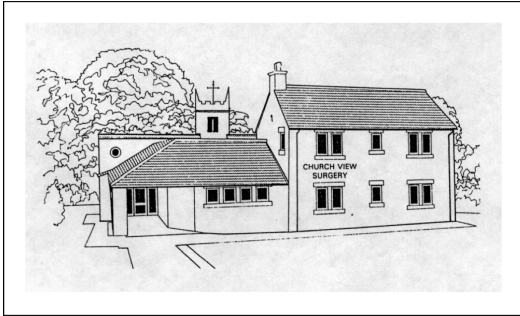


COLLINGHAM CHURCH VIEW AND THORNER SURGERY NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Drs Toogood, Hance, Eyre, Trigg & Fearnley



Thorner Refurbishment

The partners have recently made a significant investment in the modernisation and refurbishment of our Thorner Branch Surgery.



We have increased our clinical capacity and now have four fully equipped consulting rooms. Office space upstairs has also been refurbished, and a new internal staircase now connects the two floors, creating a more practical and efficient working

environment. All rooms have been redecorated and benefit from new flooring, windows and heating, as well as new clinical sinks, desks and equipment. The dispensary has also been completely modernised.

We apologise for any inconvenience during the refurbishment works, but we hope you will agree that the end result provides us with a modern, well-equipped surgery for the future.

Collingham Refurbishment

We are pleased to announce that refurbishment works at our main Collingham Surgery site are planned to begin in early 2026.

This will be a large and carefully managed project designed to improve our facilities and working environment, enabling us to continue providing high-quality care to our patients. Detailed planning is already underway to ensure services run as smoothly and safely as possible during this time.

We will keep our website updated and share further information as soon as dates are confirmed, including how services may be affected. We will of course aim to minimise disruption to patients wherever possible.

Practice Manager

We are thrilled to welcome our new practice manager, Ms Eliza Venizelou who joined our team in July 2025. Eliza comes with a wealth of experience and strong local knowledge, having been in the management team at Crossley Street Surgery in Wetherby for many years.

Private Certificates

We would like to remind patients that we no longer provide private certificates confirming fitness to fly, fitness to participate in extreme sports or fitness to attend a gym. These certificates fall outside the scope of General Practitioners' NHS terms and conditions.

Repeat Prescriptions-Only Order What You Need

Did you know that the NHS wastes up to **£26 million each year on unused medicines?**

This often happens because many patients reorder their regular prescriptions every month without first checking what they actually need. Unwanted medicines are then returned to pharmacies.

Unfortunately **returned medicines cannot be reused or recycled** -they must be destroyed.

To help reduce waste, please:

- Take a moment each month to check which medicines you really need
- Only order the medicines you are running out of

Unused medicines can expire, and keeping large quantities at home can be dangerous especially for children and pets. Medicines are prescribed specifically for you and **must not be shared**.

The Latest on Cervical Screening

Cervical screening saves lives-don't ignore your smear test invite.



NHS England have confirmed that the cervical screening programme will be updated so that eligible 25-49 year olds are invited every **five years instead of every three years**.

We understand that some patients may be concerned by this news so we would like to explain the reasons:

- Cervical screening today is much more sensitive and better at detecting risk earlier. This change follows improvements made to the screening test in 2019, which now looks for high-risk strains of HPV (human papillomavirus), which is the root cause of **99.7% of all cervical cancers**. Previously, the test only looked for abnormal cell changes in the cervix.
- The extended screening interval only applies to patients who are considered low risk and who receive a negative HPV result.
- This change is backed up by scientific research. The UK National Screening Committee reviewed national modelling and trials which showed that **five-yearly HPV screening is as safe as three-yearly screening for abnormal cells**.
- Please remember that screening is for people **without symptoms**. If you notice symptoms

such as vaginal bleeding, changes to vaginal discharge, pain during sex or pain in your lower back or pelvis contact the practice- **do not wait for your next screening**.

The NHS Cervical Screening Programme has introduced digital invitations and reminders through the NHS app.

We would encourage everyone to download the NHS App and enable notifications.

Referrals Process

There are times when patients require more specialist care than is available at the practice. In these circumstances, we will refer you to the most appropriate service to continue your care, usually secondary care (hospital) or an external provider.

Our secretarial team prioritises referrals based on clinical need and work as hard as possible to ensure your referral is sent to secondary care promptly.

Under the NHS **Right To Choose**, in most cases, if your GP refers you for a physical or mental health condition, you have the right to choose where you receive your care. We will always refer you to the most appropriate local service to avoid delays.

If you would prefer a different provider, please inform us within **five working days of your referral**

The quickest way to check if your referral has been processed is via the **NHS App**.

Please use the NHS app for updates rather than blocking our phone lines.

Have You Heard About My Planned Care?

My Planned Care is an NHS website that allows you to check average hospital waiting times by speciality and provides up-to-date information and support for people waiting for a hospital appointment, operation, or treatment. Visit: **www.myplannedcare.nhs.uk**

A Big Thank You

Thank you very much for our Christmas gifts. Your kindness and appreciation mean a great deal to the whole team.



