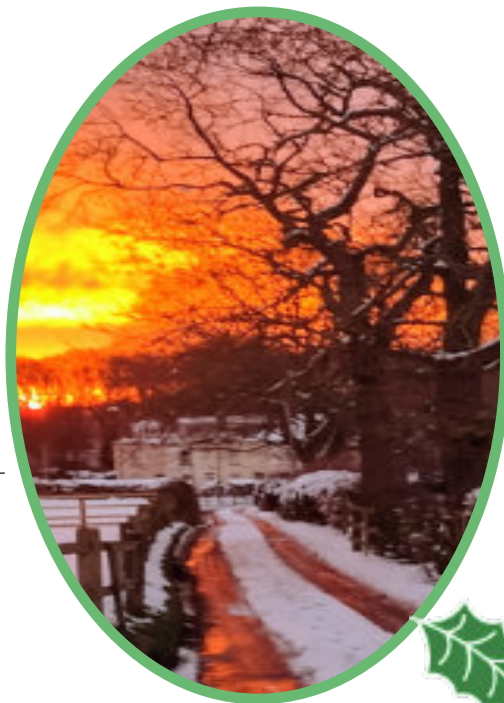


Silkstone Parish Magazine Winter 2025 Issue 108



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The Editor of this magazine is Sue Williams. Views expressed in in this magazine are those of the Contributors and not necessarily the views of the Parish Council.

Parish Clerk Tel : 07947545504 email: silkstoneparishcouncil@gmail.com

Web: www.silkstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk

A word from the Chair

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Parish Magazine. I hope you find plenty of engaging and informative articles within its pages. In particular, the gardening section later in the magazine promises to be full of useful tips and ideas.

It is with regret that I must mention there are still instances of drug misuse being observed in the Parish. If you come across any evidence of this, please report it to the police using the non-urgent 101 phone number. The more information the police receive on this line, the more likely they are to investigate and address the issue.

You may have noticed that certain areas of grass within the Parish have been cordoned off. This is because CARE has been busy planting wildflower patches. I am eagerly anticipating the vibrant display of colours these will bring in the spring and summer, as well as the positive impact they will have on our local environment.

My sincere thanks go to all CARE members for their continued dedication and hard work across the Parish.

At this time of year, burglars often take advantage of the fact that many people are out shopping for Christmas presents, which are then stored in their homes or cars. To help prevent these opportunists from spoiling Christmas for our community, you will find an informative article in this edition offering advice on how to protect your belongings.

I am looking forward to seeing the Christmas trees going up throughout the villages once again this year, bringing a festive atmosphere for all to enjoy. On behalf of the entire Parish Council and myself, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

Meryl
Chair, Silkstone Parish Council



Thanks to Ed Bennett for the main photo on the front cover and to Judy Gallagher for the smaller front cover photo and to Katie Gadsby for this one of the waggon at Silkstone Cross

Editorial — Spring 2025

Hello there

Welcome to the Silkstone Parish Winter/Christmas 2025 edition of the Magazine.

We are now in the leaves turning and dropping season, and the temperatures dropping in the evenings. Big coats and hats definitely out!

At the time of writing this Editorial I have looked around the two villages and seen the most wonderful displays of Poppies for Remembrance Sunday, and beyond. These displays have been a brilliant collaboration between children and grown-ups, what a precious way to remember those who we have lost, not just in the two World Wars, but in recent conflicts – and the bravery of animals who served and suffered in the Wars.

What do we have for you in this magazine? Well, the usual mind teasing Addergram from Mick. Two different initiatives to celebrate Remembrance Sunday; Silkstone Common Community HUB (Methodist church) is being utilised for all sorts of events and collaborations; the Silkstone History group have studied the 200th Anniversary of the All Saints Church pews. We have a proactive article from Janice about prevention being better than cure when it comes to criminal activity in our villages; and our Canon Keith has reflected on his role in the Parish.

Silkstone Common Junior and Infant school have shared their work on their wonderful poppy display; the Wonderfully Made event in All Saints Church has had

another successful year of Christmas cheer! Matt B continues to develop our understanding of space and layout of our gardens.

Finally, ‘What’s on Barnsley Pato’ dates and venues (Oh yes there is....!). Don’t forget the Christmas Market at the Glassworks in Barnsley town centre!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Christmas, full of new memories, and where family and friends come together, and of course ALL the very best for 2026.

Post Note: If you know someone who is on their own this Christmas, please consider giving them some of your time. Thank you.

**Sue
Editor**



Photo courtesy of Judi Gallagher



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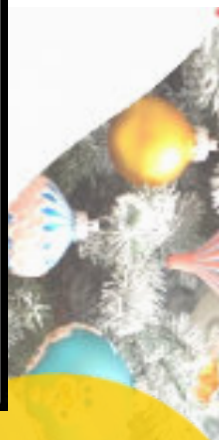
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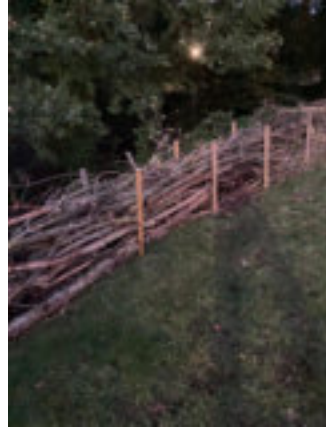
Working Together

It was an absolute pleasure to work with a number of our local Scouts one Monday evening in September.

Members of Silkstone CARE (community action in the local environment) provided an opportunity for our local scouts to learn new skills. The end result was superb. As part of the CARE biodiversity action plan we have committed to creating habitats, in the form of dead hedges, for insects and small animals.

Together we created something very special behind the Huskar rooms in Silkstone. The scouts were very happy to collect fallen branches and twigs from Conroyd Wood and then to weave and build the dead hedge. Also some scouts collected suitable material to make a bug hotel, the original basis was two unwanted wooden pallets.

All materials used were from recycled sources, preventing items going into landfill.



There was great interest from the scouts and because so many turned up on the evening we needed to split them up and send them off on different tasks. Together with dead hedge and bug house building they took it in turns to also litter pick around the playing fields.

The scouts are an asset to our community, they were a pleasure to work with, hopefully they will remember the experience.

Susan Dunwell CARE



Silkstone Church Pews

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the installation of the current box pews in Silkstone church. Since the late eighteenth century the old Georgian box pews were in a very poor state and desperately needed replacing. By 1825 the church agreed to let Joseph Moseley, of Cawthorne, carry out the required work at a final cost of £454/7/0.

The pews also ran down both the north and south aisles of the church, however in 1967 the pews were found to be rotten and infested with woodworm so they had to be removed.

In order to cover the cost of the pews they were either sold or rented to parishioners. The pews would only have been affordable to the great and the good of Silkstone, ordinary families would have been reduced to finding somewhere to stand or if they were fortunate make use of an empty pew. All the pews were numbered and those parishioners who purchased a pew laid claim to them by either adding a brass name plate or by painting their name in stylised script. As part of their house deeds, some of the older properties still standing, include a pew in Silkstone church.

Robert Couldwell Clarke's name appears frequently, as well as Noblethorpe he owned several properties in Silkstone Parish, Bullah Hall being one of them.



Thomas West, a Cawthorne landed gentleman, purchased a pew in Silkstone church. His daughter, Ann, went on to marry one of the sons of mechanical engineer and inventor, Joseph Bramah.



Brothers Joseph and John Charlesworth, coal magnates, of Field Head were responsible for the development of Higham and Dodworth Collieries.



Sunday services didn't always run smoothly. It was reported in the Leeds Times of 7th October 1854 that a fight had broken out in church, which the wardens had to break up. The family of Joseph Shaw had been allocated a large pew by the churchwardens. For some weeks the family had attended church only to find that someone had been into church earlier on and removed their cushions and books and placed them in another pew.

Richard Crawshaw, an elderly man from Dodworth had taken possession of Mr. Shaw's pew and during one Sunday service refused to move. This resulted in an argument between the two men disturbing the service and Mr Crawshaw assaulting Mr. Shaw. The case was heard at the Magistrates Court who found Mr Crawshaw guilty, and fined him 5/- and costs amounting to £1/6/-

Next time you visit the church and sit a while in the pews, consider the hundreds

of people who have sat there before you. They shared happy times, such as weddings and baptisms. Sad times, including the mass funeral of the 26 child miners lost in the Huskar disaster of 1838, and remembering the fallen of two World Wars. What stories our Silkstone ancestors could have told.

Jane Raistrick
Heritage Silkstone

Two lovely photos of Silkstone Parish Church at Sunset

by Harry Moore (age 11)





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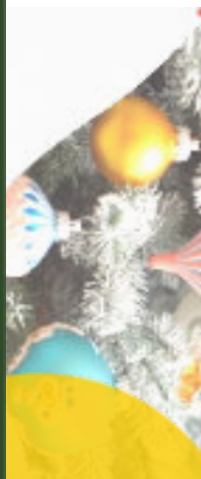


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Crafting In The Community

It was a delight to run an Autumn wreath making workshops in Silkstone Common Community Hub in October. 30 local people enjoyed learning something new, meeting like-minded people and sampling autumnal baking delights!

Diane from Silkstone Common shared her skills and knowledge and provided a very enjoyable experience. We were delighted to collect the majority of the foliage from in and around Silkstone and Silkstone Common, true recycling! Participants were shown how to make their own wreath and how to attach the foliage to design and create something unique to them. They were also shown how to make a Christmas wreath once the autumn wreath is finished, getting ready for the festive season!

This was a new event run collaboratively by members of the Silkstone Common Community Hub.



We are very keen to provide a variety of events for local people. The hub is at the centre of our village and it really does play a vital role in keeping residents connected.

As always if you are interested in the development of the Hub, please get in touch

news@silkstonecommoncommunity.uk

Susan Dunwell
CARE group



Addergram Puzzle Date : 10-Oct-25

Clues Answers

Feline animal (3)

Send fishing float and bait into the water (4)

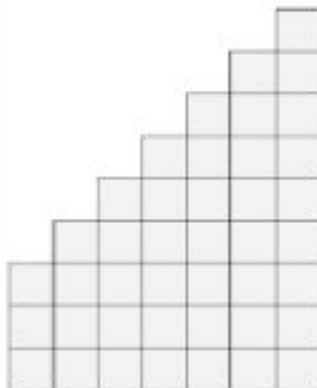
Discussions (5)

Innocent and virtuous (6)

Metal bars with catches and levers for fastening gates (7)

Tangible goods (8)

Towels for drying crockery and cutlery after washing (9)



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Addergrams is a fun daily word puzzle created by a retired Silkstone resident.

Play Addergrams online and your result can be shared on social media if you wish.

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Feedback and comments to ...

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Recipe of the Season - Xmas Biscuits

Time to prepare less than 30 mins

Cooking time 10 to 30 mins

Makes around 36 biscuits

Ingredients

- 100g/3½oz unsalted butter, softened at room temperature
- 100g/3½oz caster sugar
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 275g/10oz plain flour

To decorate

- 400g/14oz icing sugar
- 3-4 tbsp water
- 2-3 drops food colouring
- Edible glitter/silver balls etc

Method

- Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5. Line a baking tray with baking paper.
- Cream the butter and sugar together in a bowl until pale, light and fluffy.
- Beat in the egg and vanilla extract, a little at a time, until well combined.
- Stir in the flour until the mixture comes together as a dough.
- Roll the dough out on a lightly floured work surface to a thickness of 1cm/½in.
- Using biscuit cutters or a glass, cut biscuits out of the dough and carefully place onto the baking tray.



- To make into Christmas tree decorations, carefully make a hole in the top of the biscuit using a straw.
- Bake the biscuits for 8-10 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to harden for 5 minutes, then cool on a wire rack.
- For the icing, sift the icing sugar into a large mixing bowl and stir in enough water to create a smooth mixture. Stir in the food colouring.
- Carefully spread the icing onto the biscuits using a knife and add decorations. Set aside until the icing hardens.

Options

- As well as circles and stars consider Xmas trees?
- Try putting a snowman's face on, use two different colours to give the snowman a hat/scarf
- Less sugar?
 - Use 60g/2½oz soft brown muscovado sugar instead of 100g/3½oz caster sugar. Increase the vanilla extract to 2 teaspoons.
 - Use dark chocolate instead of icing sugar

Poppy Displays for Remembrance

Sunday 9th 2025

A **HUGE thank you** to everyone who dusted off their knitting needles and crochet hooks and created poppies for our displays in both villages. We were delighted to collect over 2,500 poppies. Simply a brilliant effort, it is wonderful to see what can be achieved when people pull together.

Thank you also to KDA and Home Sweet Holiday Homes for their donations.

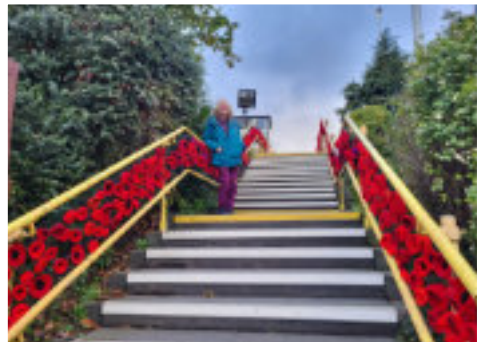
The displays were created by members of the CARE team. Putting their creative skills to work and developing displays which will last the whole remembrance period. Nothing will be wasted the poppies will be saved and used again next year.

You may have noticed that not all our poppies were red. Everyone is familiar with red poppies. The purple poppies remember the animals which served and suffered during wartime and conflict and white poppies represent a commitment to seeking non-violent solutions to conflict. Black poppies represent the contributions of black, African, and Caribbean communities to war efforts.

Also, this year we borrowed a template and created soldier silhouettes to add to the displays.

Thank you to members of the CARE team. These will also be kept and used again in the future.

Susan Dunwell
CARE Group



Poppies at Silkstone Cross



Silkstone Warm Welcome

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**Dec - 9 & 16
Jan - 6 & 20
Feb - 3 & 17
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Apr - 14 & 28**

Huskar Community Rooms - 10.00am -12.30pm

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For more information contact:**

**Richard 07966 466507, Julia 07941 527250 or
Alan 07870 191873**

It's Alive!

The Silkstone Common Community Hub is Coming to Life

The Community Hub Group is now active and working hard to bring our new Community Hub to life. The heartbeat may still be faint, but it's growing stronger by the day!

We are delighted to share that the Methodist Church has kindly agreed to allow us to use the building to create and promote a Community Hub, initially for a two-year period, following a successful six-month review.

Our vision is to nurture a vibrant, caring, and supportive community in Silkstone Common and the surrounding area, by transforming the Methodist Church building into a thriving Community Hub where community spirit can flourish and lives can be enriched through connection, care and shared purpose.

The building itself was originally created through the partnership of the Methodist Church and the Local Community and now we have the opportunity to revive that same spirit of collaboration for a new generation.

We have already held our first event, an Autumnal Wreath Workshop and what a

fantastic success it was! By Friday evening, 30 beautiful wreaths had been created and proudly carried home, now brightening doors throughout the village. Each one unique and truly brilliant.

It was wonderful to see a room full of people laughing, chatting, and helping one another, exactly what a Community Hub should be. Hopefully, it is a sign of great things to come!

We have several more events planned already, including our Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration (thanks in advance to KDA for the kind donation of the Christmas Tree) and a series of Drop-In Cafés, featuring fun activities such as Christmas decoration making. There are also a number of regular events in the pipeline including Art Classes and Researching your Family History.

Keep an eye out for updates, we would love to see you there! If you would like updates, hot off the press, please email news@silkstonecommoncommunity.uk and we will add you for email updates of village activity.

Martin Owens Silkstone Common Community Hub Group





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Ramblings of a Parish Priest...

I am often asked, 'what does a Vicar do?' and to be honest I sometimes ask myself a variant of that question, 'what am I to do?', in response to the many and varied situations that present themselves. Vicars do have job a description of sorts but I suppose the bottom line is that we have to be ready for anything. No two days are the same and it only takes one email or phone call, and my best laid plans can be thrown in to disarray! To be honest I wouldn't have it any other way. I suppose its more like a lifestyle than a job description. One of my favourite 'funnies' in response to the question from parishioners is, 'I'm paid to be good, you are good for nothing!'

There is a great tradition in the Church of England of the much loved but eccentric Vicar. I try not to reinforce this tradition and I have been described as such, but I'll leave you to decide!

My 'job' in a nutshell is summed up in three words, Prayer, People and Preaching...lots of prayer, pastoral care and short (?) pithy sermons. There is much more bolted on to that and some days I'm a mixture of building conservation officer, museum curator, graveyard advisor and cake and coffee tester. There are the services which I affectionately and with love, call 'Hatch, match and dispatch'. This where a parish priest is privileged to be alongside people in their joys and deep pain of loss and grief and where pastoral care is most keenly felt.

In my opinion, whilst I spend much of my time in and around the parish church, my ministry belongs to the whole community not just the gathered Sunday worshippers. I'm not a 'chaplain to the congregation' but a priest to the parish and for me that means four times over with a multi parish benefice....no rest for the wicked, as a parishioner ruefully commented to me recently!

If you haven't already gathered, Christmas is a coming, with it's family and community traditions which are much loved. Many of the church events have become a part of your own traditions and one of them is the Family Crib Service held in the Chancel of All Saints.

It always amazes me how the old old story comes afresh to us each year. It could perhaps become wearisome for me with six carol services, five Christingles, four Christmas fairs, three Nativities...and a Partridge in a pear tree!...but the joy and happiness that the congregation bring keeps it all fresh.

So, as you make your preparations for the Christmas season I hope you will continue to support and enjoy the open door of All Saints Church, and hear afresh the message from the angels of the hope of Peace on Earth through the gift of the babe of Bethlehem.

Your Vicar

Canon Keith

Wonderfully Made event 2025

The *Wonderfully Made* event at All Saints Church 31st October to 2nd November 2025 was another Resounding success – with lots of visitors on each day. A real community event of talent, craftsmanship and wonderful cakes!

Sue

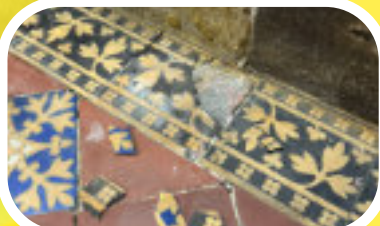
Editor



Be a saint for All Saints

In the last issue Canon Keith described the amount of work needed to maintain and repair the church. Fundraising is still needed. You can contribute on their just giving site <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/silkstonechurch>

If you'd like to sponsor a pinnacle/set of sanctuary tiles etc call in at the church on a Wednesday between 10am-1pm or email Canon Keith on beneficewestbarnsley@hotmail.com



Some of the sanctuary tiles needing repair



Reproduced with the kind permission of Dave Coverly

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Silkstone Parish Boundary walk

The Parish Boundary walk is now marked out along its full length and available for everyone to enjoy. This walk follows the footpaths closest to the parish boundary is 12 kilometres or 7.5 miles and takes in some of the most beautiful parts of our parish.

The walk is best started from any of the points in the instructions overleaf.

- Starting in Silkstone Common either from the Station Inn or The Stables coffee shop.
- In Silkstone, it can be started from: The Bells, The Red Lion, the Potting Shed or Silkstone Garage/shop.
- However, it is possible to start anywhere along the walk.

The walk is marked up in both clockwise and anti-clockwise directions though the instructions overleaf are for the anti-clockwise walk.

Look out for the hexagonal waymarkers at every change of direction. Use the map and instructions if needed.

If you start the walk in either of the village centres and prefer to just do half the walk, use the bus to return to your starting point.

The 21 and 21a services connect the villages and the timetable can be found at www.travelsouthyorkshire.com.

The distance between the two starting points at Silkstone Common and Silkstone is around a mile.

Please, don't forget..

- Close all gates behind you
- Take all litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
Take care when crossing roads and railways
Wear suitable clothing and footwear
- Respect the people who live and work in the countryside and their property.



The Waymarker



Starting in Silkstone Common either from the Station Inn or The Stables coffee shop. In Silkstone, it can be started from: The Bells, The Red Lion, the Potting Shed or Silkstone Garage/shop

Starting at the Station Inn

1. Walk from the station Inn past the bus stop and Station steps and continue past the entrance to Black Horse Drive. Just past the entrance turn left onto the Trans Pennine Trail.
2. Follow the path down on to the flat surfaced path. Follow this path to the railway bridge over Moorend Lane. Drinks can be bought from the Stables – follow the signs from the turn off just past the railway bridge. It is also possible to join this walk from the Moorend Lane – a short walk from The Stables. The walk itself continues along the Trans Pennine Trail past the stone seat. Just before the end of the woods the walk takes the path on the left into the woods.
3. Follow the path upwards through the woods and after approximately 100 meters, take the stile on the right and follow the path that goes across two fields to a track. At the track, turn left up the hill and follow the track to emerge at the main road by the farm.
4. Cross the main road and turn left back towards Silkstone Common. When you reach the next lane, turn up the lane towards the top (Champany Hill).
5. At the top of the hill by the side of the house, turn right to take the footpath that leads in a northerly direction down the hill. As it reaches the main wood, the path leads slightly right down the hill in a north-easterly direction until it eventually reaches a railway crossing.

Cross with care and take the left turn and shortly afterwards turn right. The path leads through the wood eventually emerging by the barrier, a small car park and sign to Silverwood scout camp. From here walk to the main A628 Barnsley road.

6. Cross the A628 with care and continue along Fall Head Lane. At the end of Fall Head Lane, the lane turns into a path by the edge of the wood that drops down the hill and emerges by the sewage works. Go through the metal gate and take the path over the bridge, a second bridge and around the edge of the sewage works. The path goes under (or over) a large raised pipe and turns left onto Silkstone Waggonway Trail.

If you wish to finish the half walk here or get some refreshments in Silkstone, follow the Waggonway Trail in a southerly direction to the village. The Waggonway crosses the road by the Potting Shed and continues into Silkstone village.

If you wish to start from Silkstone, take the Waggonway Trail (northerly direction) and take the rough road on the left.

7. Take the rough track that splits right from the Waggonway Trail. This leads to the Silkstone to Cawthorne road. At the road, turn left back towards Silkstone and after about 100m, opposite the start of the cottages on the left, cross the road and take the footpath along the side of the houses.
8. The footpath follows the edge of the houses, it then leads into the adjacent field. Continue uphill, enter the next field, for approximately 50 m, the footpath then goes diagonally right across the field towards the wooded valley bottom. Enter the wooded area, walk down towards the stream, cross the bridge and follow this clear path until you reach a stile. This leads into an open field and the path turns right up the field. At the top of the field turn left and follow the hedge up to the wall that marks the start of Banks Hall.
9. Cross the stile and walk straight on. Pass in front of Banks Hall. Pass through two small gates, adjacent to large farm gates. Enter a track leading away from Banks Hall. Continue walking in a straight line until eventually you arrive at South Lane.
10. At South Lane, continue in the same direction as South Lane on the parallel track. After around 130 meters, take the footpath signposted to the left down the fields to the stile at the bottom into the woods.
11. Cross Elmhirst Beck / Banks Bottom Dike and follow the path in a straight southerly direction until you reach Pye Flatts and the A628.
12. At the A628 walk (left) down the hill for around 120 metres. Cross with care to the footpath on the other side. Take the footpath across the field, over the wooded stream another field until Kine Moor Lane is reached.
13. At Kine Moor Lane, turn right (south - east) and along the lane until the first bend.
14. At the slight bend (metal gate) you enter the field and follow the public footpath. After approximately 30 metres take the footpath sign leading gently right. The footpath leads along the hedges and turns left down to Lower Storrs Wood.
15. Cross the bridge in the wood and up the path until the next path is reached which turns left into the wood (if you reach the wall with a field on the other side, you have gone a little too far). Follow the path in an approximately straight line through the wood across a woodland track before reaching a footbridge over the stream. The path goes quite steeply up the wood and a stile that leads across the edge of a field to a lane that passes Lower Coates Farm. At the lane, turn right up the hill.
16. The track leads up the hill and over the railway line. It immediately goes over another bridge where there is a left turn. Take this path which is part of the Trans Pennine Trail through the woods towards Silkstone Common.
17. To return to the Station Inn and the start of the walk, just turn left back into the village.

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SILKSTONE COMMON TEAROOM

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Fortnightly
 Everyone welcome 🍪
 12.00-12.00

Dates are: 2025

December 11th

2026

January 8th & 22nd

February 5th & 19th

March 5th & 19th

April 2nd, 16th & 30th

Crime Prevention information and advice

The darker evenings are now with us and with the festive season soon to be upon us, it can make us more vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime.

The website www.crime-statistics.co.uk does provide local crime data, though at the time of writing this, the data was historic and 2 months old. It will however give you an idea of what is happening in the parish. Most of the local crime reported does appear to be in the vicinity of the garage, where anti-social behaviour and criminal damage is on a frequent basis.

Compared to the towns around our parish, thankfully our crime is low. If anything does happen, there has been justified outrage, but then complacency settles back in.

Prevention is always better than 'cure'. So here are some reminders of crime prevention advice that can prevent you becoming a statistic. Many are obvious, but it does no harm to be reminded of good practice. Life is hectic and it is so easy to overlook things or not bother about something, until you wish you had done so as you are claiming on insurance!

The internet has loads of crime prevention advice available. The [South Yorkshire Police website](http://www.southyorkshire.police.uk) includes plenty of guidance of how to make your house, outbuildings and vehicles more secure. Some quick tips:

Outside the house:

Consider a PIR light that lights up when it detects movement. A light constantly on can deter criminals as they can be seen.

However, it can also assist them as they can see what they are doing as they break into your home! A light suddenly coming on can be startling and indicate someone is there. A constant light being on becomes the norm and so can be ignored.

Consider securing the access around your house with a gate and a strong padlock. Some houses are still open to anyone walking to the rear of a property unchecked.

CCTV, burglar alarms or a camera type doorbell are all good for deterring those with unscrupulous intent and can capture images to aid Police investigation.



Yes, these measures all incur a cost, some however do not have to be expensive; even a dummy camera is a visual deterrent. If you were a burglar, which property would you try to enter, one that looked to have strong, locked gates, a camera or burglar alarm, or the property with none of these?

We have probably all heard that most crime is planned, and certain properties or vehicles are targeted, so nothing you do will help. Having worked as a civilian with

a Police Crime Prevention team and then 26 years in the Criminal Justice system, I know from having personally spoken with convicted criminals it is still worth making it more difficult for perpetrators to commit a crime. There are still opportunist thieves around; some even simple measures can and do prevent crime or have assisted with catching those responsible.

Vehicle theft:

Apparently, any make of car is vulnerable these days; be it a high-performance vehicle for selling on, or a small run around that could be used in a crime as a getaway. Again, there are lots of deterrents that can be purchased. Many cars are already equipped with alarm systems or a tracking device, but a visual deterrent can save a broken window.



There are steering locks, rigid ones or ones that are pliable and resistant to being cut that secure into

your seat belt lock and can only be undone with a key. Thieves will mostly want to acquire a vehicle quickly so a device that slows their getaway could save them taking your vehicle and lead them to an easier target.

Christmas/Holiday Periods

If you are going away, consider informing a trusted neighbour, who can keep an eye on your property. If your driveway will be empty, offer the use of it out to others so your property looks occupied.

Consider getting plugs through which you can programme lights, TV's or TV

simulators, radios etc to on at set times to imply someone is around.



come

Another obvious thing is don't put presents under a Christmas Tree that can be easily seen through a window.

So, this is just a reminder of crime preventive measures that can be taken. However, should you become a victim of crime, I will say, as I always will, please report it! I know, I have heard too many times of '*what is the point*'. Well, areas of low crime will not be a police priority. Resources are stretched; a good use of a limited resource is to target areas of most concern. So, mostly we will rarely see a police officer here for anything other than a crime that has happened. The PCSO's who cover the parish have told me they will only be sent here to patrol if there is a concern; so, the more that is reported, the more likely the parish will see them being visible.

How to report:

Dial 999 for emergency incidents, 101 for non-urgent.

Crimestoppers are not the Police and are for guaranteed anonymous reports: Dial: 0800 555111 or website crimestoppers-uk.org

Or you can report online at southyorkshire.police.uk

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Safe New Year.

Janice Wake
Area Neighbourhood Watch
Coordinator and Parish Councillor

Silkstone Common Junior and Infants School

We were very kindly invited by the Tuesday Community Group (Silkstone Common Methodist Church) to help create a stunning display of poppies to help decorate the village.

The children collected milk cartons and, using recycled materials kindly donated by a local group of crafters, designed beautiful poppies which now hang proudly outside the school grounds.

This collaborative project was a wonderful way for everyone to come together in honour of Remembrance Sunday and both children and adults had a brilliant time creating the poppy bunting for the whole community to enjoy.

We also have some other events coming up which may be of interest to the community which are listed below:

Christmas Fayre - 4th December 5-7pm
(range of stalls and music from Silkstone Brass Band)

Silkstone Common JI School orchestra have been invited to play with Silkstone Brass Band at Silkstone Community Christmas concert - 12th December 2025.

Wreath event at Silkstone Common JI School 28th November 2025 6.30 pm.
£30 pp includes drink & festive treat
(tickets available from Michelle - 07739010645)

The school orchestra will also be travelling to London on the 10th November 2025 to play in the 'Music For Youth Proms 2025' at The Royal Albert Hall.



Friends of Silkstone Common Group & Silkstone Common JI School





What's On Panto.....



Lamproom Theatre

Panto - **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**
6 December 2025 to 3 January 2026

Box Office 01266 200075



Barnsley Civic

Panto – **Sleeping Beauty** 6 to 28 December 2025

Box Office 01226 327000



Academy Theatre

Panto – **Cinderella** 2 to 31 December 2025

Box Office 01226 744442

Addergram Solution : 10-Oct-25

Clues Answers

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Fresh puzzles available every day at : addergrams.com

There is no software to download or install, you don't need an account, no adverts are shown and no personal data is collected or stored.

Addergrams is a fun daily word puzzle created by a retired Silkstone resident.

Play Addergrams online and your result can be shared on social media if you wish.

Feedback and comments to ...

info@addergrams.com

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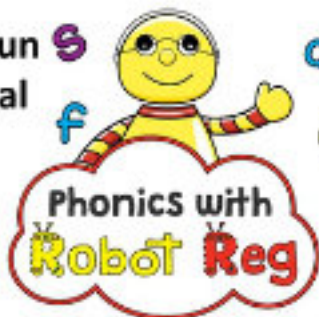
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Contact details for Ward councillors and MP

Ward Councillors

Robert Barnard:

cllrrobertbarnard@barnsley.gov.uk

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01226 382861 (Home) or 07811 430948
(mobile)

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01226 772560 (work)

John Roberts

Email: cllrjohnroberts@barnsley.gov.uk

Telephone: 01226 770770 (BMBC) 01226
774486 (work)

The postal address for all three is the office
address: Barnsley MBC, P O Box 634,
BARNSELEY S70 9GG

MP

MP Dr Marie Tidball

marie.tidball.mp@parliament.uk

<https://www.marietidball.com/>

Magazine deadlines and dates

Articles, events and adverts

If you:

- have a news item for the next issue
- want to update details for your organisation,
- advertise or amend an existing advert

please email Sue on sue@8highstreet.co.uk

The deadline for the next magazine is
Monday 23rd February 2026.

Our usual deadlines and distribution

Deadline for articles	Distribution dates
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Last week of February	Last week in March
Last week of May	Last week in June
Last week of August	Last week in September
Last week of October	Last week in November

dates are below:

Views expressed in in this magazine are
those of the Contributors and not
necessarily the views of the Parish
Council.

Parish Council website and Facebook page

www.silkstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/SilkstoneParishCouncil>

If you are a local society or business you can ask to be listed and described on the website with a link to your own website if you have one. You can find all publicly available documents on the website. If you do not have internet access and would like to view anything from our paper files please contact the Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk is also the contact for the Facebook page

Parish Councillors

Chair of the Council - Meryl Liddell

Silkstone Common Tel: 790509

meryl.liddell@btinternet.com

Richard Leech (Vice Chair)

Silkstone Tel: 01226 791679

cllrleech@silkstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Contact the Clerk

Silkstone Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Mr Richard Bell

8 The Meadows

Silkstone Common

S75 4SG

Tel : 07947545504

Email: silkstoneparishcouncil@gmail.com

Parish Council Meeting dates for Jan 2026 - Mar 2026

PC meetings are advertised in both village notice boards and on the website. They are held on the first Monday in the month in Silkstone Sports Pavilion unless stated otherwise.

Dates to the end of April are:

5th Jan

2nd Feb

2nd Mar

13th April

20th April Annual Parishioners meeting
SC Methodist Chapel

Would You like to Be a Parish Councillor and Help to Make the Parish Of Silkstone a Better Place to Live?

There are currently 2 councillor vacancies on Silkstone Parish Council.

We are looking for individuals with energy and passion, who want to make a positive difference and give back to their local community.

The work of a councillor can be extremely rewarding. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please write to or email the parish council and include details of why you would like to

apply, together with the skills and experience that you feel you would bring to the role.

If you wish to apply, require any further information about qualification for being a councillor, or just want more information about the role, please contact Richard Bell, Clerk to the Council, on silkstoneparishcouncil@gmail.com

The Station Inn



Open all day Tuesday to Saturday
Sunday & Monday 12-8 pm

Fish & Chips Thursdays & Fridays
Traditional lunch on Sundays
(booking advisable)

Pensioners Luncheon Club Mondays 12-2
(new members welcome)

Private parties catered for
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Walking and Cycling groups welcome
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www.silkstonepreschool.co.uk 01226 792294 High Street, Silkstone, S70 4JH

We have availability for children to start with us at Silkstone Pre-School in January 2026.

We have both half day and full day sessions that are available.

To book in a look around or for more information please get in touch via email on - silkstonepreschoolpg@gmail.com or alternatively via phone 01226792294.

Gardening with Matt B

Work with your garden

From the last article we now have a garden layout to blend into your existing garden.

Working with your space is a great way to both achieve a fantastic space, but also to give character to your garden that nowhere else can have. It's also a great way to keep costs lower.

There are some key fundamental aspects to working with your garden;

Ground Level Changes

Level changes across a garden are something which, of late, seem to be abhorred. However, they are a key component of interesting gardens. Working creatively with changes in level can really enhance the journey through a garden and whilst initially can pose some issues, really will elevate a space.

Some elements do of course need to be level, patios for example. However, keep these to a minimum, and link spaces together using your existing ground changes. Working in this way creates some unique design opportunities. Steps are a great example of this, a functional element of level change, which can be turned into a stunning feature. Think of grand staircases in stately homes, often a celebrated focal point.

Equally as important as rising levels are sunken areas. Natural depressions should be exploited. Often damp they can be used creatively to form water features,

ponds, differing planting styles, again increasing interest and also vital habitats.

Materials & Vernacular

Now we have a layout it's time to choose materials for hard surfaces. There are a plethora of materials available, but where to start.

A great place to take inspiration is from the local area, or local vernacular. Using natural materials from the local area is a sure-fire way to link the garden to its place, a design consideration known as *genius loci*. We have lots of natural sandstone locally, which can be a great place to start. You can also look to architectural cues, using materials from your property, or properties in your views, to bring these materials into the garden giving consistency and clarity of design.

Conversely, a sharp contrast against local materials can create a unique design statement. This is something which I love to do, blending local and contemporary materials to create something very different and yet still linked to that sense of place.

Planting

Planting is a big topic we will cover further in the next article. However, the key element is to work with your space. We took notes in previous articles on damp areas, sunny spots etc. which are invaluable for planting. Working with your

garden to select plants which are happy in those locations.

Planting in this way not only leads to a happy and healthy garden, it also looks right. A woodland setting with a sunflower in, feels a bit off, but a lush green fern, perfect.

Overall, combining your layout with your existing garden will create a really unique space for you to enjoy and provides an overall tapestry of individual gardens in the local area. This tapestry has a huge benefit to the wider area by creating unique habitats. So work with your space, don't fight against it.



lending local and contemporary materials
– RHS Wentworth – Biggins Hill Studio



RHS Wentworth – Work with your garden –
Biggins Hill Studio



Steps – Making a feature – Underlit –
Biggins Hill Studio

Matt B

Christmas Services 2025 Silkstone

Christingle Service Sunday December 21st 11am All Saints Cawthorne
and Carol Service 6pm, All Saints Silkstone

Christmas Eve Crib Service 3pm All Saints Silkstone

Midnight Holy Communion Christmas Eve 11.30pm St Johns Church
Dodworth

Christmas Morning Service 10am All Saints Silkstone

Christmas Cutler Café, Saturday 22 November 2pm – 4pm, All Saints
Church

Maria Penrose
DANCE Studios



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MODERN JAZZ

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Rooms for hire



Huskar Community Rooms

What's on this Winter

Monday to Thursday & Saturday : Maria Penrose Dance Studio
Monday to Thursday : Scouts, Cubs, Beavers & Brownies

Monday Morning – Mini Kixx (Pre School Football); Pilates and Yoga
Tuesday Morning – Parish Warm Welcome
Friday Afternoon – Robot Reg Phonics; Silkstone Swiftlets Netball Training

Sunday November 16th – Autumn Wellness (All day event)
Sunday February 8th – Winter Wellness (All day event)

Available for parties and events of all kinds,
Scan the QR code above,
10% discount if you live in the Parish,
Quote Autumn 10 when booking.
<https://hallbookingonline.com/huskar/>

Book on <https://hallbookingonline.com/huskar> or scan the QR code

Looking for the Perfect Local Venue? - Silkstone Common Methodist Church Hall Room is available for hire!

Whether you're hosting a coffee morning, running a craft or exercise group, planning a family gathering, or organising a seasonal celebration — our lovely village church has a room that could be just the space you need.

-  A welcoming, medium-sized room
-  Adjoined kitchen for refreshments
-  Ideal for community get-togethers, learning, sharing and support

 A space where people of all ages already come together to connect, reflect and grow.

Let's bring more life into this wonderful community building — your group or event could be the next to make use of it! Booking enquiries: Call Elvin Athey on 01226 791 999 Or email: info@silkstonecommoncommunity.uk



Local Organisations

General

Silkstone Common Good Companions

Provides companionship, entertainment and recreation for people aged 55+ who live locally. Meets fortnightly on Wednesdays 2-4pm in the Methodist Church Hall. New members are very welcome. Varied programme including speakers, trips and entertainers. Younger helpers urgently required. Annual subscription £20. For more information contact Bev Almond on 07502303470 or email bjalmond@hotmail.co.uk

Silkstone Luncheon Club for the over 60s

Meets every Monday at 12 o'clock in the The Station Inn, Silkstone Common. New members always welcome. Please call Stuart Moody Chairman 01226 49683 Or Stuart Jubb Secretary & Treasurer 01226 790704

Stainborough Rotary are the local Rotary covering the Parish.

We meet every Thursday at The Fairway Hotel, Dodworth at 7.30 pm. For details contact Ian Whittle 07809630759 or stainboroughrotary@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Janice Wake, Neighbourhood Watch Area Coordinator
janicewake@btinternet.com
07540957639

New Swaine WI

Meet on 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.15pm in Hoylandswaine Village Hall and at additional times throughout the month. Contact:

Newswainewi@outlook.com

Silkstone - St Florent Twinning Organisation

Contact Elizabeth Waterlow
email liz.waterlow@hotmail.co.uk
tel 07986264481

Tuesday Group

We meet in the Methodist Chapel, Ben Bank Road, Silkstone Common, every week on Tuesday 2 o'clock - 4.

Some of us enjoy doing crafts, such as sewing & knitting but others love to come for a cuppa, cake and a good old natter.

Everyone is welcome.

Please just turn up or you can contact Mary (07942894029) for more information.

Silkstone/Silkstone Common Village News and Community Group

Facebook community group for locals

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/860075201163623>

Rooms for Hire

Huskar Community Rooms

Purpose built Community Centre with two large rooms (each is 99 sq. metres), reception area, and fully equipped kitchen.

To book please visit <https://hallbookingonline.com/huskar/> or email huskarrooms@outlook.com.
Or use this QR code



Methodist chapel Church Hall

A welcoming, medium-sized room. adjoining kitchen for refreshments

Booking enquiries: Call Elvin Athey on 01226 791 999 Or email: info@silkstonecommoncommunity.uk

Local Organisations

Sports/Activities

Silkstone United FC

DJ Walker 07730 039599

Yorkshire Regional Talent Centre

Under 6's – U 16's Contact Steve Fletcher
07990 805694

Silkstone United Cricket Club

Contacts:

Junior Coordinator – Lee Willford 07931
298213 - lee.willford@gmail.com

SUCC Senior / Main Contact – Kevin Taylor
07462 877416

kevin.taylor@plascompo.com

Website : www.silkstoneutd.play-cricket.com

Facebook : [Silkstone UTD C.C.](https://www.facebook.com/SilkstoneUTDCC)

Twitter : @SilkstoneCC

Silkstone Common Sports & Recreation Association

Secretary - Michael Winder
Tel - 07719392775

snappylad@outlook.com

Rising Sun Martial Arts

Karate / Kickboxing Thursday
6:00pm - 7:00pm (Children & Adults)

Silkstone Common Methodist Church
Hall, Ben Bank Road, S75 4PA

Chief Instructor: Master M.T. Middleton
Tel: 07904 700786

Web: www.risingsunmartialarts.co.uk

Barnsley BSAC Divers

Meets every Tuesday 7:30 onwards in the
Boardroom at the Metrodome.

Contact: Dave on 07783 291955 or visit
the website

www.barnsleybsacddivers.co.uk

Pilates, Power Pilates and Yoga

Silkstone Common Methodist Church

Tuesdays

Pilates 5.20-6.20 pm & 6.25-7.25 pm

Yoga Flow 7.30-8.30 pm

Thursdays

Power Pilates 7.15-8.15 pm

Contact (to book) Tracy (Fitness for all)
07398 238691

Music

Old Silkstone Band

Rehearsals - Silkstone Common
Methodist Church. Sunday 7pm - 9pm,
Wednesday 8pm - 10pm

Contact - Secretary Danni Brookes 07540
240703

Email oldsilkstoneband@outlook.com

Web site www.oldsilkstoneband.com

Facebook [Old Silkstone Band](https://www.facebook.com/OldSilkstoneBand)

X (Twitter) @OldSilkstone

Instagram [old_silkstone_band](https://www.instagram.com/old_silkstone_band)

TikTok @oldsilkstoneband

Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir.

Practice night is Mondays in Millhouse
Green Institute at 7.30. Secretary:
Richard Craven 07895 555113

Email: mgmvc@hotmail.co.uk

Web site www.mgmvc.co.uk

Silkstone Bell Ringers

We welcome visiting bands and can
arrange ringing for weddings and other
special occasions. Would you be
interested in learning to ring or are you
experienced and willing to help

Contact: Mrs J Jennings 01226790080
juliajennings27@gmail.com

Local Organisations

Children

Silkstone Pre-School Playgroup Ltd

Ofsted registered offering Full Day Care, Sessional Care, Wrap around Care for children up to 11 years. Open Mon-Fri 7.30am to 4:30 pm

Email silkstonepreschoolpg@gmail.com

Shining Stars Out of School Club

We cater for children aged 4 – 11 years and provide high quality, affordable, reliable and accessible childcare from 7.30am to 9am and from 3.30pm to 6pm during term time.

Contact: email at shiningstars@silkstoneprimary.com

phone on 07591630348

Shake Rattle and Roll Children's Music Group

From babies up to pre-school children are welcome at our friendly group. Please also bring along mum, dad or carer to join in an hour of engaging musical fun, action and rhyme. We meet every Friday during term time at 10am in Silkstone Common Methodist Church. Refreshments for adults and children are provided. Attend just when you like. No booking or commitments.

Find out more <http://www.facebook.com/srrmusicgroup>

Contact: srrmusicgroup@gmail.com
Michelle 07739010645

9th Barnsley (Silkstone) Scout Group: Huskar Community Rooms

Monday Scouts 19:00 - 20:30
Aged 10 - 14

Tuesday Cubs 18:30 - 19:30
Aged 8 - 10

Wednesday Beavers 18:30 - 19:30
Aged 6 - 8

All queries and membership to the Group Scout Leader rob.flewitt@barnsleyscouts.org.uk

Childminders

For details of registered childminders please ring Families Information Service on: 0800 034 5340.

Schools

Silkstone Common Junior & Infant School

Moorend Lane, Silkstone Common. Educates children 4-11 yrs. The school is interested in developing the use of the school outside normal school hours.

Contact: Mr Simon Tabbner 790471

Visit <http://www.silkstonecommonji.co.uk/>

Silkstone Primary School

Educates children 4-11 yrs. The school is interested in developing the use of the school outside normal school hours.

Contact: Ms Sally Adams 790333

Visit <http://silkstoneprimary.com/>

Local Organisations

Environment & Local History

Silkstone CARE Group

Caring for and improving our natural environment by planting hedges, trees, shrubs and bulbs, clearing paths, litter-picking plus other activities. Tools available on free loan for environmental projects.

Contact:

Susan Dunwell 07973 310925

susanwareham@talktalk.net

Karen Gorman 07788 185502

kgorman963@btinternet.com

Linda Marsh 07792321829

lmxx.13@gmail.com

Roggins Local History Group (Silkstone)

We collect, preserve and share photographs, stories and memories of Silkstone, Silkstone Common and the surrounding areas

Contact: Andy Horsfield

email rogginshistorygroup@gmail.com

01226 791929

Heritage Silkstone

Local and family history on your doorstep. We meet in Silkstone church every Wednesday between 10am to 2pm. AND Cutler Cafe on the last Saturday of every month between 10 am to 12 noon.

Website address

www.heritagesilkstone.co.uk .

Facebook page [Heritage Silkstone](#).

Contact:

Jane Raistrick, secretary, 01484 868254

Churches - The Benefice of West Barnsley

All Saints' and St James the Greater Silkstone with Stainborough 9.15 am 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month.

St John the Evangelist, Hoylandswaine 11.00am 2nd and 4th Sundays

St John the Baptist, Dodworth 9.15am 1st and 3rd Sundays. Holy Communion Service every Thursday 9.30am followed by a Coffee Morning

All Saints' Cawthorne 11.00am 1st and 3rd Sunday. Last Tuesday in the month 10.00am Holy Communion service

Benefice website:

<http://www.beneficewestbarnsley.org.uk>

Vicar: Rev Canon Keith Farrow DL
The Vicarage, 12 High Street
Silkstone, S75 4JN

Telephone: 01226 958027

For enquiries about Weddings, funerals and general enquiries please contact the Benefice Administrator:

Mrs Loraine Wills

Email beneficewestbarnsley@hotmail.com

Mob: 07973 381131

For Baptism enquiries contact the Benefice Baptism Coordinator:

Mrs Lynn Wilkinson

Email: lynnw1308@googlemail.com

Mob: 07876 750983