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 Meetings 3rd Tuesday in the month at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

As this is the first newsletter of 2026, the Parish Council would like to wish all residents in Higham a very happy New Year!

As well as looking forward to the opportunities that a new year brings, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on some of the activities that have taken place since our last update.

A variety of festive events took place during November and December which included the Christmas Fair, Santa at the Four Alls Inn, the very popular Seniors' Christmas party and our first Christmas Tree Lighting event. A lot of effort goes into organising these events and we'd like to thank all those who were able to contribute to making them a success. A special thank you also to the craft club who created some beautiful poppy displays for our Remembrance celebrations.

We have previously provided an update on some of the maintenance work we had planned in the latter part of 2025, and we're pleased to report that the majority of this work has now been completed. This includes the Public Right of Way project at Acresbrook which is now fully completed, repair of the notice board at the top entrance to the village and some repairs in the children's play area.

The Parish Council were pleased to be able to support the Village Hall with grant match funding of £4,000 towards the cost of the much needed extension. We look forward to seeing the end result.

Finally, we are sorry to say goodbye to our Councillor, Alison, who has stepped aside to concentrate on other projects. We would like to thank her for her contributions to the Parish Council during her time. We shall miss her. This now leaves us with two vacancies on our Parish Council. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact the Parish Council Clerk for further details.

Higham Parish Council

Birth

Theodore Llewellyn Nethell born at Burnley General Hospital on 22nd December 2025 weighing 7lb 10oz, a brother for Cyrilla who is 2 and a half.



Poppy Mason arrived on 2nd December, first child for midwife Gemma and primary school teacher, Tim. Poppy was delivered by Gemma's friends and colleagues at Burnley General Women and Newborn Centre.

Gemma and Tim were married at St John's Church, Higham in August last year

and live in Briercliffe, and Gemma is still a regular member of the choir there.

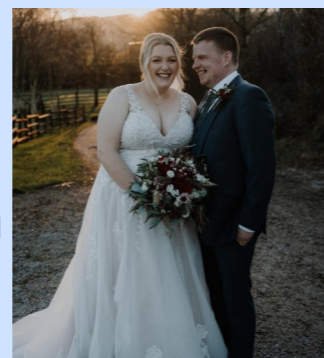
Poppy is the first grandchild for proud grandparents Graham and Julie Fox of Acresbrook Road.

Congratulations

Weddings

Olivia Day, daughter of Brigitte, married Thomas James Harrison at St John's Church Higham on 20th December 2025. Olivia is a primary school teacher and Tom is a farmer. They live in Clitheroe with their 3 children Olivia, William & Freddie (Tom's children but Olivia treats them as her own!).

Appropriately the bride and groom drove away from the church on a tractor.



Mark and Ann Leedam's daughter Claire, was married at the Stirk House Hotel, Gisburn on 21st December to Lee Ellins. The wedding was followed by a honeymoon in Cape Verde. Claire is a Sales Manager for Barnfield Construction, whilst Lee is a Continuous Improvement Manager at EFS. The couple live in Ightenhill, Burnley.

Wishing them much happiness

Graduation

Madeleine Gadd graduated in July with a degree in medicine from the University of Birmingham. She is continuing her training at Birmingham Children's Hospital.



Congratulations

In Memoriam

Lesley Frances Nutter (nee Taylor), following a sudden and short illness, aged 61 years, resident of Clovercroft for 13 yrs. She was married to Anthony, mother of Anthony, daughter of Sheila and Frank, and a friend to many. Dog mum to Jester, Emma Oliver, Betty, Ernie & Polly. Heartbroken does not even come close



HIGHAM Spout

News and views from the village of Higham



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair was held on Sunday 23rd November and was a very successful, well attended event. We started with some lovely carols sung by children from Higham school, followed by Santa arriving in his grotto in

church. There were craft stalls, bottle tombola, raffle, Play Your Cards Right, and fund raising stalls in the village hall. And, of course, hot and cold food and refreshments were available. In all a very enjoyable and successful event raising £1,000 for church funds.



SANTA AT THE FOUR ALLS

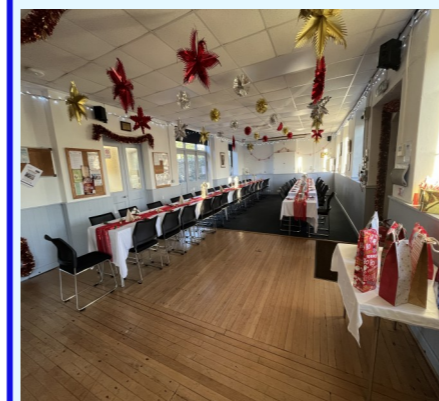
Santa at the Four Alls was as popular as ever. He strode to his Grotto carrying an enormous lantern and his young, excited visitors chatted to him and were given bags of goodies to take home. Afterwards the choir led carol singing in the Four Alls and a

lively rendering of the Twelve days of Christmas, conducted by Stuart Douglas, was great fun. There was a pizza van outside, and a fire pit to keep everybody warm. Extra goodie bags were donated to charity. Many thanks for Michael Bann for carrying on this successful tradition.



SENIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Seniors Christmas Party was as popular as ever. Thanks to Sammantha for organising the table decorations and the quiz. The tables looked beautiful. Thank you to Terry and Patricia who manned the bar as usual and Paula for the fantastic food. Donna Bland provided the fabulous entertainment this year and Co Cllr Howard Hartley did an impromptu auction, which raised £100 for the Village Hall.





Village Hall

At the beginning of September, we were offered a grant towards the planned Village Hall improvements by the FCC Communities Foundation, a not-for-profit business that awards grants to communities nationally through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Since then, we have completed an enormous amount of work to meet our target of work starting, at the beginning of January. This was achieved, as work started on the afternoon of the 5th January.

Initially we finalised a Building Control Plan and submitted it to Pendle Borough Council. Developed the public tender documents and associated publicity. Prepared the tender evaluation process and subsequent adjudication. The results were then presented to the FCC Foundation for their approval. The chosen contractor was Kevin Hiley Construction of Barrowford.

There followed a number of onsite meetings with the contractor to review many detailed items like drainage, mains water and electric supplies, lighting and flooring requirements, which resulted in some modifications to the original plan. We discussed our need to keep the hall in operation, during the works. The main hall will not be affected by the works even when the kitchen is started, but from time to time there will possibly be disruption to electricity and water supplies, but we will keep users informed, as work progresses.

There were necessary discussions with both the contractor and our insurers about the risk cover for the works.

On 9th December we held an open meeting with regular users, local residents and any other interested parties to discuss the plans. Also, in December we signed the final legal contract for the provision of the grant.

It has been mentioned before that, the grant would not cover all our costs but we have been overwhelmed by the enormous generosity of the community, £4426 has been donated in the last four months of 2025, including;

£1019 from the Race Night fund raiser

£999 from John Clegg's fundraisers in September and November

£946 from John Metcalfe from the remaining funds of the now disbanded other Events Committee

£637 from Sam Hutchinson from Pop Up Café receipts

£540 from Alison Eddy from the Festive Flowers demonstration

£285 from Cheese and Wine fundraiser

£100 from the Parish Council from the Seniors Christmas Party auction

Thank you to those who contributed to those events. We are very grateful.

The Village Hall Committee

Christmas Tree Lighting

The lighting of the village Christmas tree was a great success. The weather was kind: a dry, cold, crisp evening and a magnificent tree was in place, made even more magnificent by the number of baubles on it. The Four Ails Car Park soon filled with villagers coming from all directions, the vicar blessed the tree, and we all joined enthusiastically in the countdown, directed by the Elf in the green hat. The Choir led everyone in singing carols and Michael Bann served mulled wine and mince pies. The tree looked festive even in the daytime and a big thank you has to go to Sam and her helpers for organising the beautiful baubles. A wonderful start to the Festive Season.



Village Hall Groups

Table Tennis (Ladies)

Monday Afternoon (starting spring) Cath Sutcliffe

Pendle Threads (Embroidery)

1st Monday afternoon of month Kathryn Thompson

Burnley Film Makers

Wednesday Evenings Mike Breeze

Themes on Thursday

2nd Thursday afternoon of month Heather Swindlehurst

East Lancs Ornithology Club

1st Tuesday of month

Pilates

Tuesday Mornings Tracy Edmondson

Art Classes for Pre School Children

Wednesday mornings Amy Stansfield

Sam's Pop up Café

3rd Tuesday afternoon of month Sam Hutchinson

East Lancs Radio Club

Thursday Evenings Neil Mooney

U3A Country Dancing

1st & 3rd Thursday afternoons Eric Bushby

Book Club

Last Tuesday evening of month Diane Perrin

Pizza & Praise

Last Friday evening of month Andrea Johnstone

For full contact details (phone numbers and websites) see the Calendar of Events webpage on Higham Village website

<https://www.highamparishcouncil.com/events2/month/>

Higham 125 Club

Congratulations to our most recent lucky winners.

If you're interested in becoming a member please contact Heather Swindlehurst on 07713121275 or Val Butterfield on 07530345079 for more details.

Latest winners:-



October No. 82
Martin Trigg



November No. 80
Patricia Rosthorn

December No. 40
Anonymous

Festive Flowers

In the lead up to Christmas, Alison Eddy gave a Festive Flower Demo at the village hall. It was well attended and there was an incredible table of nibbles, plus raffle tickets for her creations and sparkling wine.



Alison made flower arranging look effortless, together with her little people made from empty Pringle containers. Her event made £540 for the village hall.

Pop Up Café

The Pop up Cafe had its first birthday in November. The cafe was born of an idea to have a warm place where people could meet for a chat and piece of cake, without having to worry about the cost.

The support for the cafe has grown and grown and Sam would like to thank everyone who has attended and looks forward to seeing you all in 2026.

The cafe is run on a donation only basis with Sam only taking the cost of the ingredients, materials and room hire out of the donations. Her intention was always to give any monies left after cost, back to the village. Sam, gave £640 to the village hall thanks to everyone's generosity. Future dates for the Pop up Cafe are 20th January and 17th February.

Church

Happy New year to you all!

Christmas, its an important time for the Church welcoming Jesus's arrival. We held a number of services which were well attended including a service of Nine Lessons and Carols and the less formal Christingle service. It was lovely to see so many faces both regular worshipers and those drawn by the lure of Christmas.

To advertise our services, you may have noticed that you received a Christmas card, one of three designed by the pupils of St John's School, I'm sure you will agree they were really special! So, a big thank you to both the School and its pupils for taking part as well as members of the PCC for organising and distributing them.

As we move into the coming year, it is to be a special Anniversary year for the Diocese of Blackburn (of which we are a part) as it the centenary of its creation in 1926. As part of these celebrations St John's will be holding an event along with all the other parishes to mark the Anniversary in September, more information to follow.

Looking into the near future we will be entering the period of Lent and then onwards to Easter. For more information on events and services over the Easter Period you can of course stay up to date by receiving our weekly newsletter (please email on areadean.pendle@blackburn.anglican.org or by accessing the 'Church near you' website and looking for Higham St John's Church Burnley.

Tai Chi

The Tai Chi class at the village hall on Friday mornings has proved very popular. Jane holds the class from 10.30am to 11.30 am and members pay per class, when they attend. We are all shapes and sizes and physical abilities, but Jane makes it fun and inclusive for everyone.



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This issue and back copies are available online from www.highamparishcouncil.com
Content is compiled and edited by Margaret & Bernard Ingham, who would be grateful for any stories, snippets, photos and events which happen that are of interest to the village.
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