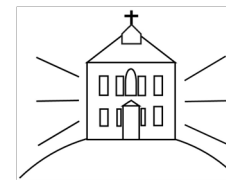
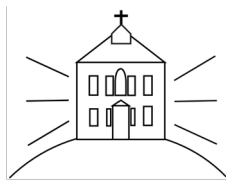


Scapegoat Hill & Nettleton Hill
Church & Community Newsletter
December 2025



Joy to the
WORLD
THE LORD HAS COME





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



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**YOUR NEAREST
DEFIBRILLATOR
IS LOCATED**

	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	
Defibrillator		Defibrillator

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

What's the first thing you do in a morning when you wake up? Statistics say that up to 89% of the population of the United Kingdom pick up their phone and begin to scroll. Facebook, Threads, X, Instagram, the weather or the news. Few of us however, actually read an email that's directly addressed to us; we're too busy looking at someone else.

We live in a time where we are consumed by social media. The desire to look at a screen and to scroll and scroll, often, at the detriment of our own lives. Billy Connolly once said when he was asked about Big Brother (the TV programme). "Why would I waste my time watching people in a house watching each other, while my life is passing me by? Why don't I get off the sofa and live a little?" Obviously I've removed some of Billy's more 'colourful language' but you get the point!

Let's be honest though, we are all nosey and yet, in December a massive event will take place and according to some research, a staggering 81% will celebrate Christmas without believing in Jesus or His birth. Imagine it though, the birth of Jesus on social media with the headline "Birth of a boy destined to change the world" with the first sentence, "A tiny baby born in a quiet, forgotten place while the whole world scrolled past, distracted by trends, arguments, ads, and influencers." I can hear the BBC News music playing as I read it with the glossy red banner on the bottom of the screen, 'Breaking News'.

Yet this story isn't fabricated, it's real, it happened and the boy that was born grew up to change the world more than any influencer has, can or will. He didn't brag not once, but came to simply offer you hope. Remember that word, hope? When was the last time you were filled with that?

Jesus arrived quietly. No fancy location, no important audience, no perfect home and no hype. Just a manger, a couple who had no possessions, a few shepherds and one silent night.

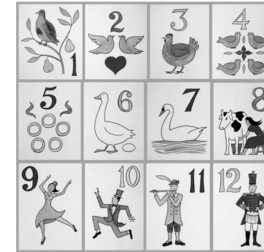
Scroll as much as you want to, but be careful not to let the true meaning of your life pass you by. Back then, it was a silent night but the whole world heard!

Chris B

Scape Nature Group—From Christmas Carols to Crisis

Help our feathered friends this winter

Famously mentioned in the classic Christmas carol, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, turtle doves are a cherished symbol of the Christmas season. Whilst once a common sight between the months of April and September, sadly, the turtle dove is becoming increasingly elusive. As the UK's fastest declining bird species, the turtle dove has been listed as 'Vulnerable' on the RSPB's list of endangered



species Red List since 1996 – a position it maintains nearly 30 years later. Sadly Britain lost 99% of its population of turtle doves between 1967 and 2020. The turtle dove is just one of many iconic birds on the red list. Another is the magical swift, a bird that can close one eye and send half their brain to sleep in order to complete its epic migration every year back from Africa.

The swift appears in our skies in April, they sleep eat and even mate in flight. Swifts rarely touch the ground except to lay and hatch the next generation.



They have joined the red list of endangered species following a 58% fall in their numbers since 1995.

As well as migrating birds our native birds are also in decline with the number of birds in Britain falling by 73 million since 1970.

How you can help?

Cold winters can kill birds through starvation, so providing nutritious bird food like fat balls and mealworms can help birds survive through prolonged periods of freezing weather. Fat balls are the best thing to feed in winter because they are a high-energy, high-fat food source that helps birds survive cold temperatures when natural food is scarce. The calories provide the energy birds need to maintain their body temperature and stay active overnight. Giving birds access to a water source like a bird bath or pond will also help. In the spring plant native plants such as poppies, scabious bistorts and yarrow. These are home to the butterfly larvae that turn into caterpillars (baby bird food) essential for birds to feed their young.

Providing a nest box can be a lifesaver for birds where nesting spots are in short supply. Another way to help in spring time is by ensuring they have a plentiful supply of different nesting materials, like wool, feathers, straw lichen and moss available.

What are the main drivers of population decline

The latest research shows that main driver of most bird population decline is intensive farming practices and the increased use of pesticides and fertiliser. Also habitat loss due to the destruction of hedgerows where farmland birds nest and produce their young. Land development significantly affects Britain's native birds by destroying and fragmenting habitats. Specific impacts include the loss of breeding sites, disturbance to nesting birds, and altered food sources. While some generalist species may adapt to urban areas, many specialist species face significant threats from development.



Another factor affecting our native birds is Climate change. The earlier arrival of spring due to warmer temperatures causes a critical mismatch between the timing of bird breeding and the peak availability of their insect prey, such as caterpillars. For example, Blue Tits cannot adjust their egg-laying dates early enough and may be unable to find sufficient food for their chicks, leading to lower survival rates.

Our local wildlife group Scape Nature has been busy this year trying to help our feathered friends by planting a wildlife hedge at Scape school and around the chapel, and planting wildflowers around the boundary of the Scape House pub car park. Our next project is to plant a wildlife hedge in the graveyard followed by a wild flower border in the spring time.

It is important to help native birds survive because they are crucial to the health of our ecosystems, providing essential services like **pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal**. They also serve as vital **indicators of environmental health** and contribute significantly to human wellbeing bringing joy to housebound people by providing a vital **connection to the natural world**, offering a source of relaxation, mental stimulation, and a sense of routine and purpose. The psychological benefits include reduced feelings of anxiety, depression, and loneliness.

If you're wondering what to buy your nature loving friends this Christmas, why not visit your local garden centre and check out their selection of bird feeders and bird baths and give our feathered friends a helping hand this winter.

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

Christmas 2025

Friday 5th December

7.15pm

Coffee, Cakes & Carols

Sunday 21st December

Christmas Nativity 10.30am

Carols around the nativity 4.00pm

Vintage Brass Carols & Readings 6.00pm

Christmas Eve

Midnight Service 11.45pm

Christmas Day Service

11am



Scapegoat Hill Baptist Church

www.scape.church



A Wonderful Start to the Festive Season!

We hope everyone is ready for the exciting build-up to Christmas!

This term began with a very special occasion as we joined the church for a child-friendly Remembrance Sunday service. The service helped our children understand the significance of Remembrance Day and the impact of war on families and communities. This linked beautifully to our assemblies on British Values, focusing on themes of individual liberty and tolerance.

Preparations for our Carol Concert are already underway. Children are learning a mix of traditional carols and modern Christmas songs and each class is busy preparing a festive performance. These activities are always a highlight of the year, giving children the chance to develop their skills in singing, speaking, acting and dance.

We also marked Anti-Bullying Week with a reflective focus on the importance of speaking out against bullying and telling someone if we experience or witness it. Children wore odd socks to celebrate difference and reinforce the message that it's okay to be unique. This theme continued on Children in Need Day, where we again celebrated individuality while supporting a fantastic cause.

Our children are working hard on their curriculum topics while also preparing for the festive season. Topics include:





History: Pupils are exploring fascinating themes such as Nurturing Nurses, The Stone Age, and classic literature including Oliver Twist and A Christmas Carol.

Geography: We are learning about hot and cold places around the world and investigating where our food comes from.

Design Technology: Children are discovering the magic of moving pictures and how mechanisms bring designs to life.

We look forward to seeing everyone from our community on 11th December in the Chapel at 2:30pm for the Carol Service, followed by our Christmas Fair organised by our wonderful PTA (FOSS) in the school building.

DECEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THUR
1 LADIES FELLOWSHIP 2pm ALPHA 6.30pm (TBC) 	2	3 ESCAPE 1-2-3 	4 ESCAPADE 7pm
8 ALPHA 6.30pm (TBC) 	9 Deacons Meeting 6pm	10 Craft & Chat 2pm	11 SCHOOL CARC CONCERT 2.15 (in Church) SCHOOL CHRIS FAYRE 3pm (in School)
15 ALPHA 6.30pm (TBC) 	16	17 ESCAPE 1-2-3 	18 ESCAPADE 7pm
22	23 Deacons Prayer Meeting All welcome—6pm	24 Craft & Chat 2pm MIDNIGHT SERVICE 11.45pm-12.15am	25 CHRISTMAS D. SERVICE 11am Craig Brown
29	30	31	
Contact news@scape.church to include a community date in a future calendar / To			



BER 2025

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

<p>7pm—9pm</p> 	<p>5 COFFEE, CAKES & CAROLS 7.15pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 ADVENT 2 Family Service 10.30am Steve Daniel <i>Church Flowers</i> Elaine & David In memory of our Fathers</p>
<p>CAROL 2.15pm) CHRISTMAS m)</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Prayer Breakfast 9am</p>	<p>14 ADVENT 3 Communion Service 10.30am Liz Hardy <i>Church Flowers</i> Susan & Pauline In loving memory of Margaret K, Zena, Pam, Pat & Margaret W</p>
<p>7pm—9pm</p> 	<p>19 MULTIMEDIA CHRISTMAS PRAISE EVENING 7pm SCHOOL BREAKS UP</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 ADVENT 4 Nativity Service 10.30am Simon Shaw <i>Church Flowers</i> Annie & Maggie in loving memory of our dear friend Liz CAROL SINGING 4pm VINTAGE BRASS 6pm</p>
<p>AS DAY SHORT .1am wn</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Church Service 10.30am Liz Hardy <i>Church Flowers</i> Simon Shaw—Happy New Year to everyone</p>
			<p>SCHOOL RETURNS MONDAY 5th JAN</p>

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

What about the Waste?

In 1743, Sir John Ramsden introduced piped water from Folly Hall up into the Town to supply fresh water to the growing town. The supply of fresh water was a major problem but even worse was sanitation.

There was a solution to the 'family' sanitation problem, this was to dig a pit and tip the waste in. The waste dissipated in the ground and after twelve feet it was gone. This worked in a sparsely populated country prior to the Industrial Revolution but as the population grew, the towns and village population grew, sanitation became a major problem as the occupants threw their waste into the streets. This was followed by disease.

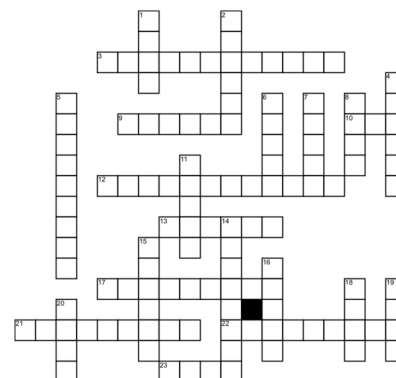
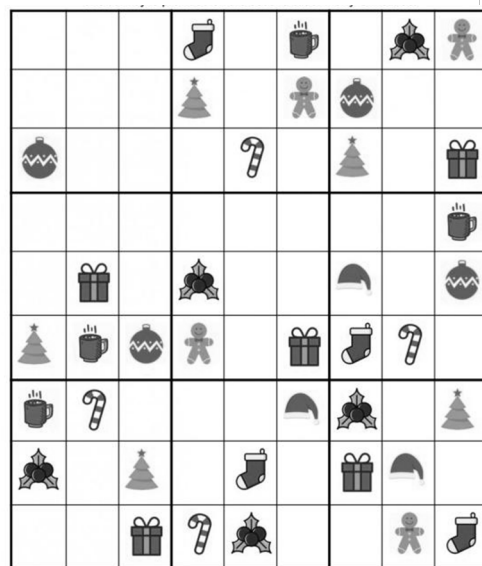
During the 1870s The Huddersfield Chronicle newspaper reported on a major outbreak of disease due to no sanitation. The Government set up a local Board of Enquiry into the High death rate in Golcar:- Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Croup, Diarrhoea, Cholera, Erysipelas, Continued Fever, Typhus, Enteric Fever and Typhoid Fever. The annual death rate per thousand for the country was 5.9. In Golcar it was an alarming 35.4. The Board of Enquiry recorded a Doctor Webster. The water supply of Golcar was bad in quality and deficient in quantity in certain parts of the year. He attended 23 cases of Scarlet Fever in Golcar since July and handed a transcript from the Register of Deaths from Zymotic Disease. The report mentions sewage flowing on Ley Moor Road for 120 yards and in another part for 400 yards. Every Well and Water source was contaminated with raw sewage and children drank water from a Well near the National School where a witnesses pony refused to drink. Mr W. Shaw, JP of Dale House, reported on raw sewage flowing from Golcar plantation causing nuisance. Reservoirs were contaminated and the stench from Broadbent's mill dam was so bad in good weather that several employees had fever and one died walking home. A Mr C. F. Mallinson reported on the nuisance to the Board, there might have been minutes about drainage but only little repairs to highways. Mr Mallinson joined the Board to urge them for better drainage and better water supply - under the Nuisance Removal Act and since the adoption of the Local Government Act, there had been a Nuisance Inspector.

He had made reports to the local board, but they never took action upon them. A Mr Wheelhouse proposed examining Dr Webster who in turn reported that he kept a book and knew his cases, out of twenty four cases of Scarlet Fever, one adult and four children had died. Thirteen of the cases were in the West Ward. He caused the water from Small Lane Well and Clay Well to be analysed four years ago by his brother in law, a chemist, Mr Kirk from Derby. He found the water to be impure but did not submit the results of the analyst as he was not a Member of the Board at the time. Nothing had been done by the Local Board to remedy the existing water supply. The preservation of the existing supply of water from local springs would remedy the evils mentioned. He frequently attended patients in Longwood, Scammonden, Linthwaite, and Slaithwaite, sometimes Lindley, and during August, September and October he had not a single case of Scarlet Fever in those districts. Mr Joseph Hesselgrave, Medical Officer of Health in the Colne Valley District Sanitary Authority, said that the account of scaritine being prevalent in Golcar, he had visited the township about twenty times in the nine weeks since his appointment. He noticed the system of drainage was very bad and the water in the wells was much polluted. He had recommended to the board to pipe the water and had sent to the Authority three written reports. In further cross examinations, the Witness said that when the Local Board thought of obtaining a separate water supply for themselves, they received a notification from the Huddersfield Corporation that they would oppose their doing so. The Huddersfield Waterworks Act empowers the Corporation to supply Golcar with water if required, but at a one fourth higher rate than the people of Huddersfield. All was not lost as a deputation from inhabitants of Scapegoat Hill reported to the Board of Enquiry.

To be continued.....
Tanner.



Nativity Crossword



Across

3. a resin, not the monster
9. were watched by night
10. doing record business
12. crowd in the sky
13. honorable husband
17. the oldest

Down

1. celestial guide
2. Rome wanted this
4. cows chow here
5. City of David
6. funeral fragrance
7. gave these

Across

8. he was born this
11. jealous king
14. engaged
15. shouldn't bear a child
16. impressive messenger
18. favored by God
19. saw the star there
20. not local dudes



The Season of Advent

I'm sure we are all looking forward to chocolates behind our advent calendars from the beginning of December but let's pause a moment to consider the deeper meaning of advent.

Advent is a four-week season dedicated to reflective preparation for the arrival, "advent", of Jesus Christ's Nativity at Christmas time as well and Christ's expected return in

the Second Coming. During this important event on the church calendar, each week of Advent focuses on a different theme - hope, peace, joy, and love. Christians from all denominations and backgrounds celebrate Advent in different ways but all focus on the anticipation of waiting for the arrival of Jesus.

First Sunday of Advent - November 30th - HOPE

Second Sunday of Advent - December 7th - PEACE

Third Sunday of Advent - December 14th - JOY

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 21st - LOVE

Lighting candles on an Advent wreath is a common practice. The wreath typically has four candles, each representing one of the four weeks of Advent. A new candle is lit on each Sunday leading up to Christmas. A centre candle representing Jesus birth is lit on Christmas Day

Have you spotted the Advent Door on the side of the church building in the car park? This year's church theme is 'Discovering Christmas'. Open the door each day in December to discover more about Christmas.

Discover and follow the Christmas story as told in the bible

Discover many of the names of Christ

Discover the real facts about the Christmas Story

(And make sure to check every day or you may miss a random treat or two!)





BE CAREFUL BUYING ONLINE OVER CHRISTMAS

Be careful how you pay

If you're asked to transfer money straight into someone's bank account, STOP! That's the riskiest way to pay online because, if it's a scam, your money is almost impossible to get back. Use a credit card whenever possible, as it gives you stringer protection.

Check Websites properly

Scammers put serious effort into creating fake online shops and social media profiles that look just like the real deal. Don't click on links from emails, texts or posts—type the web address into your browser yourself. Check the spelling carefully: even a tiny difference can mean a bogus site. Tools like www.getsafeonline.org or [checkawebsite](http://checkawebsite.com) can help you confirm if a site is genuine.

Watch out for suspicious adverts

Just because something is advertised online, it doesn't mean it's safe.

Unrealistically low prices are a classic red flag, but fraudsters also list items at normal prices to avoid suspicion. Never send money upfront for goods you haven't physically seen.

Don't click blindly

Unexpected links or attachments in emails, texts or social media messages are one of the most common ways criminals trick people. If you're unsure, you can upload suspicious messages and sites via www.getsafeonline.org/asksilver

Look for secure payment pages

A legitimate checkout page should begin with <https://> and show a padlock icon in the address bar. This means your data is encrypted—but remember, encryption doesn't guarantee the site itself is genuine. Scammers can still create secure websites.

Avoid counterfeits

Cheap knock-off goods don't just hurry the original brands—they can be poor quality and sometime dangerous. Always buy from trusted retailers if you want the real thing.

Be wary of 'free trials'

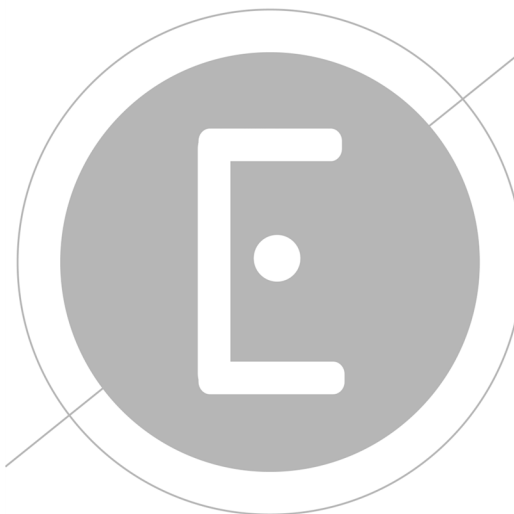
Those 'try it for free' or 'just pay postage' offers can hide expensive subscriptions. These recurring charges can be difficult to cancel, especially with products like slimming pills or unlicensed health remedies. Always read reviews and trms before signing up.

Delivery scam alerts

Fraudsters posing as delivery companies send fake texts and emails saying you owe a small fee before your parcel can be released or re-delivered. Keep track of what you've bought, and which courier is actually being used so you can spot fakes.

Report fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040

*Email news@scape.church to join the Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group
Find more information at wypcommunityalert.co.uk*



ESCAPE 1.2.3

Fun and games for young people held in the Chapel

Wednesday 3rd and 17th December

Escape 1: 4-6 years—6pm to 7.15pm

Escape 2: 7-10 years—6pm to 7.15pm

Escape 3: 11-14 years—7pm to 8.30pm

(There is some slight fluidity in these age groups)

Grown up kids see opposite for ESCAPADE!

**A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE ESCAPE
CHRISTMAS FAYRE—SO FAR YOU HAVE RAISED AROUND £1250!!**

Email escape@scape.church for more information

pool table
table tennis
air hockey



Don't

let kids have all the fun

F1 simulator

table football

Fifa football on XBOX

Thursdays

6th & 20th Nov, 4th & 18th Dec

7- 9pm

bring your own drinks alcohol allowed

@ Scapegoat Hill Baptist Church
over 15's

(Under 18's must be accompanied by a responsible adult (on a one to one basis))

Discovering Christmas

Jesus' Birthday is approaching fast!

December dates for your diary

Friday 5th —7.15pm—Coffee, Cakes and Carols

Thursday 11th—2.15pm—School Carol Concert

Followed by School Christmas Fayre back in the school

Friday 19th—7pm—Multimedia Christmas Praise Evening

Sunday 21st—10.30am—Nativity Service

Sunday 21st—4pm—Carol Singing in the village

Sunday 21st—6pm—Vintage Brass

Wednesday 24th—11.45pm to 12.15am—Midnight Service

Thursday 25th—11am—Christmas Day Service



PS—Be on the lookout for our Advent Door from 1st Dec

*Open it each day to discover more about **Christmas***

And random freebies so be sure to check every day!