

A little taste of what Thornborough has to offer this Christmas.....

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL**



**13TH DECEMBER
10AM – 4 PM**

- ★ See beautifully decorated Christmas trees from village organisations and families
- ★ Home-made produce and crafts
 - ★ Hot food and drink
 - ★ Children's activities
- ★ Carols in the morning



**FRI 19TH
DEC
6.30PM**

CAROLS

AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE VILLAGE GREEN, THORNBOROUGH

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES AVAILABLE!
(TO REDUCE WASTE, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING YOUR OWN MUG)

COME AND JOIN US!

CASH DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED TOWARDS THE COST OF THE TREE AND ELECTRICITY.
DONATION BOX NOW IN THE TWO BREWERS PUB AS WELL AS TAKING CASH DONATIONS ON THE NIGHT.
PLEASE SUPPORT IF YOU CAN!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT RACHAEL AVERY ON RKAVERY@ME.COM

Thornborough News

December 2025 – February 2026

Thornborough Village Hall update



The Village Hall continues to go from strength to strength with increased bookings, our fabulous

Hall Manager Nikki Standing and we are delighted to welcome TWO new committee members Les Davis & Deborah Wilson.

We are also very excited to announce that the Village Hall now has a NEW AV system that is up to date and easy to use!!!! You can Bluetooth to your device - there are now 4 very efficient speakers and a new projector screen and microphone.

We have been able to upgrade these facilities with a very generous gift from a Thornborough family for which we are most grateful as it completes the hall refurbishment in fine style – THANK YOU!

Also huge thanks to David Telford who made it happen and Steve Quainton who made good where the old system had been, almost before we turned around!

We've just had our Autumn committee meeting and agreed a number of maintenance items to ensure the hall stays looking good. We'll report how we get in the next Thornborough News edition.

Hall rates of hire remain a very attractive £12 per hour for residents and these rates will be held for 2026!!

If you would like any more information about these or any hall activity have a look at our website

<https://thornboroughvillagehall.com> or contact Nikki Standing our Hall Manager via the website or on **+44 7872 1948565**.

Liz Julier – Secretary, Village Hall Committee



CHRISTMAS AT TWIGS NURSERIES



PREMIUM NORDMAN FIR CHRISTMAS TREES

Hand-made wreaths - Christmas shop - free children's trail (with prize) - Pot grown trees & more

Thornborough Parish Council (TPC) Report

The final TPC meetings of 2025 have now taken place. Flooding is again covered separately – please see page 13.

The Sir Harry Moore Sports Pavilion

TPC has now received the professional ‘condition of the building’ survey report for the Pavilion. The survey report confirms the building is sound but identifies the need for a significant amount of maintenance work. A detailed plan for that work will now be developed for TPC to discuss at its next meeting.

Budget Setting and Precept Requirement for Financial Year 2026/7

This work is well underway. TPC approved the Finance Group recommendations at its recent meeting. The Finance Group will meet again in early January to enable TPC to approve the 2026/7 budget and precept requirement in time for Buckinghamshire Council’s deadline at the end of the month.

Temporary Closure of the Buckingham Recycling Centre

Buckingham Household Recycling Centre will be closing for up to 14 weeks from 4pm on Sunday 30th November 2025. The site is due to reopen again before the end of March 2026. The closure is for essential drainage works to be carried out to ensure the site remains legally compliant.

Buckinghamshire Council is currently finalising arrangements to help residents with their waste during the closure. So far the plans include a one-off Christmas tree collection service and a limited additional kerbside collection service. Additional bags will be available to allow residents to dispose of small amounts of extra general waste during the closure. Branded Council bags will be available for collection by residents from Buckingham Library and the Recycling Centre gate to enable residents to present one additional bag per general waste collection.

TPC has already disseminated information about the planned closure via Thornborough eNews and the Buckinghamshire Council notification has been published on its website: [Buckingham HRC temporary closure.pdf](#). Any local council updates from Buckinghamshire Council will be made available to residents as further arrangements are made to mitigate the impact of the Recycling Centre closure.

The next meeting of TPC is scheduled for Wednesday 21 January 2026. at 7pm, in Thornborough Village Hall. The meeting agenda will be published a week before the meeting on the TPC noticeboard outside Thornborough Village Hall and the TPC website: <https://www.thornborough-pc.gov.uk/>. The draft minutes from all meetings of the parish council are normally published a week after the meeting.

Alison Robinson - Clerk, Thornborough Parish Council
clerk@thornborough-pc.gov.uk - 07756 247186

WE ARE THRILLED TO
INVITE YOU TO

THORNBOROUGH UNDER 5S CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER
2 - 3.30PM

THORNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

Bring your little ones along for an afternoon
of Christmas cheer!

🎁 Festive fun & games

🍪 Seasonal snacks

👴 A special visit from Father Christmas!

★ 🆓 Free of charge & open to children under
5 who live in the village

✉ Please RSVP with your child's name, age
& any dietary requirements to Hannah at
Han_davies@hotmail.co.uk by 14th
November.

Reflection from the Rectory by Rev'd Jacqueline Dove

I'm writing this with an eye on the start of Advent on the 30th November. Advent is one of my favourite seasons in the Church Calendar. It's a time when I put into action the creative art on my office door which says SLOW DOWN. Life has a habit of getting busy, of becoming overwhelming, especially as we head towards Christmas. Advent wasn't designed to be like that. Advent is a time for slowing down, for contemplation, or re-evaluating what is important in our lives, engaging soulfully with the depths of God's love for us. Advent is perhaps surprisingly, the beginning of the Christian calendar. In the church, the year doesn't start with "New Year, New Me," but with waiting—tired, hopeful, sceptical waiting—for a Savior who shows up as... a baby. Probably not the action hero we ordered.

Advent always ends on December 24, and then Christmas begins and lasts until January 6 (Yes, *those* twelve days. Are certain songs making more sense now?). Advent and Christmas are as different as different could be. While Christmas is all joy-fulfilled and "fa-la-la," Advent is more like: we're in the dark, holding a candle, and really hoping the light shows up soon.

I'm looking forward to the beautiful Advent Carol Service in Thornborough Church on the 30th November at 6pm and reading the daily Advent reflections from Kate Bowler on Everything Happens. I'll print a few off and leave them in the Church Porch. You can also email me on revjdove@gmail.com and I'll forward them to your email.

Hope to see you at the Christmas Tree Festival (CTF) on the 13th and the Nine Lessons and Carols at 5pm on the 21st. The winner/s of the CTF will be announced at the Christingle service on the 24th. It's nearly Merry Christmas time but not quite yet. Lots of love and prayers.

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



13TH DECEMBER
10AM – 4 PM

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St Mary's Church Services and Events

Dec	7 th	11.00am	Joint Church and Chapel at the Chapel
	14 th	4.00pm	WILD Christmas Party at Nash Village Hall
	15 th	10.30am	Toddler Church Crib Service at Whaddon Church
	21st	5.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols with Lenborough Singers
	24th	5.00pm	Christingle and Carols
		8.00pm	First Mass of Christmas
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass at Nash
	25th	9.00am	Family Communion
	28 th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion at Nash
Jan	4 th	11.00am	Joint Church and Chapel in the Chapel

News and Events

It was really lovely to have the church nearly full for the Harvest Festival thanks to the participation of the Thornborough Infant School following a lovely candlelit Harvest Supper in the Church eating very yummy food. Thanks to Jan Davies and her team of flower arrangers for great Harvest flower arrangements. There was also good turnout for the joint Church and Chapel Remembrance Sunday Commemoration. Thanks to Stuart for playing the bugle for us.

Dates for your diaries

Church Café and Porch Sales – the 2nd Saturday of each month, 10-12noon at St Mary's Church, offering free tea and coffee.

Church Café will be serving bacon butties in December as part of the Christmas Tree Festival (see advert).

Christmas Tree Festival in the church on 13th Saturday, 10-4pm. We are thrilled with the number of entries for the Christmas Tree Festival with many village organisations and individuals taking part. See advert for more information.

Listen out for our **new bellringers** who are hoping to be ready to ring the bells for the **9 Lessons and Carols on Sunday the 21st December at 5pm.**



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Thornborough Methodist Chapel



Christmas is about the birth of God's Son – Jesus. It is about how he came to give us love, hope, joy and salvation. It is also about reconciliation, both with God and with one another, offering forgiveness and a new beginning. That message doesn't change from year to year. When there is so much bad news and devastation in the world, this is good news worth celebrating! Come to chapel to find out more. Meanwhile we wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Our usual activities continue as normal:

Drop-In: Held **every Wednesday** in our lounge area between 10.30am-12.30pm. Anyone can pop in for a chat, meet/make friends and have free refreshments. On the second Wednesday of the month, we hold a Bring & Buy sale. **Note there will be no Drop-in on December 24 or 31.**

Meet & Eat: For £6, this popular **monthly** event consists of a two-course lunch followed by coffee and mints. If you'd like to come, **please contact Katy Morris** to book a place.

Lyrics and Lunch: Another popular **monthly** event is a time for carers to come with their loved ones, who have dementia, to share singing well-known popular songs and some kind of meal/snack and a short thought for the day. If you are interested, **please contact Katy Morris for details.**

Chapel Meeting Room: To hire, **please call Louise Springall on 07775 847247 (evenings best) or ldspringall@hotmail.co.uk.**

Chapel Garden: Please feel free to come and see the garden at the back of the chapel. There are a couple of pews and a bench to sit on.

Here are some of our future services. Please come along, you'll be most welcome.

Sunday 7 th December	11am – United Service in chapel
Sunday 14 th December	11am – Preacher Paul Kybird
Sunday 21 st December	11am – Preacher David Lewis
Christmas Day	9.30am - TBC
Sunday 28 th December	11am – Preacher Carina Shergold
Sunday 4 th January	11am Preacher Andrew Shergold. United service in chapel
Sunday 11 th January	11am – Preacher John Boxwell
Sunday 18 th January	11am – Preacher Tim Edworthy HC and Covenant service
Sunday 25 th January	11am – Preacher Jenny Boxwell
Sunday 1 st February	11am – United Service in St Mary's
Sunday 8 th February	11am - Preacher Carina Shergold
Sunday 15 th February	11am – Preacher Alan Peters

The Festive Season Begins at Thornborough Infant School!

The countdown to Christmas is officially on and the excitement is truly palpable! The children are already embracing the festive spirit, and we can't wait to welcome you to **our Community Café on Tuesday 3rd December, from 2–4pm**. There will be plenty to enjoy, including a raffle, a children's tombola, a bottle tombola and a wonderful selection of delicious homemade bakes. **A highlight of the afternoon will be the children's performance of Christmas songs at 2:45pm**. Everyone is warmly invited, and if you have little ones aged 2–4, why not combine your visit with our Stay and Play session in school from **2pm**? Raffle tickets are on sale now from the school office whenever we're open.



As always, learning has been full of curiosity and creativity. This term, the children have been exploring themes of transport and mapping, with KS1 working especially hard on creating aerial maps of our beautiful village. Key Stage 1 have also been representing the school brilliantly in recent sports festivals against Padbury and Great Horwood Schools, showing off their fantastic PE skills and team spirit. We're also delighted to share that the children have contributed artwork to the Waddesdon Manor Christmas display. So, if you're visiting over the festive period, be sure to keep an eye out for their creations!

December is set to be a busy month for our young performers, as the children will be out and about in the village taking part in various community events. We hope to see many of you there, sharing in the joy of the season with us. You are warmly invited to our dress rehearsal of **our Nativity play in the Church at 2pm on Wednesday 17th December**. A great way to get into the festive spirit!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
The whole Thornborough Infant School team.

Thornborough Cricket Club Update



The Cricket Club brought down the curtain on a marquee summer with a well-attended end-of-season event at the Villiers Hotel, Buckingham, expertly organised by Mark “Slats” Slater.

Speeches were made, prizes were given and we took the opportunity to look back on a hugely enjoyable season when the sun shone and results tended to go our way.

One highlight of the evening was the presentation of mementos to members of the Thornborough Roses, who enjoyed an encouraging debut summer, ensuring that women’s cricket is now firmly established as part of the Club’s offer.

The thriving junior section also enjoyed their end-of-season event at the Village Hall.

The focus will soon switch once again to the future, with 2026 set to be another landmark year for the Club. I’ll say more about these new challenges on the horizon in the next newsletter.

For now, it remains for me to thank all our sponsors and other volunteers and supporters in the village for their backing.

The expansion that the Club has gone through in recent seasons simply would not have been possible without you. Officials and players from other teams often say how impressed they are at the amount of cricket this village sustains at a time when others are cutting back. That is down, in large part, to you.

With costs and demands on the playing area ever increasing, we hope that we can continue to rely on your support in future, as we do all we can to ensure that Thornborough Cricket Club remains an asset to the village and an amenity that everyone can be proud of.

A very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2026 to all!

David Owen - Secretary davidowen58@aol.com

Thornborough Flood Action Group update

TFAG are making good progress in conjunction with Bucks Council Flood Team, Highways Area Liaison, IDB (Internal Drainage Board), local Riparian Owners and Landowners. Monthly meetings and site visits have taken place. We are attempting to target the issues that we believe have major impact on flooding in the village.

We all need to recognise that Thornborough is sitting in a valley with water flowing down towards us from both sides. In times of extreme weather the village floods as the high levels of water are unable to leave the village at a sufficient speed to prevent flooding.

As they did a few years ago, the IDB are now coming out before the end of the year to clear the silt and excess vegetation at Lower End Bridges to ensure the flow of water into Cowerde Brook is not restricted in any way.

The Highways Local Area Technician met with TFAG members to discuss road drainage improvements. When funding becomes available in Spring 2026, they will be recutting some of the grips and checking kerbside weirs that take water off into roadside ditches. They are aware of a couple of blocked drains and will hope to clear them early in the new year, but please let us know of any drains causing problems near your property.

The Bucks Flood Team expert on Natural Flood Management is working with TFAG to consider ideas to slow the water up before it gets to the village from Tonne Brook. We are being considered for options that would be designed and constructed with possible funding pots available in Spring 2026 and Autumn 2026.

What you can do to help

We now have an accurate map of drains and sewers. Please let us know if you are keeping an eye on a drain near you!

We need more volunteers to join the TFAG group to offer ideas and discuss suggestions to help solve some of our flooding problems in Thornborough.

TFAG November 2025

Claydon Auctioneers

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WI Report - October 2025 by Pam King

We have had a varied Autumn programme at WI this year, starting with seated Tai Chi and Qi Gong, a “have a go session” with Jan Roberts. Some members had done this before, but we all enjoyed having a go. The “Fruit Flavoured Spirits in time for Christmas!” later in the month was a great success, and members and friends will be enjoying the results in the months to come.



November started with a group from the WI braving the weather to plant our “Queen Elizabeth” tree in the Coombs woods. Our November meeting brought Tim Verey to talk to us on “Life at Manor Farm” and how that has had to evolve with the pressures of modern farming economics, but also the benefits to wildlife. We also had our AGM. Last week, the WI trip to Highgate Cemetery was, despite the cold, really interesting, and the guide very informative.



Our “Christmas” meeting on **3rd December** is always a bit different, and festive. **Jacky Allen** from “Rock those Frocks” in Towcester will be bring us a fashion show – I think, if we would like to, we are invited to be the models! We will also be collecting for the Women’s refuge as usual, gifts for Mums and children (unwrapped) as well as useful household items.

In **January** we have our “Christmas meal out” at Thornborough Village Hall! We are pleased to have Alice Woodyard catering for us again, so the evening will be very special with delicious food and great company.

At our **4th February** meeting Nikki Scott will be teaching us how to "reconnect with your pelvic floor", very useful for ladies of all ages!

On **4th March** Pauline Hardman will be discussing Scam awareness.

Thornborough and Thornton WI meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome. Most meetings are also broadcast via Zoom for WI members who cannot attend in person. **New members are always very welcome.**

You can contact us via email at: thornboroughandthorntonwi@gmail.com or visit our website for further information about our Women's Institute (WI): <http://www.thornboroughandthorntonwi.weebly.com> Alternatively, just come along to one of our meetings and see what we get up to!

Additionally for any other enquiries, including our local catering provision, you can contact Liz (our President) on 07788 872717 or Suzanne (our Secretary) on 07805 869498.

ADVANCE NOTICE of 2026 SPRING LUNCH

(previously the "Spring Party")



Thornborough Fundraisers will be taking on this traditional event for next year.



**The Spring Lunch will be on Saturday 21st March 2026
in Thornborough Village Hall**

Anyone aged 65 or over in the Parish of Thornborough and Thornton is welcome to apply for a place.

(This includes mixed aged couples where one is 65 or over.)

We will be asking for a **£5 non-refundable deposit per person** to secure a place. **Places will be on a first come first served basis** as numbers are limited and this is a very popular event.

Bookings will be taken from February 1st.

Details to follow nearer the time on Thornborough eNews and posters around the Parish.

Owlswick Morris Dancers – Is this for you?!!

If you've been out and about in Buckinghamshire over the summer you may have come across local Morris dancers **and noticed that something is changing**. It's no longer a requirement of most Morris sides that members have big beards and a pewter pint-pot. **Women and young people are playing an increasingly important part in keeping this centuries-old tradition going.**

Owlswick Morris, now based near Buckingham, was one of the first to welcome female dancers. The side was founded in 1982 by six friends, former Morris men, who practised at the Shoulder of Mutton in Owlswick, south Bucks. In 1985 women joined them and after 40 years the mixed side still flourishes as **a sociable all-age group, dancing in the Cotswold tradition, supported by the irresistible music of squeezeboxes, flute, drums and the occasional banjo or fiddle.**

What, though, is Morris all about? No-one really knows. Maybe the sticks symbolised animal and human fertility or the weapons used in hand-to-hand fighting; maybe the bells and hankies were intended to scare away evil spirits. Maybe Morris ("Moorish"?) came to the medieval English court from Africa and was adopted by villagers who put their regional stamp on the movements, costumes and music. Records show that by 1557 "Morrays-Daunsars" were receiving food and drink for dancing at Whitsun. Donations from the audience often supplemented agricultural wages in the following centuries - nowadays charities benefit from anything put into the hat.

"Sides" like Owlswick still get involved in traditional celebrations: orchard wassailing in January, spring's arrival on May 1st, and Mummers' Plays at Christmas, but they're also active at pubs, folk festivals and community events throughout the year.

It's good fun and brilliant exercise. Owlswick's winter practices, on Tuesday evenings at Twyford Village Hall, are just beginning, so this is the perfect time to see if Morris (or step clog, another speciality of the side) is for you. **Musicians also welcome!**

Contact Penny on 07721 068449 or email owlswick.morris@gmail.com

www.owlswickmorris.org/



Thornborough and Thornton Fundraisers

On behalf of the fundraisers, a huge thank you for
your support this year;

We wish you all a great Christmas!

If your 2026 resolution is to start a community project with a need for funds, we are looking for our next project. **Please come along to our meeting on 8th January** and present it to us, with details of your project, with quotes and any current funding you may have sourced.

**If you would like to attend or want more details
please contact me: gwynnegrayson@aol.com**

We can't promise to help every project, but we will certainly consider all of them.

Happy New Year!

Must Have Diary Dates

EVENT	WHERE?	WHEN?
		2025
<i>Bucks Recycling Centre - TEMPORARY CLOSURE TILL END MARCH 26</i>		
Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's	Sat 13th Dec - 10-4pm
T'boro U5s Xmas Party	Village Green	Sun 14th Dec - 2-3.30pm
Carols Around the Xmas Tree	The Green	Fri 19th Dec - 6.30pm
Nine Lessons and Carols	St Mary's	Sun 21st Dec - 5pm
Christingle Service	St Mary's	Weds 24th Dec - 5pm
Midnight Mass	Nash	Weds 24th Dec - 11.30pm
Christmas Day Service	Chapel	Christmas Day - 9.30am
		2026
Children's Christmas Panto Trip	The Venue. MK	Sat 3rd Jan - Noon -c.4pm
Over 65s Spring Lunch	Village Hall - TBC	Sat 21st March -Time - TBC
T'boro Annual Fun Runs	Village Green	Sun 6th Sept - 10am



Two-Acre Secure Dog Walking Field

Looking for a safe & secure field to walk your dogs? Thornborough Paws has 6' fencing, secure airlock carparking, fresh water, field shelter and a 2.5 x 2.5 m sandpit!

Booking is via our website and please have a look at our Facebook page which has lots of useful information.

<https://boundr.co.uk/field/thornborough-paws/>

QR Code
Book **HERE**:



Thornborough Paws
Facebook:



LOCAL EVENTS DIARY – SAVE THE DATES

EVENT	WHERE?	WHEN?
Chapel Weekly Drop-In	Chapel	EVERY Weds - 10.30-12.30
Woodlands Work Party Volunteers	The Old Depot, Coombs	EVERY Mon - 9.00-12.00
Post Office & Banking	Village Hall	EVERY Weds - 2-3pm
Bucks Recycling Centre - TEMPORARY CLOSURE TILL END MARCH 26		
		December
Meet & Eat	Chapel	Mon 1st Dec - lunch time
Community Café & Xmas Songs	Village Hall	Weds 3rd Dec - 2-4pm
<i>Infant School Stay & Play</i>	<i>Infant School</i>	<i>Weds 3rd Dec - 2-3pm</i>
WI monthly meeting & Fashion Show	Village Hall	Weds 3rd Dec - 7.30pm
Woodlands Work Party Volunteers	The Old Depot, Coombs	Sat 6th Dec - 9am-Noon
Jt Church & Chapel Service	Chapel	Sun 7th Dec - 11am
<i>Church Café & Porch Sales</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>Sat 13th Dec - 10-Noon</i>
Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's	Sat 13th Dec - 10-4pm
Tboro U5s Xmas Party	Village Hall	Sun 14th Dec - 2-3.30pm
WILD Xmas Party	Nash Village Hall	Sun 14th Dec - 4pm
Infant School Nativity Play	St Mary's	Weds 17th Dec - 2pm
Carols Around the Xmas Tree	The Green	Fri 19th Dec - 6.30pm
<i>Nine Lessons and Carols</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>Sun 21st Dec - 5pm</i>
Christingle Service	St Mary's	Weds 24th Dec - 5pm
<i>Midnight Mass</i>	<i>Nash</i>	<i>Weds 24th Dec - 11.30pm</i>
Christmas Chapel Service	Chapel	Thurs 25th Dec - 9.30am
		January 26
Woodlands Work Party Volunteers	The Old Depot, Coombs	Sat 3rd Jan - 9am-Noon
Children's Christmas Panto Trip	The Venue. MK	Sat 3rd Jan - Noon -c.4pm
Joint Church Service	Chapel	Sun 4th Jan - 11am
Meet & Eat	Chapel	Mon 5th Jan- lunch time
Community Café	Village Hall	Weds 7th Jan - 2-4pm
<i>Church Café & Porch Sales</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>Sat 10th Jan - 10-Noon</i>
WILD	Nash Village Hall	Sun 11th Jan - 4pm
TPC monthly meeting	Village Hall	Weds 21st Jan - 7pm
Final copy date for next Thornborough News		Sat 24th Jan - 8pm

Thornborough News is funded by Thornborough Parish Council and printed by Harlequin Press Ltd, 12 Bacon House Farm, Little Horwood, MK17 0PS.

Please contact Nikki Standing on 07872 194856 if you can help with arranging & delivering TNews.