

March
2018

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds



**We aim to show how God through the Church,
with its worship, teaching and service, is relevant to modern living.**



www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

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ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH PASTORAL CARE & TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE

Transport to and from Church (C), Hospital (H), Shopping (S)
For assistance please contact any of the below:

Margaret Clayson	12 Green Howards Road	C H	822631
John Dickinson	5 West End Avenue	C H	826803
Joy Hornsby	2 Olliver Road	C H	826490
Graham Merlane	1 Gallowfields Road	C H S	826109
Rosemary Olivier	3 Stanley Grove	C	823081
Edna Roberts	70 Ronaldshay Drive	C	822970
Eileen Simms	56 Ronaldshay Drive	H S	821511
Anne Simpson	56 Gilling Road	C H S	822277
Pamela Wheatley	32 Whitefields Drive	C H	822428
Linda Drury	25 Darlington Road	H	850243

Almighty Father,

When life is difficult and the way seems too hard, help us to remember the reality of Easter; of the resurrection of Jesus; of His wonderful saving work on the cross, overcoming death to offer us life for all eternity with you.

There is so much we don't understand, Lord, but you know everything, you are in charge and we can trust you even when we can't work things out.

Thank you for the hope, peace and joy that you alone can give - and all because of the resurrection of Jesus. Thank you that He is alive today and able to help us whatever our situation. Help us to be your Easter People, reaching out with your love and life.

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



MINISTRY TEAM



HONORARY CLERGY

Rev Mark Beresford-Peirse • Bishop John Pritchard • Rev Bill Simms • Rev Jennifer Williamson

READERS

Mr Scott Lunn	2 Hurgill Road	826895
	slunn@richmondschool.net	
Mrs Gillian Lunn	2 Hurgill Road	07592 016476
	gillian.lunn@yahoo.com	

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mrs Jennifer Patrick	1 Roper Court	850693
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ACORN CHRISTIAN LISTENERS

Mrs Jennifer Patrick	850693	Dr Sheila Harrisson	822059
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CHURCH OFFICERS - THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND

<u>Mayor's Warden</u>	Mr David Frankton	8 Allans Court	823531
<u>Rector's Warden</u>	Mr Roy Morel	22 Olliver Road	823278
<u>Assistant Warden</u>	Mrs Janet Morel		

<u>Director of Music</u>	Mr Chris Denton	07817 386070	chrisjdenton@gmail.com
<u>Bell Captain</u>	Mrs Susan Welch	8 Maple Road	823700
<u>Head Verger</u>	Mr Leonard Scrafton	14 Pilmoor Close	824106
<u>Parish Administrator</u>	Claire Murray		pa.richmondhudswellparish@gmail.com 07737482611

OFFICERS OF THE PCC AND OTHERS

<u>Lay Chair</u>	Gillian Lunn	2 Hurgill Road	07592016476
<u>Secretary</u>	Mrs Jennifer Patrick	1 Roper Court	850693
<u>Treasurer</u>	William Gedye	55 Maison Dieu	07710739192 wgedye@btinternet.com
<u>Assistant Treasurer</u>	Claire Murray		07737482611
<u>Magazine Editor</u>	Gillian Lunn	2 Hurgill Road	07592016476
<u>Magazine Distribution</u>	Keith Robson		07866325843
<u>Magazine Adverts</u>	Frank Gibbon	23 Westfields	821002

FOR THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, HUDSWELL

<u>Organist</u>	Mrs Valerie Strawbridge	15 Boundary Way	821440
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FOR THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME

<u>Reader</u>	Mr George Alderson	68 Brompton Park, Brompton on Swale	07745744195
<u>Church Warden</u>	Mrs Jean Calvert	Thorpe Farm, Reeth Road, Richmond	823001
<u>Organist</u>	Mrs Eileen Simms	56 Ronaldshay Drive	
<u>Church Treasurer</u>	Mr John Horseman	Echlinville, Hudswell, Richmond	826216

FOR THE PARISH OF ST EDMUNDS, MARSKE

<u>Church Warden</u>	Mrs Ruth Tindale	Skelton Lodge, Marske	823371
<u>Deputy Warden</u>	Mrs Ann Stoneham	Ivy Cottage, Marske	822418
<u>Organist</u>	Mrs Jennifer Wallis	1 School Terrace, Marske	822930
<u>Treasurer</u>	Mrs Elizabeth Withers	e.withers30@hotmail.co.uk	825262



find us on
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FROM OUR REGISTERS

We have baptised -

21st January 2018 - Charlotte Dixon (at Downholme)
11th February 2018 - Jonathan Sharpe



We have laid to rest those who died on...

2nd January 2018 - Grace Wagstaff aged 85
2nd January 2018 - Doris May Catt aged 87
8th January 2018 - John Dowel Corner aged 64
8th January 2018 - Anne Jane Holland aged 79
14th January 2018 - Hilda Dutton aged 90
21st January 2018 - Ruth Steadman aged 83
21st January 2018 - Reginald Massey (Reg) aged 76
29th January 2018 - Mavis Shore aged 81
29th January 2018 - Brian Robertshaw aged 84
3rd February 2018 - George Allsop aged 72

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

AFTER THE CARDS AND VISITORS



Bereavement is a very difficult time for the spouse/partner left behind. Starting again on your own is even more difficult.

Carrie would like to help you with the next step by meeting any recently bereaved spouse/partner for coffee at the Greyfriars Restaurant.

Please phone Carrie 850103 to make arrangements to meet.

KNIT2GETHER FRIDAYS BETWEEN 10AM AND 12NOON AT GREYFRIARS RESTAURANT:

A weekly knitting, crocheting and hand sewing group continues to meet in the restaurant at Greyfriars, Flints Terrace, Richmond. All will be made very welcome. Bring your own projects and enjoy coffee and a chat whilst making new friends. Please contact Claire Murray on 07737482611 for further information.



HUTCHINSON RICHMOND AND GILLING TRUST

This charity works to support the local community by providing small grants towards: educational courses, necessary medical equipment, household appliances, and many other expenses. If you live in: Richmond, Gilling West, Eppleby, Eryholme, South Cowton, North Cowton, West Layton, Hutton Magna, Cliffe, or Barton, then you may be eligible for this support.

For further information, please contact either Mrs Christine Bellas, Oak Tree View, Hutton Magna, Richmond, DL11 7HQ.

'Have you recently joined our Church? Do you feel you can make a financial commitment?

St Mary's PCC rely on regular giving by church members to help us meet our running costs which are around £2,000 a week. Many members give by Bank Standing Order, and tax-payers can Gift Aid this to add 25%. If you are able to commit financially then please see one of the Churchwardens or our treasurer William Gedye (wgedye@btinternet.com) for an explanatory pack.



ST MARY'S 8th EXHIBITION FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Good news! St. Mary's will host another exhibition for the whole community throughout the whole of the May Bank Holiday weekend, Friday May 4th - Monday May 7th, the very weekend that the *Tour de Yorkshire* sets off from Richmond.

Exhibition title: **Tour de Richmond - Wheels within Wheels**

Many people will remember the seven exciting weekend exhibitions held at St Mary's between 2005 and 2016 in which individuals, local organisations, businesses and schools were invited to create and display their own exhibits. The response and creativity was marvellous with between 50-70 or more exhibits of every shape and size on display each time. Every exhibition brought hundreds of visitors through our doors. This year the town will be especially crowded so we expect even more visitors at St Mary's.

Further details will appear in Sunday pew-sheets, the magazine, on the church website, local websites and in the press.

To remind you, the titles of the previous exhibitions were: Church embroidery (2003); Recollections-Reconnections (2006); Tree-Time (2007); Scarecrows (2008); Angels (2009); All creatures great and small (2011); Summoned by Bells (2016). Two interesting and successful flower festivals were also held at St. Mary's in 2001 and 2017.

The Exhibition team.

Tel: 07894668005



The third leg of this year's Tour de Yorkshire is starting in Richmond on Saturday 5th May 2018.

This happily coincides with our grand exhibition (see above). Our link primary (Trinity Academy Richmond (proud to be a Church of England Academy)) are doing their bit by producing large volumes of blue and yellow bunting to adorn the church and elsewhere. Other youngsters are painting some of the 200 wooden bikes that will be seen in businesses around the town and in the churchyard which lies alongside the route of the tour.

As far as we know Rev Martin is not competing this year...



Have you seen the "new to us" wooden table in St Mary's Church near to the kitchen - it is the Bible table.

It has come from a church friend who tells us it used to live in the Green Mission in Richmond up until the 1950's. Can anyone tell us any more?

Look at me!

"Look at me!" our three year-old granddaughter calls out, as she climbs up high in the playground, pulls a funny face or dresses up as one of the characters in "Frozen" Good for her! It's great when children, and maybe grown-ups do something which they want others to see and even applaud.

We humans need to be noticed, need attention. By receiving it and giving it, we make bonds which gives us confidence and happiness. Without it, there can be a sense of not belonging, too much need for attention. Needing attention isn't self-centredness or self-absorption, unless it gets out of proportion. Sending selfies for instance and details of what you're up to can be a cheerful way of keeping in touch with friends. I suppose it depends on whether the sender is also interested in what other people are doing.

One of the "diseases" of modern Britain seems to be loneliness, and it's a lot to do with the connections or lack of them, with others, and with attention.

Richmond is a friendly town, we are friendly churches, but there are always gaps and room for improvement! The challenge is to be good listeners, sensitive, willing to give people time, without expecting the response we'd imagine.

Our faith is that we belong and are cherished by God; he gives us his attention and looks at us, with love. It makes such a difference, whether we are trying to pray, busy working, at leisure, out and about, talking with others or trying to get to sleep, to know he looks at us, and we are in his presence. A good description of prayer could be that "I look at Him and He looks at me".

Collect for Good Friday -

Almighty Father,

look with mercy on this your family

for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed

and given up into the hands of sinners

and to suffer death upon the cross;

who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen

With very best wishes this Lent

Rev Mark

PRAYER DIARY FOR MARCH we pray ...

Thur	1	For the month ahead. That we may encourage and love each other. For sense of hope and anticipation for the year ahead. 1st Thursday Prayers. For a good Lent.
Fri	2	For Rev Martin as he prepares to join us from Hersham. And for his congregation as they prepare to bid him farewell and begin their vacancy process.
Sat	3	For our politicians - local, national and international. May they seek your wisdom and serve with integrity and for good purpose. For all who live, work and visit Greyfriars, and the Knit2gether group.
Sun	4	For courage to listen to God, & to use the gifts which we have been given. We give thanks for the Right Rev Helen-Ann Hartley now welcomed and installed as Bishop of Ripon.
Mon	5	For our Monday Morning Toddler Group
Tues	6	For Revs Mark, Bill, Jennifer, Stewart, and Bishop John, and their families. For our Readers Scott, Gillian and George, for our Church Wardens, and vergers, and PA Claire and all who look after us in our vacancy.
Wed	7	For all who mourn the loss of loved ones. Bring them comfort, peace and hope. For all who are supporting those who mourn.
Thur	8	For all who are finding life really tough - may they know that here are people they can turn to - and may we be those people.
Fri	9	May we be welcoming and open. For the Local Development Plan, for the expansion of Catterick Garrison and Richmondshire District Council.
Sat	10	For our bin men, road sweepers, police, traffic wardens and Community police. For all who make music in our church
Sun	11	For a sense of joy as we gather to worship, and an eagerness to share the Good News of God's love with all.
Mon	12	For the seasons of life - new life, those dying, those tired.
Tues	13	For those who are lonely or feel unheard or invisible.
Wed	14	For all who work in the NHS.
Thur	15	For our PCCs, wardens and church officers as we continue to work our way through the vacancy process. God's guidance. For hearts that are gentle and kind.
Fri	16	For all who are sick in body, mind or spirit, and for their carers.
Sat	17	For the Lent Bible study groups which meet during the week.
Sun	18	For love, friendship, and encouragement. For family and friends who live far away. For all who come to Café Church
Mon	19	For all who come to our churches for funerals, baptisms and weddings. For the magazine distributors and staplers and co-ordinators. For l'Anson Road and Pilmoor Drive.
Tues	20	For the choir and musicians, for our all age music group. For Traidcraft and Fairtrade.
Wed	21	For the gift of life, of love and companionship.
Thur	22	For an eagerness to grow and strengthen in our faith. May we continually seek to know more and to share God's love.
Fri	23	For a sense of awe and wonder of all of God's creation
Sat	24	For strangers, may we be welcoming, kind, open & encouraging.
Sun	25	Palm Sunday. For Fun-Key Church this afternoon. Our APCM.
Mon	26	Holy Week reflections and complines this week - for all who attend
Tues	27	For the Mothers Union and all their prayerful support for so many.
Wed	28	For our neighbours. For the Syrian refugees settling in to the area.
Thur	29	Maundy Thursday
Fri	30	Good Friday - a closeness and true sense of the presence of God
Sat	31	For all who wait.....may they know your comfort and love

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH 2018

Every Friday: Knit2gether at Greyfriars' Restaurant, 10am - 12noon: For more details, please see page 3.

Thursday 1st: First Thursday Prayers at Holy Trinity Chapel, 12noon-12.30pm.

Friday 2nd: Womens World Day of Prayer at St Mary's Church - 1.30pm - an ecumenical service for all, this year from the women of Suriname - All God's Creation is Very Good!

Saturday 3rd: Big Brew and Breakfast at Northcliffe, Gatherley Road, Brompton on Swale from 8.30am to 1pm - everyone welcome. Please call Rachel Walker for more information 01748 818046 or email remwalker7@gmail.com

Wednesday 7th: Richmond Flower Arranging Club - Brief Annual Meeting followed by a talk from 'North Yorkshire Rotters'. Tel. 01748 824514 for more details.

Saturday 10th March at 7.30pm - Masterworks Chorale presents "Oh all ye works of the Lord" at St Mary's Richmond. Free entry. A relaxing evening of choral music. All welcome.

Thursday 15th: Richmond and District Civic Society - The Old Grammar School, Station Road, its history and future - with James Gravenor at 7.30pm in the Influence Church Community Centre, Victoria Road, Richmond. All welcome - visitors £5.

Saturday 17th: Exploring Faith at Rokeby Inn - 9.30am for 10am start. £5 including continental breakfast. The Revd Kate Brooke, who is chaplain to Holme House Prison at Stockton will be coming to speak.

Saturday 17th March - 7.30pm - Richmond Fairtrade Group are back at The Town Hall with their popular fundraising quiz with the challenging quizmaster James Wilson. Beneficiaries this year will be the Shared Interest Foundation and Traidcraft Exchange two charities working with producer groups to help them develop a competitive offer. There will be a Fairtrade Bar and Stall Tickets are £6 from Castle Hill Bookshop or on the door 01748 825221 for more details.

Sunday 18th: Café Church at St Mary's at 4pm - Our speaker this month will be Wendy Pritchard who will be looking at God and nature through a variety of talk, conversation, images, music, cake and compline. We look forward to welcoming everyone. See John, Wendy and Gillian for more information.

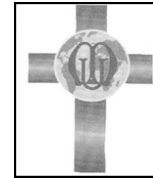
Sunday 25th at 11.30am - St Mary's Church APCM. Please do stay after our morning service to support this meeting during which we will reflect on the year past and pray for the year ahead. Please stay for this very important meeting.

Sunday 25th at 4pm - Fun-Key Church @ St Mary's Richmond Our theme this month will be Palm Sunday. Fun, faith and fellowship for all ages. Please see Gillian for more information or find us on Facebook. (Please see P8 for more information).

Tuesday 27th at 2pm - Mother's Union meeting at Susan Scrafton's home - our speaker will be Gillian Lunn. Perhaps "the varied life of a Reader"? All welcome. 824106

Saturday 31st - Richmondshire Landscape Trust is holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Westfield from 2pm to 4pm, starting from the Westfields lay-by. Tickets for the event (which is sponsored by Richmond Duck Club) are £3. Tickets may be bought at the gate or reserved at lorraine@belfrys.co.uk. Uncollected reserved tickets may be sold from 2.45pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

MOTHERS' UNION - Mothers Union started 2018 with our Annual Christmas Party and what a party we had. Entertained by Tony and Freda assisted by Mark and Dennis we sang, listened to stories and laughed the afternoon away. From the youngest not yet one to the eldest in their eighties we had a wonderful time finished off with our now famous Afternoon Tea!



Coming down to earth we had our Annual General Meeting in February (report next month).

Gillian Lunn will be our speaker at our March meeting which will be held on Tuesday 27th 2pm at 14 Pilmoor Close home of Susan Scrafton.

Mothers Union are delighted to provide the primulas for the Mothering Sunday service 11th March. These will be given to each lady at both the 8am and 10am services. A date for your diary is Saturday 30th June at 3 pm which is our Annual Fundraiser - Reeth Brass Band & Afternoon Tea. Tickets priced at just £6-50 making it affordable to all will be on sale at a later date

Everyone is most welcome at any of our meetings - you don't need to be a member to come along.

Susan Scrafton 824106



FUN-KEY CHURCH @ ST MARY'S RICHMOND

By the time you read this we will have held our February Fun-Key Church service and be looking forward to our Palm Sunday themed service on Sunday 25th March at 4pm.

Our activities and crafts are always fun and we are always delighted to welcome new faces.

Find us on the church website, find us on Facebook, or read our blog at:
<http://funkeychurchatstmarysrichmond.wordpress.com>

Gillian 07592016476

Fun, faith and fellowship for all ages.

Home-Start Richmondshire Volunteers wanted

Being a parent is challenging. Could you be a helping hand?

Are you a good listener?

Could you offer informal, friendly and confidential support?

Home-Start offers practical and emotional support to families with young children in the Richmondshire area.

Could you offer a few hours each week to support a local family?

Training planned for Spring/Summer 2018

For an informal chat please contact 01748 850079 / 07813275345

www.homestarrichmondshire.org.uk



What do we want? PROCRASTINATION! When do we want it? NEXT WEEK!

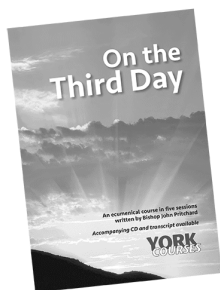
Love, Remember - 40 poems of loss, lament and hope
by Malcolm Guite, Canterbury Press, £12.99

The best-selling poet Malcolm Guite has chosen forty poems from across the centuries that express the universal experience of loss, and reflects on them in order to draw out the comfort, understanding and hope they offer.

Some of the poems will be familiar, many will be new, but together they provide a sure companion for the journey across difficult terrain. Some of Malcolm's own poetry is included, written out of his work as a priest with the dying and the bereaved and giving to the volume a powerful authenticity. The choice forty poems explore the risk of love, the pain of letting go, and look toward glimpses of resurrection.



Paul: A Biography, by Tom Wright, SPCK, £13.99 - One of the world's leading New Testament scholars here tells the story behind the story, the story of the Apostle Paul, whose letters have shaped so much of world history. This really excellent book not only brings Paul to life, but then places that life in the complex and overlapping array of Jewish and non-Jewish communities, all set within the Roman empire. The result provides such a helpful picture, both of Paul and of the early Christian communities of which he was so significant a founder and shaper.



2018 Lent Course - It's not too late to join!

In the season of Lent many Christians choose to join a Lent Study Group as part of their preparations for Easter. For many years The York Course has been used to support and guide this work.

This year's course follows the pattern of previous years: 5 sessions spread over 5 weeks; contributions from various well known Christian leaders via an audio CD; and additional texts and questions available via a course booklet.

The main writer for this year's course is Bishop John Pritchard. He is the retired Bishop of Oxford who now lives in Richmond. **The first session of the York Course took place in the week beginning 19th February. The fifth and final session takes place in the week beginning 19th March and Palm Sunday is on 25th March. You are still welcome to join.**

There are presently three groups running:

Wednesday lunchtime between 12:00 and 14:00 in the Methodist Church Hall.

This includes a soup lunch. The first session is on 21st February.

This group is coordinated by Daphne Clark.

01748 822651

clarkerichmond@btinternet.com

Wednesday evening between 19:30 and 21:00 at 2 Hurgill Road.

The first session is on 21st February. This group is coordinated by Scott Lunn.

01748 826895

slunn@richmondschool.net

Thursday evening between 19:30 and 21:00 at 1 Roper Court.

The first session is on 22nd February.

This group is coordinated by Jennifer Patrick

01748 850693

jenpat@surfanytime.co.uk

Course books have been ordered and we will order more should this be necessary. We are asking that each course member contributes £5 for their course booklet.

Any questions to Scott, please.

“The Happy Bodgers”. Over the last few months a few of our gentlemen have been looking at how they can work together to help others who may be in need of a practical assistance. As a result they have formed a group called “The Happy Bodgers”. Happily they are far more skilled than their title suggests and they are able to offer a variety of help free of charge.



They write -

“We realise that, as people grow older or disabled, they may need help with odd jobs. They may be perfectly capable of changing a light bulb, but can't safely climb onto a chair to do it. Or climb into the loft to retrieve stored items. So we offer to do such simple tasks on a voluntary basis provided they are within our own abilities. These are DIY jobs which may require simple skills, not the sorts of job that would need a 'white van man'. We have different skill sets and could allocate tasks accordingly.

Try us - we can say no if we don't feel capable. We could probably not take on regular tasks such as lawn mowing, weeding, shopping etc. Why not give us a call on 01748 826803 and John Dickinson will see if the Happy Bodgers can help, and take it from there.” We look forward to helping you.

NEWS OF THE BELLS -

Richmond's old bells: new service in new places.

As most people know our old tenor bell is en-route to Kerala in India for a new life in a new place. . Meanwhile our two trebles have also been found a very deserving new home. They have been donated by the Keltek Trust (a charity that acquires surplus or redundant bells and recycles them to other churches) to St Faith's church in Dorstone, Herefordshire. This will make Dorstone into a ring of six bells and once their project is complete their bells will ring again for the first time in 65 years! What a wonderful place for our two trebles to go to!

Dorstone's bells are now out of the tower and being restored along with our old treble bells. They have started to install their new bell frame and hope to have the ring of six bells ringing again in time for Armistice Day 2018. The Church Warden has already indicated that anyone from Richmond wishing to attend their dedication service would be very welcome. When I receive the date I will publish it in the pew sheet and magazine

If you would like to keep abreast of the Dorstone project visit their website pages at: <https://stfaithsdorstone.wordpress.com/whats-happening-now/>

Elizabeth Foster

The Lord said to Moses: “Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out. When both are sounded, the whole community is to assemble before you at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

Numbers 10: 1-3

The Bell Ringers' prayer:

Gracious Lord, source of all skill and beauty, who hast entrusted to us the ringing of thy bells, give unto us the needful skill and grace for the faithful performing of our art, that the sound of the bells may awaken in the hearts of all who hear them the desire to worship thee in spirit and in truth: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DURING OUR VACANCY PERIOD

PLEASE USE THE CONTACT DETAILS BELOW –

Baptisms and Weddings – Claire Murray - 07737482611 -
pa.richmondhudswellparish@gmail.com

Church Bookings – Claire Murray – 07737482611

Parish Administration – Claire Murray – 07737482611

Pastoral Care – Gillian Lunn - 07592016476 - gillian.lunn@yahoo.com

Church Wardens (for access to church etc)

- Roy and Janet Morel - 823278
- David Frankton - 823531

Details of services, pew sheets and magazines are available in church and online at www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

PASTORAL CARE

The St Mary's Church community prays that we can do all we can to support, listen and love all in our parish whether members of our church or not.

The Pastoral Team at St Mary's have established a **Prayer Circle** at St Mary's. If you have something which you would appreciate prayer for, whether for yourself or for someone you care about, we would be privileged to pray about it. No prayer request is ever too small or trivial. Whatever you wish to share, in confidence, we will support you in prayer.

To ask for prayer you can either telephone, email or text Gillian Lunn and she will place your prayer in the circle. Please be assured your requests are confidential.

You can contact Gillian on Tel: 075 920 16476 or

Email: gillian.lunn@yahoo.com

To be a praying member of the circle or a member of the Pastoral Team, please speak to Gillian. She would love to hear from you.

We also have a **Visitor and Phone Call Request** form which is available at the back of church. This form can either be completed for yourself or on behalf of someone who you believe would appreciate a visit or a phone call from a member of the Pastoral Team. There is a box clearly marked at the back of church where you can put the slip. If you are unable to complete the form because you are not in church, please telephone, text or email Gillian. We look forward to hearing from you.

Forgive you.
Respect you.
Inspire you.
Encourage you.
Nourish you.
Defend you.
Support you.





St. Mary the Virgin Annual Report 2017

LAY VICE CHAIR REPORT

It feels more than a little strange to be writing this as normally the Rector writes a report. The Rector is the Chair of the PCC but in our vacancy I have been Lay Vice Chair. Therefore it seemed a good opportunity to write a few words and share a few thoughts.

2017 has been an interesting and exciting year.

On the 9th July 2017 Richmond with Hudswell Parish along with our friends in our united benefice and as a community we bid farewell to Canon John and Liz at which point our vacancy began in earnest. Making an early start on the vacancy process allowed us to get ahead of the game and begin work on our benefice brochure (selling document) and profile (stats and details).

Much hard work was done in respect of our parish profile and brochure by everyone, producing documents, research, information gathering and sorting, photography, and then prioritising and setting of hopes, dreams, aspirations and prayers for our group of churches.

Huge thanks must go to John Dickinson for the gathering of all the information together, and the setting out of the brochure and to Purple Creative at Aske Estate who "finished" the document for us. And also to our generous donator for the cost of this work.

The end result has been that the document has been held up across the country as a "good example" and even more pleasing is that it attracted many to look at our website and consider applying for the position of Rector.

The interview day was both daunting and exciting - our community friends (schools, funeral directors, friends from local churches), civic links (our Mayor Stuart Parsons) and parishioners all pulled together to provide a notably warm welcome to our two candidates.

The most exciting news is that we have been able to make an appointment and very very much look forward to the collation and induction of the Revd Martin Fletcher currently vicar of St Peter's Hershaw on Thursday 26th April 2018 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church. We warmly welcome everyone to this.

At the start of our vacancy as a PCC we were very keen that we should be a parish with a vision for growth and moving forward rather than a parish of stasis and caution. We stated that we wished to be "brave and forward thinking" and it feels as if we are doing that. We have, and are seriously and positively looking at the way forward with regards our increase in parish share and all the implications which this has. We made decisions which we pray will assist us to be a relevant and loving body of people and building eager to welcome all to worship with us.

The key words during this vacancy have been "team work" "moving forward" and "welcome". Everyone has worked so hard both individually and collectively. We have been hugely blessed by the support of our retired clergy - they have so willingly covered every service which has been held across our group of churches. And our Church Wardens, Verger, Readers, choir, worship group, musicians, Musical Director, PA, flower arrangers, bellringers, welcoming team to mention just a few have all been amazing. Gifts and talents have been shared generously and people have often stepped beyond their comfort zone and ensured that the privilege of worshipping, loving, living and learning has grown and developed. The parish has

worked together as a team and it is wonderful to see that developing more and more. The time which has been given to support our parish over the past few months is huge and I know from the many comments which I hear that it is very very much appreciated.

We haven't however as a parish focussed all our attention inwardly - our community beyond our church doors has been very important to us and featured heavily in the time spent by many of our congregation. Members of our congregation work generously as volunteer drivers, visitors, people of prayer, teaching in our local schools, volunteering as governors and school class volunteers, as Happy Bodgers, listeners, talking newspapers, pastoral visiting, and generally being people who care. There is so much which is done that is unseen and goes unrecorded but which makes such a difference in the lives of people.

Of course we must not rest on our laurels - there is always room for more - there are always people to welcome, people to love, people to forgive, people to apologise to, and most of all people and situations to pray for.

And there is much to pray for and much to give thanks for. As we move forwards and look towards the collation and induction of Rev Martin we give thanks for all that has gone on in preparation for his appointment and arrival, we pray for his arrival and his settling in, and we pray for the parish of St Peters in Hersham as they begin the process of vacancy that we are nearing the end of.

As we near the end of the vacancy we pray for exciting times ahead - times of love, grace, enthusiasm and joy. As we said in our brochure - "may we together rejoice in what has been achieved and take up the challenges of those things that we know must be done... and, perhaps, some that we do not yet know?"

May we hold on to that which is good and, remember, the best is yet to come.

Gillian Lunn

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

- Canon Chambers gave notice that he would be retiring in the summer. He expressed his appreciation of the many different gifts of service brought to St Mary's by the congregation. This ensured an open door to all ages and a growing and exciting church. He then explained that greater energy was necessary to take this forward, which was why he had decided to retire at this juncture, to enable a new vigorous leadership of St Mary's.
- The purchase of seat cushions for the centre nave pews was approved, and the offer from Hudswell of seat runners for the north and south aisles was gratefully accepted.
- Permissions were sought from the diocese, and granted, for the following Communion Assistants: Gillian and Scott Lunn, David Frankton, Janet Morel, Claire Murray, Oliver Murray, Jennifer Patrick, Jonathan Roberts, Keith Robson, Dennis Stedman and Peter Trewby.
- The UK Government Food Standards Agency guidelines were adopted as one of the conditions of hire of the church building, and for provision of refreshments in church.
- Sharon MacCormack was asked to improve the shabby appearance of the notice boards, which then became colourful and attractive.
- Jonathan Roberts and David Frankton produced six large-print copies of the green service book, and are working on a large-print copy of the red service book.
- Work on removing the former bells and oak bell-frame, installing the new steel frame and bells, and refurbishing the ringing-chamber, was begun in March, led by Peter Trewby, Andrew Slade, Chris Curry, Liz Foster, and Andrew Ogden of Taylor's Bell-hangers, with help from ringers and volunteers. This work began in March and the new bells were dedicated on 25th April at a ceremony led by Bishop

James Bell, and were ready to ring in July. The ringers and volunteers were heartily thanked, and Roy and Janet Morel, and Leonard and Susan Scrafton, were thanked for their hard work in regularly clearing up the dust left by the work in the tower.

- The PCC approved raising a donation from the community towards the transport costs of the tenor bell to a church at Chemmamattam in the South Indian state of Kerala, which was in process of buying our former bell.
- The numbers of Disclosure and Barring Service certificate holders currently stands at 28, covering church activities such as choir practice, pre-service rehearsal, bell ringing, the toddler group and hospital transport, plus the members of the gentlemen's group, calling themselves The Happy Bodgers.
- Katrina Templeton, with a team of helpers, organized a very successful and much appreciated ten-day flower festival, focused on "Treasured Memories", which provided pleasure to exhibitors and visitors alike, and raised funds for St Mary's Church, as well as attracting people into the building.
- Several meetings took place with the Archdeacon and the Area Dean to draw up a parish profile and a brochure for the advertisement in The Church Times of the post of rector. John Dickinson was praised for his hard work in producing the attractive text and illustrations for these. The brochure is still on-line on the parish website.
- Gillian Lunn and Peter Trewby were nominated to represent the PCC in carrying out the selection of a new rector.
- Repairs to the windows in Holy Trinity were completed to a high standard, an anonymous donation having been received for part of the cost.
- The Church of England Primary School became part of the Dales Academies' Trust in September.
- Chris Denton is introducing new music to the singing groups, and going into schools to commend and encourage children to sing together. The PCC hopes to offer more support to the music in church.
- Work still awaiting completion:
 - a fire door to the choir vestry
 - pew cushions for the choir stalls

Jennifer Patrick, PCC Secretary

AFTER THE CARDS AND VISTORS

We met for coffee and a chat at Greyfriars on the 1st Tuesday of each month during 2017 until September, occasionally it was just Anne and myself.

After September I met members of the group by arrangement, as Anne was having hospital treatment on Tuesdays and I frequently went with Anne. Unfortunately Anne died in January and will be sadly missed.

I am continuing to meet recently bereaved people and hope to keep helping them to adjust to their new way of life.

Carrie Stephenson

BELL TOWER REPORT

2017 was a very eventful year in the tower, with the climax of our appeal to replace the bells and frame. The old bells were removed in March, returning in April with their new friends to be dedicated by Bishop James Bell. The bells were finally hung and ready for ringing in July, when they were first heard pealing across town. Five

of the old bells are hung for viewing in the tower and we have recently heard that the two trebles are going to Dorstone in Herefordshire. The old tenor bell is on its way to Chemmalamatam in Kerala, India, thanks to generous donations from the congregation to help with transport.

While the bells were out, we took the opportunity to visit a range of neighbouring towers to keep our skills fresh. We ranged from Heighington in the north to Masham and Ripon in the south and Askrigg in the west and are very grateful to all the ringers who made us welcome as we joined their practices. In addition, we have strengthened our links with ringers at Grinton with a regular monthly practice and with Barnard Castle, who have hosted some of our ringers on most Mondays since the bells went out. With friends from Barnard Castle and Saltburn, we again won the 'fun' branch striking competition.

Along with the work on the bells, we have worked with practitioners to develop and deliver workshops in schools as part of our Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Children from a range of schools drew, rang, wrote and danced, engaging with bells in range of ways, and we hosted a day of bells as part of Georgefest in the summer. We look forward to the follow up exhibition later this year and will be holding taster and training days in the summer. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let me know!

Once settled back in with our new bells, we have focussed on developing our 8-bell ringing, completing the first quarter peal in Bob Major, with 8 changing bells. We aim to attempt ringing for each evensong and Fun-key service and a number of ringers have passed personal milestones, including a first quarter inside for Alastair, Jan and Yvonne. We continue to be lucky enough to have all the bells ringing on the majority of Sundays, thanks to the commitment of a varied band of ringers.

Susan Welch - Bell Tower Captain

CHARITABLE GIVING REPORT

The PCC made the decision to continue running the 'Charity of the month' voluntary retiring collection on the first Sunday of the month throughout 2017.

These collections have raised over £2000 PLUS Gift Aid during the course of the year, supporting six British and six international charities, who support others, either through their Christian work or in their care for the disadvantaged.

Charitable Giving Committee

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Sunday 19th June 2017 saw St. Mary's packed with friends and family gathering to wish a fond farewell to John and Liz Chambers. Sad to see them go but we must be thankful for all their ministry during John's seven years as Rector. We wish them well for their retirement in Nottingham and hope they take with them fond memories of their time here in Richmond.

The process of appointing John's successor was to begin the following evening with the first of a series of meetings with the Archdeacon. The process of putting together the way in which we described our churches and our hopes and ambitions for the future at times seemed long and complicated. It did however allow everyone involved to focus on the reasons which make our churches so special to us all both collectively and individually.

I'm sure this process helped when interview day finally dawned and we were able to meet the two candidates who had been selected. It was a particular privilege to show them around the benefice introducing friends along the way. We received some wonderful comments about the warmth of the welcome, hospitality and fellowship that we were able to offer. Thank you to all who helped in so many ways to make this process so successful.

The vacancy period has allowed a whole year of special and regular services, ministry and activity without a permanent Rector. We have continued to grow and have fulfilled our commitment to the civic role of our parish. Thank you to all who have helped in so many ways to keep the parish working. Ordained clergy never fully retire as I'm sure John is finding out.

The bell tower project has continued following our visit to the bell foundry last year. The process of the removal of the existing bells fillings and frames has been an enormous task. Allowing volunteers to work alongside the experts from the bell foundry has been very successful. Sitting on the bell frame alongside the louvers in the tower and looking down to the floor of the church below is a never to be forgotten experience! All the hard work seemed worthwhile when we heard the bells ring out for the first time.

Removal of the bells unleashed hundreds of years worth of accumulated dust and debris. Thanks to all who worked so hard to keep the disruption and grime to a manageable level. It may at the time have seemed like an impossible and thankless task but it was much appreciated.

We've continued to host concerts and community events. Matching the expectations and demands of users and coping with the logistics of staging, seating and catering can be difficult. Thank you to all who have co-operated and helped to make this year's events so successful.

Juggling the demands of a full time job which continues to involve working shifts and weekends with wardens' duties can be a challenge. It is only made possible with the help and co-operation of my fellow warden and deputy Roy and Janet Morel. Often much responsibility falls on their shoulders. Thank you for your continued support.

And finally. Are you sitting comfortably? We very much hope so if you're sitting on one of our new pew cushions. Hopefully they'll serve as long as their predecessors.

David Frankton and Roy Morel, Church Wardens

ESTATES REPORT

Several of the windows in St. Mary's and the window in Holy Trinity have been repaired by Alan Davis – Creator of Ruth's window. The 'Mayor's window' in the Green Howards chapel has had a section of stained glass repaired and the windows in the choir vestry have been reinstalled following removal and renovation. Both look wonderful and are a tribute to Alan's skill and craftsmanship.

A mysteriously broken section of the window in Holy Trinity, caused by movement of the glass has also received the Alan Davis treatment. The broken section has been repaired and the window refurbished to prevent the problem reoccurring. This project presented particular challenges as access to the outside of the window is very difficult. The resulting restoration looks splendid.

Our gas and electricity supplies have been dragged into the twenty first century with the installation of digital smart meters. This should result in accurate accounts without the difficulty assessing the meters which are situated in the choir vestry and cellar.

It is planned to install a fire door at the bottom of the stairs leading to the choir vestry. This is awaiting the necessary faculty.

Ongoing work with the lighting continues. Our continued campaign is to replace traditional fillings with led units where possible. The extended life of these replacements certainly saves climbing thirty feet into the air to replace a bulb.

New led strip light fittings have been replaced by several down lighters in the choir stalls. Esthetically less pleasing perhaps but it does enable choir members to read their music.

Our heating system continues to serve us well. Our four boilers kept in good order by our maintenance contractor KH Heating. Always good to know that help from local specialists who know the system is at hand.

Regular maintenance of the guttering and roof inspections continue to keep the building more or less watertight.

Repair and maintenance of the Rectory is the responsibility of the dioceses. Following John's departure we have been co-operating with the appointed contractors who are working on the heating system, kitchen and the garage roof. Hopefully this with some decorating carpet fitting and cleaning will have the house ready for Martin's arrival after Easter.

Richmond Town Council in the person of Andy Macey continue to keep our churchyard in good order. Thank you for keeping this large area so well maintained.

The next twelve months will, I'm sure, bring it's share and challenges in keeping our much loved building in good order to serve the needs of all those who use it. This is only possible with the help and co-operation of those who give their time and talents so freely. Thank you for all your hard work and efforts – it's very much appreciated.

David Frankton, Roy Morel and Len Scrafton.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Richmond Deanery Synod is a synod convened by the Area Dean and/or the Joint Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, who is elected by the elected lay members. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the deanery, plus elected lay members. Meeting three times a year usually in February, June and October the synod members play a key part in the governance of the Church of England and it is they who elect the lay members of the diocesan synod who formulate diocesan policy. Lay members are elected at the APCC, serving for three years. Currently Susan Welsh, Claire Murray and Jonathan Roberts are your representatives for St. Mary's Church.

It is an opportunity for all parishes within the deanery to share their good news how their parish is developing and progressing and for the Area Dean to keep us updated with Diocesan news and developments.

The year commenced with our own Rev Canon John Chambers retiring as Area Dean and welcoming Rev Yvonne Callaghan (Easby w Skeeby and Brompton on Swale and Bolton on Swale) as Richmond Area Dean.

The main topic for discussion in 2017 has been Vision 2030 where the C of E is looking outward into the future with an anticipated 40% less theological clergy due to retirement and lack of entrants-what shape do we need to be in by 2030?

Creating much debate within the deanery at workshops, deanery and PCC meetings and amongst our clergy, this has led to further presentations and discussions around the role of lay worship leaders. Members of our congregation who feel they have a vocation are encouraged to discuss their calling with a member of Clergy or Lay Reader and participate in a training course provided by the Diocese, part of a national campaign 'Growing Vocations'.

In 2017 Rev Yvonne supported by others undertook a walk of the deanery 'Thy Kingdom Come' where over the course of a week she walked through and visited all parishes within the deanery. Wishing to repeat this experience she has thrown it open to the deanery in 2018 and looks to repeat the 2017 brilliant experience requesting a small group of individuals to form a team and organise the event for 2018. If you would like to be involved or participate in the walk further information can be obtained from your deanery synod representative or Rev Yvonne.

Other topics discussed were the Parish contributions towards the Parish Share, a hot topic of debate, appointment of the Bishop of Ripon, ongoing training for incumbents, how to create a more effective PCC, Safeguarding, Lent Courses, and of course the sharing of local parish news, good practice and ideas for future development.

Katrina Templeton, Secretary to Deanery Synod.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S REPORT

The Friends have continued meeting at various times throughout the year, to help with the extra needs of St. Mary's, such as making a large donation for the pew cushions, a trolley which can transport the Crib etc. and a leg holder which connects to the trolley, moving the banner etc. easily. We have also provided refreshments for several concerts.

A big thank you to Margaret Emmerson, who has tirelessly continued to organise Saturday trips to various venues, not only raising money for the Friends but also providing a very popular social event.

We would welcome any members of St. Mary's who would like to join The Friends, a very friendly group.

Carrie Stephenson, Chairperson

KNIT2GETHER REPORT

Since The Knit2gether started meeting at the Restaurant at Greyfriars in June 2014 we have become a happy, supportive, welcoming group.

Meetings have a regular attendance of approximately 13 – 15 ladies, of all ages, plus many occasional visitors. Each bringing their own creative projects, sharing knowledge and skills whilst having fun and fellowship.

16 people attended our Christmas party. New member always welcome.

Claire Murray Convenor

MONDAY MORNING TODDLER GROUP REPORT

Gathering about 10am in the Methodist Church Halls we enjoy a time of fun and friendship for children aged between 0 and 5 years old and their adult carers (mum, dad, grandparents, friends etc.) Tea, coffee, juice, fruit and healthy snacks are available throughout, and even more important a warm welcome is guaranteed.

This is manned by an enthusiastic, loving and committed team made up of ladies from both Richmond Methodist Church and St Mary's Church. If you would like to come along and help we would love to see you, as more helpers make it easier when there is the inevitable outside commitments or illness. You don't need to help all session or even every session.

We celebrate Christmas, Easter and birthdays. Families are kept up to date with activities and services at both St Mary's and the Methodist Church and we are delighted to see them come to services including Christingle, Easter and the Crib service.

The time spent with each other is invaluable. We play, we chat, we sing, we say a prayer, we share. We know the children gain lots, but we suspect the adults gain even more as they find people with similar concerns, joys and thoughts as each other.

Gillian Lunn

MOTHERS UNION REPORT

What a privilege to be a part of a worldwide organisation of four million members. We, the members of St Mary's branch, are very proud of the part we play in the life of our parish.

We help with baptism services, all the children receive a book of bible stories or prayers. At Fun-key Church M U members provide the refreshments and help with activities on a regular basis

It was very flattering to become "The Belles of St Mary's" when we played our part in the exhibition for the bell appeal and welcoming the cyclists home from the Richmond to Richmond ride. We liked that title so much that you may find it used in events we are involved in when the Tower cafe is open.

The Mothers Union was responsible for providing every lady in church on Mothering Sunday with a cheerful primula plant and also sending a contribution to "Make a Mother's Day" an international Mothers Union Appeal .

In our diocese we support the Away From It All (AFIA) appeal which provides holidays for families who otherwise would not be able to take a break at Primrose Valley near Filey, very much appreciated and local families have benefited in the past.

In our own area we have supported the Women's Refuge with funding, toys for the children at Christmas and cleaning materials for those able to set up a new home.

We do have some social events too, we said farewell to Liz and John (both members of our branch) at a tea party and presented them with a rose bush with the name "Warm Wishes" which was how John usually ended his e-mail messages. In honour of their membership we shared a cake with the congregation after Johns last service at St Mary's.

Membership is now open to everybody who follows M U principles (i.e.family life) and at our Christmas party there were both men and women as well as several children, a good time was had by all, entertained by the Dales Folk. (Freda and Tony who incorporated some attendees) and followed by a lovely afternoon tea.

Our afternoon tea is a feature of the now annual fund raising event, a concert given by the wonderful Reeth band. We try to keep the ticket price low to enable more people to attend and we look forward to another full house this year.

The size of the new diocese does cause problems for us, Halifax, Hellifield and Huddersfield are not easily accessible. We do have shared meetings and services with Leyburn, Catterick and the Cowtons branches. It is always a privilege to travel to Ripon to say the midday prayers which we take a turn three or four times a year. It was an honour that it was our day on the rota to do the prayers in the Cathedral on the day our World Wide President Lynne Tenby was visiting. On the Thursday nearest to Mary Sumner day (August 9th) we usually celebrate with a picnic for the Ripon episcopal area branches in the Precenter's garden after the Midday prayers. Sadly this will change and we may have longer journeys to share that occasion. We joined in the Ripon area Advent service at Starbeck which was taken by the diocesan chaplain, Rev'd Andrew Cromarty from Colburn. The branch always begin our meetings with prayer and we have a service in church for Lady Day, Advent and Christmas. In fact prayer is at the centre of all we do.

Our branch, though small, is well respected in the diocese for all we do and our

prayerfulness. It would be wonderful if members of the congregation felt able to join us and help with our commitment to Gods work in Richmond, Ripon diocese, York province and the world. Anyone would be welcome at any of our meetings which are monthly in each other's homes. Look out in the magazine or on the pew sheet, please come along and join in.

Margaret Clayson. President

ST MARY'S MUSIC REPORT

2017 was a busy and interesting year for music at St Mary's.

My efforts at chorister recruitment continued, with visits to (in no particular order) Richmond CofE school, Richmond Methodist school, St Mary's Roman Catholic school and Bolton-on-Swale CofE school. I'm glad to report that we did indeed gain some new trebles (now numbering 10) with more interested in joining. Visits to schools continue in 2018 as a gentle reminder that we exist and that joining either group of singers/musicians at St Mary's might be quite possibly one of the better choices they make in life!

One of my own better decisions involved a move to the area in September 2017 and this has made it much easier to do my job at St Mary's. No longer does a school visit mean losing half a day or evening organ practice involve a 60-mile round trip and taking a midnight feast!

The trebles enjoyed a visit to the Ice Cream Parlour at the Station in the autumn and in December sang Christmas Carols live on the British Forces Radio station on the Garrison (a programme that has been repeated several times since). This was great experience for them, good fun and involved a (very) early morning feast including chocolate and snacks!

Our monthly Choral Evensongs continue and I'm very grateful for the help we receive from Anacrusis members, ex-choristers from St Mary's as well as many others from the congregation who strengthen our singing on these occasions (and for Christmas carol services), as well as Andrew Christer for his superb organ playing and accompaniments.

Thanks also to Fionagh Bennett for her work with the music at St Mary's and for graciously swapping services to allow me to indulge myself by taking over the musical reigns of the All Age Worship services. She now plays the organ on the first Sunday of the month. Meanwhile my learning curve continues steeply on the third Sundays where we're adding to our repertoire each month with a splendid group of musicians.

We have bought music for the choirs' music library including a beautiful Christmas carol 'Lully lullay' (used at 9 Lessons and Carols) and other works.

The organ continues to be magnificent, colourful of sound and (most importantly) to work. It continues to do its job just as well as when it was first installed in 1912 - tribute indeed to the quality of the craftsmanship of Harrison and Harrison of Durham who built it. This was no 'budget' instrument when bought but in the long term we can now see that it was a very wise investment. Materials will gradually deteriorate over time and the many moving parts will wear out but as long as it is correctly maintained there is no reason that it should not continue to serve for many decades to come.

As mentioned above, Fionagh plays for one service a month and Andrew Christer accompanies our monthly Choral Evensong services. A new name has now been added to our list of organists as Alastair Lunn has started to learn this amazing musical instrument. Our new Organ Scholar often accompanies hymns on the piano at school and before long we'll be hearing him play occasional organ voluntaries and hymns in church too. It's great to feel that a young person is so

keen to learn the 'king of instruments'. Maybe one day he'll enjoy practising in cold dark churches as much as I do.

My thanks must go to all who sing in the choir and to all chorister parents for their continued support of the music at St Mary's. Much appreciated. Plans for the future include a Choral Evensong service at Ripon Cathedral and the trebles' possible involvement in a performance of 'Captain Noah and his floating zoo'. Unsurprisingly, these events are unlikely to be combined.

Chris Denton, Director of Music

The Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Team is a group of men and women who help with the pastoral care of our parishioners. They do this in a variety of ways from visiting care homes and taking Home Communion, visiting sick in hospital, visiting those who would appreciate a visit and a chat, and being a listening ear.

They are also members of the Prayer Circle which prays for those who request such support. It is wonderful to think that the prayer circle has really taken off and become an established part of our church, and wonderful that we can support each other in prayer.

The team meets quarterly in order to share with and support each other.

As part of the Pastoral Team, the Happy Bodgers is a small group of men (so far) who are willing to do minor DIY jobs to help disabled or older people in their homes. Though these services are absolutely free, several people have made donations to the church as a result.

It is worth noting that a huge amount of pastoral care and support and love takes place outwith that carried out by the Pastoral Team. We can all help support each other.

Gillian Lunn

ST MARY'S WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REPORT

We have enjoyed another very happy and successful year.

The past year has been interesting and varied which followed the usual pattern of short time of prayer, a guest speaker followed by refreshments. Our meetings last about an hour and a half. We meet in the Town Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm (excluding July and August.)

In keeping with our affiliation to St Mary's we held our Annual Easter Service and the traditional Carol Service. In addition, we held our Annual Summer afternoon tea and Christmas parties.

We continue to be a happy, relaxed and caring group who enjoy good fellowship together.

It is worth mentioning that the Women's Fellowship was formed from the then Young Wives Club who wished to open membership to a broader cross section of women. This was achieved and continues to be the case as our membership is a broadly-based elderly group of ladies both secular and interdenominational.

Eileen Simms, Convenor

STUDY GROUPS REPORTS

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Wednesday Study Group has continued to meet on most Wednesdays during the year. Much of the year was spent reading through and discussing the New

Testament book of Hebrews. This has some challenging sections but very rewarding. The author aims to persuade and illustrate what was once the relatively new idea that the man Jesus was indeed the Christ. Two thousand years later we are challenged, through Hebrews, to think through why we claim Jesus as Lord.

The Lent course was a welcome interruption as we once again used the York Course set for the year. These established courses reach a wide audience both in this country and beyond. We are already excited by the 2018 course as it has been written by Bishop John Pritchard who will launch it at St Marys at 19:00 on Thursday 8th February - a date for the diaries! It would be good if were to spread the word far and wide - all are welcome to this launch event.

In recent weeks the Wednesday group has began its study of Mark's Gospel. It's good to revisit, periodically, one of the four gospels to re-learn and develop our understanding of the Jesus story. The Gospel of Mark is also the main gospel used in Year B which started at the beginning of Advent 2017.

An open invite remains, as always, to 2 Hurgill Road on Wednesday evenings at 19:30. Cake and biscuits on offer! (Please check with Scott or Gillian on 826895 to ensure that it is not a week off).

Scott Lunn

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Thursday Bible Study Group meets at 1 Roper Court, Richmond, DL10 4DF, at 7.30 pm on Thursday evenings. Everyone is welcome to join us.

We have finally completed studying The Acts of the Apostles, with help from Bishop Tom Wright's commentary, which was an exciting story with interesting characters and much deeper theology than we had anticipated, which was why we took so long to finish it. We are now embarking on the book, "Ten", by Bishop John Pritchard, which looks to stimulate discussion, and intrigue us and entertain as well.

We usually read to ourselves the text selected for each week, we discuss our understanding of the text, and contribute our individual insights and experiences, with the help of the book. There is no compulsion to speak – just listening to others is a way taking part.

We finish the evening with tea or coffee and biscuits, and enjoy each other's company.

Jennifer Patrick. Convener

TREASURERS REPORT

Background

This year has seen follow on work on the Gift Aid aspects of the stewardship scheme and further attention to reducing costs. Following Independent Examination, the accounts will be presented to the PCC at their meeting on 12 March 2018, and the Annual Church Meeting on 25th March 2018.

Summary as at 31 December 2017

We have managed to limit ourselves to a small deficit of £1,012, on a similar turnover to 2016.

We have seen the financial impact of falling congregation numbers, a reduction in general giving from Donations, and the effect of a number of regular donors coming out of paying tax, which impacts the Gift Aid we can claim. We have also seen a fall in income from Wedding and Funeral fees.

On the expenditure side we have had to find an additional £10,700 for the Parish Share – the main element of which is pays for our Rector. We have benefitted from a full year of our new reduced Gas and Electricity, and insurance contracts.

We have been asked to pay an additional £7,800 for our Parish Share in 2018, which will be a challenge and the PCC is preparing to increase fund raising in the short term and look at reversing the trend of falling congregations in the longer term.

The PCC has sufficient long term investments and bank deposits to cover both the 'Restricted Funds' below, and reserves. Our investments have again performed well.

I would like to thank those of you who accurately count the collections each Sunday. Also thanks go to the Church Wardens who look after all the banking. Claire Murray as assistant treasurer processes all billing and supplier invoice payments efficiently and thoroughly, as well as being a mine of information on Parish matters. Special thanks go to Alastair McLean who has carried out an independent examination of the accounts.

Restricted Funds (Money set aside for special projects)

The Bell Fund has sufficient residual money to cover the small amount of remaining work.

From the Fabric Fund we have completed 'good as new' repairs to the damaged windows in Holy Trinity, St Mary's choir vestry and the Green Howards. We completed follow on work on the Disabled Toilet and handrail. With the financial support of The Friends we have invested in new pew cushions. Work has been completed to install replacement LED lighting and on improving the light in the Choir Stalls.

Other 'Restricted Funds' are in reserve to cover future work to the fabric of the church, the anticipated closure of St Michael's Hudswell, the anticipated replacement of the main blower on the organ and for the development of Fun-key church.

William Gedye, Treasurer

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Learning.**

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You are invited to the 2018 **Big Brew and Breakfast** –

on **Saturday 3rd March** at **Northcliffe, Gatherley Road, Brompton on Swale**
from 8.30 am to 1pm.

- What is a Big Breakfast?**
- a great way to support businesses and growers worldwide
 - a breakfast where almost everything we eat is either fairly traded or locally grown or produced,
 - a great way to meet friends old and new over a leisurely breakfast,
 - an opportunity to see and buy fairly traded goods and hear about fair trade projects,
 - a chance to see the new products in the Spring Catalogue.

This year the focus is on **hidden entrepreneurs** – people living in the world's poorest communities who have the talent and determination to succeed, but lack the opportunity. We can help thousands of hidden entrepreneurs across the world fulfil their potential and build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Four things our money will do – build businesses, make a profit, feed families, educate children and best of all – **this year every pound raised will be doubled by the UK government.**

So come along for bacon butties, croissants and jam, or coffee, scones and biscuits and all that makes for the Big Brew and Breakfast –

Saturday 3rd March – 8.30am – 1pm.

As Martin Luther King famously said – 'Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world' – many of whom don't know where their next meal is coming from.

Rachel Walker- 01748 818046 remwalker7@gmail.com

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2018
26 FEBRUARY – 11 MARCH



PRAYER FOR MARCH

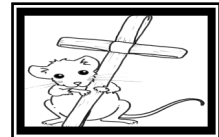
God of the day and of the night, in me there is darkness, but with you there is light. I am alone, but you will not leave me. I am weak, but you will come to my help. I am restless, but you are my peace. I am in haste, but you are the God of infinite patience. I am confused and lost, but you are eternal wisdom and you direct my path, now and forever. Amen

A Lutheran clergyman in Germany under the Nazis, active in the anti-Hitler movement. Imprisoned and hanged just before the end of the war.

	ST MARY'S RICHMOND	
Sunday 4th March Lent 3	8am 10am	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung Eucharist
Sunday 11th March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	8am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung Eucharist Choral Evensong.
Sunday 18th March Lent 5	8am 10am 4pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Worship for All Communion Café Church
Sunday 25th March Palm Sunday	8am 10am 11.30am 4pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung Eucharist (with the reading of The Passion) APCM Fun-Key Church
Monday 26th March Holy Week	7pm	Reflection & compline
Tuesday 27th March Holy Week	7pm	Reflection & compline
Wednesday 28th March	7pm	Reflection & compline
Thursday 29th March Maundy Thursday	7pm	Sung Eucharist followed by stripping of the church and Vigil til midnight.
Good Friday	2pm 7pm	Service The Cross of Christ - a reflective act of worship with hymns and anthems
Saturday 31st March	7pm	Compline
Easter Sunday	8am 10am	BCP Holy Communion Easter Celebrations
EVERY WEDNESDAY	9.15am	HOLY COMMUNION
	HOLY TRINITY	
EVERY THURSDAY	10.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
	ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS DOWNHOLME	
Sunday 11th March	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 25th March	9.30am	Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday	7pm	Vigil
	ST EDMUND'S MARSKE	
Sunday 4th March	11am	Family Eucharist
Sunday 11th March	11am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 18th March	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th March	11am	Holy Communion
Good Friday	2pm-3pm	Service
Easter Sunday	11am	Holy Communion



March
2018



ST MARY'S

SIDES PEOPLE and WELCOMERS 10.00am March

4th - R Gazzard, K Robson, J&A Roberts, F&M Gibbon

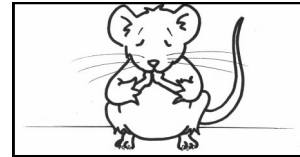
11th - C&J Bilbrough, K Robson, S McCormack,
G&J Barber

18th - J&A Dickinson, P Wheatley, L Copeland,
G &M Merlane

25th - O Harrison, R Gazzard, R&J Morel, J&A Roberts

Maundy Thursday (7pm) - J&W Pritchard, G&J Barber, J&R Morel

Easter Sunday - G&J Barber, C&J Bilbrough, F&M Gibbon



COFFEE ROTA - March

4th - M Emmerson, J&C Bilbrough, H Ellis

11th - C Blenkinsop, M Gibbon, J Bennett

18th - J Steele, B Ridley, Mary Turner

25th - E Roberts, O Harrison

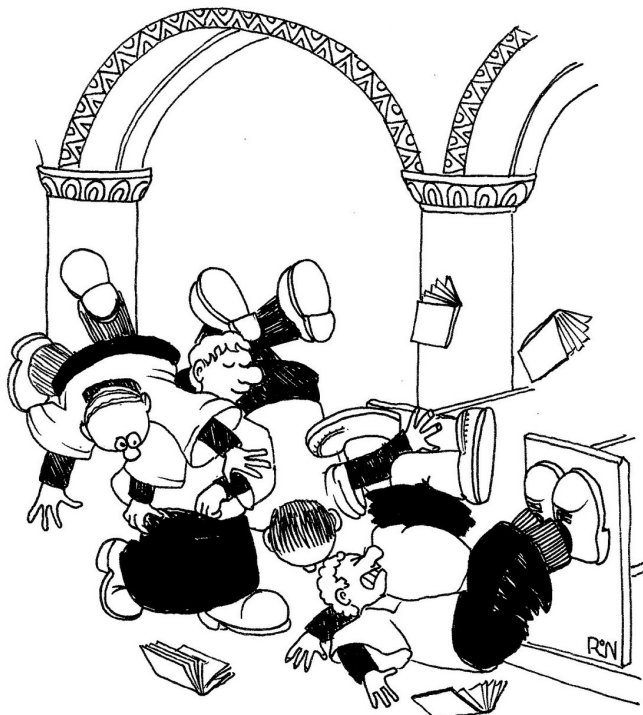
FLOWERS

March - Lent

April - 1st EASTER

8th - EASTER

**If the dates do not work for you please
arrange to swap with someone on another
team or let the team know you are unavailable.**



*Barry's genuflection caught everyone
by surprise*

**The deadline for the April
2018 issue is
Friday 9th March 2018
Please forward any
contributions to Gillian by
hand or send to
gillian.lunn@yahoo.com**



**Prayers for March were by
Bonhoeffer (See page 24 for
the prayer).**

**Don't forget, if you have access to the internet,
you can keep up to date with all that is going
on in our group of churches by looking at
www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk**

**200 Club Winner
February 2018
Steve Wade**