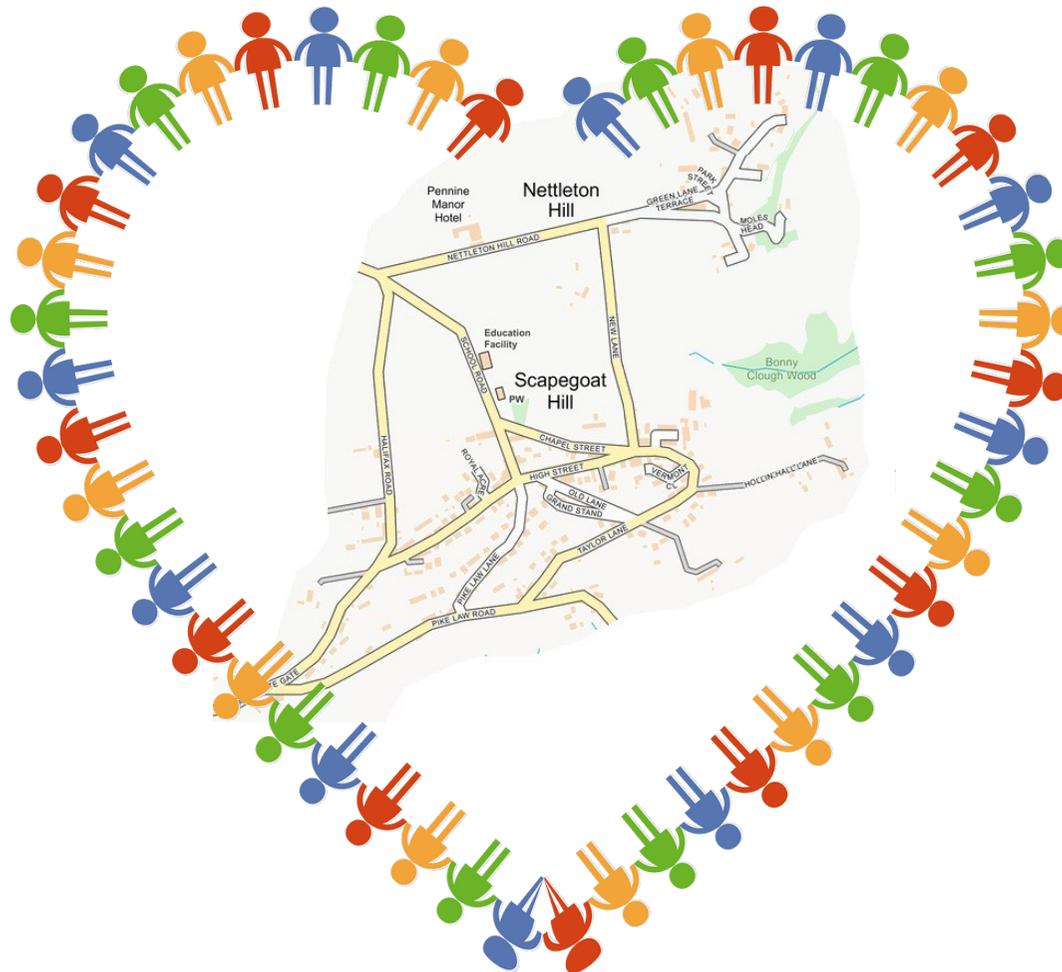
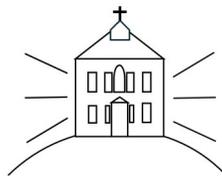


Scapegoat Hill & Nettleton Hill Church & Community Newsletter January 2026



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

Hebrews 13:16—"And do not forget to do good and to share with
others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased"



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

For a lot of reasons, 2025 was a challenging year, but it also had rewarding times mixed in. Hopefully, we can move on, learning from the disappointing times and being encouraged by the positive ones. As a family here at Scape we share these times, and hopefully support and care for each other when the going gets tricky. Also, one of the most important, sustaining activities at Scape is prayer. Seeking help and guidance from our wonderful Saviour is a vital part of life in our fellowship. I can personally vouch for the fact, that knowing people are lifting you in prayer when times are difficult, is very comforting and gives a sense of peace. This is why the prayer chain is so important and can make such a difference to someone needing support.

Also, we must not forget the importance of prayer evenings and praise and worship nights and, of course, the prayer breakfast. The early Christians all prayed and ate together and were strengthened and encouraged by this. It should be no different for us. Coming together to seek the Lord's help can reduce the mountain to a molehill, even before the problem is solved. Matthew 19 v 26 tells us that with God all things

are possible, so it seems sensible to ask when we are faced with challenging decisions. God sees the bigger picture so he can point us in the right direction. We can be certain that the coming year will bring new challenges and greater opportunities, but we don't need to face them on our own. Let's stay focussed on the Lord and keep praying together as often as we can.

I'll leave you with a quote from Corrie Ten Boom which I have used before.

"The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something, and enter God's realm where everything is possible. He specialises in the impossible. Nothing is too great for His Almighty power. Nothing is too small for His love."

Every blessing, Frances

Scape Nature Group—Playing out – why is it so important

As we look forward to the new year after Christmas, it's the perfect time to make a conscious effort to encourage our children to spend more time outdoors. Not only does playing out help them build resilience and confidence, but it also gives them the chance to connect with nature, learn about local wildlife, and simply enjoy being children. By resolving to get our children out more, we can help to restore the sounds of laughter to our streets, improve their wellbeing, and foster a lifelong appreciation for the world around them.

When I was a child we played out every day. The weather was different then, with long spells of warm dry weather, the summer holidays seemed to last forever.

During the holidays we would set off most mornings with a bottle of water and some sandwiches and be outside all day. Walking for miles, making dens climbing trees. I came from a family of five children and I don't remember any of us ever having any accidents other than the usual cuts and bruises.

Winters were cold. When it snowed we went sledging.

It's how childhoods used to be. The skies and hedgerows were full of birds. The buzzing of bees was the soundtrack to long summer days. If you turned over a stone you would find a magical kingdom teeming with life.

We knew what an acorn was and a sparrow, there were thousands of them all over the place. Now the house sparrow and the tree sparrow are on the UK red list of 'birds of conservation concern.'

Our skies and hedgerows have gone quiet. Our streets no longer echo with the sound of children's laughter. Many children never play out. It's a sad fact that children today are more likely to know the names of Pokémon characters than common birds trees and plants.



Children's health and wellbeing today is at an all time low, with many suffering from anxiety depression and isolation. Childhood obesity is at an all time high.

What's Happened?

In his book 'Last Child in the Woods' Richard Louv coined the phrase 'Nature deficit disorder.'

He argues that children are spending more time indoors, which makes them feel alienated from nature and more vulnerable to negative moods and reduced attention span.

He says that 'social and technological changes in the past three decades have accelerated the human disconnect from the natural world.'

There have been thousands of studies since then, all saying the same thing- that spending time indoors contributes to higher rates of physical and emotional illness. It is now widely acknowledged that children with regular access to green spaces are happier and experience improved concentration at school and better behaviour at home.

All this proves that kids need to get outdoors and connect with nature.

Why connecting to nature is so important

In the last fifty years biodiversity has crashed.

Since 1970 we have lost 73 million birds from our skies, 29 million hedgehogs from our hedgerows and gardens, and insect populations have dropped by 50%.

Having an education informed by environmental issues is not only necessary it is essential and now is the moment for that to happen.

Indigenous societies believe that nature is an extension of themselves, therefore they have a responsibility to care for it. They believe that humans and nature are inexorably connected, and this is what we must teach our children.

We rely on the land for our food, we rely on bees and other pollinators to pollinate our seeds and fruits. We rely on rain for our water. Add to this list, timber from trees for our houses, plants that we turn into medicines and other natural materials that we turn into energy.

Now as we face a massive biodiversity crisis we need to help children become more aware of the interconnectedness between ourselves and the natural world.

We need to foster a society that cares about nature not just for what it does for us but for its own sake. Ours is the last generation that knows how things used to be and how things could still be.

We now suffer from shifting baseline syndrome- a gradual change in peoples expectations for the environment.

Today's generation don't know how things used to be and could be again if we give nature a helping hand. Rewilding projects like Knepp (read 'Wilding ' by Isabella Tree)

Are proof that nature can regenerate if we let it.

Children deserve a better future.

Connecting them to nature through playing out, Forest School, or other outdoor pursuit organisations and getting communities together to find safe outdoor spaces where they can play safely is the way forward.

Nature needs our help and children need nature. Let's join the dots.



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



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1**

**Join us in church on Tuesday 27th January
when we commemorate Holocaust Memorial
Day—6.45pm to 7.15pm**





Christmas at School – A Wonderful Celebration!

We have thoroughly enjoyed the build-up to Christmas in school. It has been a lot of fun and the children have had a truly wonderful time!

At the end of November, we faced a small challenge when the school had to close for one day due to power issues. These have been temporarily fixed and Northern Power will return during the school holidays or a weekend to make a permanent repair on School Road.

A huge thank you to the church and its deacons for letting us use their facilities when our boiler broke down on the second day. This meant the children had somewhere warm and safe to stay until the boiler was repaired on Wednesday lunchtime. The children handled the situation brilliantly and it was great that working families could still get to work. We are so grateful to the church for supporting our school community.

Our Nativity and Carol Service were truly special. We are privileged to see a nativity in church every year and it was wonderful to share this with the wider community. The children loved performing, with Class 1 and Class 2 taking centre stage and narrators from across the school. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this magical event.

Our Christmas Fair was another great success, thanks to our steadfast and tireless PTA! The event was filled with Christmas crafts, stalls, refreshments and even a visit from Father Christmas, which was very special for the children.

The children also performed separate productions in school:

Classes 1 and 2 told the story of The Baubles, where each event of the nativity was marked by adding a bauble to the tree. They sang and told the story beautifully.

Class 3 performed Bah Humbug, based on A Christmas Carol, showing how Scrooge changed his ways and discovered the true meaning of Christmas. The children learned many lines and some even took on more than one part – they did an amazing job!

Finally, we hope everyone in our community, across the village and beyond, had a wonderful and safe Christmas and is looking forward to an amazing New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in January!

Best Wishes Miss Shackleton

JANUAR

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THUR

			1
5 SCHOOL REOPENS	6	7	8
12	13 Deacons Meeting 6pm	14 Craft & Chat 2pm ESCAPE 1-2-3 	15 ESCAPADE 7pr
19	20	21	22
26	27 Deacons Only Prayer Meeting 6pm Holocaust Memorial Service 6.45pm - 7.15pm 	28 Craft & Chat 2pm ESCAPE 1-2-3 	29 ESCAPADE 7pr

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

JULY 2026

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	2	3	4 Family Service 10.30am Steve Daniel
	9	10 Prayer Breakfast 9am	11 Communion Service 10.30am Frances Brown Special Church Members Meeting 12 noon
E 7pm—9pm 	16	17	18 Family Service 10.30am Chris Baskerville <i>Church Flowers</i> In loving memory of a dear Mum, Dad, & brother David, Grandma & Grandad—Pauline, John & Family
	23	24	25 Sunday Service 10.30am Can. Martyn Crompton <i>Church Flowers</i> Di & Judy
E 7pm—9pm 	30	31	1 Sunday Service 10.30am Steve Daniel <i>Church Flowers</i> On memory of my dear husband, Brian—Love Angela XX

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

Wellstone or Wholstone

To summarise where we left off, "What about the Waste". The date is August 1866 and a Government Enquiry, headed by a Mr George Eastwood is established to investigate the high death rate in the Township of Golcar due to poor sanitation. Witnesses are called to give statements, particularly from a Doctor Webster of Small Lane, who reports about his patients. There are few sewer pipes, only roads and drains are expected to carry away the effluent and this method has failed. Most fresh water came from public and private draw wells, but many are now contaminated from the effluent. To compound matters, there is a lack of fresh water despite the wells still flowing. Huddersfield has a Water Board and is benefiting from piped water. Sanitation is organised by collection, horse and cart, but the same service is not offered to the inhabitants of Golcar unless they increase the price of their rates, one fourth more than the inhabitants of Huddersfield. To add to the expense, an artificial method of carrying the water, which means pipes, is rejected because of cost. Mr James Taylor was called to give evidence. "The rateable value of the personal property occupied by the Board Members", reports The Huddersfield Chronicle. "It appears that their property was 137acre, 2roods, 24perches", in extent, and of the rateable value of £3365s.6d. To contrast the situation, The Colne Valley, Golcar and Milnsbridge in particular is one of the busiest Townships in the country producing woollen textiles in the growing mills and many still from their homes. These occupants, producing goods are lacking in the basics, fresh water and sanitation with a death rate of over a third of inhabitants. This is the dilemma facing the Golcar Board of Enquiry as inhabitants of Golcar and owners of land who are faced with the cost to solve the epidemic.

Introducing Mr Joseph Taylor, also of Small Lane, Golcar, owner of the valley between Dunkirk up to the old quarry on High Street (now The Scape House carpark), between Grandstand and Pike Law Lane, called Treacle Delph. In the 1850s, Mr Taylor had built a new reservoir above Dunkirk supplying over 200 homes in Golcar with fresh piped water. But not without controversy. In building the reservoir and digging in the quarry to source the water, he had emptied the draw wells of over forty homes at Scapegoat Hill including the Treacle Delph Well. Many were dependent upon this well for their water, for themselves, their cattle and horses.

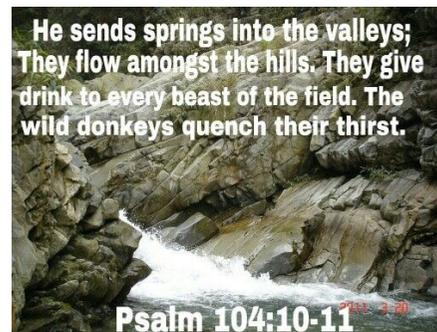
My great, great, grandfather, "Old Tanner", born in 1842 told a tale on to his grandson, who in turn passed the same tale on to his grandson, me! When he was about nine year old, "He was stood in t'delph-ole eating chicken off a bone watching men dig a channel in t'quarry when they tapped into watta. It ran off down t'channel and t'reason he remembered is he threw his chicken bone int' watta. Then everyone's draw well ran dry." This tale coincides with the Deputation from Scapegoat Hill, as reported in the Huddersfield Chronicle, consisting of a Mr Sam Kenworthy and a Mr Thomas Whitwam, who came to the Board complaining of the loss of water for the inhabitants of Scapegoat Hill. These inhabitants had enjoyed an unlimited supply of water.

As a result of the construction of Pike Law Lane and Mr J. Taylors activity in the Delph, the water supply had been injured. Mr Kenworthy stated in his complaint that Mr Taylor ought to give the inhabitants of that part of the township an unlimited and constant supply of water to the Treacle Delph Well. Mr C. F. Mallinson was recalled and reported on "The Gauged water flow from the Wells ; Wallstone Spring, 73 gallons per minute. Bracken Spring 19, and the other 16 1/2 gallons per minute at Spring Head, the quantity of water running into the trough was five gallons per minute; Treacle Delph Spring, 6 & 3/4 gallons per minute; and the spring at Lockwoods Well, 8 & 1/2. All the water at its source was of first rate quality coming from the sandstone". This is a cumulative total of 123 gallons of spring water per minute.

At this point, to help the reader comprehend the hydrological significance of the spring, the figure of approximately 123 gallons of water issuing from sandstone and earth must be properly understood through comparison. In the neighbouring village of Meltham stood a factory of national importance: the home of the David Brown Tractor.

David Brown engineers developed hydraulic systems capable of producing pressures in excess of 2,000 psi from a controlled flow of oil of around five gallons per minute. That pressure, once harnessed, was sufficient to lift ploughs, loaders, excavators and other heavy implements, reshaping the land itself. By comparison, the springs issuing naturally from the sandstone strata at Scapegoat Hill, at approximately 1,150 feet above sea level, represent a continuous, gravity-driven system created not by man, but by the structure of the earth itself. This water is not pumped, compressed, or manufactured; it is released by geological design. Scripture reminds us that "the LORD God formed the earth" and that "He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills" (Genesis 2:7; Psalm 104:10). To deny or interfere with such springs is not merely to misunderstand hydrology, but to disregard the natural order established within Creation. The earth responds to disturbance according to immutable physical laws, and history repeatedly shows that when natural watercourses are ignored or obstructed, the consequences are not immediate opinion, but eventual and measurable reality.

Tanner



The Old Testament explained—Part Two

Historical Books

There are twelve historical books of the Bible focusing on five major events affecting the nation of Israel:

The conquest and settling of Canaan — **Joshua and Judges** tell of God's people as they cross the Jordan River and settle into the Promised Land. When the Israelites demonstrated godly obedience, the Lord faithfully fought His people's battles, but when the Israelites' hearts grew cold and indifferent, they suffered multiple defeats by the hands of their enemies. Early in the nation's history, the tribes were governed by judges. The book of **Ruth** takes place during the rule of the judges and reveals the ancestry of King David.

The move from tribal rule to monarchy — The books of **1 and 2 Samuel** and **1 Kings** tell of the nation's first three kings, Saul, David, and Solomon. During this period, the nation became increasingly unified while enjoying many years of relative peace and prosperity. After removing the crown from Saul, Israel's first king, God bestowed special favour on David and, later, on David's son Solomon.

The dividing of the kingdom — The books of **2 Kings** and **2 Chronicles** record the tragic dividing of the nation of Israel into two separate kingdoms, the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah). Regrettably, King Solomon's tolerance of sin and idolatry led to the split of the once mighty Israel into two weaker nations.

The loss of national sovereignty and the fall into foreign bondage — Despite the dire warnings of God's holy prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, the disobedient people of both kingdoms turned deaf ears to God's call for repentance. In doing so, they incurred the judgment of God. The Assyrians conquered the northern kingdom, and the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem in the southern kingdom. Under Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar, thousands of Jews were forced from their land to live as exiles in Babylon. Note: **1 and 2 Kings** and **1 and 2 Chronicles** contain the history of all of ancient Israel's monarchs, while the book of **Esther** tells of a remarkable Jewish girl's rise to prominence during the time of exile.

The return to the Promised Land — The final event in the historical books of the Bible is the return of God's people from foreign bondage to their own land. The books of **Ezra** and **Nehemiah** chronicle the rebuilding of Jerusalem and its temple. Sadly, the restoration of Israel and its national sovereignty were short-lived, for, by the time of the birth of Jesus, the land was ruled by disdainful foreigners and their corrupt quislings, and Jerusalem's streets were patrolled by Roman soldiers.



Could saving lives be your New Year's resolution?

The public are being asked to put safety on the region's roads at the top of their list of resolutions for 2026. Last year both the numbers of people killed and seriously injured on the roads of West Yorkshire fell by 20% and 9.5% respectively. However 40 people still died and 1,278 were seriously injured.

Drivers and the public are being urged to support West Yorkshire Vision Zero's aim of improving safety and preventing more deaths. Simple actions such as avoiding the 'fatal five' – speeding, drink/drug driving, using a mobile phone, being careless and not wearing a seatbelt – can make all the difference. It's also key to ensure you properly maintain your vehicle, regularly checking tyres and fluids as well as being prepared for bad weather.

Alison Lowe OBE, Chair of the West Yorkshire Vision Zero Board and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, said: "Last year, 40 people didn't get to see 2025 and everyone that cared for them continues to suffer their loss. "Through Vision Zero, we want to end the devastation of deaths and serious injuries on our roads. "Let's work together to make a real difference in 2026."

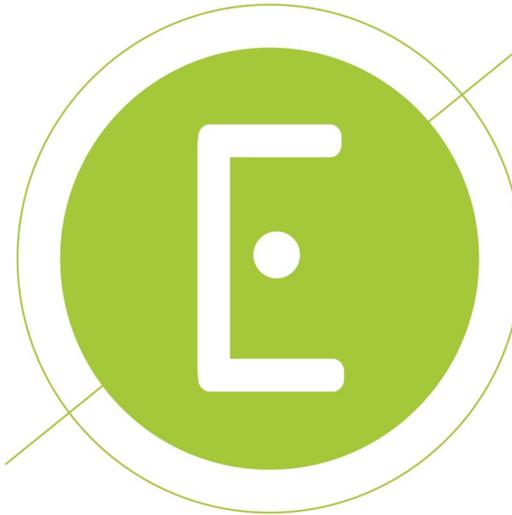
If you want to go further, you can get involved in Op Snap where you can submit your dashcam footage of unsafe drivers to West Yorkshire Police. The recordings are reviewed to see if an offence has been committed and whether it will be possible to progress with action against the offender.

If speeding is an issue in your area, you can report it to your local council through a process known as community concern sites. This information will be assessed and can lead to different interventions, but if suitable, mobile safety cameras will be deployed.

Another round of child car seat checks events are also taking place from February 2026. These are free and an expert will check your seats and give you specialist advice.

You can also show your support for keeping everyone safe on our roads by signing the Vision Zero Pledge. Pledges can be dedicated in someone's memory which will be added to a memorial webpage.

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



ESCAPE 1.2.3

After a trial run last year we have decided from 2026,
ESCAPE 1,2 & 3 will all meet together from 6pm to 7.15pm
and each age group will have its own specific activities.

ESCAPE restarts on Wednesday 14th January

See you there!

Email escape@scape.church for more information

pool table
table tennis
air hockey



Don't

let kids have all the fun

Calling all adults and over 15's!

(Under 18's must be accompanied by a responsible adult)

ESCAPADE restarts on Thursday 15th January

Pool table, table tennis, air hockey, foosball, darts,
Xbox FIFA football and much more

(Alcohol in moderation allowed downstairs in the church)

