822875

or for car scheme on 01347 822598 or by email info@edcca.org.uk

Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 09.30 am to 12.30

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CHURCH SERVICES



- 1st Sunday:** Easingwold 9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Holy Communion with hymns
Raskelf 9.30 am Holy Communion with hymns
- 2nd Sunday:** Easingwold 9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Holy Communion with hymns (also on Zoom)
- 3rd Sunday:** Easingwold 9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Holy Communion with hymns
Raskelf 9.30 am Holy Communion with hymns
- 4th Sunday:** Easingwold 9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Holy Communion with hymns (also on Zoom)
- 5th Sunday:** Easingwold 9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Holy Communion with hymns

Weekdays in Easingwold:

Wednesday 9.00 am Holy Communion

Thursday 3.45 pm Little Seeds for 4-9 year olds in church (term time)

Contact Andrew Neville-Smith at a.nevillesmith@btinternet.com

for more details or just turn up



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