

Elsham Leader Spring 2026



Parish councillors would like to fund and help organise a summer event for residents, and as we have no national celebrations this year, we thought a Big Lunch would be a great way to bring people together.

The Big Lunch is a nationwide event that encourages people to organise community meals, street parties, and other social gatherings in their neighbourhoods. It aims to bring people together, providing an opportunity for them to connect, build friendships, and strengthen community spirit. The event promotes the idea that sharing a meal with others is a simple yet powerful way to connect with others and create a sense of belonging. It is suggested that this takes place on the weekend of 6/7th June.

We have a blank canvas at the moment and would really like people in the village to say what they would like us to do – for that we would need a group of people enthusiastic about community events that could generate ideas, help to organise the event and volunteer to set up and help on the day.

Please contact Louise the parish council clerk or a parish councillor if you can help – you can also indicate your willingness to help on the loose form attached to this Leader. Many thanks.

You will find an emphasis in this edition on making contact with new volunteers – in recent years we have lost volunteers through reasons such as moving house or retirement, and they have not been replaced. This is making it extremely difficult for the few volunteers we have left to maintain the appearance of the village as we would all like. Please consider whether you have time to give, as it would be very much appreciated, thank you.

New Burgundy Bins

Information from NLC on the new, larger, recycling bins:

Teams are delivering new bins across the area to make sure every household has the right bin in place ahead of April.

If your new burgundy bin has arrived, here's what to do:

✓Keep using your current burgundy bin for now.

✓Put it out one last time on your usual collection day to be emptied.

✓Once emptied, leave it empty and visible for us to pick it up, usually within a week.

✓After that, use your new, larger burgundy bin for plastic and cardboard, just as before.

✓Keep using your kerbside boxes for paper, tins and glass until the end of March.

If you haven't received your new bin yet, don't worry - it's on its way. Until then, please continue recycling as normal. Nothing else is changing just yet. From 6th April, the new burgundy bin will be used for all dry recycling, with no sorting or separating needed - making recycling simpler for everyone. You keep the plastic recycling boxes and use them for something else or recycle them.



Spring Litter Pick 8th March– Volunteers Welcome!

We'll be holding our spring litter pick on Sunday 8th March and would love as many volunteers as possible to join us. All equipment will be provided — you just need to bring your own gloves. This year we'll focus particularly on Barnetby Lane, which continues to be one of the areas most in need of attention.

It's always fantastic to see our regular volunteers, and we warmly welcome anyone new who'd like to get involved. Every helping hand really does make a difference to how the village looks and feels — and the more volunteers we have, the more areas we can cover.

Reminders will be shared via the village WhatsApp group, Facebook page, and the village hall noticeboard. We hope you can join us!

Elsham Parish Council Precept Update

The precept is a mandatory tax that parish and town councils must set to fund their budget requirements, and is their primary source of income. It is collected from local electors as part of the council tax bill. Since 2019/20, Elsham's precept has been £8,000, raised in that year from a previous £7,806. Since then, we have held it at £8,000 but with the large rises in cost in the last seven years, that is no longer realistic.

This year the Parish Council has agreed to increase the parish precept from £8,000 to £10,000 to help support local services, maintenance and future community projects.

You'll often see the cost shown as a figure for a Band D property. This is simply the national benchmark used for council tax — it helps everyone compare charges fairly, regardless of property size.

For our parish, this change means:

- Last year: £45.58 per year for a Band D home
- This year: £56.40 per year for a Band D home

That works out at roughly an extra 21p per week for a typical Band D household. If your home is in a lower council tax band, you'll pay less than this amount; if it's in a higher band, you'll pay slightly more.

This increase will help the council maintain local facilities, support community initiatives, and ensure we can continue investing in the parish for everyone's benefit.

Help Keep Elsham Looking Its Best

Some years ago, a wonderful group of volunteers known as the Elsham Elves helped keep our village looking attractive and welcoming. They carried out a wide range of gardening and tidying tasks — sweeping paths, edging grass, weeding, deadheading, watering, and much more. Their efforts made a real difference to how our village looks and feels.

Unfortunately, for various reasons, many of these volunteers are no longer able to help regularly. We now have too few people to maintain the level of planting and upkeep we've been used to, and it's becoming too much for just three or four individuals to manage alone.

Without additional help, we may need to scale back planting, reduce the number of areas we maintain, or even return some spaces to grass. We may also have to reconsider entering competitions such as Best Kept Village and East Midlands in Bloom. Most importantly, Elsham may not look quite as colourful and cared for as we've all come to appreciate — which would be a real shame.

With this edition of The Leader, you'll find a short questionnaire where you can let us know if you might be able to help. Even a small amount of time, given occasionally or regularly, makes a big difference, and all help is genuinely appreciated.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

With thanks from your Parish Councillors

Appeal from the Village Hall Committee

Following the very sad loss of our Treasurer Roland Guest, who was a valued and long-standing member of the Village Hall Committee, we are now urgently looking for new volunteers to help keep the village hall running smoothly. The Committee currently has only two members, and one of these may not be able to continue volunteering for much longer.

The committee helps with a range of practical tasks — regular checks and monitoring of the hall, arranging services and repairs, acting as a contact point for bookings and contractors, and occasionally helping to set up or clear away for village events. Sharing these responsibilities among several people keeps the workload manageable. We also need a new Treasurer.

Without additional support soon, it will become increasingly difficult to keep the hall operating as smoothly as it does now. The village hall is a vital community facility, and its future depends on local people being willing to step forward.

If you would like to discuss joining the committee, please contact Sandra on 327012. If you can spare any regular time, please consider helping. Your support really is needed. Thank you.

Springing Forth: A Time for New Beginnings

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” — Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)

As the cold, dark days of winter begin to recede, we are gifted with the unmistakable, quiet magic of springtime. It starts subtly—a single snowdrop breaking through the frost, the earlier song of a bird, or the faint green haze on a willow tree.

Spring is not merely a change in the weather; it is a profound testament to hope. It is nature’s declaration that life is stronger than death, that light inevitably overcomes darkness, and that, no matter how harsh the winter, new growth will emerge.

Recognising the "New Thing"

In our lives and in the life of our parish, we often experience "winter seasons". These can be times of loneliness, uncertainty, or grief. Yet, just as the dormant soil holds the seeds for summer, God is at work in the quiet, hidden, and difficult seasons of our lives.

Isaiah reminds us that God is always doing a "new thing", often in the places we least expect—in our own "wilderness" or "desert". The challenge, as the verse asks, is: *“do you not perceive it?”*

Signs of Spring in Our Community

As we look around our church and community this season, let us purposefully look for the new growth. It may be in:

- **The new faces** joining our services or volunteering in local outreach.
- **The blossoming of relationships**, as we reconnect after a cold season of isolation.
- **The quiet, resilient hope** of those continuing to serve, pray, and give of their time.

A Call to Action

Spring calls us to shake off the apathy of winter. This season, I invite you to take part in the "springing forth."

1. **Notice the Creator:** Spend time in nature, seeing God’s hand in the renewal of the earth.
2. **Tend Your Heart:** Similar to weeding a garden, let us pray for the grace to remove the worries and old habits that hinder our spiritual growth.
3. **Support New Growth:** Reach out to someone who is struggling, support our community projects, and help bring the "spring" of hope to others.

Let us welcome this season as a reminder of the Resurrection. Whatever desert you may be walking through, believe that God is making a way for new life to bloom.

Blessings for a refreshing and fruitful Spring.

DAWN ENSER, Focal Minister & Lay Minister – ALL SAINTS CHURCH, ELSHAM

CLUBS AND EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	Bowls Club	6.30 – 8.30pm
Tuesday	New Age Kurling	10.00am – 12.00pm
Parish Council	Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, (except August and December).	7.00 – 8.30pm
Wednesday	Bowls Club	6.30 – 8.30pm (except May to August)
Thursday	Upholstery	10am – 4pm
	Line Dancing	7.00 – 9.00pm
Friday	Bowls Club	2.00 – 4pm

Contact details re keys/booking etc. for Elsham Village Hall

Sandra van Oosterhout
17 Church Street, Elsham
Tel:- 01652 327012

Stephenson and Julian Charity

This charity was established in 1663 by John Julian and later joined by George Stevenson in 1803, aiming to “help the most needy in Elsham, for food, fuel and other vital needs.” The fund is still in place and anyone who is a resident in the parish of Elsham can apply. All applications are completely confidential.

The remit of the charity is to essentially help villagers with a particular need with one-off payments. Grants can be given to help with the cost of many things: travelling to medical appointments, sanitary products, school uniform, urgent repairs, travel to a sports activity, equipment for a club, etc. We are all aware of rising costs and the effect this can have on mental health, so if there is something that you would like financial help with, please do get in touch.

Simply contact a charity trustee, and they will let you know how to apply – it is simple and quick to do.

The current trustees are:

Sophie Dunn: 07775 574396

Lorraine Guest: 01652 680679

Sandra van Oosterhout 07817 530705

Rev. Lee Gabel: leebbgabel@gmail.com

Elsham Parish Council

Elsham Parish Council forthcoming meeting dates are:

17th February

17th March

21st April

From 7 pm until 9 pm.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Sandra van Oosterhout (**Chair**) – 327012,
cldr.svanoosterhout@elshamparish.gov.uk

Andrew Horner (**Vice Chair**) – 680471, cldr.ahorner@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Steve Moir – 07733 198858, cldr.moir@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mick Percy – cldr.michaelpercy@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mark Lilly – 07836 544899, cldr.marklilley@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sue Everett – cldr.meverett@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk – Louise Price

Tel: 07830 427169 Email: clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Correspondence Address: 106 Appleby Lane, Broughton DN20 0BE

Website: www.elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Martin Vickers MP

Our MP (Immingham and Brigg constituency) is Martin Vickers.

His constituency office contact details, should you wish to contact him about anything, are:

2 Morley's Yard, Brigg, DN20 8JD

Tel 01469 572777

<https://www.martinvickers.org.uk/>

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