

The Vicar Writes..

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)



Dear Friends,

As we prepare this final edition of our Bawtry News church magazine, we do so with hearts full of gratitude.

For fifty years, in various formats, this magazine has found its way through letterboxes, into homes and onto coffee tables. It has carried news of church life, shared stories of faith and service, celebrated baptisms and weddings, remembered those we have loved and lost, advertised local businesses, community events, and offered words of encouragement and hope. It has been far more than ink on paper; it has been a thread connecting our churches with one another and with the wider communities we are privileged to serve.



None of this would have been possible without the remarkable dedication of countless volunteers. Over the years, our editors have gathered articles, writers have shared their thoughts, and through countless photographs, we have witnessed special moments together. Proofreaders have spotted inevitable mistakes and teams of distributors have faithfully delivered each edition, whatever the weather. Much of this work has taken place quietly, behind the scenes and without recognition. I offer my heartfelt thanks to every person who has played a part in this ministry over the past five decades and especially the current Bawtry News Committee. I particularly want to express my gratitude to Diane Jarratt for her extraordinary service to us all, as editor for the last 21 years. I am also so grateful to everyone who has contributed their stories and articles.

Through these pages we have celebrated milestones, learned about local history, discovered the work of community groups, and witnessed the many ways God has been at work among us.

These stories remind me that Bawtry News is a church magazine that celebrates a living community of people of all faiths and none, seeking to live together in peace and love as we seek to support and serve our neighbours.

While it is always difficult to say goodbye to something that has been valued for so long, endings also invite new beginnings. The ways people receive news and stay connected has changed dramatically over the past fifty years. Increasingly, we communicate through websites, e-mail, social media and other digital platforms, allowing us to share news more quickly and reach people in different ways. Although this magazine is coming to its final chapter, our desire to tell the story of God's love, to strengthen our communities, and to invite others into the life of our churches remains unchanged. We look ahead with hope, trusting that God continues to guide us into new opportunities for sharing the good news and building relationships. The methods may change, but the message remains the same. To everyone who has read, written, delivered, supported, or simply enjoyed this magazine over the years - thank you. Thank you for helping to make these pages a record of faith, friendship, and community across fifty remarkable years.

As one chapter closes, another begins. We pray that God will continue to bless our churches and communities, and that, in whatever ways we communicate in the future, we may continue to share the love of Christ with joy, faithfulness, and hope.

Every Blessing,
Becky