



Three aspiring churches in lovely Swaledale are seeking an answer to their prayer...



St Edmund,  
Marske



St Mary,  
Richmond with Hudswell



St Michael and All Angels,  
Downholme



## Will you help us to “soar with wings like eagles”?

Are you the person to become part of our family, build up our Church and encourage us to fulfil our mission and become an increasing blessing to the community?

We ask you prayerfully to consider coming to serve with us in our two parishes. There are outstanding features: lovely countryside, good schools and amenities, beautiful historic churches, several retired clergy willing to help, active, energetic lay leaders and church members, all with a common aim to find innovative ways to fulfil our mission in our communities.

It would undoubtedly be challenging. The benefice includes the parish of the historical market town of Richmond with the adjacent village of Hudswell and the parish of the two village churches of Downholme and Marske. These are 10-15 minutes’ drive away. The needs are understandably different.

**Do please look at our website:**

[www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk](http://www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk)

This has a lot of information as well as many photographs. ***There are other links later.***



*“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint”*

*Isaiah 40:31*

♪ These are a few of our favourite things... ♪

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What we like about our churches:-

St Edmund Marske

*"It is the centre and heart of Marske"*

*"Hospitality for Coast to Coast Walkers"*

*"The only public building in the community"*

*"30% of the village population may attend"*

*"The intimacy of a rural church"*

*"Welcome and friendliness"*

*"Feeling of being at home"*

*"Peace and tranquillity"*

St Michael Downholme

*"Remoteness, spirituality, feeling of family"*

*"Peace and spirituality"*

*"Welcoming, Fellowship, Community Spirit"*

*"Generosity of a small congregation"*

*"Always open"*



St Mary's Richmond

*"Somewhere we can grow in Faith"*

*"Special people"*

*"Fellowship, family, friendship"*

*"The bells"*

*"A broad range of services"*

*"Different traditions, mutual respect"*

*"The music and the talent"*

*"History through the ages"*

*"Have a go, even if you fail"*

*"The knowledge from Bible Study groups"*

*"Permission from the Rector to try new things"*

*"Love, encouragement, supporting each other in difficult times"*

*"A feeling of coming home"*

*"We all journey together"*

*"The way we reach out to the Community"*

*"The link between church and Schools"*

*"Working well with other denominations"*



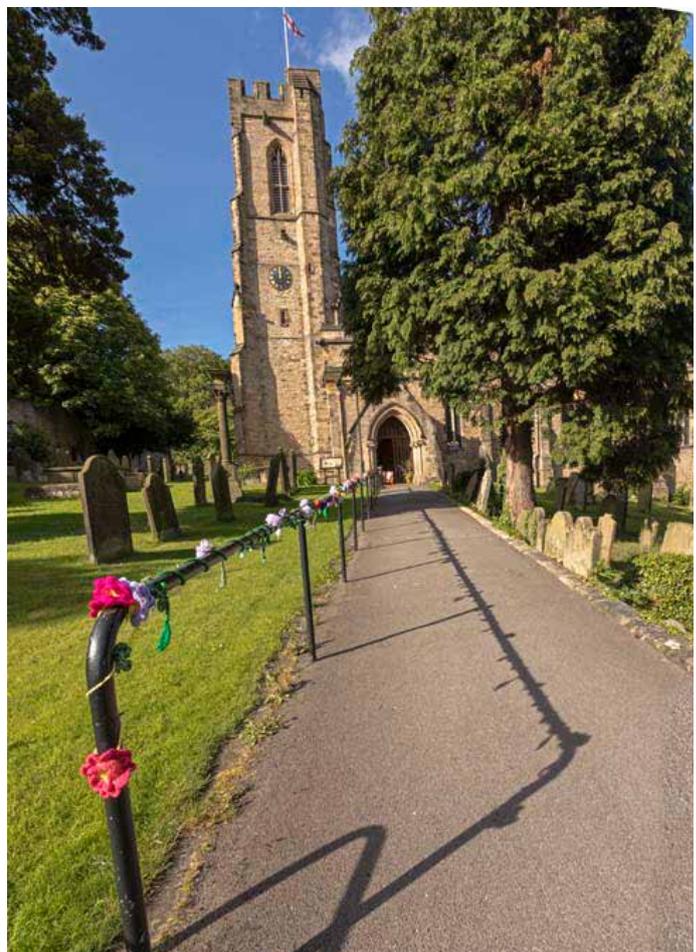
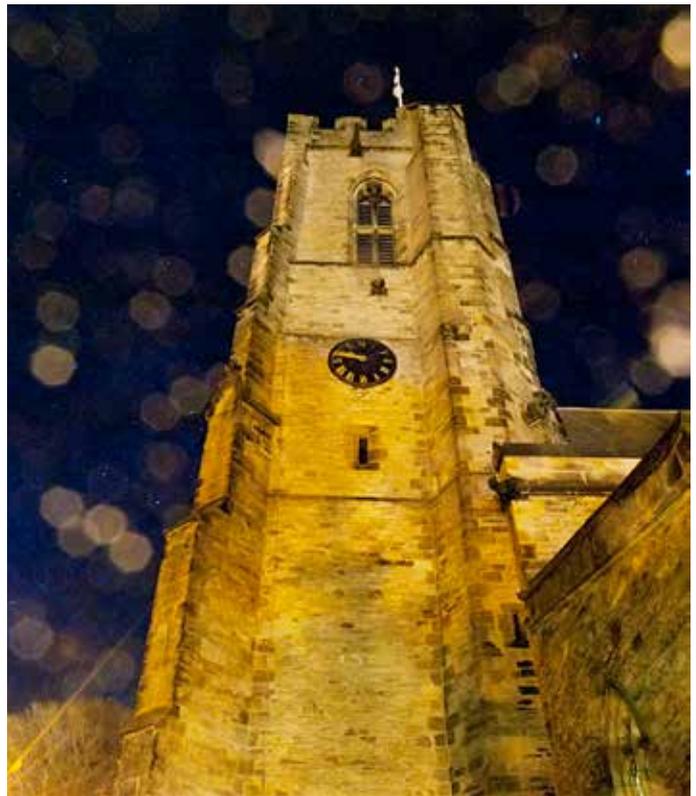
# ♪ ...I must have done something good ♪

## At St Mary's we think we are good at:

- Being a welcoming family
- Introducing new and imaginative services and meetings
- Music and bells
- Lay involvement through various teams
- Integrating with the community and civic authorities

## But we have challenges:

- Deepening our understanding of our faith and building up our spirituality
- Not enough young families
- Carrying our mission further into the Community
- Becoming more confident in sharing our faith in Jesus and commending his way of life
- Growing our already good choir and expanding our more informal singing group
- Encouraging more participation in our church services from our C of E primary school and our joint Anglican-Roman Catholic secondary school
- The lack of a room or hall for meetings
  - New building?
  - Major re-arrangement of the Church building?
  - Use of a nearby building?



# ♪ I'll string along with you... ♪

## ...We do not expect the Angel Gabriel, but we do want a man or woman of God who aspires to be:

A deeply spiritual, joyful, kind and loving pastor with an infectious faith, though still an active learner

- a confident and collaborative leader
- a good listener
- an intelligent communicator of the gospel and a good Bible teacher
- a leader in taking our faith beyond our church doors and a visible presence in the communities we serve
- a joyful celebrant of the Sacraments
- committed to strengthening and building on the important links we have with our schools
- a facilitator of lay ministry to people of all ages
- supportive of the work of our PCC teams
- willing to continue the work of developing attractive meetings, services and events for all ages
- an encourager of our partnership with other Christian churches
- well-organised and able to plan ahead and facilitate excellent communications
- computer-literate and aware of social media
- sympathetic to ministry in small rural villages
- willing to work with ministry teams to maintain a rota of services throughout the Benefice
- self-aware and conscious of the need to balance work and home life
- a mature personality able to engage with the traditions and services of the civic and military
- supportive of the development of musical activities in order to enhance worship

**We seek a leader who will encourage and inspire these same qualities in us.**



# Getting to Know You...

We are in the Deanery of Richmond in the Diocese of Leeds. Our Patron is Bishop Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds. We are one benefice, and two parishes. Downholme and Marske operate as one parish with one PCC and two churches.

St Mary's also makes use of the Holy Trinity Chapel in the Market Place. The church of St Michael and All Angels, Hudswell is in the final stages of being closed, but pastoral responsibility remains in the benefice.

You will be supported by lots of people in Richmond:

- The Churchwardens, David Frankton and Roy Morel
- Deputy Churchwarden, Janet Morel
- The Verger, Leonard Scrafton
- The Readers, Scott Lunn and Gillian Lunn
- The Parish Administrator and Assistant Treasurer, Claire Murray
- Retired clergy, Bishop John Pritchard, Mark Beresford-Peirse, Jennifer Williamson and Bill Simms
- Director of Music, Chris Denton
- Treasurer, William Gedye
- Bell Tower Captain, Susan Welch
- Secretary of the PCC and Pastoral Assistant, Jennifer Patrick
- Safeguarding and Electoral Roll officers of the PCC

- Many members of the church volunteering in a variety of ways. Please see the magazine on the church website for more details
- Gillian Lunn assists the Rector by taking funerals.
- Baptism preparation is often lay-led.
- Home groups for fellowship and Bible Study are lay-led, and well- supported

The PCC, with help from others, is organised into various teams:

Worship team	Finance team
Pastoral team	Communications team
Estates team	Children and young people's team
Charitable and mission giving team	

We hope that our new Rector will encourage these teams to continue to be innovative, under his or her supervision.

	<b>Downholme</b>	<b>Marske</b>
Churchwardens	Jean Calvert	Ruth Tindale
Organists	Eileen Simms	Jennifer Wallis
Reader	George Alderson	



# ♪ On Richmond Hill there Lives a Lass... ♪

## About Richmond



Richmond is an attractive Georgian market town with a population of about 8900. Its history goes back to 1071, when its Norman castle was founded. It is a vibrant community with many amenities, a good social scene and many opportunities for contributing to the life of the town and for artistic and sporting leisure pursuits. It is set in a beautiful area at the foot of Swaledale in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, with the many outdoor activities which that affords; walking, cycling, canoeing, caving and fishing. The town was voted Great Town of the Year in the United Kingdom in 2009 by the Academy of Urbanism, made up of academics and town planners, beating Chichester and Stirling in the final. Richmond is four miles from Catterick Garrison, the largest military base in Europe, and twelve miles from Darlington, a large centre for shopping and nearest mainline railway station. The A1 is four miles away at Scotch Corner, giving easy access to Durham, Newcastle and Teesside to the North and East, and Ripon, Harrogate, York and Leeds to the South.

**St Mary's Church, founded in 1125 on the steep bank of the River Swale below the town, is sheltered by the tall Georgian houses of Frenchgate, one of the oldest streets. The Norman church of the Holy Trinity is in the centre of the large Market Place, which once formed the outer bailey of the castle. The main building now houses the museum devoted to the history of the Green Howards Regiment, and a small area is retained as a chapel for weekday services.**



## Employment and prosperity.

People find employment largely in nearby towns, especially in Catterick Garrison. In Richmondshire, some 17% of the population is over 65 and 20% under 17. In Richmond, 6.8% of the population receives 'any kind of benefit', about half the national average.

Though many of the population are reasonably prosperous, there are areas where unemployment and food poverty are a problem and the food bank is much used. We see relative affluence and relative poverty.

**St Mary's contributes to the food bank operated by a local Pentecostal Church.**

## Health Care

As well as two General Practices, there is the Friary Community Hospital and several nursing, retirement and sheltered accommodation homes. There are three dental practices and three opticians.

**The Pastoral Team visit and take Holy Communion to those who are unable to come to church.**

## Schools

These include:

- Richmond C of E Primary and Nursery School
- Methodist Primary School
- Roman Catholic Primary School
- St Francis Xavier (SFX) combined C of E/Roman Catholic aided – comprehensive
- Richmond School and Sixth Form College



**The Rector, Readers and lay people are involved in the C of E School and SFX, taking collective worship and as teachers, governors and volunteers.**

## Organisations in Richmond:

**Sporting clubs:** badminton, bowls, cricket, cycling; golf, harriers, rugby, tennis, Swaledale Outdoor Club, Liberty Health Club (Gym and Swimming Pool)

### Various Societies, Clubs & organisations

**include:** Women's Institute, Ladies' Luncheon Club; Soroptimists, Civic Society, Richmond Open Spaces Appeal, Save Our Shire action group, Choral Society, Station Singers, Richmondshire Orchestra, Folk Club, Subscription Concerts Society, U3A

**Arts:** Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond Amateur Dramatic Society, Richmond Operatic Society.



# 🎵 On Richmond Hill there Lives a Lass... 🎵



**Guilds:** Fellmongers, Mercers, Grocers and Haberdashers;

**Military associations:** Green Howards, Royal Signals, Royal Lancers, Yorkshire Regiment, RAF Regiment and HMS Richmond

**Lodges:** Masonic Lodges, Lennox Lodge, Dales Lodge

**Others:** Richmondshire Museum, Green Howards Museum, Rotary Club, Round Table, Probus, Comrades Club, Conservative Club; Duck Club, French and Norwegian twinning associations

**Youth:** Scouts, Guides, Beavers, Brownies, Richmond Meet (festival), Richmond Live (music festival)

**Special Events:** Annual Richmond Meet Weekend (originally a cycling festival), Swaledale Festival fortnight, Georgian Festival, Richmond Live (live music), Richmond Walking and Book Festival fortnight

**St Mary's Church hosts concerts, Swaledale Festival concerts, organ recitals; civic and military church services. It also holds its own festivals for the community.**



## Other Churches and Christian Groups in Richmond

St Mary's has good relationships with the local Roman Catholic, Methodist and Pentecostal Churches and the Quakers.

These groups were linked as Christians Together in Richmond (in the tradition of Churches Together). Though this has ceased to exist as an organisation, we are continuing many joint activities, including:

- Lent Study Groups
- Good Friday Walk of Witness
- shared Prayer once a month and in Holy Week (in Holy Trinity chapel in the Market Place)
- opening Holy Trinity for prayer and reflection daily for one hour during August
- a Picnic in the Park
- an Agape Meal during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- a distribution list for information about Christian activities

You may find it significant that all these groups were represented at the Rector's farewell service.

**"Exploring Faith"** meets every two to three months on a Saturday morning about 20 minutes away and attracts people from the surrounding area. The speaker is usually an eminent person, often a Bishop or Bible Scholar, not always Anglican.

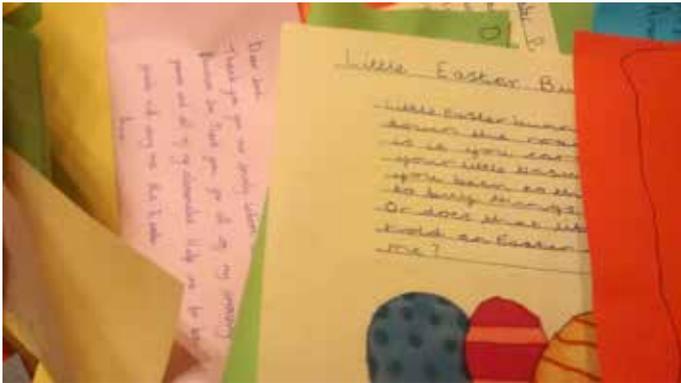
The Rector has met and co-operated with Chaplains from Catterick Garrison from time to time and St Mary's is used for Regimental Services (Green Howards, Royal Lancers and Royal Signals) as well as for a Remembrance Day service which comes close to bursting us at our seams.



# 🎵 Get Me to the Church on Time! 🎵

## Worship at St Mary's

We offer a large range of services to appeal to a wide variety of worshippers. This includes long-time members of church, those exploring their faith and those for whom coming to church for the first time may feel daunting.



Our website displays all the services (see Appendix 1 at the end of this document), but here is a very brief outline:-

Every Sunday we hold **BCP said Holy Communion** followed by **Sung Eucharist** with our robed choir. The third Sunday of the month tends to be a little different; we hold our **Worship for All Communion** Service, which has a more informal feel to it. Slightly more formal is our monthly **Choral Evensong**.

Alternate months on the third Sunday of the month we offer either **Free to Be** or **Café Church** – please see below for details. And on the last Sunday of the month we offer Fun-Key Church @ St Mary's.

### Fun-Key Church <sup>1</sup>

is now into its 5th year and is a successful Fresh Expression of Church, offering a very liquid style of worship. It is lay led and primarily aimed at those who may find entering a church building a daunting experience. Two thirds adults to one third children, this service would not be able to run without the

enthusiastic practical support of members of the congregation from the more traditional services. Fun, faith and fellowship for all ages.

See the following links: <http://bit.ly/2x7APUb>

<http://bit.ly/2x4olLq>

and also our church website.

<sup>1</sup> Fun-Key Church has been the subject of a Snapshots report by George Lings from Church Army, and is also used as a case study in David Male's *How to Pioneer* book (CHP).

<http://bit.ly/2h7IM3w>

<http://bit.ly/2y3HAE0>

<http://bit.ly/2xPqV7a>

### Café Church

Café Church is a relatively new way of experiencing church at St Mary's. We have been blessed with excellent guest speakers including Rev David Day, Rt Rev Mark Tanner, Rt Rev John Pritchard and Rev Dr David Wilkinson. A great mix of talk, discussion, reflection, prayer, compline and cake

[www.facebook.com/cafechurchstmarysrichmond](http://www.facebook.com/cafechurchstmarysrichmond)

### Free to Be

A contemplative time of worship, where we aim to create a sacred space in which to encounter the mystery of God. There is time to use the prayer stations or spend the time to think, pray, awaken the senses and simply be with God, followed by a service of Compline or Eucharist.

# ♪ Get Me to the Church on Time! ♪

## Worship for All

Worship for all is an all age communion service with a music group and singers.

We want people of all ages and traditions to be able to find services that are meaningful and helpful for them. We are willing to experiment with this and discontinue forms of service that do not seem to work.

Though we do have some families and teenagers, we pray that there will be more. Children and younger people particularly enjoy Fun-Key Church and some contribute to the choir and All Age Worship. We would like to build on this. On occasion, some children from our primary school come and help us. Examples are at Worship for All and special services such as The Bells Dedication Service. It would be wonderful to be able to build further on this.

## Our 'Churchmanship'

In both parishes, we come from different traditions, but this does not lead to barriers. We would like our Rector to respect this, as we do. It would probably be fair to describe us as 'middle of the road'. We value both the Sacraments and the Bible, the latter through Bible Study Groups, a Bible Table (at St Mary's) and, of course, the pulpit.



## Services for St Mary's

Sunday	8 am	Said Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday	10 am	Sung Eucharist
3rd Sunday	10 am	Sung Eucharist Worship for All
Last Sunday	4 pm	Fun-Key Church For all ages
Alternate 3rd Sunday	4 pm	Café Church
Alternate 3rd Sunday	6.30 pm	Free to Be
2nd Sunday	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong
Wednesday	9.15 am	Said Eucharist
Thursday	10.30 am	Said Eucharist at Holy Trinity



# ♪ Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws... ♪

## Some more of our activities at St Mary's

### Pastoral Team

- Home, hospital and nursing home visiting
- Home Communion
- Bereavement Counselling and general listening
- Knit2gether
- Monday Morning Toddlers Group
- The Happy Bodgers - men willing to do small jobs about the house for the elderly and disabled
- Volunteer driving for church, shopping, hospital appointments etc.
- Receiving and circulating requests for prayer

### Friends of St Mary's

All members of St. Mary's Church are part of the Friends. The committee of very friendly people organises fund raising events to assist the church with items which enhance its day to day running. Examples in the last couple of years are a contribution to the construction of the WC for the disabled, finance for the church website, renewal of the church sound system and, currently, a considerable donation to help with the purchase of the new pew cushions. The committee consists of volunteers and provides refreshments at several events throughout the year, giving people a chance to meet and socialise.

### Communications Team

- Notices, Website, Magazine and Weekly Pew Sheet





### **Mothers' Union**

St Mary's Mothers' Union is an integral part of parish life, prayerfully contributing to events in the parish, deanery and in our episcopal area of Ripon. The branch continues to support the food bank and is always represented at baptisms to present a Bible story book to the babies and children. It is open to women who are not mothers and even to men. (The last Rector and Curate were both members!)



### **Women's Fellowship**

The Women's Fellowship is a broadly based group of elderly ladies, both secular and inter-denominational, in its 47th year. It is a happy, relaxed and caring group that enjoys good fellowship. Meetings are interesting and varied, with a short time of prayer, followed by guest speakers who offer their services freely.

### **We are a Fair Trade church**

### **Knit2gether**

A friendly, welcoming group of crafters encompassing all ages and abilities, who meet weekly in a local café to knit, crochet, sew and enjoy each other's company. Participants bring their own creative projects or do charity projects, although many people in the community drop by to join in simply for a chat. It is a very fluid group, with approximately 15-17 women and men attending most weeks. New members are always welcome and friendships, which continue with people meeting outside the group, are forged.

### **Volunteers**

In addition, there is no lack of volunteers for all the tasks that keep the church running smoothly; flowers, altar linen, cleaning, tea and coffee, magazine and more.



# 🎵 On the Street where you Live 🎵

## Some ways in which the church and the Richmond community come together

- Annual Civic Service at St Mary's
- Remembrance Day
- The Mayor may ask the Rector to be his or her Chaplain
- Exhibitions and Festivals arranged by St Mary's and open to the public
- Public Concerts at St Mary's
- Participation in Christian Aid Week
- Church Coffee Mornings in the Town Hall raise funds and increase awareness of the church
- Joint activities with other churches
- Carol Singing in the Market Place
- Though the church in Hudswell is now in the final stages of being formally closed, we support a community-run pub in the village which won CAMRA's "Pub of the Year" award for 2017. We run a "Carols and Barrels" evening in the pub before Christmas.
- Bell ringing workshops
- Richmond Meet service and quiz
- Supporting the Food Bank
- Parent and Toddler Group



# ♪ Money, Money, Money... ♪

## Money matters

Fortunately, Dales folk are good at rising to the occasion when it comes to regular giving and Gift Aiding, capital projects and mission and charitable giving.

Both parishes pay the Parish Share in full, monthly and on time and pay clergy expenses in full. There was a successful Stewardship Campaign in 2016 and income is supplemented by; fees for special services, a 200 Club, the Parish Magazine, church hire for concerts and other events as well as fund-raising events of the Friends of St Mary's. Current improvement projects are being funded by special collections and the Fabric Fund.

There is a monthly collection for different missions and charities, at home and abroad. We are exploring the possibility of supporting a mission or charity on a regular basis.

The church accounts for 2016 are attached. There are separate accounts for Richmond, Downholme and Marske.



# 🎵 The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music 🎵

## St Mary's - a musical church



The music is a very important aspect of the life and worship at St Mary's. Mirroring the worship of the church, the music takes different forms and involves many different people.

Our young Director of Music is Chris Denton who is married to a local vicar whose parish lies to the north of ours. Their young son sings with other youngsters in the treble section of the traditional robed choir which is RSCM affiliated. The youngsters are supported by our adult singers and together they lead the worship at most of the Sunday 10 am services as well as the monthly Choral Evensong. They also sing at weddings and other occasional services.

On some special occasions our choir and our Worship for All music and song group join with other choirs connected with the church. These broaden the opportunity for those both within and without the church to worship together through music.

The church is blessed with a fine Harrison organ that is in good order and this attracts the finest organists to give recitals at St Mary's.

### The Bells

An historic moment took place in the summer of 2017 when the new set of eight church bells was rung for the first time. These replaced bells that were up to 500 years old and involved a huge fundraising effort to find the £190,000 required. In addition, the congregation and local community raised the funds needed to ship and install our 150 year old tenor bell to Kerala, Southern India where it will continue to summon people to Christian worship.

The bell ringers are fully integrated in the whole church family and are very proactive in working with youngsters so as to develop the next generation of campanologists.



	<b>St Mary's Richmond</b>	<b>St Edmund Marske</b>	<b>St Michael Downholme</b>	<b>Benefice Total</b>
Number on Church Electoral Roll	177	24	9	210
Is the number increasing/ decreasing/stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	
% from outside parish	10%	40%	100%	
Main age group(s)	50 - 80	70+	70+	
<b>Statistics: as recorded on the last Annual Return</b>				
Average Sunday attendance	128	9	9	146
Christmas Communicants	264	10	16	
Easter Communicants	244	16	11	
Baptism Adults	1			
Baptism Infant	18	3		21
Confirmation – Adult	2			
Confirmation – under 16 yrs	3			
Weddings	8	1	1	10
Funerals in church	28	2	2	32
Funerals in Crematorium or Cemetery	23			23

*Statistics as at APCMs, 26 March 2017*

# 🎵 The Wise Man Built his House upon the Rock 🎵

## About the buildings



Dating from about 1125, the church was built in Frenchgate because the present Market Place was then the Outer Bailey of the Castle, served by Holy Trinity Chapel, so the parish church had to be sited further out. Despite the steep slope, the church was gradually enlarged throughout the medieval period as Richmond grew, and eventually reached its present extent. The tower was built in 1399.

A major restoration, carried out 1858-60 by the leading Victorian church architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, created the main impression made by the present church. Inside there is a fine medieval font, and choir stalls, with misericords, of about 1530, brought from nearby Easby Abbey. There is a splendid monument of 1629 to Sir Timothy Hutton, and his wife Elizabeth, a goddaughter of Queen Elizabeth I, and many memorials to Georgian inhabitants when Richmond was in its fashionable heyday. The Regimental Chapel of the Green Howards was formed in 1932, with 'Mouseman' Thompson furniture.

More recent alterations have included bringing the altar forward in 1974, and creating a small galley and toilets in 1996. The building was re-roofed in 1989. In 2016 a Disabled Access Toilet and internal ramp were built, and in 2017 the eight old bells, of various historic dates from about 1500, were replaced by a new set of eight bells paid for by wide-ranging fund-raising efforts. Apart from the minor repairs and improvements inevitable with an old building in frequent use, the church is in good order, as documented in the last Quinquennial Report of October 2014. The congregation see it as a living and adapting organism and it is likely that changes and improvements will continue to be made during the next and future incumbencies.

The churchyard is classified as 'closed', and is cared for by the Town Council. There is an open area for ashes.



# ♪ "The Green Green Grass of Home"?... ♪

The Richmond Rectory is a four bedroomed house with lovely views, spacious rooms, an enclosed garden, adjacent to the Church and is a quick walk into the centre of the town and an easy walk to a good choice of excellent schools.

It has good parking. There is a study which is currently also being used as the office for the parish administrator.

There are no outstanding structural problems.



## St Edmund Marske

We are a small worshipping community, and our numbers can triple when there is a special service. We also have large numbers for weddings, baptisms, and funerals. We welcome Church groups from Leeds when they are staying at a house in Marske.

We are blessed with having a service at the same time every Sunday – whether Eucharist or Morning Prayer. This means visitors and occasional churchgoers always know when there is a service. We are also blessed with having an organist, and a team who are skilled at decorating the Church with flowers. Our Church is never locked.

An important outreach is to visitors – especially

Coast to Coast walkers as the route passes our Church steps. We offer them refreshments, and a place to rest. Many entries in the Visitors' Book express appreciation not only of the refreshments, but also of a beautiful and peaceful Church for contemplation and rest.

We have a lay-led house group jointly with Downholme which meets mainly for study in Lent. We pay our Share in full, and we support Christian Aid.

### **The Community**

There are seven family owned farms in the parish. These create a core of stability in the community





which can extend through several generations. Other residents commute to work in nearby towns, and there are a number who have retired. There are not many holiday cottages.

The Church is now the only public building in the village. There are no shops, post office, or doctor within five miles, and there is no public transport.

There are some vibrant village organisations – notably a 30 strong choir which gives concerts in the area. There is an annual village party to which everyone is invited to come and to contribute.

We believe the great majority of the community want the Church to be there, and, as at the refurbishment 17 years ago, would provide financial and practical support in case of need.

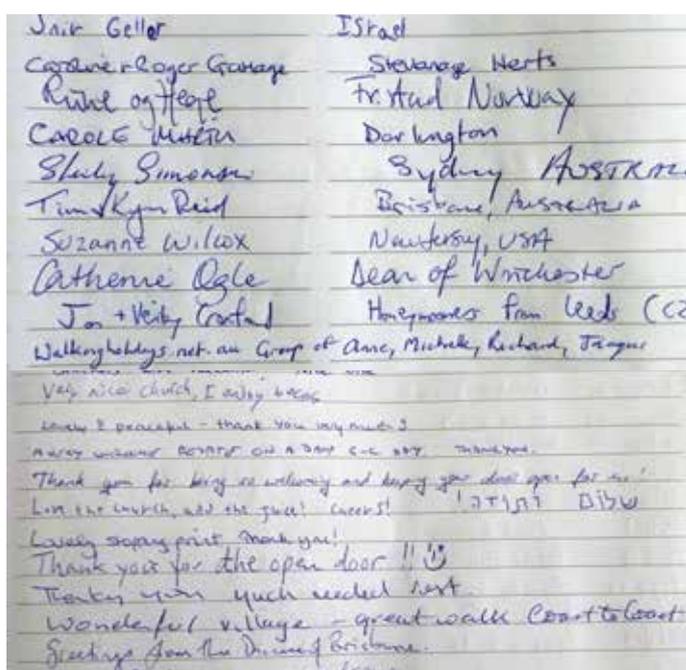
### Church Building

The Church is 11th century Norman, and there was probably Christian worship on this site before this. The monks from Lindisfarne fleeing from the Vikings with St Cuthbert's coffin paused in Marske. Features of the Church are the stained glass windows, and the unusual box pews. The font is from 1663.

There is capacity for at least 100. The acoustics are excellent.

There have been problems with cracks, which have been largely resolved by the installation of some new rainwater drains. The situation is being regularly professionally monitored.

The church is in a closed churchyard, but there is a more modern open church cemetery 100 yards away.



## St Michael and All Angels, Downholme

*"Come unto me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will refresh you."*

Christ's invitation to us all has the perfect venue at our church. His bidding has been regularly and readily accepted at St Michael and All Angels for 900 years and it remains a much loved and appreciated place of spiritual succour in the New Millennium as in the days of the Normans. St Michael's is the spiritual home of a small core of committed worshippers, though in fact they represent a significant percentage of the local population, and is equally appreciated by many casual visitors and also people on a dedicated pilgrimage to their ancestral spiritual roots.

Sunday worship currently comprises Morning Prayer (BCP) on 2nd Sunday of each month when the congregation is served by the Reader of Downholme and Marske. Eucharist is celebrated by the Rector on 4th Sunday, each service being blessed by the talents of an organist of the church. Spiritual refreshment is augmented by refreshment of the body with tea, coffee and homemade biscuits supplied by a member of the team which also carries out the duty of cleaning, flower arranging and so many other acts of devotion.

In addition to our regular worship, services are held at Easter and Christmas and as would be expected in a very rural settlement, Harvest Thanksgiving is particularly important to us, even being celebrated in the dark on one memorable occasion when the modern convenience of electricity failed us! Nevertheless, the light of Christ prevailed of course! Despite the comparatively small size of our church, it is a proud fact that it keeps pace with the many and varied financial burdens placed upon it. This is achieved through the simple generosity of all who



are devoted to the St Michael's "Family Home" and the comfort they gain from the friendly atmosphere at every visit.

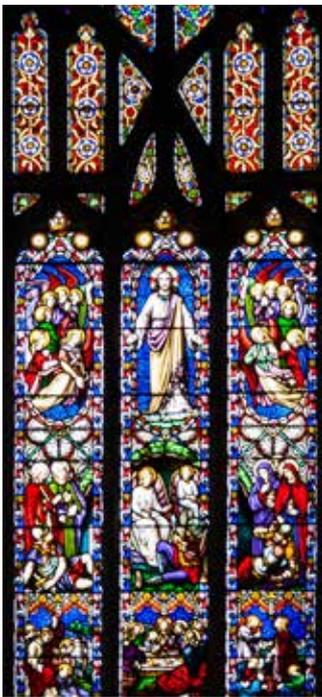
In recent years the Church has hosted various events for the Swaledale Festival and a solo violin recording, doing so has offered excellent acoustics to a wider audience. Baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals take place from time to time. The churchyard remains open. People travel from all over the world to trace and remember their ancestors and the family events which connect them with the church. Their comments, noted in the visitors' book are testament to the fact that though they may have been brought to church it is the church which brings them to Christ in a very spiritual way with the door always open and a warm welcome for all.

Sir Simon Jenkins wrote of our church in his book "England's 1000 Best Churches". We look forward to remaining one of England's Best Churches for another 1000 years as we continue to strive to be the servant of the servants of God.



The challenges of rural ministry...





♪ And finally... ♪

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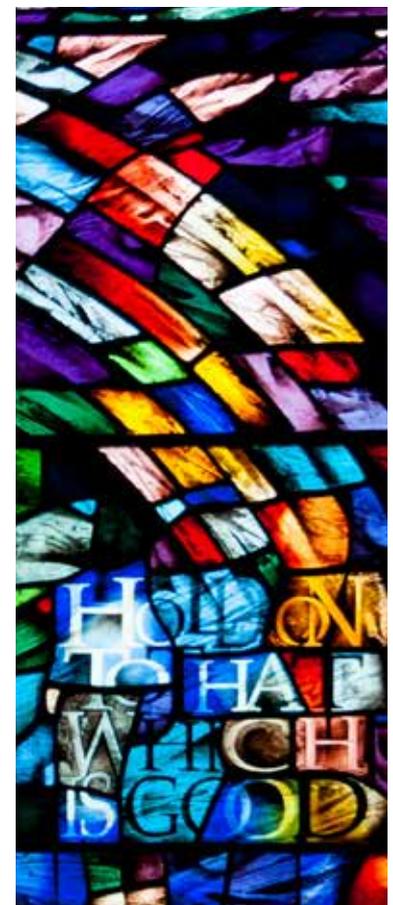
...as the cast come down the stage to take a bow.

***We are energetic, active parishioners who care for our churches, our community, our Lord and His Gospel. We will welcome you, support you, co-operate with you and accept your leadership.***

***Are you the one God is calling to serve in Swaledale, to rejoice with us in what has been achieved and to take up the challenges of those things that we know must be done... and, perhaps, some that we do not yet know?***

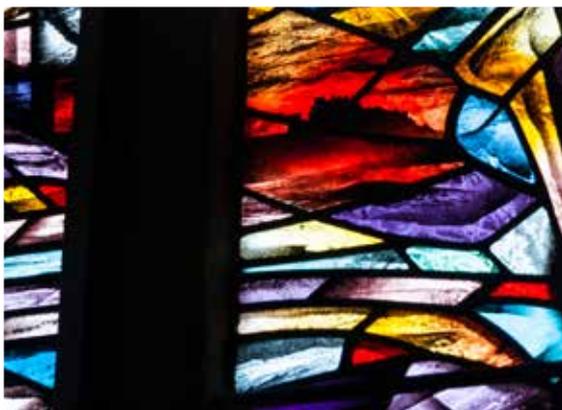
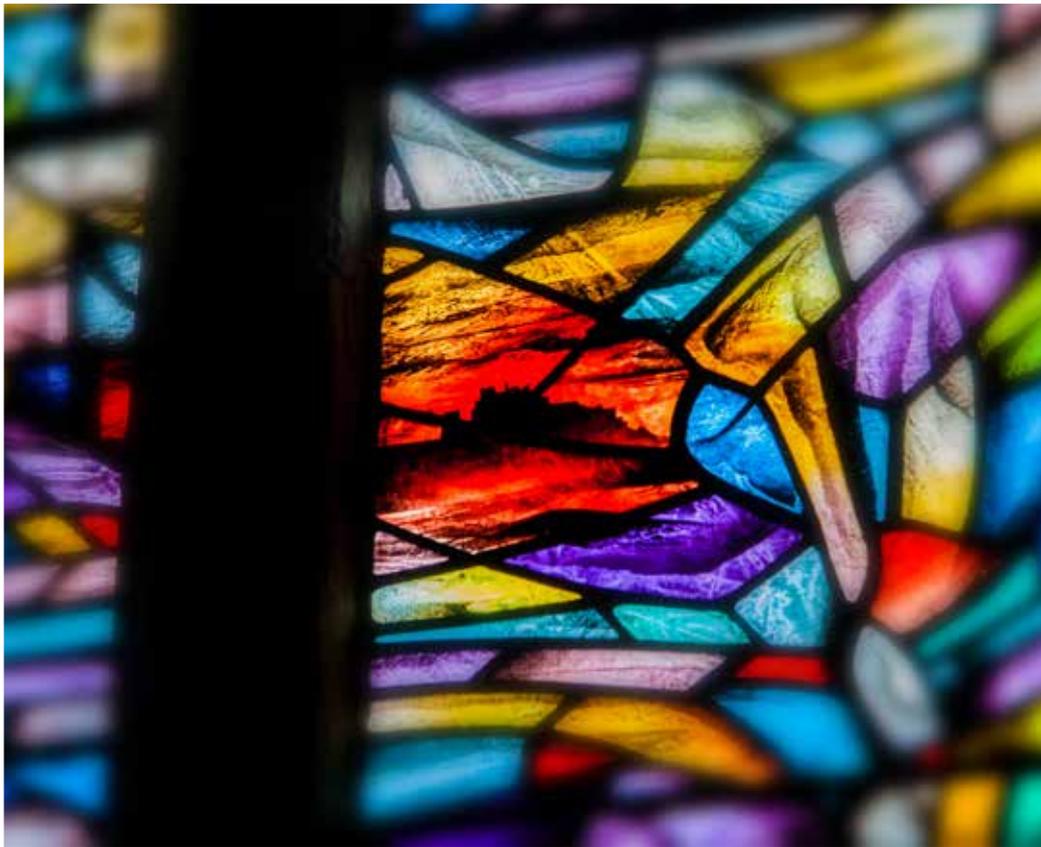


*May we soar together?*





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THE CHURCH  
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Diocese of Leeds

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