



Whit Friday: 29th May 2026

Could you spare an hour to help? Could you donate?

Many thanks to those of you that have been in contact to offer to help or who have already donated. We do need some additional volunteers, so why not get in contact to offer an hour or 2 to help, either on or near to the day - it's also a great way to get to know new people in the village. The roles on the day include:

- * carrying Church banners in the morning procession
- * helping with the children's sports afternoon
- * various roles during the band contest itself, eg with board carrying, selling programmes, facilitating the flow of bands etc
- * also setting up Church Fields the evening beforehand

And someone to do the house to house collections of donations for Brownhill Lane and Ryefields in the 3 weeks prior to the day.

We have a volunteer's meeting on:

Wednesday 20th May at 7.30pm at the Swan.

Please contact:

Sue Skinner on purplesue23@gmail.com / 07938 826989.

The programme is now on sale at the Village Store, Saddler and Band Club. A big thanks to all our advertisers, as this revenue significantly contributes to our being able to hold the contest. Please do buy a copy to help support the event - this year we have included pictures and words from Dobcross School children. And as always, generous donations from villagers will be a very important help.

Please consider donating via our Go Fund Me page.



Scan to donate to Dobcross's fundraiser

**DOBCROSS WHIT
FRIDAY 2026**

The Next Village Fundraiser, featuring Daniel Winters as Frankie Valli, will be on the 8th June, at Dobcross Band Club, with Big Jim's disco. Tickets will cost £18 and will be on sale from 1st May. Please contact Sue Skinner 07938 826989 for further information or to register interest.



DOBCROSS BOWLERS

As the days lengthen and the weather hopefully starts to warm up, we are all looking forward to the start of the outdoor bowling season. Get those rain jackets ready! Competitive matches will begin again just after Easter in the first week of April. With the club now hosting fourteen teams, the season promises to be a busy one. In a new departure we will be welcoming teams from the Rochdale area on Thursday evenings as we have entered a team for the first time in the Rochdale Thursday evening league. Spectators are welcome at any of our games so come along and have a look. Even if you don't end up enjoying the bowling, the bar at the club is open every evening!

In the meantime work has been undertaken to get the green ready. New benches have been purchased and installed and the areas around the green have been spruced up. Huge thanks to the local organisations who helped to fund the new benches and to our greenkeeper Chris Marsden and his team

of willing volunteers for all their hard work.

The green will be formally opened on Sunday 12th April at noon and this will be followed by our first competition of the year, the Green Opening Cup.

This is open to all Band Club members so why not give it a go. Just put your name down on the entry form which will appear at the club about two weeks beforehand. Just ask at the bar if you are unsure where to find the form. New players are very welcome and expert (!?) tuition is at hand. Even if you don't want to play come and watch Club President Terry Lawless open the green by attempting to bowl the first bowl of the season. Always entertaining to watch – no pressure Terry!

Mike Lucas



This edition of the Dobcross Diary is kindly sponsored by Gwyn, a local resident.

A View from the Shopfront

It's been a year since our refurbishment, and our community shop has never been busier, more vibrant, or more fun. Thank you all for your support — it is the vital ingredient that helps us sustain the shop and post office, ensuring this community asset continues to go from strength to strength.



Talking of vital ingredients, we are thrilled to announce that our wonderful team of volunteers has won the *Pride of Saddleworth Award* for their collective efforts and contributions. This award recognises the time, energy, and commitment each member of the team continues to give to the running of our community shop. A huge thank you — and congratulations to you all! If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers we'd love to hear from you.

And speaking of joining, we are also looking to recruit a part-time member of staff for the store and post office — an ideal opportunity for someone looking to work locally. If you're interested, please contact Nathan via the shop for more information.

In other news, we recently launched a monthly lottery, open to all Members and Loyalty Card holders. Simply call into the shop and pop £2 in the pot for your chance to win a share of the prize fund, while also contributing to local good causes. February's lottery raised £480 in total, meaning winner Jackie took home £240, runner-up earned £120 loyalty points, and, importantly, £120 was shared between the DVC and Coffee Shop to distribute to causes of their choice.

We promised to host an **Interim Members' Meeting, which is now booked on the 12th April at the Dobcross Band and Social Club**. It's an opportunity to update you on our progress, announce the reduced £25 Member Share Offer, and gather your co-operative feedback on our future direction.

And finally... Easter wouldn't be Easter without an Easter Hunt! Following last year's success, we'll be holding another hunt on the morning of Saturday 4th April. Look out for details in the village store, and be sure to keep your eyes peeled on the day.

April: Signs of New Life

As I write this, there are signs of spring around us. The days are getting longer; the weather is a little warmer and there is a sense that things are beginning to change. After the long winter, this is always welcome.

At the end of March, we enter Holy Week, which leads us to Easter on 5th April. This is the heart of the Christian faith. It is the story of Jesus' final days, his suffering, his death on the cross and the joy of his resurrection.

As we move through Lent, some of us may have kept up with what we set out to do, while others may have found it harder than expected. That is part of the journey. Lent is not about getting everything right, but about taking time to pause, reflect and begin again.

Life is not always easy. Many of us carry worries about family, health, work, or the wider world. There are times when things feel heavy. When we hear of war, including the suffering of

people in places like the Ukraine, Middle East and other parts of the world, it can leave us feeling sad and helpless.

But the message of Easter speaks into this. For Christians, our hope is in Jesus. His resurrection reminds us that even in the darkest moments, there is still hope. New life is possible. Light can break through.

As we begin to spend more time outdoors, meet neighbours and enjoy the signs of spring, we are reminded again how important community is and how much we need one another. Holy Trinity Church will be open through Holy Week and over Easter. You are welcome to come in, whether for a service or simply for a quiet moment.

As April unfolds, may we notice the signs of new life around us and find hope for the days ahead. Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Easter.

Revd. Sachin S. Awale



Holy Trinity Church

Nature Notes

Most birds sing in the early morning to establish their territories or to attract a mate if they haven't already paired up. Later in the morning is the time to search for whatever food is available, then during the hottest part of the day there may be time for a rest. During the afternoon there may be more time to feed, and then towards dusk, when the light is decreasing, some birds will start to sing again. This can be particularly noticeable on warm, still spring afternoons.

The birdsong in a garden can be dominated by the loud voices of robins, dunnocks and wrens, as well as loud chirps from a colony of house sparrows. Song thrushes sing from a high vantage point. The blackbird has a beautiful, melodic song but it is so soft that it can be overlooked. To compensate for this,

blackbirds are often the first to start singing early in the morning, before the noisier species have woken up. They are also often the last species to be singing at dusk before going to roost for the night.

Chiff chaffs are the first of the migrant warblers to return and their repetitive song can be heard from the middle of March. By the middle of April, many resident birds are already preoccupied with nesting and feeding young so the garden may be quieter. The main songsters now are the later returning warblers, which can be heard in trees and shrubs on the edge of the village, for example along the Delph Donkey.

Athene Noctua

Dobcross Youth Band

The sun is shining. The daffodils dancing, the camellias glorious and the trees are beginning to turn green. Hopefully Spring is truly on the way. This is the time of year when a bandsman's thoughts turn to ...Whit Friday! But more later. In my last report I mentioned the sell-out of tickets for the premier of the musical performance of "Wallace and Gromit, A Grand Day Out". Ryan and James spent the afternoon setting up all the technical equipment and testing the same; perfect. But come the evening, gremlins held up the start of the performance. The waiting audience were very kind and our wonderful band members unphased by the delay, put on a superb performance of "Beyond the Horizon", a journey of adventure, imagination and exploring the unknown, and consisted of 4 pieces; "2001 A Space Odyssey", "The Eve of the War", a beautiful performance by Bethany Oliver of "A Pacific Melody", and ending with the test piece "Neverland". Our audience also enjoyed a real Yorkshire supper of crackers and Wensleydale cheese. We do hope to perform this programme again very soon, so watch this space.



The Youth Band entered the 4th Section Area Contest held in the Winter Gardens Blackpool on 1st March where they delivered a performance of Indian Summer 'that was mature, controlled and full

of musical character'. We were placed 10th out of 20 bands, not bad for a band with an average age of fifteen.

Our congratulation go to James's other band, KNDS Fairey Band, Dobcross Silver Band and all the Saddleworth Bands taking part.

The following weekend all three groups took part in Music for Youth Festival at Rochdale Town Hall. This is a showcase of music groups of any genre who perform before mentors who give constructive feedback. Festivals are held all over the country and you may be invited to perform at the final festival at the Symphony Hall Birmingham, later in the year; we have

to wait until July to see if one of our groups gets an invitation! This was the first time our band of brilliant Beginners had performed before the general public in an away venue and they were amazing. Remarks from the mentors included "...one of the things I really enjoy about this band is your ability to paint pictures and tell stories with your spirited, thoughtful and fun playing". The remarks for the Training Band begin with "I want to move my family to Dobcross and encourage my 7-year-old to take up a brass instrument with your organisation", "Keep doing what you are doing. A gem of a group"! The Youth Band gave a performance of their set 'Popcross' - "You are on the road to being masters of your craft and are clearly led with determination inspiration and flair, bravo the conductor." "Stunning cornet work, technically secure and musically intelligent." Very well done to all our children and our MD's James and Steve.

Our next outing is to the National Youth Band Championships, to be held at Edgbaston on March 28th. The Beginners will perform the programme from Music for Youth and Training Band and Youth Band have a new programme we wish them well on this important date in the Brass Band calendar. April 3rd, Good Friday, our annual concert and Grand Easter Egg Draw will take place, 12.00 noon at the Band Club. This is our biggest fund raiser and we are always grateful for donations of Easter Eggs and the purchase of Draw Tickets, available from any Band Committee member at the club Tuesdays and Fridays. We sell a fine range of sandwiches and cakes, so why not pop in for a musical lunch. Back to Whit Friday, on 29th May. Most Bands will already be looking at the marches in their library, discarding several, looking again at very familiar ones or discussing taking a risk at a little known one, just to stir the judges interest. Its always interesting, after a morning of Church processions, fluttering banners and community hymn singing, to look out for the most entertaining band on the street march, usually by groups made up for the occasion, rather than registered bands. No matter what feelings are about unregistered bands, they do provide great entertainment and most donate any prize money to charity. It looks like we have a very musical Spring before us. I thank our community for all your support and interest shown to our youngsters. The future of Brass Bands keeping our hills alive with music appears to be in safe hands.

Sue Crook, Chairman.



Dobcross Silver Band

Another fantastic performance from the Silver Band at the North West Regional Finals at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, was rewarded with 4th place out of 19 competing Bands in the 2nd Section. In fact we narrowly missed out on another trip to the National Finals, this following our promotion this year after winning the National 3rd Section title in September 2025. After such a wonderful anniversary year we are delighted to continue our good form into 2026 and look forward to another exciting year!

Whit Friday preparations are already underway and ahead of this we expect to play at least one concert locally to for our friends and supporters. The Showcase Brass season will also be back underway soon too. As we reflect on a memorable anniversary year we still have Commemorative Coins available to purchase together with other merchandise such as key rings

badges and tote bags. Please ask at the Club.

On a slightly sad note, following the great performance at Blackpool, our long serving 2nd Baritone player Angela Gray has decided that now is the time for her to step away from the Band, at least in a full time capacity, to enable her to spend more time with her growing family. Angela has given tremendous service to the Silver Band over many years for which we will always be grateful and we know that she will still be there supporting us regularly. We currently have vacancies in the Band for baritone, tuba and percussion players. This would be a fantastic opportunity to join a great bunch of people at the height of our success.

The Silver Band is in a great place at the moment and looking forward to the year ahead. Thank you as always, for your ongoing support!

Andy Black (Silver Band Chairman) on 07907 635397

What's on in April

Friday 3rd 12.00-2.00 Youth Band Easter Concert and Easter Egg Draw. Dobcross band Club.

Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th 7.30 'Vanya'. With William Ash. Millgate Arts Centre, Delph.

Saturday 4th 10.00 -12.00 Coffee Shop. Dobcross Band Club. Donations to Oldham Food Bank welcome.

Saturday 11th Denshaw Cinema. 'Ocean' (PG). Dedicated booking number. Please text (preferred) phone 07845698551

Sunday 12th 12.00-5.00 Green Opening Easter Cup
12-.00-1.00 Dobcross Band Club AGM

1pm-3pm-Dobcross Village Society ½ Yearly Annual Meeting **1.00-3.00**
Dobcross Village Store AMM members meeting at Band Club

Monday 13th 7.00 DVC Meeting. Holy Trinity Church. All welcome.

Friday 18th to Saturday 25th 7.30 'Wait until Dark'. Millgate Arts Centre Delph.

Tuesday 21st Dobcross Ladies. Trip to George Lawton Hall to see We Will Rock You. Ticket holders only.

Saturday 25th Denshaw Cinema. 'The Choral' (12A) Details above.

Sunday 26th 2.00 The Brass Monkeys Spring Concert. £3. Band Club.

Weekly events

Wednesday 7 - 8.30pm Creative writing, in The Swan.

Contact Cathy for more info: cathycrabb@gmail.com

Natasha's Morning Classes at the Band Club: 07852 576 107

£8 per session (£14 for 2, if taken in the same week)

Pilates: Monday :9.30-10.15 & 10.30-11.15

Thursday : 10.30-11.15

This Diary is distributed free to every home in Dobcross and also available via email. It is now also available to read on the Dobcross Shop website, together with a welcome pack: dobcrossvillagestore.com We try to include all village events. If you have any articles for the next issue, please contact Patricia on 01457 878814 or by emailing diary@dobcross.com.

Saddleworth Gardening Club

Meet in the Civic Centre in Uppermill at 1.30pm

Members £2 or £3 for non members which includes tea and biscuits.
Visitors very welcome.

Monday April 13th - Andrew Oldham

Practical gardening for those of us slowing down

Andrew has a small holding in Saddleworth and writes "Life on Pig Row".

He was the Garden Media Guild Dr David Hessayon Garden Columnist

of the Year 2022 and writes for Amateur Gardening and Country

Smallholder and has written for Sainsbury's Magazine and Kitchen

Garden. He addresses some of the many issues affecting our members

as we struggle to carry on gardening.

This is also your opportunity to pick up a copy of the new Summer programme and book on one of our 4 Trips

Queries or further information from Lesley 07784793410

200 CLUB HTD

March's winner!

The winner of this month's draw with share number 150 is:

Vernon Cressey.

(Promoter: Mr Peter J Whiffin, 22 Nudger Green, Dobcross, Oldham, OL3 5AW)

DOB × TEA

Tea, cake & a proper sit-down

Opened to celebrate the charm of village life in Dobcross, they will be serving proper tea, homemade cakes and simple British classics in the warm and welcoming space above the pub.

Open daily from 11am.

Aaron and his family have created a simple and comforting, a traditional tea room where people can escape the rush of the day upstairs at The Swan,

The Swan Inn
Dobcross



PUB & RESTAURANT



Holy Trinity Church Services in April

Thursday, 2 nd	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Agape Meal (Bring and Share) & Communion
Friday, 3 rd	10.30am	Good Friday (Meditation)
Sunday, 5 th	09:30am	Bring and share breakfast followed by :
	10:00am	Easter Day Eucharist (CW)
Sunday, 12 th	09:30am	Morning Praise (NPW)
Sunday, 19 th	09:30am	Easter Eucharist (CW)
Sunday, 26 th	09:30am	Easter Eucharist (CW)

Oldham Choral Society invite you to Swing into Spring! On Sunday 19th April, 4 pm at Oldham Parish Church.

They will be performing Jazz Missa Brevis (Will Todd), Mass of the Children (John Rutter) and Te Deum (Dvorak), with soloists and a jazz ensemble.

Tickets are £15 (students £5, under 12s £1), from choir members, on the door, from the Ticket Secretary (07768 167178) or

tickets@oldhamchoralsociety.org.uk.