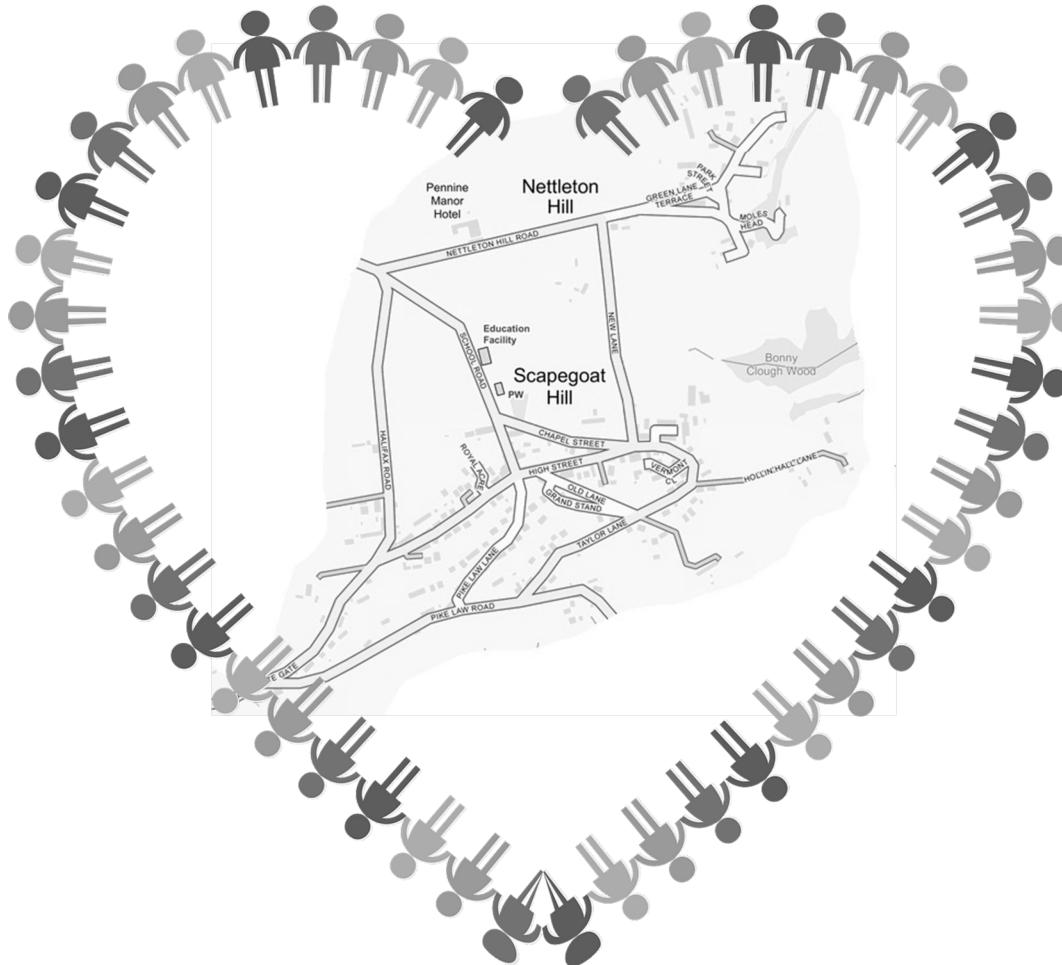
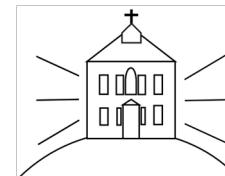
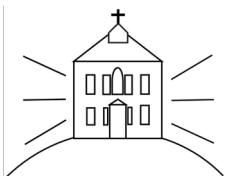


Scapegoat Hill & Nettleton Hill Church & Community Newsletter

October 2025



Community is much more than belonging to something;
it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter



Scapegoat Hill Baptist Church

Our Vision

As a family of believers, we aim to bring the message of Jesus to our community in a relevant, meaningful and friendly way, building bridges of faith and hope on the journey of life.

Secretary—John Stephenson— 655615 / 07908 340697

Treasurer—Frances Brown—07828 611002

Caretaker—Danielle Rushworth

Prayer Chain/Craft&Chat/Prayer Breakfast/Ladies Fellowship

Email Frances : hello@scape.church



www.scape.church



Follow us on Facebook



Scape School—Outside on school wall
Nettleton Hill—Outside at triangle in middle of village
Liberal Club—Outside the club
Scape Church - Inside church in the Deacons Room - front right



To request including anything in a future edition or give feedback or if you wish to advertise and help fund the publication please email news@scape.church

Church Chatter

After such a long, warm spell, the last week has brought us back to reality. Autumn is upon us, with Winter's close behind. Time to get the jumpers and fleeces out, stock up on the logs. But it does hold its own special qualities.

One of our first special events is the Alpha Course. We have run several over the years, and even a pre-service Youth Alpha - but these were quite a while ago. Society has changed, some of the people living in the village have changed too. Invitations are out all over Scape and Nettleton. Please pray that the Lord will draw people to respond to the invitations. And the invite is open to everyone, that includes you too! October 6th is approaching very quickly, so if you're still thinking about it, why not get your name down on that list in the vestry or contact hello@scape.church!

Autumn also holds the concept of thankfulness. God provides us with so much. For those who have fruit trees in their gardens, many have had bumper crops this year. Someone planted a sapling – we do nothing else – but year after year God blesses us with fruit. It's harder for farmers who work very hard to produce the food we live on. But even so, we rarely find ourselves without. In other places around the world the story is very different. Please remember Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Nigeria and Syria to name but a few, in your prayers.

Whilst we can thank God for our blessings, how fitting it is as we celebrate Harvest on October 12th & 14th that we reach out to others and share our blessings with them. At Scape, that's donations of food to the Welcome Centre and Operation Agri. The Chapel welcomes any donations of dried or canned produce before or during our Harvest Services

Billy has always been so central to our Harvest, and how we miss him. As we gave thanks to God for his life, two over-riding themes were his kindness and his generosity. So this month as we start Alpha and have our Harvest service let us too embody that kindness and generosity which the Lord delights in.

Scape Nature Group—Hedgerows and Hedgehogs!

It's my favourite time of year, Autumn, the leaves are ablaze with colour brightening up the dullest of days and it's time to batten down the hatches get the log burner going again. It's also harvest time and this year has been a bumper year for fruit, so I've added a recipe for plum cake which I've tried and it's delicious.

It's also tree planting time and this year Scape's Nature group are going to plant a wildlife hedge in the graveyard. We narrowly avoided the dreaded cherry laurel. So, instead, 120 saplings - hawthorn, hazel, rowan and dog rose are on their way to be planted in October by our own Scape Nature group. We're also going to plant a wildflower border at the side of the graves in spring, to make the graveyard a more beautiful and welcoming place and encourage more wildlife.



Why Is the Loss of Hedgerows a Problem for Wildlife?

Loss of Habitat

Hedgerows are a haven for wildlife. A single, well-managed hedge may contain dozens of plant species and support hundreds of invertebrates. Birds use them as nesting sites and safe perches; small mammals like hedgehogs, voles, and shrews make their homes in the tangled undergrowth. Insects—bees, butterflies, beetles, and moths—thrive in hedgerow flowers, while bats hunt along the edge for flying prey.

When hedgerows are lost, all these creatures lose vital resources. Fields bordered only by wire fences or bare ground are less hospitable, offering none of the shelter or food that hedges provide. Over 30 species of mammal and 80 species of bird have been recorded using British hedgerows. Some birds, such as the yellowhammer and turtle dove, are now in steep decline, partly due to the loss of suitable hedgerow nesting and foraging sites. Hedgehogs, whose numbers have plummeted, rely on dense hedges for protection from predators and roads.

Fragmentation of Landscapes

When hedgerows are removed, the landscape becomes



fragmented. Isolated patches of woodland or meadow are stranded amidst a sea of monoculture. For many species, especially those unable or unwilling to cross open fields, this is disastrous. Genetic diversity suffers as animals are unable to find mates from other populations.

Hedgerows also serve as 'green highways' for pollinators, whose role in maintaining both wild and agricultural plant populations is irreplaceable. Without these corridors, pollinator numbers decline, with knock-on effects up the food chain.

Impact on Food Chains

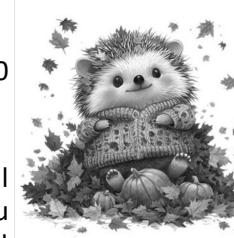
A healthy hedgerow teems with life at every level of the food chain. Insects feed on hedge plants; birds and bats eat insects; mammals forage for berries and seeds. The removal or degradation of hedgerows collapses these intricate networks. Predators lose hunting grounds, and prey populations dwindle. The effects ripple outward, impacting not only wildlife but also the productivity and resilience of the land.

Hedgehogs

In the last 60 years (my lifetime) Britain has lost 30 million hedgehogs.

That might seem hard to believe but it's true.

We now have less than a million left and we must do all we can to protect them. The most important thing you can do is avoid using pesticides. Pesticides don't just kill pests they kill everything that feeds on them including hedgehogs.



Autumn is the time hedgehogs are preparing to hibernate so if you have a pile of leaves or logs in the corner of your garden don't clear them away. They provide great places for hedgehogs to nest. Autumn is also time for bonfires so always check for hidden hedgehogs before lighting.

Plum Cake Recipe

As autumn arrives and plums are in season, it's the perfect time to bake a delicious plum cake. Here's a simple recipe for you to try at home:

200g unsalted butter, softened	200g caster sugar
3 large eggs	200g self-raising flour
1 tsp ground cinnamon	500g ripe plums, halved and stoned
1 tbsp demerara sugar (for sprinkling)	

Preheat your oven to 180°C (fan 160°C/gas mark 4). Grease and line a 23cm round cake tin. Cream the butter and caster sugar together until pale and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Fold in the flour and cinnamon gently, then spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and level the top. Arrange the plum halves, cut side up, on top of the batter. Sprinkle with demerara sugar for a crunchy finish.

Bake for 45–50 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean and the cake is golden.

Allow to cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature – lovely with a dollop of cream or custard.

Enjoy the taste of autumn with every slice!

So that's it for this month, enjoy the beauty of autumn, and the plum cake!

Email news@scape.church to join the Scape Nature WhatsApp group and get involved

OCTOBE

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THUR

		1	2
6 Ladies Fellowship 2pm ALPHA 6.30pm	7	8 Craft & Chat 2pm ESCAPE 1-2-3	9
13 ALPHA 6.30pm	14 Harvest Service with Scape School 2.30pm Deacons Meeting 6pm	15	16
20 ALPHA 6.30pm	21	22 Craft & Chat 2pm ESCAPE 1-2-3	23 School Closed Staff Training
27 School Closed Half Term ALPHA 6.30pm	28 School Closed Half Term Deacons Prayer Meeting 6pm—All welcome	29 School Closed Half Term	30 School Closed

Contact news@scape.church to include a community date in a future calendar / To

SEPTEMBER 2025

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

	3	4	5 Family Service 10.30am Steve Daniel Church Flowers In loving memory of Brian from Angela Lawrence
	10	11 Prayer Breakfast 9am	12 Harvest Service 10.30am Chris Baskerville Church Flowers In loving memory of Billy & Margaret from John Swift
	17	18	19 Family Service 10.30am Simon Shaw Church Flowers In memory of an amazing Mum Margaret from Sandra, Stephen & Julie
Closed Banking	24 School Closed Staff Training	25	26 Communion Service 10.30am Frances Brown Church Flowers Judy & Di
Closed Half Term	31 School Closed Half Term		

/ To donate flowers in church to remember a loved one contact news@scape.church

Celebrate Harvest with us



Harvest Services
Sunday 12th October
@ 10.30am

Tuesday 14th October
@ 2.30pm

with Scapegoat Hill Primary School

www.scape.church

hello@scape.church



A Fantastic Start to the New Term!

We've had a wonderful and energetic start to the new school term! It's been busy, but full of fun and excitement. The children have absolutely loved playing on the new playground equipment — playtimes are now more fun, active and adventurous than ever.

Our new Reception children have settled in brilliantly and it's been a pleasure to welcome their families into our school community. We're so proud of how well they've adapted and embraced school life.

We've already taken part in some exciting sporting tournaments, including a football competition at Colne Valley High School, where our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils made it all the way to the final — a fantastic achievement!

Meanwhile, our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils have started their swimming lessons. They're not only enjoying the sessions but also learning vital skills about staying safe around water — especially important given how lucky we are to live near such beautiful natural features like the river and canal.

Across the school, exciting learning is taking place in every classroom. Class 2 have been exploring the Stone Age, diving into what life was like thousands of years ago. Class 3 are learning all about the Ancient Greeks, discovering their fascinating myths, culture, and contributions to modern society.

We were also delighted to welcome Slaithwaite Fire Station to school. Firefighters spoke to the children about staying safe as the nights draw in, how to enjoy Bonfire Night safely and even shared insights into careers in the fire service. These visits are always a highlight and help reinforce important safety messages in a memorable way.

In addition, we've got more road safety discussions happening across the school, helping children understand how to stay safe when out and about — especially as the darker evenings approach.

We're now looking forward to celebrating Harvest with our school and village community in church on Tuesday 14th October at 2.30pm. Children are already having thoughtful discussions about the importance of farming and the role Harvest plays in our rural area. They've been learning new songs and exploring the significance of food banks and how we can support others in need.

Best Wishes Miss Shackleton

Well, Well, Well! - A bit o' Scape History!

So where is a good place to start? My late Grand parents of a past generation always maintained that there is never a drought at Scapegoat Hill. The wells always ran and vegetation always produced fruit. How, why? My late Grandfather told me that the springs of Scapegoat Hill are supplied by water that spring up through the ground by capillary action in the earth from The Derwent Valley and the water takes over nine hundred years to reach Scapegoat Hill. The centre of Scape being like a bowl holding the water creating a Water Table. He knew this as there was once a sectioned model in the Tolson Museum on display explaining the capillary action through the strata of Scapegoat Hill. Despite making requests to the Tolson Museum, they have never



managed to find or re-display this subject. However, I do not doubt the story from my Grandfather as I am sure that the information must still be there. Another interesting tale, of local legend is that. A true Scaper was baptised outside in a Well known as The Dippin' Well. These baptisms were carried out before the present Chapel was built in 1899.

The oldest information that I have found is The Golcar Inclosure Awards of 1823 which is held by West Yorkshire Archive Service. Scapegoat Hill comes under the Township of Golcar where as Nettleton Hill comes under The Township of Longwood which is separate. The Inclosure Awards is an interesting subject on its own but The Golcar Awards clearly shows three public watering places at Scapegoat Hill. The map is supported by a hand written book most probably written with a quill. Place names are not specific but the roads are, however, many of the roads have had their names changed. The only way to identify the exact wells is to read the accompanying book which describes the location of the public wells and watering places. What we now know as High Street was The Pike Law Edge Road. Chapel Street is The Scapegoat Hill Road. There are two other known roads but with different names. Haughs Lane and Savile Road. Each location has a Well for public use. The point of interest about the original old names is that the name is descriptive of the place or of the purpose. Pike Law is defined as 'an out crop of rock at the summit of a hill'; Haughs is an old word to describe 'a river bed or of a place that is liable to flood'.

There are quite a few Haughs around the Colne Valley at the top of hills which is telling us something. The way down to Golcar following the Haughs Water-Course down the hillside across to Upper Haughs and Dunkirk to Haughs Green, where the vegetation certainly is green, becomes Swallow Lane, why 'Swallow'? Because in the local vernacular, "Th'all t' water from t' Haughs is swallowed up". Furthermore, there is a stone trough well situated in the wall on Slades Road that is mentioned in the Inclosure Awards. Slades meaning 'a boggy delph or shallow low lying wet valley'. Thus eventually running into Golcar which is on a bed of clay, hence, 'Clay Well'. Finally, the name Savile is from The Right Honourable John Lumley Savile who was a major land owning family in the north of England and owned much land in Golcar, but that is another story.

So, I hear you asking where exactly are the three public wells of Scapegoat Hill and where was the Dippin' Well? Answers to news@scape.church please and the locations and any correct emails will be revealed next month. *Tanner*



How many 7 letter or more words can you make from the word WELL?

			2		5
4	9	5			
3	8			2	
8	7			3	
			6		
5	3	1	8	2	
	1		5	6	
			9	1	3
			3		1



How can I protect myself from scam calls?

There are things you can do to protect yourself from scams:

Say no: Ignore a caller that asks you for personal information, such as your PIN, or tells you that your computer has a virus. A genuine organisation will never ask you for these details over the phone, in an email or in writing.

Report any scams: Forward unwanted texts to 7726 for free so your mobile phone provider can flag potential scams.

Check the line: Be aware that scammers can keep your phone line open even after you've hung up. Use a different phone, call someone you know first to check the line is free, or wait at least 10 to 15 minutes between calls to make sure that any scammers have hung up.

Use an answerphone: You can use an answerphone on your landline or voicemail on your mobile to screen your calls.

Check your calls: Get a caller ID device to see who's calling. But be aware that some scammers appear as a legitimate number, for example, your bank or utility company.

Try call blocking: Some phones have call-blocking features to stop unwanted calls. If yours doesn't, you can use a separate call blocker. Some blockers come pre-programmed with known nuisance numbers and some allow you to add numbers to that list when you get a nuisance or scam call. You can buy call blockers from various retailers and some local authorities provide them.

Cut the cold calls: Join the free Telephone Preference Service (TPS). This should cut the number of cold calls you receive, though it won't necessarily block all scammers. TPS has a service to stop cold calls to mobile phones too. Go to their website or text 'TPS' and your email address to 85095 to register.

Call the company: If you get a phone call from an organisation asking you for personal information, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number to check the call is legitimate.

Avoid links: If you've received a text asking you to follow a link, don't click on it. If you'd like to check if the text is genuine, contact the company directly either using their official website or phone number and enquire about your account that way.

Email news@scape.church to join the Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group

Find more information at wypcommunityalert.co.uk