

## Dates for your diary:

**St James Church Services** - 6th October, 9.30am;  
13th October, 6pm (Family Harvest Service);  
20th October, 9.30am (More details on Page 3).

**Parish Council Meeting** - Thursday 17th October,  
Community Room, Spaldwick Primary School, 8pm.

**Spaldwick Primary School, Open Day Tours** -  
Thursday 3rd October, 1.30pm; Friday 11th October,  
9am; Thursday 17th October, 6pm (More details on  
Page 2).

October 2019

To advertise or contribute news: Chris Hubbard - [spaldwicknews@gmail.com](mailto:spaldwicknews@gmail.com)



# SPALDWICK NEWS

## A new school year for Spaldwick Primary, by Headteacher Louise Worrell



Spaldwick School has had a fantastic start to the new school year. The school is looking really clean and tidy with new tables, chairs and hall curtains - and the children look amazing in their new uniform.

We have welcomed 15 new children to school and they have all settled brilliantly. We are all excited about the coming year and working with both our new and existing families.

Our new year was launched with another fabulous 'Back to School' event organised by our wonderful PTA (pictured right), FOSS and the Playtimes committee. The children absolutely loved zorbing and lots of fun was had by all.



## Spaldwick School Needs You!

We are looking for Governors to join our hard working team. Unfortunately, we have reached the maximum number of parent governors allowed so we are looking for local people interested in getting involved and supporting the school.

If you are interested and would like to visit and chat about what the role involves, please contact the school office by emailing: [office@spaldwickschool.org.uk](mailto:office@spaldwickschool.org.uk) or calling 01480 890371



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## Harvest Celebrations Sunday 13 October



- 6pm Family Harvest Service at St James followed at
- 7pm Supper at The George with raffle of produce.
- Tickets £15, reduced portions available for primary school children £8
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## Spaldwick Community Primary School



### Do you have a child starting school in September 2020?

Come along to one of our Open Day Tours and see us in action!

We would like to welcome you to Spaldwick School. Our Headteacher will show you around, answer your questions and you will have the opportunity to see our amazing children hard at work.

Even if you already have a child at Spaldwick, come and find out about our brilliant Reception class and the journey beyond.

Tours will take place on:

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 1:30pm**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 9am**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm**

Please call the office on 01480 890371 to book a place on one of our tours, we look forward to meeting you soon.



## Charity Coffee Morning and Christmas Card Sale

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
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## St James Church News & Services

- **6th October, 9.30am** Morning Worship - Jill Dighton
- **13th October, 6pm Harvest Service, followed by Harvest Supper and raffle of produce at The George at 7pm.** Tickets - £15, reduced portions available for primary school children £8. For tickets email [stjameesspaldwick@aol.com](mailto:stjameesspaldwick@aol.com) or call Amba on 890565 or Julia on 890203.
- **20th October 9.30am** Parish Communion - Philip Howson

### Dates for your diary:

Sunday 10 November - Remembrance gathering on the village green from 10.40am

Thursday 19 December - Christmas carol party

Tuesday 24 December - Crib service at 4pm

### Why do we celebrate Harvest? By Rev Philip Howson



Why not just as easily celebrate financial year-end? Well partly, I assume, weary Financial Directors presenting accounts at the altar just doesn't have the same cute factor as having our children sharing tins and apples to go to the local food bank. Apparently Harvest Festival started when a local vicar was appalled at the massive post-harvest booze-up that used to go on alongside the very poor attendance at church where he was serving, and so he invented Harvest Festival. It must have worked as I've never seen a drunk farmer.

So why celebrate Harvest now? The ground has somewhat shifted in farming over the decades, so I'd suggest we pay a little more attention in our Harvest services to a few things beside simple gratitude at God's provision. Some observations I have are:

Farming is a dangerous profession – it has high rates of industrial accidents.

Farming is stressful and experiences significant pressure from bulk buying supermarkets.

Farming communities experience high rates of suicide.

Add to those difficulties the vagaries of the weather, cabbage stem flea beetle, who knows what will happen with Brexit - and I'd suggest we should turn our attention from simple thankfulness to God for provision, to prayer and support for farmers and their families.

The story is told of a country parson congratulating one of his flock on the success with which he had transformed a plot of waste land into a beautiful garden: 'It is indeed wonderful,' he said, 'what man can achieve with the help of Almighty God.' 'Yes, sir,' was the reply, 'but you should have seen the place when only the Almighty was looking after it.'

Just so for our farming community. Our tins don't get filled through well-wishing or pious words, but from graft, long hours, significant pressure and sometimes significant cost. So remember them in your prayers, but don't just pray. If it comes your way – do something.

To get in touch with Philip, please email [revphiliphowson@icloud.com](mailto:revphiliphowson@icloud.com) or call the office on 01480 869081.

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## Spaldwick's Stuart Ainsworth's Great War Tunnelling Adventure

With my proposed trek on the Normandy Beaches postponed until May 2020, an opportunity arose for a unique tour of the underground world of the Great War. I was aware of mines such as the Caterpillar and Lochnagar, but had no idea of the extensive network of underground tunnels used on both sides of the conflict.

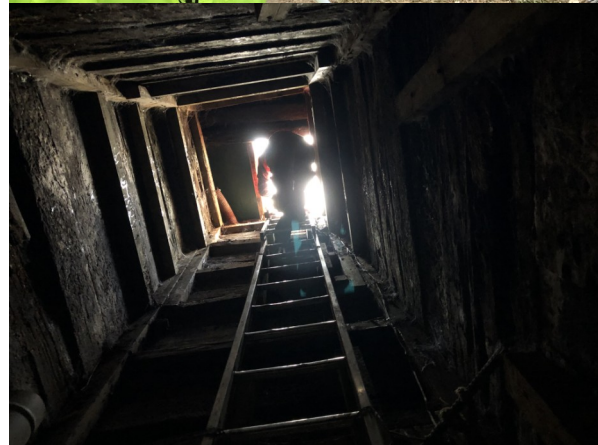
We started the tour very fittingly at the site of the tunnellers memorial and the site of the only VC awarded to a tunneller during WW1, Sapper William Hackett VC. Then on to Vimy Ridge where tunnels were used extensively both for communications, offense and defence and played a significant part in the hard-won victory of the Canadian Corps in April 1917 at the start of the Battle of Arras. It was there that we learned about the Durand Group, a charitable organisation that seeks out these long-abandoned tunnels and like modern day Indiana Joneses are opening up time capsules from both Allied and German tunnelling operations. Their numbers include archaeologists, anthropologists, geologists, miners and ordnance disposal expertise both serving and retired. They came to prominence in 2009 by defusing and making safe a 8.5 tonne mine under the car park at the Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial visitors centre.

Day two and our first visit to a site not open to the public - Maison Blanche. This was a 'sous terrain', an existing quarry system taken over by the Canadian forces and used as an underground living space prior to operations. It was a strange gloomy environment and it was hard to imagine hundreds of troops living for extended periods in this aery world. There are over 1000 recorded pieces of wartime 'graffiti' and artwork etched, scratched or carved into the chalk walls. Some are simply records of a soldier being present but others, mainly unit badges, are true works of art. Interestingly, there was no evidence of either anti-war or anti-German sentiment which shows the level of morale through the system's occupation.

Then onto the Hulloch Subway, a system of tunnels built from scratch by tunnelling companies made up of ex-miners. We walked for 1.5 km in a dead straight line down the Wings Way with evidence of the light rail system for moving men and material around and numerous passages and rooms off to each side of the main tunnel. Everywhere was the detritus of war, discarded hand grenades and bullets, rusted weapons and tools and everyday objects such as the ubiquitous rum jars and bully beef tins. Back on the surface we followed evidence of the German offensive mining and the multiple craters caused by mines detonated by both sides under the front line, now peacefully reclaimed by nature. Huge respect and thanks to the Durand Group for the work they do and for allowing us into the tunnel systems.

On our final day we visited the Carriere (Quarry) Wellington. The quarry system 2 miles from the centre of Arras was extensively modified by New Zealand Tunnellers ahead of the Battle of Arras in 1917. On 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917 after 8 days of preparation, 21,000 troops, who had massed in the quarries, emerged at 0530 and overran the German trenches in complete surprise and captured nearly 8 miles of territory. All the preparation had been in complete secrecy and this played a huge part in the success of the battle. The Wellington Quarries and some of the tunnels at Vimy Ridge are open to the public for tours and if you are visiting the area, I would strongly recommend a visit.

I thought I had a reasonable idea of the battles and flow of the Western Front but this trip has opened up a whole new chapter on the way the front developed and how day to day life moved underground to support the trench network on the surface. The sheer scale and engineering that delivered mile after mile of tunnels, living quarters and other facilities is yet further testament to the industry and courage of those who served and fought on the Western Front.



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**Spaldwick and Kimbolton Welcome Club**  
**Coach trip to this year's Ely Cathedral Christmas Fair**

The date for the trip is Friday 15th November; leaving the area from 9am onwards with various pick-ups available locally.

Now in its 8th year, this popular event is widely acknowledged as one of East Anglia's exceptional Christmas shopping experiences.

Over 120 bespoke trade stalls are located in the Cathedral's magnificent nave, its famous Lady Chapel and a heated marquee in the beautiful Cathedral grounds.

*The price for this trip will be £18 per person, which will include the coach and entrance to the fair.*

Following our visit, we will head by coach to nearby Wilburton for lunch at Twenty Pence Garden Centre (charged separately), where you will be able to enjoy refreshments of your choice - before browsing their extensive range of all things horticultural, plus their sparkling Christmas Gifts and Decorations section.

**WE HAVE JUST 10 TICKETS LEFT - PLEASE CALL JEAN ON 891683 TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE.**



*Youth Club*

All year 6 and over are welcome

We will be meeting on the following dates:

4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October

1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November

13<sup>th</sup> December

Between 7pm-9pm, at Spaldwick School.

Entry costs just £2 per session.

We have a range of activities available and arrange trips out such as sledging at the Snow Zone MK and Xtreme360 Trampoline Park in St Neots.



Escape is run on a voluntary basis by a small group of parents, so we are always looking for more help. We would love to hear from any adults who would be interested in helping on an occasional basis or joining the committee. If you are interested, or you have any ideas for activities, fund raising etc., please contact us at [escape@spaldwick.com](mailto:escape@spaldwick.com).

Or get in touch on Facebook:

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## A fresh look for Spaldwick Community Room, by Steve Fane de Salis

Spaldwick Parish Council is pleased to announce that the work to improve The Community Room is now complete.

The kitchen has been upgraded with a range of new floor and wall cupboards; and includes a new worktop. The curtains have all been replaced and new carpet tiles fitted.

The whole room has been rejuvenated and is available for hire to residents of Spaldwick at the very low rate of £2.50 per hour. Non residents can book the room at £5 per hour.

This is a bright clean room, with sole use of an attached kitchen and toilet. There are four large tables and seating for 50 people, together with all the necessary crockery and cutlery. There are plenty of pots and pans if anyone wishes to prepare food. Pictures of a recent baby shower held in The Community Room give an idea of what is available.

Bookings can be made by emailing [clerkspaldwick.pc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkspaldwick.pc@gmail.com) or any member of the Parish Council.



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## Spaldwick Parish Council News

**July's meeting of Spaldwick Parish Council was held on Thursday 19th.** It was Chaired by Mr G Smith - also present were S. Jackson-Rimmer, R Johnson and one member of the public.

**Here are some of the points discussed, based on the draft minutes:**

- **Monthly Ferriman Road Play Area's Inspection.** Chairman S Fane de Salis reported that the hedges were overgrown and untidy.
- **Hedges around play area and open space.** Quotes are required from three contractors. It would appear that some cutting back has been done. Further work will need to be carried out and a working party organised while the PC await quotes.
- **Complaints received regarding grass cuttings being dumped under trees and hedges, Mount Pleasant and the Open Space.** Chairman S Fane de Salis and Cllr G Smith investigated the issues raised and the matter has now been resolved.
- **Footpath leading to Bury Close.** It has been highlighted that these footpaths are considerably overgrown and will need to inform HDC Highways to come and clear the area.

### TOWN & POORS CHARITY FIELD:

- **To consider the purchase of Gates, fencing and to create an area of hard standing.** Two more quotes for gates are yet to be obtained as are quotes for the hardcore and fencing. Cllr R Johnson to look into this
- **Setting up of an Allotment Association.** Cllr G Smith informed those present that there were two volunteers ready to set up an Association. The size of the plots would be 5 poles, an area equivalent to 125m2 and an annual ground rent of £25pa in the first instance. Once a number of people have expressed an interest, an inaugural meeting will be arranged to set up an Allotment Association and constitution.

**:: The next meeting will be held on 17th October, 8pm in the Community Room.**

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**Playtimes receives a summer refresh!**

Playtimes has been busy refurbishing the building. We have had new flooring put down throughout (pictured below). We have also had some plumbing work done in the toilets. They have been renovated and redecorated



**Spaldwick Waste Bin Collections for October/November 2019:**

Grey	Tues 1st Oct	Tues 15th Oct	Tues 29th Oct
Blue	Tues 8th Oct	Tues 22th Oct	Tues 5th Nov
Green	Thurs 10th Oct	Thurs 24th Oct	Thurs 7th Nov

to make them clean, fresh and child friendly for the children at our breakfast club, pre-school and afterschool club. The refurbishments have brightened up our lovely pre-school and given the place a new look!

If you would like to come and have a look at our fabulous pre-school, we still have spaces and would love to welcome some more little ones. If you have a child between the age of 2-5 years, please contact us on 01480 890077.



**Christmas Fayre**

**FOSS Fayre needs ... YOU!**

Are you crafty? Do you run a business and would like the opportunity to sell your products?

If you could run a stall or know anyone who would be interested please get in touch!

This is a community event and a good opportunity to sell and promote to your local area.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 3.40pm-5.15pm @ Spaldwick School

Contact Rosy Foulds: 07921 658140 or email [rosy.audigier@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosy.audigier@hotmail.co.uk) Or Lisa Hunter [lisa@creativeteamevents.com](mailto:lisa@creativeteamevents.com)

Please let us know by the 31/10/19 if you would like to take part!



**Half Term Holiday Club!**

A fun-filled week planned for our Autumn half term holiday club! Don't forget to reserve your place - all 2-11 year olds welcome!

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**Half Day → £20**  
**9am - 4.30pm → £25**  
**8am - 6pm → £30**

**Cookery Fun**  
**Art and Crafts**  
**Forest School**  
**Outdoor Learning**

<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	Hand Monsters	Salt dough hand ghosts	Monster Feet	Apple bobbing
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>	Straw skeletons	Web weaving	Pumpkin carving	Pipe spider making
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct</b>	Wooden spoon bats	Halloween slime	Sticky mummies	Halloween cookies
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Spooky lanterns	Pebble painting	Seasonal fruit prints	Forest School
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Wrapping mummies	Spider web hunt	Spooky gloves	Halloween jelly

If you would like to book your child in - please pop into the Playtimes office or contact Zoe or Gemma on 01480 890077 or [contact@playtimesplaygroup.co.uk](mailto:contact@playtimesplaygroup.co.uk)



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