

# CONNECTIONS

**The Community Benefice Magazine of  
Richmond with Hudswell,  
Downholme and Marske**

**September 2025**



**Price £1.80**

National  
Silver Award 2024

# THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME AND MARSKE

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

[www.facebook.com/StMarysRHDM](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysRHDM)

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### **CHURCH SERVICES — St MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND with Hudswell**

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Sunday
10.00 a.m.	Parish Communion	Every Sunday apart from 1st Sunday
	Morning Worship (no communion)	Every 1st Sunday
4.00 p.m.	Café Church	3rd Sunday (every 2 mths — Jan, March etc)
	Fun-Key Church	Last Sunday each month
6.30 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Second Sunday each month
9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Wednesday

### **CHURCH SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL, MARKET PLACE , RICHMOND**

**10.30 a.m. Holy Communion                      Every Thursday**

### **PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME**

#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Reader	George Alderson (07487) 257646	68, Brompton Park, Brompton on Swale DL10 7JP
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PCC Secretary	TBA	

#### **CHURCH SERVICES AT DOWNHOLME**

<b>9.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Every second Sunday</b>
<b>9.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Every fourth Sunday</b>

### **THE PARISH OF ST EDMUNDS, MARSKE**

#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Church Warden	Ruth Tindale (01748) 823371	Skelton Lodge, Marske
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PCC Secretary	Andra Sison-Ham (07753) 842246	<a href="mailto:andrakrumins@gmail.com">andrakrumins@gmail.com</a>

#### **CHURCH SERVICES AT MARSKE**

<b>11.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Every Sunday except 2nd (&amp; 5th) Sunday</b>
<b>11.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Every 2nd (&amp; 5th) Sunday</b>

September always seems to be a bit of a watershed. The summer holidays are over; schools have returned for the start of a new academic year; and it marks the beginning of Autumn. Traditionally, it is also a time when we think about Harvest, but the seemingly endless hot, dry days in recent weeks have meant that for many 'all has been safely gathered in' much earlier than usual this year and the fields have already been prepared for winter crops. Nevertheless, in keeping with tradition, this issue has a bit of a harvest theme, not only with the front cover, but also with some of the articles.

After 'Martin's Message', with its wide-ranging review of parish 'happenings', Jim Jack brings to our attention Richmond's unique 'First Fruits Ceremony', before then thinking of Michaelmas. Jane Hatcher shares her knowledge of what happened hereabouts at Harvest-time, and Christine Porter delves into the background of that popular hymn 'All things bright and beautiful'. Judith MacLeod has been on her travels again and shares her impressions of the magnificent Beverley Minster, while Carole McCormack is happy to recommend Raby Castle, just over the border in County Durham, as a Grand Day Out.

John Pritchard brings to an end his year-long series of Bible Pointers, but you'll be pleased to hear that he intends to tackle Hard Questions relating to the Christian faith in future editions. Definitely something to look forward to. He has also kindly summarised the 'doings' of the latest PCC meeting; persuaded Jan Jack to be the subject of a '60 Second Interview'; and agreed to be interviewed himself by Carole McCormack for our 'Meet the Author' series.

For 'All in a Day's Work', Jan Beeton provides an insight into what is involved in being Parish Safeguarding Officer; Wendy Pritchard's 'Garden Notes' focus on the delights of the Cosmos plant; and Linda Curran invites support for our Charity of the Month – Garget Walker House. Jim Jack also reviews the recent activities of the Friends of St Mary's and encourages everyone to support upcoming events, in particular the visit of folksinger Edwina Hayes in early September.

There are advertisements for events organised by Marrick Priory and the Station Singers, and we hope you will seriously consider the PCC's appeal for more help with events. To be able to call on a greater number of people would make such a difference.

*John McCormack*

**Cover photo by Wendy Pritchard  
Glorious Autumn Fruit**



## Martin's Message

### September 2025



### Our Ministry Team

A quick look at pages 2 and 3 of this Magazine shows that our Benefice is blessed with a large and active Ministry Team. Lorna and I are both full-time, and Bishop John, Jennifer Williamson, Martin Clarke, Stewart Ridley and Pauline Shepherd are our honorary clergy colleagues. Alongside them are our lay minister colleagues: George Alderson and Paul Perry – neither of whom receive payment for their respective ministries as a Reader and an Occasional Preacher. The same goes for our four lay Pastoral Assistant colleagues, Sharon McCormack, Jan Jack, Sharon O'Connor, and Graham Pearson.

It goes without saying, however, that whilst each member of the team is in a 'licensed' role, the bulk of the mission and ministry in our Benefice is undertaken by 'unlicensed' lay people: **you!** As members together of the churches of our Benefice, we are all involved and we are all interdependent in our collective worship, fellowship, witness and service to the wider community. Together, we seek to be a blessing to each other, as well as our Benefice.

For each of us, our involvement does not stand still. We are fellow pilgrims, fellow disciples, on a journey towards the fullness of life God wills for everyone. He wants us all to discover the gifts he has freely instilled in us and to use these gifts in his service, to his glory whilst also fulfilling our potential.

In the summer, the ordinations of Lorna, Anna and Scott were for them particular milestones on their personal journeys – and inspiring examples for us. It was a joy to celebrate with them.

### Congratulations to Sharon

This September, Sharon McCormack will commence a new stage on her personal journey. She will begin a two-year training course to become commissioned as a Reader – or LLM (Licensed Lay Minister), to use the current terminology. LLMs can be involved in a wide range of ministries, which includes preaching.

To be recommended for this training Sharon went through an exhaustive discernment process set out by the Church of England and overseen by the Ministerial Development team of our Diocese. Her gifts in the creative arts in expressing her faith and sharing her love for God were recognised and celebrated. Sharon's training will include placements in other churches, but once she is licensed she will return to us. Her dual ministry of Pastoral Assistant and LLM will be a great blessing to us – and already her journey towards licensed lay ministry is an inspiring example for us.

Do please pray for Sharon as she undertakes her training, and give her every encouragement throughout this next stage of her personal journey.

### **Congratulations to Gillian**

We were all delighted to hear the news that 'our Gillian' Lunn was appointed as Rector of the nearby Benefice of East Dere Street. The benefice extends from Croft in the south, up through Middleton Tyas and Barton, to Cleasby with Stapleton and Manfield in the north; it also includes Eryholme and Moulton. It will be good to have Gillian back in this Deanery.

With all those churches and communities, Gillian is going to be busy(!), but she can be assured of our prayerful and practical support. Her licensing will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, at Manfield, and many of us will be there to celebrate with her as she reaches another milestone on her personal journey.

### **Deanery matters**

Overseeing Gillian's arrival will be one of my last public duties as Area Dean of the Richmond Deanery. I reach my sixth anniversary in that role on 15<sup>th</sup> September, and will be stepping down at the end of October. I am most grateful to you for your support throughout this time, and likewise to my colleague Revd David Bartlett, our Assistant Area Dean.



Until a new Area Dean is appointed by Bishop Anna, the duties of the role will be shared between David and other Deanery colleagues, although I will be pleased to assist when required. In stepping down as Area Dean, I very much look forward to having more time and energy to give to my primary role as Rector of Richmond with Hudswell and Downholme and Marske.

**St Michael's Day Pilgrimage Walk**  
**12.30—4.00pm, Sunday, 28th September**

Marking the festival of St Michael and All Angels, the patron saints of our churches in Hudswell and in Downholme, by a Pilgrimage Walk has become an annual tradition! This year's walk will be the *third* occasion we have done this, and will take place on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September. We will walk along the section between the two churches of the new Camino Route which links Durham Cathedral and York Minster via Ripon Cathedral – and which will eventually link up with the Camino de Santiago!



We will start at 12:30pm from the Round Howe car park; take a lunch stop at the newly opened St Michael's Lodge in Hudswell; and conclude at 4.00pm with Evening Prayer at St Michael's church in Downholme. Lifts will be available back to Round Howe.

With Fun-Key Church also due to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, there will be an option for anyone who prefers to remain in Hudswell after lunch to enjoy a games afternoon on the Village Hall playing field.

Please look out for further details!

**Wanted: School Governors**



Our Church of England Primary School in Richmond, Trinity Academy, is closely linked to us at St Mary's. Please visit their website for more information: [www.trinityr.dalesmat.org/](http://www.trinityr.dalesmat.org/). Between us, Lorna and I visit each week to lead Collective Worship and both of us are on the Governing Body. There are two further Foundation Governors from our church community, Wendy Pritchard and Jan Beeton, and Wendy has also been Deputy Chair.

The school has seen huge changes in the last year, with a recent Ofsted inspection giving a rating of Good in all four of the categories inspected. The headteacher, Simon Robson, and all the staff and governors were delighted that their hard work has borne fruit. A new Headteacher is due to start after Christmas, but the school is determined to continue and expand its imaginative

vision, based on the Parable of the Mustard Seed:

"In our school, adults work hard to cultivate the soil for growth: its nutrients become rich, and the mustard tree flourishes into life.

Our children are like birds of all kinds, who flock to nest in its branches to be nurtured, educated and inspired; they learn to welcome challenge and its endless possibilities.

As they realise their full uniqueness, limitless spirit and ambition, they are filled with the faith to fly, and soar high in the sky."

Wendy and Jan have been Foundation Governors at the school for some years and the time will come when they feel the need to step down. We would love to have people ready to take their place and to continue the links between school and church. Could this be you?

To find out more about this exciting role, please speak to Wendy or Jan, or to Lorna or me, or visit: [www.leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/education/governance/](http://www.leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/education/governance/)

With every blessing,

*Martin*

## FROM THE REGISTERS



### Baptism

On Sunday, 6th July '25

**Cali Grace Wright**

was welcomed into the Church through Baptism



***You have received the light of Christ;  
Walk in this light all the days of your life.***

## FROM THE TOWN HALL

Hot on the heels of the septennial Riding of the Bounds in August, comes an annual civic event celebrating harvest. **JIM JACK** reports on this year's plans, and links its timing to the festival of Michaelmas. You are welcome to join this civic event if you wish.

### First Fruits Ceremony — only in Richmond

Believed to be the only civic ceremony of its type in the UK, the Mayor and Council of Richmond will once again host the annual age-old First Fruits ceremony at 10.30pm. on Saturday, 13th September 2025. On this day, the Mayor is acting in his capacity as Clerk of the Market, hence his right to sample the wares on sale. This is related to the fact that, in the past, the Corporation of Richmond made significant money for the town



Ready to leave the Town Hall

through the collection of tolls when the harvest was brought to market. And so, every year, with the Mayor's chaplain in attendance, a civic procession moves from the Town Hall to a position outside Trinity Chapel, where the Sergeants-at-Mace lay their ceremonial maces of office on a table, behind which are stationed the Mayor, The Town Clerk and the Chaplain. This year these roles will be taken by Councillor Louise Morton, Heather Lawler and Reverend Martin Fletcher respectively



The Mayor and Town Clerk at the Curtilage, with Allotment-holder trophies behind

After the traditional preamble is read out and prayers are said, a local farmer, (Mr Metcalfe again this year), presents a sack of freshly harvested grain to the Mayor. The Mayor calls upon an expert witness (Mark Meynell) to examine the corn by drawing a sample from the sack using the Corn Cup (on display in the Green Howards Museum). He then checks its weight and quality and, hopefully, will

pronounce it 'good', giving a brief summary of how good a year it has been for local farmers .

The Mayor then offers a bottle of wine to the witness; drinks are offered to all those assembled; and a toast to a successful harvest is made. We are told that the refreshment offering to the assembled throng about fifty years ago was a barrel of beer and sandwiches. More recently, the offering has shrunk to a small amount of sherry or orange juice.

Local allotment holders and gardeners will be awarded prizes for their horticultural efforts over the past year and this brings the ceremony to a close. Sometimes, if the weather is especially inclement, the ceremony is held in the Town Hall itself, but it is still open to all members of the public. There is some uncertainty about this at present, however, as there is also a First Fruits Produce Show from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.in the Town Hall. This will be judged after the First Fruits Ceremony and has categories for vegetables, flowers, baking and crafts.

More information about the Ceremony can be found on the Town Council website — (<https://www.richmondtowncouncil.org.uk>)

### **And what of Michaelmas?**

The feast of St Michael, or Michael's Mass, falls on 29 September. The Archangel Michael is considered the greatest of all angels for defeating the Devil in the war in heaven.



**St Michael defeating the Devil**

Its link with harvest is that the date falls near the equinox, the date after which there is less and less daylight for farmers to use. Also the date marks the start of Autumn, by which time the harvest should all be in — ‘the end and the beginning of the husbandman’s year.’ In times gone by, after the harvest had been gathered in, the crop would have been stored for winter or sold to enable its



**Bedale Hiring Fair — Joseph Appleyard**

owners to pay rent. So Michaelmas is one of the four ‘quarter days’, dates upon which accounts should be settled. Hiring fairs were also held on or around Michaelmas, to coincide with the custom of farm workers, labourers, servants and some craftsmen being hired to work for their employer for 12 months from the beginning of October.

The dish traditionally eaten at Michaelmas was goose, also known as a stubble goose, because it had been fattened on the stubble left after harvest. ‘If you eat a goose on Michaelmas Day, you will never lack money all year’.

Irish legend tells of the son of an Irish king being choked to death on a goose bone he had eaten, only to be brought back to life by St Patrick. Folklore in the British Isles also has it that it is the last day upon which blackberries should be picked. It is said that when St Michael defeated the devil, Satan fell from the skies and landed in a prickly blackberry bush, whereupon he cursed the fruit, making it unfit to eat after that date.

The older universities name the first term of their academic year Michaelmas, the choice of name, it is said, dictated by the fact that land-owning tutors at these



**Purple Aster, or Michaelmas Daisy**

universities could turn their attention to education, now that their harvests were in! And the Michaelmas daisy? Needing a decorative flower for a traditional Michaelmas procession on the Isle of Skye, one of the very few around by then was a purple aster, which they re-named a Michaelmas Daisy.

*Jim Jack*



**Marrick Priory**

Outdoor Education and Residential Centre

# Songs with Scones

*Light Musical Entertainment  
from Treble Clef  
followed by refreshments*



**VENUE:** ☀ ☀  
**Marrick Chapel**

**DATE** ☀ ☀  
**Saturday 6th  
September  
2.30 -4.30pm**

**Tea .. cakes & scones**



**Buses to the Priory from  
Grinton Field from 2pm**



**Tickets £12 from Reeth Post office  
or ring Kathy 01748 886763 or email  
[cathytrewhby@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cathytrewhby@hotmail.co.uk)**

## NOTES FROM THE PAST

With Harvest in mind, this month **JANE HATCHER** turns her attention to what this season of the year was like hereabouts in times gone by and, with luck, what the harvesters could look forward to.

### How Did We Plough and Sow in former days?

Most present-day Protestant churches hold some sort of annual Harvest celebration, often in these days of Food Banks focussing on sharing produce with those less fortunate than ourselves. Our Yorkshire farmers' harvest in 2024 was badly affected by poor weather: fields too water-logged to take tractors onto them for sowing or cutting; hill-farm lambs succumbing to the wet; even keen vegetable growers like myself disappointed by poor crops. But although good and bad harvests of various commodities may be reflected in prices in the supermarkets, nowadays we are more likely to grumble than to starve. But it was not so in the past.



**Revd Robert Hawker**

The general style of the modern Harvest Festival with its familiar hymns is generally attributed to having been started by Revd Robert Hawker, vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall, in 1843. His idea was taken up and spread during the Victorian period into the annual ritual that most of us have grown up with. But this pattern is very different from the much more secular harvest celebrations which occurred before that. Recently I was looking at an account of harvest practices in Richmond, written down not long after Revd Hawker's innovation, but remembering further back in earlier times.

The writer emphasises the point that the harvest then required "all hands on deck", but that was not only for arable crops. Upland Swaledale farmers are among few who nowadays 'make hay' in the traditional way, as they still manage precious unspoilt hay meadows, which have mostly been lost from elsewhere in the country. But in the past, haymaking, to provide winter fodder for animals, was a vital part of life in Richmond itself, as well as the town's immediate environs.

Numbers of women and children were recruited to the seasonal workforce, and haymaking was particularly important in providing the poor with not only some modest income, but also some welcome conviviality. Farmers provided ‘allowances’ for the harvesters — bread and cheese, and even some ale.

But it was the harvesting of cereal crops which required far more communal effort than haymaking. The Richmond writer describes how, well before 7 o’clock on an autumn morning, large numbers of potential reapers would assemble at Frenchgate Head, armed with tools and provisions, waiting to be hired by farmers.

Frenchgate Head was, as one might expect, at the top of Frenchgate, but it is not recognisable to us today, for instead of the through way we now have between the junction of Darlington Road with Maison Dieu, and along down past the bottom of Gallowgate, the road was impeded by a motley collection of poor cottages, which comprised one of the most notorious slum areas of the town. This unsanitary spot was gradually cleared away from late-Victorian times, and was finally tidied up into its present form, with extensive buttressing holding up Pottergate, as part of the design of the Green Howards War Memorial, opened in 1921.



**Bringing in the harvest — George Robert Lewis**

Once hired for that day’s harvesting, the recruits were organised into teams – locally called ‘yams’ — of four people: three ‘shearers’ to cut the corn, and one ‘binder’ to follow them tying up the sheaves. Then they were followed by ‘gleaners’, usually the harvesters’ children, who picked up the stray ears of corn. These were a useful ‘perk’ to their families, and the gleanings would be carefully dried at

home, to be taken later to one of the local corn watermills to be ground into a welcome quantity of flour.

In those days, Richmond was still surrounded by its three medieval great Open Fields – West Field, Gallow Field and East Field – and these consisted of strips laboriously cultivated under the ‘rig and furrow’ system. Over the centuries, the annual ploughing — up one way and down the next — had created a corduroy pattern to the land, some of which can still be detected on the West Field, (now

usually termed Westfields), the only one of the three not substantially built upon. As the reapers wearily returned home each evening, they often sang traditional folk songs associated with the harvest. When all the harvest had been gathered in, especially if it had been a good year, the seasonal work force proffered cheers for the farmers who had employed them, in the hope that they would reward the workers with a party. In Richmond in those days that was not called 'Harvest Home', but the Mell Feast.

And to accompany the Mell Feast, was the Mell Doll, the equivalent of the Corn Dolly remembered in other parts. The Mell Doll was a symbolic work of art, formed from the stalks of the last sheaf of corn to be harvested. The making of this took many hours of patient and skilful plaiting to create a traditional representation of an ancient pagan fertility goddess. After the Mell Feast, it was hung in the rafters of the barn where the corn was stored, until the following year's harvest. This was to reflect the continuity of the growing seasons, using part of one year's produce to create that of the following year. The old Mell Doll was then destroyed, usually by being burnt, before the construction of the new one.



A Corn Dolly —  
similar to Mell Doll?

*Jane Hatcher*

## FROM THE REGISTERS



### Wedding

On 2nd August 2025  
At St Mary's Church, Richmond



**Jolene Mary Walden to Wayne Michael Russell**

*Wishing you both a long and happy marriage.  
May God guide you along your journey and bless you each day.*

## CHARITY OF THE MONTH — SEPTEMBER



### FRIENDS OF GARGET WALKER HOUSE

This year has seen a great deal of change for our much loved and very local charity. On the retirement of a very long-serving and hard-working group of trustees, it has been the task of an entirely new group to take over the reins. After a very difficult time establishing control of the funds held within two no longer local banks, we are now confident that we can continue to make a difference, as the Friends always have done.



We are working closely with Dementia Forward, and will be supporting them in the difficult job of removing tree stumps from the garden. The stumps and some overgrown trees impact on people being able to go outside. We have set aside funding for this task.

With carers in mind, we want to use donations we will hopefully receive as St Mary's Charity of the Month to fund the Time Together Tuesday Group. This very friendly group meets in Richmond Town Hall every Tuesday afternoon. People with dementia, and their Carers, have lunch together. After lunch there are a range of activities from games, music and sometimes dancing. Carers get to share information and support, and volunteers are on hand to look after their loved one if they need to take a break or go shopping.

Please help us to make a difference!

*Linda Curran*

*On behalf of the Trustees  
Friends of Garget Walker House*

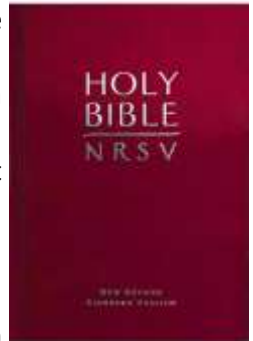
## BIBLE POINTERS

In the concluding article in this extremely helpful series, **JOHN PRITCHARD** offers some thoughts about just some of the numerous versions of the Bible available.

### What version of the Bible should I use?

Who am I to say? There are very many versions around today and which one we adopt must be a matter of personal choice. But here, briefly, is an overview of the main ones on offer.

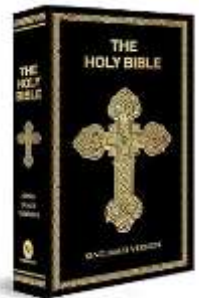
**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) (1989).** This is the version used in St Mary's and by many mainstream Anglican clergy and congregations. It's as accurate as modern translators can make it and uses 'standard', accessible English. It uses gender-neutral language as long as it doesn't distort the meaning.



**New International Version (NIV) (1973).** Another popular, reliable translation from a team of distinguished scholars, combining accuracy with good literary style. It's the version mostly used in evangelical churches.

**English Standard Version (ESV) (2001).** Less well used in Anglican churches, but again an accurate, scholarly version using more conservative methods and offering an 'essentially literal' translation, a 'word for word' version rather than one looking for 'dynamic equivalence'.

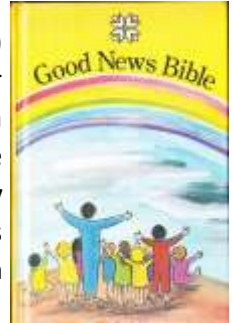
**King James 'Authorised' Version (1611).** This is the starting point for all subsequent translations. Termed 'the noblest monument of English prose' this is the version that for long entered and shaped the families and institutions of the English-speaking peoples. It's wonderful on special occasions and for particular passages, but has serious defects as a translation and considerable problems of accessibility for people today.



**The Message (2002).** This is the wonderful achievement of the well-known American pastor and theologian Eugene Peterson. It's a paraphrase rather than a translation and rightly claims to be 'a contemporary rendering of the Bible from the original languages, crafted to present it's tone, rhythm, events and ideas in

everyday language.’ It does that brilliantly, but the reader has to remember it’s a paraphrase.

**The Good News Bible** (with simple, effective line drawings) was much used in the 1960s and 70s, and is helpful to younger people. Tom Wright and John Goldingay did a new translation for their **Bible for Everyone** series of commentaries. And there are various specialist presentations such as a **Bible Society version** that highlights issues of poverty and justice, various children’s versions, and even (I remember) a ‘**Gospel in Scouse**’!



This brings my year-long series of Bible Pointers to an end. I hope it’s been useful as a reminder that the Bible is (as the sovereign is told at his or her coronation) ‘the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom; this is the royal law. These are the lively oracles of God.’

It just remains for us seriously to ‘read, mark, learn and inwardly digest’ this glorious text.

*John Pritchard*

## FROM THE REGISTERS



**We give thanks for the lives of those  
who have died.**



George Hayes	19th April '25
Theresa Lister	29th April '25
Christopher Tyrrell	29th May '25
Anita Berry	9th June '25

***May they rest in peace and rise in glory.***

*Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.  
Speak of me in the easy way in which you always used..  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.  
Let it be spoken without effort, without the ghost of a shadow in it.  
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?  
I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near...  
All is well.*

## CELEBRATING CATHEDRALS

If you have never been there, Beverley Minster is a 'must-see' for anyone visiting the area. **JUDITH MacLEOD** did so recently, and shares what she discovered about the ancient practice of Sanctuary and her impressions of the magnificent architecture,

The small market town of Beverley, just nine miles NW of Hull, with its attractive Georgian buildings, is a jewel in the crown of East Yorkshire. In late June I went to visit with a friend with considerable local knowledge. What better way to visit?



**Beverley Minster**

Just a few days beforehand, I heard mention of Beverley Minster in a programme about sanctuary on Radio 4's *Start the Week* (Sanctuary, Refuge and Exile — 23/6/25). Marina Warner, author of 'Sanctuary', was talking about the concept

of sanctuary. She described the medieval tradition in relation to Beverley, where the Minster offered protection from justice. In the tenth-century, five circles of different gradations of sanctuary for wrong-doers were established by Aethelstan, King of the Anglo-Saxons and later of all England. If the miscreants were seized in one of the circles, their pursuers were subject to increasing penalties the closer they got to the Minster. Four sanctuary crosses, each about 2 miles from the Minster, on the each of the four roads leading to Beverley, constituted the outer ring. The fugitives crossed a second boundary on the town edge, before reaching the sanctuary of the churchyard boundary and then the church itself. The miscreants, or 'grithmen', were required to do the equivalent of community service in return for protection.



**Sanctuary Cross at Bishops Burton**

The picture above is the Bishops Burton cross at Killingwoldgraves. It is thought that they also had richly decorated cross stones, which were broken off after the Reformation in 1534. An information board in the Minster connects the medieval idea of sanctuary to the modern-day refugee crisis.

The Minster was founded in the early 700s as a monastery, not as a cathedral. It was built to house the shrine of St John of Beverley, whose bones attracted pilgrims from all over the world. The shrine was destroyed in the Reformation. Most of what is known of the origins of Beverley, its Minster and its patron comes from Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People. Pilgrims who came to Beverley needed goods and services, so merchants trading, especially in wool, cloth and leather, gave money to build the Minster. During the Reformation, the Minster's staff of around 77 missionary priests or canons was reduced to just four, and the building only avoided demolition thanks to a group of townspeople who bought it for £100, pulled down some disused buildings and sold the material in order to save it.



**A sketch of the Minster dated 1953 by my father, Ian Braddock**



The building combines all the different phases of Gothic design, from Early English (1190-1260) at the East end, Decorated (1308-1348) in the centre, and Perpendicular (1360-1400) at the West end. The outside is supported by flying buttresses and it has 2 sets of transepts – one crossing the nave and the other crossing the retro-quire – the extension of the quire at the East end.

The fourteenth-century nave, partly Decorated and partly Perpendicular, is light and airy. I particularly enjoyed this view of the West end from the quire through the eastern-style wooden arch contrasting with the white limestone.

The walls are lined with over 80 medieval minstrels mainly from the 1300s, more than in any European church, perhaps because the medieval Guild of Minstrels of



the North of England held their meetings in Beverley. Notice the buttons on the coat sleeves and the strings on the instruments. Other highlights include the Tudor quire stalls, with their interesting wooden carvings both on top of and under the 68 tip-up stall seats; the Anglo-Saxon Frith (peace) stool - the place of greatest sanctuary and oldest surviving object in



the Minster; and the canopy of the Percy tomb. Most of the surviving medieval glass is in the East window. An information board explains how stained glass is made from a mixture of sand (silica) and ash (potash) with the addition of copper, cobalt, iron and gold to make the colours. Pieces of glass are held in place with grooved lead, which is sealed with solder and putty.



Ancient and modern are juxtaposed nearby with this medieval carving of Christ as a pilgrim and, at floor level, two life-sized figures of pilgrims in triangles of sheet copper.

The Minster is a place of sanctuary, peace and architectural harmony – balm for the soul.

*Judith MacLeod*

Friends of St Mary's Church  
Present

# Edwina Hayes

With Guests

One of the finest female singer/songwriters this country has produced in years. Edwina brings together English folk, Americana and the rich Northern singer/songwriter tradition to create a sound that's truly her own.



*"Honeylike relaxing vocals"* The Guardian

*"The sweetest voice in England"* Nanci Griffith

**St Mary's Church Richmond Yorks**  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7:30pm**

**Tickets £12 available from :**  
**eventbrite : <https://bit.ly/4j3VE71>**

**"The Book Stop" Market Hall Richmond**  
**or on the door**

**[www.edwinahayes.com](http://www.edwinahayes.com)**

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

As ever, thank you so much for your support for your parish church in the summer months, which collectively have added over £1500 towards our £12,000 buildings improvement target for 2025. After we went to press in June, we were treated to a delightful concert by **Musicality** on **21st June**. Lovely close harmony singing of a range of music made it an evening which an enthusiastic audience left with smiles on their faces. Many thanks to Val Worley who worked hard on the organisation of this event



**5th July** saw the annual **Church BBQ**, once again blessed with dry, though breezy, weather. Numbers were swollen by visitors to the town who were 'just passing' and who were most complimentary about the food, the church and the welcome they received. Head chef John Challis, supported by David Frankton on onions and salad, worked in relaxed fashion, in spite of gazebos indicating a desire to take off from time to time. Indoor seating and garden games complemented the occasion.

**10th July** was our **Summer Coffee Morning**. We decided not to have a tombola this year, as we've already asked you for quite a lot recently. A comment from the first regulars through the door, however, '*Where's the Tombola? We always like to try the tombola?*' acted as a pointer as to what to offer next year!! Numbers picked up rapidly towards 11.00 a.m. and the absence of a tombola seemed to be forgotten. There were a few cakes left, which the delightfully behaved children from Leyburn Primary school consumed with glee after the morning was over.

**Blues in the Pews** returned in August with another audience of 70+, mainly people who don't attend our church but who enthused about the event and the venue ('*Why don't you do more of this sort of thing?*')

By the time you read this, the Plant and Produce Sale will be over for another year, but we trust you have been able to support this too. **September 5th** brings a new venture **with renowned folk singer Edwina Hayes** gracing the stage. Do get your tickets in advance — although you can still pay on the door. For details of how to obtain tickets, if not from Bob Hill, see the poster opposite.

And look out for the **Curry Night** on **18th October**.

*Jim Jack*

## 60 SECOND INTERVIEW



**JAN JACK**, one of our Pastoral Assistants, is well-known to all at St Mary's and, through her previous teaching career and involvement in other activities, also to many in the wider community. Here, she responds to **John Pritchard's** questions.

**First memory:** Standing on the kitchen table, so the doctor could confirm I had measles.

**Favourite meal:** Jim's chowder

**Favourite music or musician:** Bob Dylan

**Pet dislike:** Wasting time

**Best holiday:** Outer Hebrides

**Childhood hero:** My dad

**Favourite hobby:** Being outdoors: walking, running, gardening

**Luxury on a desert island:** A photograph album of the family

**Recent TV you've enjoyed:** Scotland's Sacred Isles, with Ben Fogle

**Worst fault:** Not taking time to "be in the moment"

**2 best films ever:** White Christmas, Miss Potter

**Favourite drink:** Camel Valley champagne

**Regret:** None

**Best recent book:** Wild Fell, by Lee Schofield

**Favourite charity:** Homestart Richmondshire

**Place you feel happiest:** Home

**3 dinner companions:** Joss Naylor, Alfred Wainwright, Dorothy Wordsworth

**What do you pray for most:** Our children's lives

**Traditional or new Lord's Prayer:** Don't mind

**Epitaph:** She tried to be kind



**Bob Dylan (not my dad!)**



## A GRAND DAY OUT

Looking for something which might appeal to all ages?

**CAROLE McCORMACK** crossed the border recently, and was impressed with the variety and quality of what Raby Castle had to offer.

Raby Castle offers a Grand Day Out for all – of all ages and of all abilities. It is relatively local, being located near Staindrop, just north of the A66, and is only 13 miles from Richmond. The facilities are varied and well-presented, and the food available goes far beyond the standard offer of burgers, pizza and sandwiches. A (very) full day can easily be spent here and visitors can choose their own activities from a menu of: Castle, Gardens and Deer Park (£21 adult; £13 child); The Plotters' Forest, Deer Park and Gardens (£15 adult; child £13); Gardens and Deer Park (£15 child: £10.50). Child price applies to those aged 4-15, with under 4s being free. A £1.00 reduction per ticket is available if bookings are made online in advance – which is a sensible idea, in view of the array of options.



Raby Castle's striking and romantic setting appealed to the artist JW Turner (above), and its sudden appearance, rising dramatically from its 200 acres of deer park, still surprises today. Although the castle's history is rich and dates from the mediaeval period, it is still the family home of the Vanes, Barons Barnard, and is therefore in very good repair, giving a vivid impression of how it must have looked centuries ago.

It was built by John Neville, 3rd Baron Neville de Raby, between approximately 1367 and 1390. Cecily Neville, the mother of the Kings Edward IV and Richard III, was born here. Known as the 'Rose of Raby', her image is painted in the beautiful and intimate chapel.



**Cecily Neville — 'Rose of Raby'**

After Charles Neville led the failed Rising of the North in favour of Mary, Queen of Scots, in 1569 Raby Castle was taken into royal custody.

In 1626, Sir Henry Vane the Elder purchased Barnard Castle and Raby Castle from the Crown. He was impressed by Raby's size and lands, contrasting with Barnard Castle, which was hemmed in by the surrounding town. The Vanes were responsible for much of the modernising of the castle, especially the interior including the renovation of the medieval chapel and drawing room and the addition of a Gothic-style entrance hall and octagonal drawing room. Extensive alterations were carried out in the 17th and 18th centuries, and in 1964 the 11<sup>th</sup> Baron carried out an extensive programme of renovation and restoration.



**Raby Castle from the South, across the lake**

All aspects of this attraction are very well maintained. Good walks are available in the deer park; and the walled gardens are beautiful. The castle itself feels warm and welcoming; and the recently-developed Vinery Café offers produce grown in the castle grounds. The outside area here is cleverly-incorporated into attractive terraced gardens.



**Part of the walled gardens**

Children flock to a new attraction — the Plotters’ Forest — but a word of warning here: the play area is extensive, with climbing-ropes and nets, fire-fighters’ poles, walk-ways and so on. These are all linked, so that once a child has entered a certain section, it is impossible for an adult to track them visually – you have to accompany them on their adventure or hope that they will eventually emerge safely at the other end! I would think that a child would have to be about 7 or older to fully enjoy this experience.

Raby Castle offers special seasonal events, including the current ‘Adventures in Wonderland’, which evidence the Castle’s hallmark traits of high quality and engagement – like the ‘Mad Hatter’s Tea Party’ shown here.

Usually there is some drawback to a Grand Day Out – maybe access difficulties, or food that isn’t great – but this is certainly



not the case with Raby Castle and its Grounds. It has very good access for all abilities; its catering and loos are excellent; and it is dog friendly. It’s an often overlooked, yet quite local, attraction, well worth a visit.

*Carole McCormack*



## PCC MEETING

St Mary's PCC last met on 16th July '25.  
**JOHN PRITCHARD** has kindly summarised the Minutes  
of the meeting to keep us all informed.

### **Finance:**

The current financial position is considered to be satisfactory. Treasurer Paul Carnell continues to give admirably clear summaries. The Finance Team have discussed the replenishment of the Stewardship Packs and the promotion of the Parish Giving scheme. There was a discussion on how we handle Sunday collections, but no major change was proposed. A new card reader is on its way.

### **Ministry:**

Sharon McCormack was congratulated on being selected for LLM training from September. Canon Martin will stand down as Area Dean in October, after six years in post. We are still in need of school governors – a magazine article to be written.

### **Parish Awayday:**

There was a wide-ranging discussion on the paper the Rector had prepared out of the Away-Day. Among the topics: a good 'feel' in the church, with plenty of ideas around; short-term objectives; welcoming;; congregational survey of talents and ideas; re-structuring the work-teams; PCC functioning; the Town Plan; the Ripon Area Bid for national project funding; and the need for a strategy group.

### **Safeguarding:**

An updated Policy was approved, together with the proposed Action Plan.

### **Fabric:**

Pointing work identified in the Quinquennial Survey is a priority. The Friends have generously offered to support this. Repair of the Organ pedalboard will be undertaken in August.

### **New Bishop of Leeds:**

Participation in the initial process is invited for anyone to suggest three priorities for the choice of bishop.

**Next meeting:** 24th September.

# Your Church needs YOU



## WANTED!

Furniture-movers, Cleaners, Chair-stackers, Odd-job men & women, boys & girls.

We need to increase the pool of those who set up and clear before and after concerts and services.

## Please help if you can

For more details, contact the Church Wardens Peter (07885 347736) or Wendy (07484 108595) Rector Martin, Curate Lorna or Verger John.

## BEHIND THE HYMN

*All Things Bright and Beautiful* is probably one of the best known hymns of all time, with some of its lines being used by James Herriot for the titles of some of his books. **CHRISTINE PORTER** has been exploring the origins of this popular hymn, and some more recent 'twists' of the words.

### All Creatures Great and Small

This familiar title is from the well-loved TV programme that has run through a number of series since 1978, following the adventures of a country vet in the Yorkshire Dales. It is also the title of a James Herriot book written in 1972. Herriot also wrote *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (1974), *All Things Wise and Wonderful* (1976) and *The Lord God Made Them All* (1981).

Of course, when these four titles are rearranged, we have the first verse of the well-known hymn ***All Things Bright and Beautiful***, one of the most famous hymns of all time, written by Cecil Frances Alexander. The practice of singing hymns in church was brought to Britain from Germany in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the Wesleyan Methodists. In those days, whilst the clergymen were busy ministering to the people, it was often the women who took on the task of hymn-writing, and Cecil Frances Alexander was among the most prolific of these, writing approximately 400 hymns.

Cecil, known to family and friends as Fanny, was born in Dublin in 1818, a daughter of the land-agent to the Earl of Wicklow. She was educated at home and began writing poetry as a young girl. Although she didn't attend university, Cecil contributed poems and translations of French poetry to Dublin University Magazine under various pseudonyms. By the 1840s she was already known as a hymn writer and her compositions were included in Church of Ireland hymn books. She published a number of Christian books: *Verses for Holy Seasons* (1846), *The Lord of the Forest and His Vassals* (1847) – a children's allegory – and *Hymns for Little Children* (1848), which included *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. Cecil's religious writing was strongly influenced by her contacts with the Oxford Movement, which stood

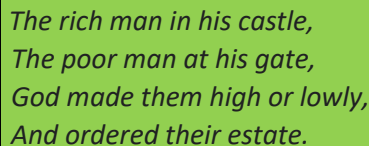


Cecil Frances Alexander

for the reinstatement of lost Christian traditions and, in particular, with John Keble, who edited her *Hymns for Little Children*.

In October 1850, Cecil married the Anglican clergyman William Alexander in Strabane. She was six years older than the clergyman, causing great family concern. Her husband, later Bishop of Derry and Archbishop of Armagh, also wrote several books of poetry, as did eventually their daughter Eleanor Jane. For much of her life Cecil Alexander was involved in charitable work and was a tireless visitor to the poor and sick. Money from her early publications helped to build the Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, founded in Strabane in 1846, and the profits from *Hymns for Little Children* were donated to the school. Cecil was also involved with the Derry Home for Fallen Women, and worked to develop a district nurses service.

The verses of *All Things Bright and Beautiful* elaborate on the clause of the Apostles' Creed describing God as "Maker of heaven and earth", which some see as asserting a creationist view of the natural world, a literal interpretation of the creation story in Genesis. The original third verse of the hymn appears to assert that social positions have been ordained by God, a theological view that society is ordered and upheld by Divine providence:



*The rich man in his castle,  
The poor man at his gate,  
God made them high or lowly,  
And ordered their estate.*

At the time, Cecil was criticised for seeming to endorse the class system in this verse, a sensitive issue during the Irish famine. Consequently, the verse was soon considered to be outdated, and many later versions and performances of the hymn omitted it. When *The English Hymnal* was published in 1906, the editor, Percy Dearmer, who was sympathetic to Christian socialism, said that the original words reflected the "passivity and inertia at the heart of the British Establishment in the face of huge inequalities in Edwardian society". Dearmer questioned whether Cecil Alexander had remembered the parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16: 19-31, and he attributed Cecil's view of the world to her having "been brought up in the atmosphere of a land-agent on an Irish estate". The revised edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1950) also omitted this verse, as does *Common Praise*, which we use at St Mary's.

An alternative interpretation of the original third verse claims that Cecil was actually affirming the equality of rich and poor in the eyes of God. In her *Verses for Holy Seasons*, she refers to "The poor man in his straw-roofed cottage, The rich man in his lordly hall" and states that their prayers to God are of equal importance: "He listens, and He answers all"

The hymn is usually sung to the tune specifically composed for it by William Monk in 1887. It is also frequently sung to the tune *Royal Oak*, arranged by Martin Shaw in 1916 and adapted from a 17th-century English folk tune *The 29th of May*. This arrangement became more popular after it was included in the *Songs of Praise* hymnal.

For the 1970 science fiction film *Beneath the Planet of the Apes*, composer Leonard Rosenman wrote a discordant version of the hymn, for a dystopian cult who worship a nuclear bomb. In the 1971 film *Dad's Army* the hymn, to Monk's tune, was parodied when Captain Mainwaring, Sergeant Wilson and Corporal Jones, while disguised as choirboys, sing orders to the squad to disarm the three Nazi bomber pilots. The hymn was also parodied by the Monty Python troupe in their 1980 album *Monty Python's Contractual Obligation*. In it, Cecil's text is inverted, and a choir sings in praise of "All things Dull and Ugly" to Monk's melody, with these opening verses:

*All things dull and ugly,  
All creatures short and squat,  
All things rude and nasty,  
The Lord God made the lot.*

*Each nasty little hornet,  
Each beastly little squid,  
Who made the spiky urchin?  
Who made the sharks? He did.*

Thankfully, a more recent arrangement of Cecil Alexander's text was a beautiful choral piece composed by John Rutter in 1984.

Cecil Alexander died at the Bishop's Palace in Derry in 1895 and was buried in Derry City Cemetery. In 1913, a stained-glass window in her memory was installed in St Columb's Cathedral, Derry. The three lights of the window show scenes from three others of her well-known hymns: *Once in Royal David's City*, *There Is a Green Hill Far Away*, and *The Golden Gates Are Lifted Up*. The work of Cecil Frances Alexander is now familiar to people all over the world and, almost a century after her death, a commemorative blue plaque was unveiled in her memory on 14 April 1995 at Bishop Street in Derry.

*Christine Porter*

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**BISHOP JOHN PRITCHARD** needs no introduction to the congregations of our parishes, but some may not be aware that he is also a prolific author. Here he answers some questions posed by **Carole McCormack**.

*Some months ago, we visited Durham Cathedral and went into their very well-stocked bookshop. When I saw a fair number of John's books on their shelves, it was like meeting up with a friend in an unexpected place!*

*Because John is so busy, we decided that it was easier for him to respond to a 'questionnaire' that I had prepared as the basis of these occasional articles: what follows are the questions and the answers that he gave.*

### **What genre do you write?**

Christian spirituality and apologetic, i.e. writing that explains and commends the Christian faith.

### **What is your intended audience?**

People of faith, or on the edges of faith, who might want to explore or learn more about Christianity and how it works in everyday life.

### **Why do you write? What's your motivation?**

I write because I want to share what I've found so helpful in being a Christian. I've found this faith to be intellectually coherent and emotionally satisfying, as well as a guide to life, so I want to make accessible the riches I've found in all this. But writing is also a kind of happy necessity for me personally. It helps me both to work out what I believe myself, and it resources my speaking and preaching.

### **Do you have a favourite time of day to write? Do you have a writing routine?**

No to both. I write when I can and when I've got something to say. But I do sometimes wonder how I managed to write a book a year, when I was super-busy as Bishop of Oxford.

### **When did you start writing?**

When I had to defend my MLitt thesis in my viva and one of the visiting professors asked me to write a book with him! That was the first of over 20 books written since I was in my early 40s. I'd written a regular newspaper

column and done scores of 'Thought for the Day' on local radio before then (as well as countless sermons and talks), so I knew I enjoyed the process.

### **How do you edit your work?**

By endless polishing and wondering why I'd put a phrase so badly before! I have a few readers, always including Wendy, and of course the publisher has an editor and a copy editor to iron things out.

### **What do you like most about your work?**

Getting e-mails, letters and comments from people I meet around the country saying how much they'd valued a particular book. And holding the newly published book in my hand for the first time!

### **What do you like least?**

Getting the footnotes right, particularly when I just can't find a reference.

### **What do you consider your greatest achievement/success?**

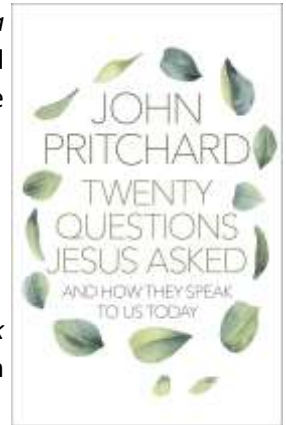
Selling 150,000 books; having 'The Life and Work of a Priest' on the booklist of every DDO in the country; and having 'Twenty Questions Jesus Asked' discussed by the House of Lords Christian Fellowship!

### **Would you like to gain celebrity status?**

No! That's not the way I'd like my writing to be evaluated.

### **Are you writing something currently?**

I've just finished 'The Week: a journey through the week that changed the world' which will be published in November 2026.



### **Is this your usual genre?**

Yes, trying to make vivid the astonishing death and resurrection of Jesus. And this time it will include powerful modern paintings by an artist I knew in Oxford.

### **What further work do you have planned?**

None! (Hollow laugh from Wendy)

*One of the most delightful things about John Pritchard is his consistency. He writes as he speaks – directly and clearly, without over-complication and with touches of humour which sparkle through the prose.*

*Carole McCormack*

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

For the second article in this new series, we asked **JAN BEETON** to give a flavour of what is involved in being the **Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)**, not just for St Mary's, but for the whole Benefice.

Having been invited last Summer to take on this role, it seemed to fit with past experience both as a teacher and as a school governor with safeguarding responsibilities, so I agreed. Little did I know the scope of this greater responsibility!



**Safeguarding  
is everyone's  
responsibility**

Before I could even begin, I underwent a Safer Recruitment process; refreshed all the basic training which is mandated for all PCC members and leaders of church groups; and then took an induction process to become a PSO. Lastly, I've followed a Leadership Pathway training with final assessment. Hmmm, I'm supposed to be ready!

Covering not just a parish, but a benefice of three churches involving two PCCs, we formed a Safeguarding Group, consisting of Revd. Canon Martin as Rector, Revd. Jennifer Williamson to represent Downholme and Marske, Pamela Holland as DBS Administrator and myself. We meet regularly with an agenda and take minutes to address the primary responsibilities cited in the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy. We eat a lot of cake too! To overcome negative, historical press reports, at parish, diocesan and national level, a huge amount of work is being done.

There are so many areas to address to ensure that our churches are the welcoming, nurturing and safe places for all, which we believe them to be. To follow Christ's instruction to love one another, we are all involved in this endeavour, whether we sit on committees or not. The safeguarding training provided by The National Safeguarding team and others at Diocesan level, is devised to make us all more observant and positively responsive. New members to the two PCCs may visibly shrink when they see us approaching to ask about training, but it is vital, as is ensuring that key people have DBS accreditation. If anyone is stuck trying to access training, please ask for help.

An element of National Safeguarding is The Parish Dashboard. This programme,



which only the incumbent and PSO have permission to operate, tracks multiple facets within the operation of parishes, such as whether we display all the legal and advisory notices; our policies and action plans; safeguarding procedures and roles; training and church activities. All items, which require review dates, are red, amber, or green rated, providing focus. Our two dashboards, which generate Action Plans to be

presented at PCC meetings, are under the control of the Leeds Diocesan Safeguarding Team (LDST).

On a day-to-day basis, each PSO has to be ready to respond to concerns raised with them and provide advice. The LDST is a fount of useful guidance in this regard. Of course, any allegations of abuse must be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

Occasionally we receive national alerts concerning persons known to the Church and the police, who could pose risks.

Some aspects of the role are a pure joy. All church groups involving minors are required to have a minimum of two DBS accredited adults present. This week I had the pleasure in joining the Song Squad, sharing vocal training and anthems. Two children impressively managed to reach top C in scales! We also learned a new hymn, *Pilgrims of Hope*, for the 2025 Jubilee Year. What a great musical experience these children are getting!

*Jan Beeton*

## **Station Singers**

New term starts on 1st & 2nd October.

Platform 1 singers meet on Wednesdays in Screen 2 at The Station from 9.30 —11.00.

Platform 2, for more experienced singers, meet from 11.15 —12.45 at the same venue.

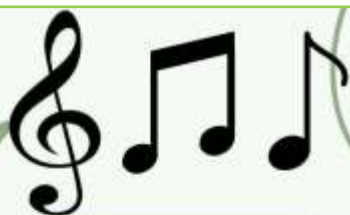
Branch Line female singers meet on Thursday evenings at The Town Hall from 19.45 — 21.15, with social time from 19.00.

Fees for the autumn term are £66, but reduced fees are available on request. New members are always welcome and there is no audition.

Just turn up and sing!

Keep an eye on the website for any updates:

[www.richmondstationsingers.co.uk](http://www.richmondstationsingers.co.uk)



THE STATION

Singers

# Come and Sing Event

## 'Best of the Station Singers'



*For all voices*

**Wed 10th September 2025**

**9:30am - 1:00pm**

**Screen 2, The Station, Richmond**

*Advance ticket £11.50*

*£12 on the door*

*Tickets available at*

***[www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-station-singers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-station-singers)***

***Existing choir members please pay via BACS***

***For further info please contact 07773 424744***

***Or email [stationsingers@gmail.com](mailto:stationsingers@gmail.com)***

## NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

There is often a need for some late-Summer colour in our gardens, so this month **WENDY PRITCHARD** extols the virtues of one of her favourites — the *Cosmos* — for the variety of its lovely blooms.

This month I want to sound the praises of my favourite annual, the beautiful cosmos. These can be grown from seed or purchased as small plants from a garden outlet and will flower from mid-June onwards until the frost kills them. The plants have feathery leaves and there are many different varieties, between them growing from 30cm to 1.2m tall. The lovely large blooms come in all



shades of pink, maroon and white, with some bi-colours. There are orange-yellow annual cosmos, but these come from different parentage, and although still very beautiful, it's the pink/white ones I like the best (*cosmos bipinnatus*). This year I've grown 'Dwarf Sensation Mixed' from seed.

Cosmos are native to Mexico and Central America and were brought back to Spain by early explorers. In Mexico, Spanish priests grew cosmos in their gardens where the flowers' symmetrically-placed petals led to their name, from 'kosmos', the Greek for 'harmony' or 'ordered universe'. The wife of the British Ambassador to Spain brought seeds back to our country in the late 1700s, but the plants were unpopular here as they needed shorter days to start flowering, so were only just beginning to flower in autumn before the frost killed them. Breeders got to work and over the next 100 years produced flowers that were bigger, brighter, with fancier petals and that flowered earlier — success! Interestingly though, there always seem to be a few of the plants raised from



seed that want to come into flower later than the rest.

Cosmos like well-drained soil in full sun, and will attract bees and butterflies. They need no special treatment — no fertiliser or over-watering — but do appreciate fairly constant dead-heading so they'll make more and more flowers. The tall ones will probably need

staking, but if they're planted close together, they'll hold one another up – a metaphor for life and friendship? I use them to fill gaps between perennials and to brighten up patches of the garden where the perennials have already flowered.



Cosmos seeds germinate well if planted indoors in late March. Transfer the seedlings to individual small pots when they're big enough to handle, then gradually get them used to the outdoors before planting them in the garden towards the end of May (when there's no frost likely). This 'getting used to the outdoors' involves putting the pots outside during the day and bringing them in at night – called 'hardening off' – and is something like encouraging a teenager to gradually grow in independence before they launch into the world!



Cosmos may have uses in medicine, being a possible treatment for malaria and having some anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory, anti-viral and anti-bacterial properties. I don't know whether I'd trust any of these claims, but for me they're definitely a mood raiser!

*Wendy Pritchard*

### **THE 200 CLUB**

Congratulations to our latest Winners

July — no: 166 — Margaret Merlane

August — no: 37 — Sally Ridley

### **AND TO END WITH A SMILE —**

#### **(AND A NOD TO OUR FRONT COVER)**

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with very limited memory. Just 1 byte and everything crashed.

*ACE September Newsletter*

## WORD SEARCH

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the Church remembers St Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, “They are Angles.” Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, “They are not Angles, but angels!” He planned to go to England to evangelize the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596, he sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Gregory  
History  
Son  
Roman  
Senator  
Converted  
Young  
Estates  
Monasteries  
Generous  
Poor  
Monk  
English  
Slaves  
Angles  
Angles  
Plague  
Pope  
Apostle  
Elected



## Sudoku - Easy

	8		9	1			
	3	9	5			7	1
	1	4			6	2	
	9	8	3	2		6	
7							2
	2			8	4	1	9
	7		2			6	5
9	5				3	7	1
			7	8		3	

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## Sudoku - Medium

					1	3	
5			4	3		2	
	8	3				9	
	2		9				
	3						9
					6		7
		4				1	5
		9		7	8		4
		5	2				

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Are you at school? Love Singing? Want to learn to read music?

## **Join the St Mary's Song Squad**

We meet on **Mondays during term time**, 4-5pm in St Mary's Church, Richmond  
As well as having lots of fun singing and learning a wide variety of songs, there will be opportunities to perform at occasional services/events and to participate in the

Royal School of Church Music's highly acclaimed 'Voice for Life' Scheme.

Juice & biscuits will also be available & tea / coffee for any parents / guardians wishing to stay during the rehearsal time.

**For more information or to sign up for the Song Squad**

**Contact Chris Denton 07817 386070**



Usually last Sunday in every month  
Next service — **28th September '25**,  
For children and the young at heart.

Why not come and join us?

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

## **LOUNGERS!**

**(The Ladies' Group)**

Usually, last Friday of each month

From 7.30pm in the **MORRO LOUNGE**

**Richmond Market Place**

**Next meeting:**

**26th September '25**



## **THIRST!**

**(The Men's Group)**

Meets first Thursday of every month from  
7.00 p.m.

Next Meetings at

The Town Hall Pub & Dining, Richmond

**4th September '25**



## Puzzle Solutions

### Sudoku — Easy

2	8	7	9	3	1	5	4	6
6	3	9	5	4	2	8	7	1
5	1	4	8	7	6	9	2	3
1	9	8	3	2	7	4	6	5
7	4	6	1	9	5	3	8	2
3	2	5	6	8	4	1	9	7
8	7	3	2	1	9	6	5	4
9	5	2	4	6	3	7	1	8
4	6	1	7	5	8	2	3	9

### Sudoku — Medium

7	4	2	8	9	1	3	6	5
5	9	6	4	3	7	2	8	1
1	8	3	6	5	2	9	4	7
4	2	7	9	8	3	5	1	6
6	3	1	7	4	5	8	9	2
9	5	8	1	2	6	4	7	3
2	7	4	3	6	9	1	5	8
3	1	9	5	7	8	6	2	4
8	6	5	2	1	4	7	3	9

### Wordsearch



**Deadline for October '25 edition; Monday 15th September.**  
**To contribute letters, articles, etc. please contact**  
**[connections.ed24@gmail.com](mailto:connections.ed24@gmail.com) or 07866 033263**

## INFORMATION POINT — ALL ARE WELCOME

**There are a number of groups working in the church. All are welcome if you fancy contacting the group and being part of what they do.**

**Keith Robson reminds us that the Happy Bodgers are operating once more for help with odd jobs. Keith's contact number is (07866) 325843**

## 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 and friends would like to help you with the next step.

*Our informal meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month at the Morro Lounge, Richmond Market Place starting at 1.30 p.m.*

Please phone Carrie Stephenson (01748) 850103 if you would welcome any more information. The approach is very informal and relaxed

TELEPHONE SUPPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

Do please get in touch.

## PASTORAL CARE — A CONTINUING SERVICE

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

We are refreshing the **Prayer Circle**, an email-based anonymous group of church members who commit to pray when specific prayer requests are made, usually for named people. These can be relatives, friends or acquaintances, who may not even live in the area, but who would appreciate confidential prayer. No prayer request is ever too small or trivial. Whatever you wish to share, in confidence, we will support you in prayer.

If you would like prayer (or to be a pray-er), please contact **Anna** via [boycead11@gmail.com](mailto:boycead11@gmail.com)



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## **KNIT & NATTER**

A new name — but still a group of people who love to knit, sew, craft and chat.

**Every Friday  
9.30am to 11.30 am.**

We meet in the Cafe at  
**Greyfriars, Queen's Road**  
**Refreshments available**

Everyone is welcome  
*Contact Sharon McCormack*  
**07791 426659**



**Richmond Methodist Church**

**Dundas Street Entrance**

**Monday: 9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Friday: 9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Hot drinks and snacks**

**(May to September)**



Our Warm Welcome Space will be running throughout the summer on a reduced basis, however, we are still in need of additional volunteers.

If you would be willing to help, or simply find out more about our Warm Welcome Space, either drop-in to one of the sessions, or contact the Warm Welcome Space Co-ordinator,

Dr John Ridley, 01748 818653

or email: [JohnRidley7449@aol.com](mailto:JohnRidley7449@aol.com)

Thank you.

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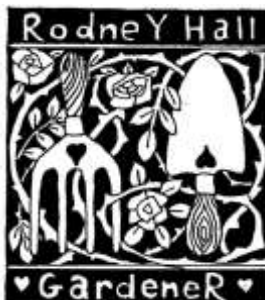
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