

Dates for your diary:

:: **St James Church:** Services are being held with limited numbers - 4th, 11th, 25th Oct (See page 3 for times)

:: **Harvest Festival, St James Church:**
11th Oct, 4pm (Seats must be booked in advance)

:: **Spaldwick Parish Council:** Meetings are currently held by video conferencing. Contact the Parish Council for details: clerkspaldwick.pc@gmail.com

October 2020

To advertise or contribute news: spaldwicknews@gmail.com



SPALDWICK NEWS

St James Church improvements are approved - by Amba Harbour

A project to improve facilities within St James Church has been given the go ahead! Initial plans include modernising the historic building, by installing a toilet and a basic kitchen.

If there's enough interest from the local community, pews could also be removed to increase the church's use - creating a large and exciting floor space for village gatherings, parties and hobby groups.

But, there needs to be a working party to help take this on. Do you have the skills, drive and time to donate to this? Are you: a secret project manager; a dedicated researcher; have practical inspiration; administration skills; a negotiator; able to make daytime calls? If you have any useful experience, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Amba by email on:
ambajane@hotmail.co.uk

Lets make this happen for our village!



Photo: Mark Heath - for more pictures of Spaldwick, visit www.spaldwick.com



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Spaldwick Community Primary School

Do you have a child starting school in September 2021?

We would like to welcome you to an individual tour with our Headteacher. She will answer all your questions and you will be able to see our amazing children hard at work.

Please call the school office on 01480 890371 to book a one to one tour.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

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Spaldwick reaches 90% of Ultrafast Target

We need more people in the village to get behind the campaign!

It's been a month since we launched a drive to get Ultrafast broadband for Spaldwick, and we have come so far. We're at 90% of our completion target, with £171,000 pledged - well done!

Only 13 more homes or 5 additional businesses are needed to get to 100%.



It's easy to do - you can pledge your support here, along with commitment to take out the connection: <http://bit.ly/31Re2tW> or by scanning the QR code (left) into your smart phone.

Once available in the village, it would mean a dramatic improvement in accessing the internet - from around 20MB to at least 100MB.

That means faster access when working from home - or when trying to watch the latest films and play video games, even on multiple devices.

For more information, contact Broadband Champion Jason Patel: me@jasonpatel.co.uk

Who's signing up?

Dan Hassell (pictured below) lives with his family on Stow Road - he's tired of his slow/intermittent broadband access and having Openreach out every few month to fix the connection.

1. What do you use the internet for - and how would a faster internet connection benefit you?

We're a family of 4 so it's all standard stuff in today's world - streaming tv & films, playing games and general browsing. I also work from home 3 - 4 days a week which really drains our bandwidth when I'm logged onto my work's systems and Zoom for a lot of the day.

My boys are 10 and 8 years-old and are just venturing into the world of gaming online - and streaming videos, etc. so it's only going one way in this household!

2. Are you frustrated by current speeds available in Spaldwick?

We knew what to expect when we moved to the village a few years, ago having previously had Ultrafast where we lived before, I think what we didn't realise was the impact the slower broadband would have on things we'd taken for granted.



3. What would you say to people thinking about supporting the Spaldwick Ultrafast project?

The difference really is chalk and cheese: it's one of those things you need to have experienced to appreciate what you are missing. For example, downloading a HD film (I've given up trying to download Ultra HD) can take anywhere from 30 minutes to a couple of hours depending on how the broadband is behaving.

Previously when I had Ultrafast it was instantaneous - now I have to plan what I want to watch rather than just switching on the box and choosing. It's a similar story with streaming, whilst buffering these days is pretty minimal you can tell that something you should be watching in HD is not of the expected quality, and this is all down to the speed of connection.

The more people you have at home using it the worse it obviously becomes - there's only so much bandwidth to go round and if the kids are both streaming stuff on their iPads, you can suddenly find your Zoom call impossible to run.

For me, the price you pay providers such as Sky, BT is not much different to what we are being quoted for the Ultrafast and you really will see where the extra few pounds are going. This is also about future-proofing yourself - the old copper cables are only going to get worse and worse (as I'm sure many of us have noticed recently.)

4. What about uploading content to the internet?

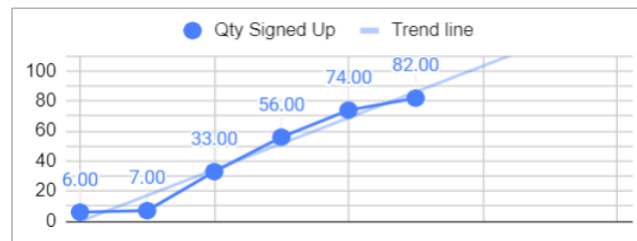
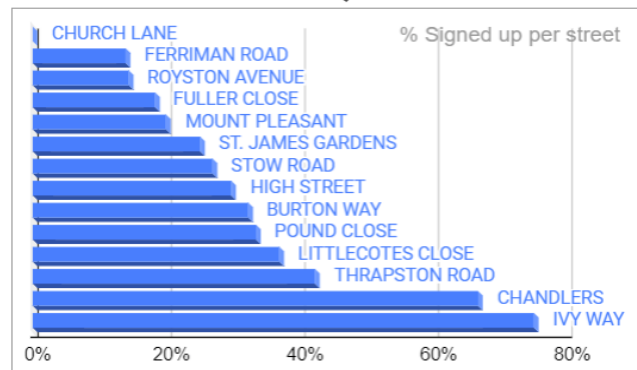
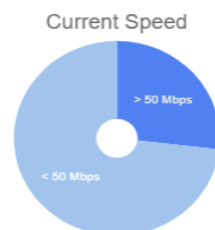
My wife regularly uploads photography pictures to her website/social media, etc. and something that previously with ultrafast was a 2 minute job can now take hours!

UltraFast SPALDWICK



Homes 58 Businesses 24

Raised
£171,000



St James Church - Services Return to Spaldwick

Local churches are now back open again for services. Due to the Indian summer weather we have been experiencing, these have mainly taken place in the churchyards. They will be moving inside shortly, where of course, masks will be needed - and numbers will need to be limited.

4th October - 9.30am

11th October - Harvest Festival (see below), 4pm

25th October - 4pm

1st November - 9.30am

8th November - Remembrance, 10.45am

The online services from Reverends Phil, Dr John, Pamela and Ron - together with Jill - are still taking place. You can watch online by visiting www.kymchurch.org.uk and clicking on the "Want to join us in prayer?" tab. If you didn't see the service from Spaldwick on 19th July visit the home page of the website or visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhG4zbtWMYo>

To contact Rector Rev Philip Howson:

Email: revphiliphowson@icloud.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/revdphiliphowson/

Phone: 01480 869081

Parish Giving Scheme:

As a PCC for St James, we have been unable to fundraise throughout the year. As we depend on this additional income, we are affected like many other charities. We remain very grateful to those who donate regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme, but we need to do a little more.

We would encourage any villagers who enjoy the presence of the church in our village to collect a Parish Giving Scheme leaflet from the church porch. The monthly donation to the value of a cup of coffee will accumulate with the generosity of others to keep us afloat.

Harvest Service:

Sadly we are unable to offer "normal" and enjoy a harvest supper together at The George, followed by an auction. We would love to cater for you, but are unable to under Church of England guidelines.

So, we will be having a Harvest Service - but numbers will restrict how many can join us. We would like to extend the offer to before and after the service for visitors. This will enable more to participate in this traditional festival. Visitors before and after the service will be able to donate non-perishable food for delivery to Godmanchester foodbank - or monetary donations to the church. It might be that you consider donating what you would have spent on your Sunday Lunch and eat more simply instead.

The Harvest service will be at 4pm on Sunday 11th October. Space in the church for the service will be limited, so you will need to book your seat with us by **Wednesday 7th October.** Please email stjamesspaldwick@aol.com - If we are unable to squeeze you in the church you might choose to listen from beyond the door.

The Church will be open from 2.30 - 3.30pm and from 5.00 - 5.30pm for donations. There will be an opportunity to light a candle to provide you a moment of reflection or prayer in gratitude of this years harvest.

Christmas Fundraiser:

We are starting to plan for December. We would like to organise a Blind Auction of donated gifts and time. We hope to issue a list in the November Parish news so you can Blind Bid for a Christmas gift for that special someone. Please let us know if you have an item or know a business who would wish to donate to our fundraiser. We would also love villagers to offer their time for each other - for example:

- An hour's ironing
- An afternoon gardening
- An hour's wrapping presents
- A car full of items to the tip
- Making a Christmas pudding
- Knitting a child's jumper

If you have a skill to share, or can volunteer your time to raise funds for the church and make someone happy this Christmas, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us on StJamesSpaldwick@aol.com or call Julia on 01480 890203.

Spaldwick Neighbourhood Watch - from co-ordinator, David Henrick

As the school term has started, I would like to appeal to ALL car owners in our village that parking on the pavements can cause an obstruction.

Several vehicles have been seen regularly blocking paths used by children on their walk to school, particularly in the Burton Way and Ferriman Road areas. Please consider your neighbours. Thank You.

Neighbourhood Alert System

www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk (Register Now To Receive Updates)



Outdoor service on August 23rd (Photo: Elaine Drew Woolward)



Egg-Bound of Spaldwick - by Andrea Parker

One of the benefits of “lock-down” was that more of us began to think about buying food locally, if not from necessity then from the fact we had time to find local producers.

A small group of households started ordering eggs from Andy in Grafham and, in the last 7 months, we have had the pleasure of frying, boiling, scrambling, poaching and baking our way through 1,518 hen, 70 duck, 12 goose, 6 bantam, 4 quail and 1 turkey egg!

Andy is a volunteer for the charity Fresh Start for Hens, running their Huntingdon “coop”. This organisation rescues and re-homes hens and ducks from commercial egg producers, purchasing them before they are slaughtered when they become slightly less productive at 72 weeks. Andy re-homes these hens for a minimum donation of £2.50, and can be contacted through Facebook (Fresh Start for Hens Huntingdon).

Eggs are £1 for 6. For more information about our Spaldwick group delivery, please email Andrea (weaves70@gmail.com).

Cambs Police: More than 90 tickets issued during 48-hour speeding crackdown



Speeding drivers in Stow Road, Spaldwick were among those targeted across Huntingdonshire during a 48-hour operation.

Between 4th and 6th September, officers from the St Neots neighbourhood policing team, the Road Policing Unit and Special Constabulary issued 93 speeding tickets and gave words of advice to a further 25 people about their driving.

Patrols were also out on Spaldwick Road in Stow Longa.

PC Josh Ives from the St Neots neighbourhood team said: “After listening to concerns from the community about speeding and using our own knowledge we established a list of hotspots which we focused on over the weekend.

We caught taxi drivers, delivery drivers and motorcyclists but the vast majority we ticketed or spoke to were residents of the villages where the concerns were from.

Speeding is one of the contributions to avoidable collisions that result in death or serious injury

It’s simple, the faster you drive the less time you have to react and you are putting not only your life at risk but also the lives of others.”

**Playtimes Committee
AGM - 17th November 2020, 7.30pm**

Calling all parents, old and new...we need you!

Do you have a few hours you could spare each month, to help support our lovely village preschool - and SClub?

Would you consider joining our voluntary parent and staff committee?

Join us for our first virtual AGM and find out a little more about it.

Email: contact@playtimesplaygroup.co.uk
Tel: 01480 890077

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Shop online and help FOSS raise funds for Spaldwick Community Primary School.



This year has hit charities hard and FOSS (Friends Of Spaldwick School) needs your help.

With planned events for most of 2020 cancelled, YOU can help us to raise funds for much needed school resources. You don't need to donate, just shop online and we will benefit.

• www.smile.amazon.co.uk

Select "Friends Of Spaldwick School" as your chosen charity.

• www.boilerjuice.com/community-fundraising

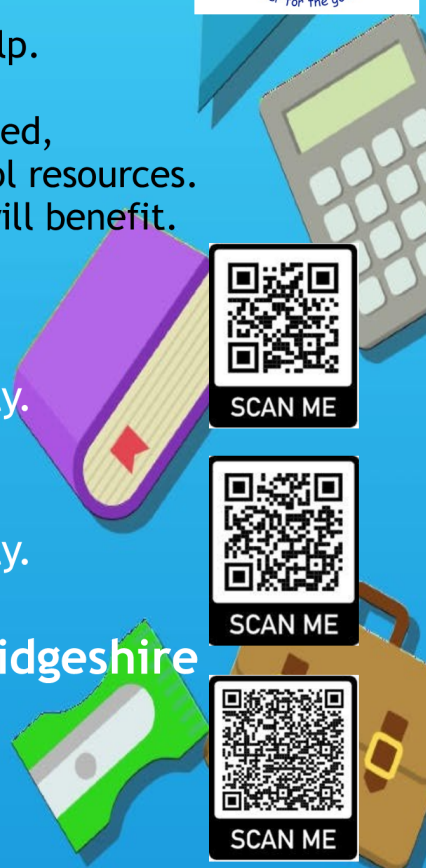
Select "Friends Of Spaldwick School" as your chosen charity.

• www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fosscambridgeshire

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What's happening from October

- Wednesday coffee mornings are back 9-12
- Wednesday friends lunch (2 courses £10) & all real ales £3 per pint from 5pm
- 25% off your bill Wednesday evening & Thursday all day when dining in.
- New Autumn main menu

OPENING HOURS
Monday/Tuesday – Closed
Wednesday/Thursday – 12-3pm & 5-11pm (Food 12-2.30pm & 5-9pm)
Friday/Saturday – 12pm-11pm (Food 12-9pm)
Sunday – 12-7pm (Food 12-4pm)

Plenty of Gluten Free & Vegan Dishes on the Menu

Monthly Quiz Nights / Take Away Meals / Weekly Specials / Real Ales / Real Cider / Fine Wines / Room Hire Available /



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It has been a tough start to the year for children and parents, who've been affected by school closures - but a sense of normality resumed in September as 75 children from Spaldwick Primary started the new academic year with an amazing day of activities at Grafham Water.

Charlie and Sofie wrote: "After a long time of being in lockdown, the whole of Spaldwick Community Primary School took a trip to Grafham Water Centre for a day of team building. The sun may have hid behind the clouds, but the children's spirits filled the centre with warmth as they took part in activities such as: sailing, den building, archery, crate stacking and rock climbing.

As the children arrived at the centre on Friday 11th September, there was excitement in the air. All of the children had lots of fun working together; having the chance to rebuild friendships and develop stronger bonds with their new classmates and teachers. Despite some children being nervous, the encouraging cheers and support from their friends and teachers helped them push themselves and succeed.

What a way to round off the first week back at school after being away for so long!"



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- Museum craft & gift shop
- On our website:
 - Family activities
 - KS2 local history videos
 - Local history blogs
 - Toddler Time



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Bumper Crop for Spaldwick's Allotmenters - by Carmen Martos

An autumnal feel is in the air, and our Allotmenters are beginning to clear their beds from a bumper spring and summer produce of potatoes, courgettes, onions, corn, raspberries and strawberries, to name but a few. A testament to (literally) enjoying the 'Fruits of their Labour'!

Whilst the abundant courgettes that once were, have been used for cakes, stews, curries and other creative recipes, now the pumpkins and butternut squashes are pushing their way through for pole position, in preparation for artistic carvings and comforting home-made soups.

The allotment plots have provided a welcome distraction this summer for those who may have been reluctant to travel abroad and risk the wrath of quarantine on return.

Allotmenters are preparing the soil for the next round of winter produce - and despite autumn introducing itself curtailing our evenings with less daylight, I can conclude that growing one's own produce certainly adds years to one's life, as well as life to one's years.



Church location for new dog waste bag dispensers



A post has been installed in the field next to St James Church, for one of the village's new dog waste bag dispensers.

Steve Treadaway of Cambridgeshire Garden & Property Maintenance (pictured) was contracted to complete the work for Spaldwick Parish Council.

Another dispenser can be found in the community field behind Ferriman Road.



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Back To Business

As the autumn fast approaches it may feel as though the days when we used to fly to a new European city for a long weekend or celebrate an anniversary or special occasion in an exotic destination with family and friends are gone forever, but they are not!

'Yes things have changed and they are doing so every day that passes' says Paula Cockcroft, Director of Oundle Travel 'But the good news is that the desire to travel has not left us, it will improve quickly and many more countries will open in the months to come'.

The agency have seen an increased demand for Greece and Turkey for September and October Half Term, and in a recent survey carried out on line by Oundle Travel, the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Mexico and Thailand were named as the most popular destinations for the winter months ahead.

The team have introduced a dedicated Concierge service that will concentrate on vital Foreign and Commonwealth Office updates together with airport and airline procedures, entry requirements, and what to expect when you are on your holiday, all helping to rebuild client confidence.

In addition to this, Oundle Travel are also launching a brand new Customer Loyalty Scheme from next month, giving three tiers of membership, Silver Gold and Diamond which will enable clients to benefit from discounts, exclusive offers and upgrades.

Oundle Travel are have been established for over 36 years and are fully independent members of ABTA giving full financial security, 'This together with new flexible booking options with our preferred partners gives clients complete peace of mind when booking' continues Paula.

So if you are considering a holiday for later this year or 2021 you can relax in the knowledge that your booking is covered in the event of any changes in travel advice and the team are on hand to advise and assist throughout.

I think we would all agree that even in a digital age, nothing beats face to face personal service when booking your next holiday!

Oundle Travel Limited – Market Place – Oundle - PE8 4EA – 01832 273600

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Spaldwick Waste Bin Collections for October/November 2020:

Grey		13th Oct	27th Oct
Blue	6th Oct	20th Oct	3rd Nov
Green	8th Oct	22nd Oct	5th Nov

A complete list of materials that can be recycled can be found at:

www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/whatgoesinwhichbin

SPALDWICK COVID-19 SUPPORT NETWORK

A small group of Spaldwick residents are continuing to help those in our village who are vulnerable or are having to self-isolate. We are pleased to say that at the moment there is a lot less demand for assistance, and is now mainly the collection of prescriptions from the Kimbolton and Alconbury surgeries. However, we are all aware that this situation may change as we head towards winter.

If you would like help please get in touch using the contacts listed below, either by a phone call (leave a message if no answer) or text message, and they will take it from there.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Amba – 07526 382240

Julia – 01480 890203

Becky – 07958 306740

We are supporting the Village Harvest Festival. Please see the Church notices for further information about a Ploughman's Picnic and how non-perishable food items can be donated on the day to be taken to a local food bank.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

:: Citizens Advice Bureau National Advice Line -

03444 111 444 www.citizensadvice.org.uk

:: Universal Credit, Help to claim line - 0800 144 8444

:: Disability Huntingdonshire - 0330 3553 256

info@dish.org.uk

:: Family Action - This group helps to provide practical, emotional, and financial support to families

www.family-action.org.uk

:: Family Line - Providing a listening ear to help with parenting questions or give guidance around more complex issues (Mon-Fri 9am – 3pm and 6pm-9pm. Phone 0808 802 6666, Text 07537 404 282 familyline@family-action.org.uk

An uplifting Concert for Brass Trio



Hundreds of people have now watched a live-streamed video of a short concert for Brass Trio in Spaldwick School field.

David Perkins, Zoe Perkins and Steve Payne of Burton Way performed to a small socially-distanced crowd, who braved the rain, on Saturday 23rd August.

You can still watch the concert in full on the "Spaldwick Village" Facebook page.



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