

December 2025

Edition 172

Newsletter



Hello everyone – well, it's that time of year again – Christmas – with all the joys it brings, along with all the fantastic opportunities to profess our faith to others, whether through our Church's Christmas activities, or just chatting with families or friends. At roadHoG we treasure this time of year because of the many Christmas based conversations we are able to start with the youngsters who visit the Bus – it makes our job just that little bit easier.

I hope that you have a fantastic, joyous and truly God-blessed Christmas this year, however you may celebrate it.



Apologies

When I wrote the November Diary, I forgot that the High Street Stop was cancelled for the whole month, due to the Baptist Church having their car park resurfaced. I am so sorry for any confusion!

Hopefully the carpark will be completed by the 8th December and the Bus there that evening, otherwise it won't be there until the 6th January!

New Team Members

We are grateful to Holy Trinity Church who hosted our most recent Members Training session. We had 11 new folk attend, whilst 4 existing members came along for moral support and to use the session as their three-yearly "Refresher" session as well.

We have more folk awaiting our next session of training, which we will get in the diary as soon as we possibly can.

Please pray for those who have now become more involved with the Project, that they might find fulfilment, joy and pleasure in amongst the hard work.

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Purple Bus: an “interesting” month of problems

Problem 1:

When our Purple Bus went in for its MOT earlier this year, we had a bit of a panic – one of the warning lights on the dashboard came on and as it was indicating that we were not pumping AdBlue into the engine along with the diesel fuel.

For those who do not know, AdBlue is a diesel exhaust fluid used to reduce harmful nitrogen oxide emissions thus making the exhaust cleaner and adding to our “Green” credentials. Failure of the system is an MOT failure too, as the addition of AdBlue into the engine is essential for compliance with UK emission standards.

Those who were aware of the problem prayed – and the warning light did not illuminate throughout the MOT and (miraculously) the exhaust emissions were within tolerance (how? – only God knows!) and we gained the MOT! However, on the way back to Fosdyke the light came on again and stayed on.

John has since managed to source a new AdBlue pump and got it fitted, so our Purple Bus is as “green” as could ever hope it to be – we have a lot to thank God for.

Problem 2:

A part of the ABS Braking system failed – that doesn’t render the Bus unusable, but does mean that we have to rely on the good judgement and braking skills of our Drivers much more that we would otherwise have to – not a situation that we were comfortable with. Once again, John took to the telephone and we now have a fully functioning ABS Braking System – so we can all relax.



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Problem 3:

The Bus has an automatic gearbox, with just three buttons to push, one each for Neutral, Forward and Reverse. This makes driving the Bus much easier, but almost all buses have the buttons grouped by the Driver's window. Pretty much all of our Drivers had begun recently to complain that the Bus would "drop out of gear" at the most inconvenient moments, junctions, after braking, etc. After having sought advice, John and mechanic Alex began removing all the electrical connectors into the gearbox, cleaning them and reinstating them along with a moisture sealant. For a couple of days, the problem seemed to go away, however, a few days later the problem returned completely immobilising the Bus. Fortunately, that happened as John moved the Bus around his yard. Whilst we were overjoyed at having been spared a towing cost, we still had the problem of an immobile Bus and Stops to attend. The next couple of Stops were immediately postponed and the help of a specialist auto electrician sought. He diagnosed dead integrated circuit boards (electronic chips), due to water in the gear selection switch. It seems that Transport for London's drivers liked to drive around with the window open – which resulted in water getting into the switch and us now having to find approximately £800 for a new selector switch.



The offending gear selector switch – now covered in a waterproof film.

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John did some more ringing around and find us a reconditioned unit for only £145. New switch was fitted and we only missed those two Stops – God is good, but it doesn't stop there.

We still needed to find almost £240 to cover the cost of the selector switch and the cost of the auto electrician. Someone, who must remain nameless, had been making Bird Boxes and Bird Feeders and felt impelled to donate the money they had made to roadHoG. Then someone else, who must also remain nameless, not knowing of the need – sent me an envelope containing a substantial amount of money. When combined, these two acts of kindness meant that we could meet the costs of the work. Like I said, God is good!

Problem 4:

The Xbox Games Console decided it had served us well enough for long enough and decided to die. Now you may recall that in last month's Newsletter I asked for donations of old, unused games consoles for use in the Blue Bus that we are currently getting ready for the road? Well, a few folk donated consoles (you know who you are – and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts), however a couple of folk from New Life Fellowship donated an Xbox – just when the one on the Purple Bus died, so we were able to loan the Purple Bus that one until we can obtain a new one for it. God's timing is amazing.



Newly installed Xbox 360 – thanks to BJ & Sandy of New Life Church

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We can look at the recent problems with the Purple Bus in two ways:

1. We can gasp at the problems and worry about what “might” come next, or
2. We can praise God for the blessings He has poured on us and from that draw comfort that whatever faces us in the future, He is more that capable of dealing with.

I’m sure that I speak for all on the Project when I say that we’re confident about option 2.

Blue Bus

Very briefly, but of immense importance to the team who are working on the Blue Bus now that the weather is turning colder – **we have heat!!** The diesel space heater is up and running and is now also piped into the top deck (it still blows lovely and warm into the bottom deck too) and an auxiliary electric heater has been installed upstairs and that too is working.

I will (hopefully) bring you an update on the rest of the work next month – now that our fingers aren’t too frozen for us to be able to knock the nails in straight

Many thanks

Thanks for your love and your prayers – please do pray that we will all be able to use the true message of Christmas as a “jumping off point” for conversations with young people over the coming weeks.

May God bless you all and give you all a wonderful – and reflective – Christmas.

Kev!

Diary

Stop dates for December 2025

Date	Location	Arrive	START	Depart	Location	Arrive	START	Depart
Mon 1st Dec	Town Centre	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
Tue 2nd Dec		No Stop						
Wed 3rd Dec	Fenside	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
Thur 4th Dec	Butterwick	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
Fri 5th Dec		No Stop						
Sat 6th Dec		No Stop						
Sun 7th Dec	Sibsey	1:30pm	2:00pm	3:30pm	Kirton	3:40pm	4:00pm	5:30pm
Mon 8th Dec	Woad Farm	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
Tue 9th Dec	High Street	6:30pm	7:00pm	8:30pm	(assuming that we can park at H/St again)			
Wed 10th Dec	Fishtoft	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
Thur 11th Dec	Swineshead	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
Fri 12th Dec	Wyberton	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
Sat 13th Dec		No Stop						
Sun 14th Dec		No Stop						
Mon 15th Dec	Town Centre	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
Tue 16th Dec		No Stop						
Wed 17th Dec	Fenside	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
Thur 18th Dec	Butterwick	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
roadHoG Christmas Break								
Sun 4th Jan	Sibsey	1:30pm	2:00pm	3:30pm	Kirton	3:40pm	4:00pm	5:30pm
Mon 5th Jan	Woad Farm	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				
Tue 6th Jan	High Street	6:30pm	7:00pm	8:30pm				
Wed 7th Jan	Fishtoft	7:00pm	7:30pm	9:00pm				

January 2026 Diary to follow



HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL ON THE roadHoG TEAM