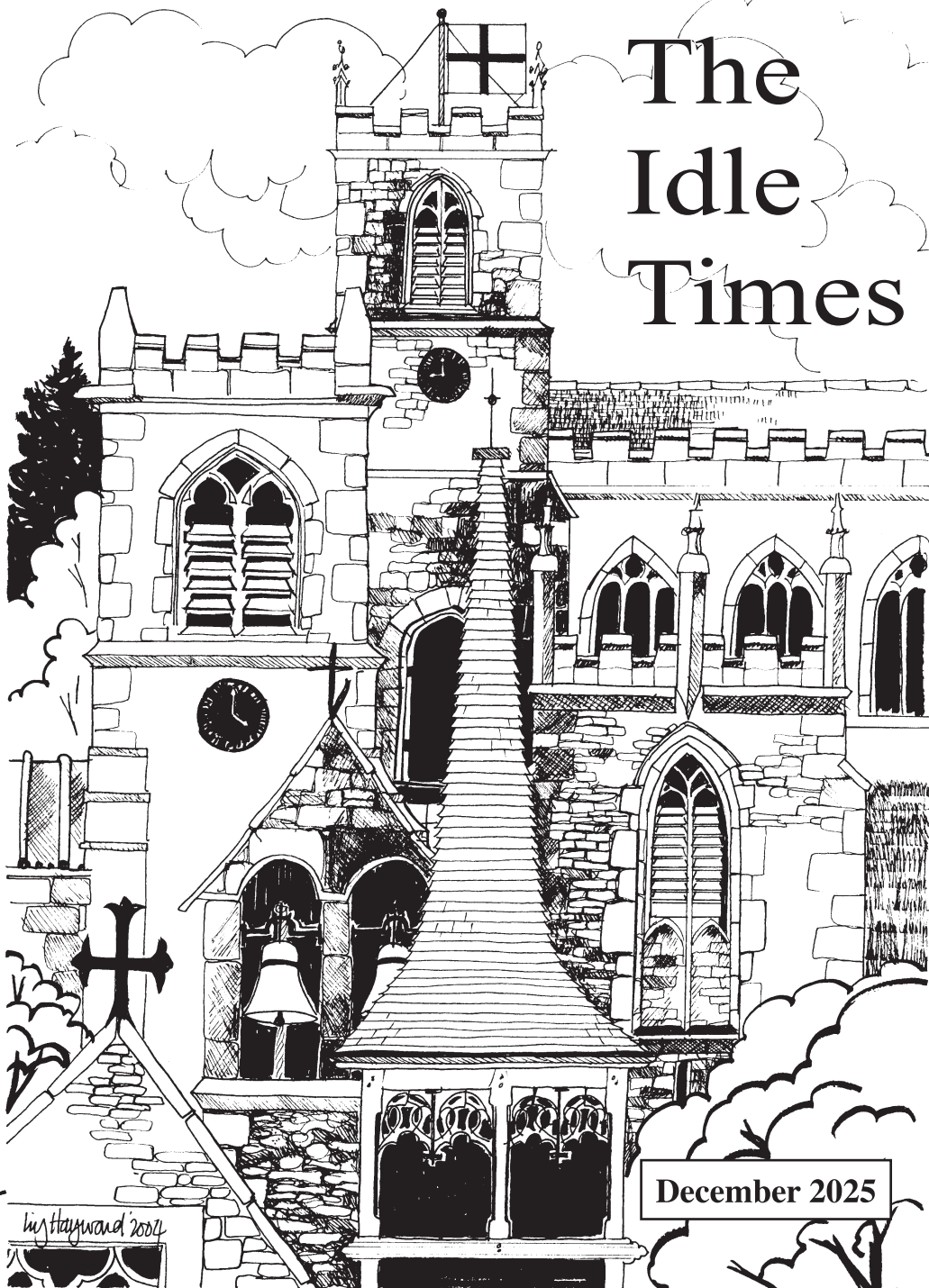


The Idle Times



December 2025



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Retford

Notts DN22 8DB



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Email us: sales@thaymar.co.uk

Visit our website: www.thaymaricecream.co.uk

Church Diary for December

<i>December</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Sunday 7	9.00am	Holy Communion	Scofton
	9.30am	Family Service	Sutton-cum-Lound
Sunday 14	9.15am	Holy Communion	West Drayton
	9.30am	Advent Carol Service	Sutton-cum-Lound
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Babworth
	6.30pm	Carols for Advent	Eaton & Gamston
	6.30pm	Carol Service	Scofton
Saturday 20	6.00pm	Carol Service	Bothamsall
Sunday 21	9.30am	Las Posadas	Sutton-cum-Lound
	10.45am	Family Service	Elkesley
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Babworth
Wednesday 24 Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Christingle	Eaton & Gamston
	4.00pm	Carol Service	Babworth
	6.30pm	Blessing of the Crib	Sutton-cum-Lound
Thursday 25 Christmas Day	9.00am	Holy Communion	Scofton
	9.15am	Christmas Worship	West Drayton
	9.30am	Christmas Family Service	Sutton-cum-Lound
	10.30am	Lessons and Carols	Eaton & Gamston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Babworth
Sunday 28	9.30am	Lessons and Carols	Sutton-cum-Lound
	10.30am	Morning Worship	West Drayton

Christmas at All Saints Eaton

A huge thank you to everyone who came to All Saints for our Christmas Fayre on 16th November. Visitors enjoyed craft, cake and gift stalls as well as a tombola, raffle and refreshments. Thanks to your support we raised £860 towards the upkeep of the church so the building can better serve our community.

We would also like to welcome you to our services in December:

Carols for Advent, Sunday 14th December at 6.30pm: We will be joined by the Ordsall Handbell Ringers to help us to ring in Christmas with a selection of carols. The service will be followed by refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies.

Christingle, Wednesday 24th December, 4pm: Our family-friendly traditional Christingle service will take place on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day Service, Thursday 25th December, 10.30am: Join us for our Christmas Day service of readings and carols followed by refreshments.



Gamston with West Drayton and Eaton Parish Council

**Notes from the meeting held on Thursday 6th November 2025
at Gamston School.**

One member of the public was present and the meeting began with the usual formalities. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and the Action Plan was updated.

Matters arising from the minutes

Notts Bus on Demand update

Following a virtual meeting with members of the transport team, the Clerk fed back that it would not be possible to have access to this facility in our villages, as there is already a regular bus service and they are unable to compete. It may however be possible to improve the public service on the Newark to Retford route if there is more demand.

Bottle bank at Markham Moor

The recycling banks have now been removed altogether from this site. All householders will soon be supplied with individual glass recycling bins in preparation for the new collection service, which will start in March 2026.

District Council matters

District Councillor Dinsdale sent his apologies for not attending the meeting but he did not send any update.

*Any District Council issues (Fly tipping/ broken or missing street nameplates/ dog fouling etc.) should be reported to Bassetlaw District Council at www.bassetlaw.gov.uk
If no action is taken then it should be brought to the attention of the Parish Council for escalation.*

County Council and Highways matters

County Councillor Limber sent his apologies for not attending the meeting. Although he said he would notify the Clerk of county issues, he did not give any update on issues within the parish.

Footpath Rockley to Markham Moor

No update. The Clerk will ask County Councillor Limber to chase this up again.

Muttonshire Hill, Gamston – The proposed design for extending the 40mph speed limit on B6387 to beyond the entrance with the airport.
The consultation period has now ended and we are awaiting feedback from VIA.

Feasibility study for a road crossing on the A638 at Eaton and also at Rockley

No update. The Clerk will ask County Councillor Limber to chase this up again.

Timber Footbridge at Rockley to West Drayton

Following the Inspection and agreement that this should be repaired, Councillor Adam has liaised with Nottinghamshire County Council and been informed that the bridge will actually be replaced with a metal one. The procurement process is presently taking place. The Public Right Of Way (PROW) team is keen to complete and re-open the footpath as soon as possible.

Members of the public are advised to report any new Highways issues (faulty street lights/ overgrown hedges & trees/ pavement, road & drainage issues etc.) in the first instance, through the 'My Notts' App or online at www.Nottinghamshire.gov.uk

If no action is taken by Nottinghamshire County Council, it should then be brought to the attention of the Parish Council for escalation.

Flooding

The Environment Agency has said that the regular catchment meetings they hold are not really suitable for the Parish Council to establish the information regarding localised issues. They have however, offered to hold a virtual meeting should we have any further questions in the future regarding flood defence and preparations.

National Lottery Grant –**Installation of climbing wall/ target trainer**

Gamston with West Drayton and Eaton Parish Council would like to extend thanks to the National Lottery for funding our project to install a climbing wall and target trainer into the Community Playing Field. We were awarded a grant of £7850 which has fully funded the project. The play equipment was installed on the 30th October and has already been enjoyed by the pupils of Gamston Primary School.

Our project was only made possible thanks to National Lottery players. #Nationallottery

**Finance**

Payments were approved and income receipts and bank account balance were agreed.

Planning

To discuss any new planning applications received and note any responded to via the scheme of delegation:

Change of use from C3 dwelling house to C2 supported living with ancillary office (Class E(g)(i)) to provide up to 6 resident bedrooms with shared kitchen, dining and living facilities, staff/admin office and rest room

Yew Tree Farmhouse Great North Road Gamston Nottinghamshire DN22 0PZ

Ref. No: 25/01077/COU | Received: Wed 24 Sep 2025 | Validated: Wed 24 Sep 2025 |

Status: Awaiting decision

The Parish Council have reviewed this application and whilst they remain neutral, have a number of concerns, which they would like BDC Planning Department to address. These include potential issues with parking on the A638 and the fact that the application shows that there will be no alterations made to the exterior of the building and yet some have already been carried out without permission.

Works to trees in a conservation area - Works to various trees - Refer to tree report (T1, T2 and T3)

Idlehouse Rectory Lane Gamston Nottinghamshire DN22 0QD

Ref. No: 25/01133/CAT | Received: Mon 06 Oct 2025 | Validated: Mon 06 Oct 2025 |

Status: Awaiting decision

Works to trees in a conservation area – works to various trees – Refer to tree report (T1-T6)

Tranby Rectory Lane Gamston Nottinghamshire DN22 0QD

Ref. No: 25/01154/CAT | Received: Mon 13 Oct 2025 | Validated: Mon 13 Oct 2025 |

Status: Awaiting decision

T1 Goat willow – Remove to ground level and grind out the stump

23 Rectory Lane Gamston Nottinghamshire DN22 0QD

Ref. No: 25/01164/CAT | Received: Wed 15 Oct 2025 | Validated: Wed 15 Oct 2025 | Status:

Awaiting decision

The Parish Council have reviewed the above three applications and have no comments to make.

Please note that all applications, both current and historic can be viewed by accessing the following: <https://publicaccess.bassetlaw.gov.uk/online-applications> where you can also opt to receive automatic notification by email when new plans are uploaded

Lengthsman

Following the recruitment of a new Lengthsman, members of the Council met with him to discuss the tasks required in each village.

Councillor Chandler suggested that some high visibility jackets be purchased and embossed with the Parish Council logo. It was agreed to purchase seven and these will be used by both the Lengthsman and also Parish Councilors for future litter picking.

Remembrance poppies

The councillors agreed that more poppies will be required for next year and the amount to purchase will be decided at the December meeting following the collection of the existing poppies.

Defibrillators

Councillors are to check the expiry date of all defibrillator batteries and pads prior to the next meeting and supply to the Clerk in order to update the central database.

Councillor Chandler suggested that local business owners could be approached to seek sponsorship for the maintenance cost of defibrillators across the Parish. This will be added to the next agenda.

As these are notes from the meeting, please visit our website at www.gamstonwestdraytoneaton-pc.gov.uk where the minutes of the meeting provide more detail, or alternatively speak to one of the Parish Councillors.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday the 11th of December at 6.30pm in the Community Hall at Gamston School.

Please contact the Clerk with any matters you wish to raise at
clerk@gamstonwestdraytoneaton-pc.gov.uk



Egmanton Christmas Trees

Enquiries 07730 136677
info.ectf@gmail.com

Open for Pre Tagging from 1st November
Weekends only 9am to 4pm
Tree Barn Open 22nd November 7 days a week
You can also Click & Collect Online at

Nordman Fir
Norway Spruce
Fraser Fir
Potted Trees
Tree Stands

Local Deliveries

www.egmantonchristmastrees.co.uk

Juglans Farm Egmanton Newark Notts
NG22 0EZ

Gamston St Peter's CofE Primary School News

*"Be the best you can be."
 "Shine like lights in the world." – Philippians 2:15
 Kindness · Resilience · Hope*

It is my pleasure to share with you the latest updates and accomplishments from our school.

As I sit writing this, snowflakes are gently falling from the sky, and the temperature has dropped considerably as we approach the winter months. At Gamston St Peter's CofE Primary School, this truly is a delightful time of year. The smiles on the children's faces, the joyful sounds of nativity rehearsals, and the growing excitement for the festive season fill our school with warmth and cheer.

We have so much to be grateful for and celebrate. Recently, we underwent our SIAMS inspection — a statutory inspection for Anglican and Methodist schools conducted approximately every five years. While we are still awaiting the official report, I am delighted to share that the outcomes are incredibly pleasing, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our whole school community.

Significant improvements continue to enhance our school environment. Those of you who read my last contribution will recall the complete refurbishment of our Early Years setting over the summer. More recently, during the October half term, we transformed our school library with new furniture, turning it into a warm, welcoming, and inviting space that truly promotes a love of reading.

Our school hall, which also serves as a vital community space, has been freshly redecorated. This upgrade not only benefits our pupils but also the wider community who regularly use the hall, making it a better place for everyone.

This festive season, Gamston St Peter's is proudly supporting two wonderful charities. Firstly, we are participating in the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal, and we are incredibly grateful to the families who have packed shoeboxes full of gifts. These will be sent to children who are less fortunate and might not receive a gift otherwise, bringing joy and hope to many. Secondly, we are partnering with St Swithun's Church in Retford to support their Love Christmas Appeal, which aims to bring smiles and festive cheer to those in need within our local community. It is a privilege to be part of these efforts to spread kindness and hope during this special time of year.

At the heart of everything we do are our children — the reason we are here. They continue to work incredibly hard and bring joy to our school every day. Their kindness, resilience, and hope shine brightly as we prepare to celebrate the season together.

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful festive period.

As always, please do (continue to) visit our school website - www.gamstonprimary.co.uk – for the latest news and information.

Elkesley School

We have had a very busy half-term so far but a fantastic one at that!

For Remembrance, the children considered why it is so important that we still remember and showed their respect through a range of activities; we raised money for Children In Need with children dressing up and taking part in various activities. Thank you to everyone who donated toward the fundraiser.

During anti-bullying week, we wore odd socks to join together to show that it's okay to be different and to stand up against bullying and discrimination. Alongside this, we completed work to raise awareness of bullying and how can stop it; with a focus on speaking out!

Thank you to the parents who joined us for the maths workshop evening where we discussed how we teach maths within school and had a focus look at our calculation policy; thank you also to the parents who joined us for a fantastic maths day and engaged in learning with our children!

Preparations are underway for our Christmas festivities. Our EYFS and KS1 children have their parts for the nativity and are currently singing festive songs in preparation for the performance. We are holding a grand Christmas Fayre for all children parents and families. This will include games, the sale of decorations made in school and a bake sale; We hope you can make it!

We are also looking forward to the Christmas Dinner Day, Christmas Jumper Day, Class parties and our PTA-led Christmas Movie Night.

We have a fantastic nursery provision and take children from the first term after they turn 3. We can offer mornings or full days along with the option of breakfast and after school clubs. 15-hour and 30-hour codes can be used. You can put a child's name down for future places at any age which we recommend doing so to ensure a place is secure. If you are interested, please feel free to phone **01777838615** or email office@elkesley.notts.sch.uk for more information!

Please be sure to head over to our website, www.elkesley.notts.sch.uk for regular updates on school life and a more detailed look into what each class is learning. Find us on Instagram and Facebook for pictures and news about what is happening in school.

Bothamsall Carol Service

Saturday 20 December at 6pm

Followed by Christmas Supper in Village Hall from 7pm

Everyone welcome at both events. There will be hot turkey and ham rolls plus mince pies and other festive treats. Please purchase meal tickets in advance £7 (£3.50 children under 12 years) from the Social Club Bar, by emailing aj.waite@tiscali.co.uk or telephone Joan Eaglem **01623 861318**. The bar will be open and there will be a raffle (prize donations gratefully received). We look forward celebrating Christmas with you.

.....



Santa Visit

Retford Lions have asked Santa to visit Elkesley on Saturday 13 December.

He will be outside the shop on Lawnwood Road from about 7pm for around 30 minutes.

Bring the children to see him and they will each get a small gift.



**Idle
Times
Copy
Date**



Please will you send any articles for the January 2026 edition of *The Idle Times* to **Francis Waite**, preferably by email to fagrouting@tiscali.co.uk by 21st December 2025.

The postal address for Francis and Alison Waite is: **6 Main Street, Bothamsall, Retford, DN22 8DT**

Telephone: **01623 861579**

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Want to find out more about St. Peter's and The Churches Conservation Trust?

www.visitchurches.org.uk

Join us for Carols by Candlelight

St. Peter's
Church Gamston
Thursday 18th December - 7pm



FOODIE

FRIDAY

**St. Peter's Church,
Gamston**

Want to find out more about St. Peter's and The Churches Conservation Trust?

www.visitchurches.org.uk

Friday 5th December - 7pm

What is Foodie Friday...?
Meet neighbours, friends, villagers, everyone welcome
We all sit at one big table and share what we bring...



What about drink...?
Bring along your favourite tippie
(soft, alcohol, hot, cold) anything goes...

To find out more email: stpetersgamston@outlook.com

**Thank
You!**

Want to find out more about St. Peter's and The Churches Conservation Trust?

www.visitchurches.org.uk

The Friends of St. Peter's Church, Gamston

Our Autumn Craft Fayre Raised **£858.65**

We would like to extend thanks to the village of Gamston who came together to achieved this and to the local crafters and stall holders for helping make the event such a huge success.



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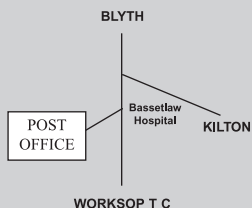
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- Your car tax
- Your adult passport without getting pictures or filling in forms

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- Your Packets, Parcels and Letters



Christmas at the Memorial Hall



Sunday 30th November
Christingle in church at 4pm



**Glims
SNACK
SHACK**

Sunday 30th November
Village light switch on
Bar open from 4pm, Slims from 4.30pm
cakes and hot drinks at 5pm after Christingle

Friday 5th December the bar will be closed



Saturday 6th December
Supper with Santa 4-6 pm
Bar will open to the public from 7pm



Friday 12th December
Christmas dinner at the Memorial Hall 12 noon
Bar open as usual from 6.30pm

Friday 19th December bar open from 6.30pm



Wednesday 24th December
Bar open 6.30-10 pm



Wednesday 31st December
New Year's Eve party from 8pm
Ticket only event

We would like to thank everyone for supporting the Memorial Hall during 2025 and wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New year.

Bar will re-open on Friday 9th January

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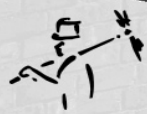
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