CONNECTIONS

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

May 2023

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THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME AND MARSKE

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

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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 from1st Sunday | |
| Worship for All | (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 | |
| Free to Be | 3rd Sunday (every 2 mths—Feb, April etc) | |
| 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

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| CHURCH SERVICES AT DOWNHOLME | | | | |

| 9.30 a.m. | Morning Prayer | Every second Sunday |
|-----------|----------------|---------------------|
| 9.30 a.m. | Holy Communion | Every fourth Sunday |

| THE PARISH OF ST EDMUNDS, MARSKE | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|--|
| CHURCH OFFICERS | | | | |
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| CHURCH SERVICES AT MARSKE | | | | |
| 11.00 a.m. | Holy Communion Every Sunday except 2nd (& 5th) Sunda | | except 2nd (& 5th) Sunday | |
| 11.00 a.m. | Morning Prayer | Every 2nd (& 5th) Sunday | | |

EDITORIAL from stmarys.maged@gmail.com

Easter is behind us now and the month ahead carries some key moments in the church's year but also the Anglican church's recognition and blessing of a new sovereign. Your magazine this month seeks to recognise both of these.

Paul's letter and Carole McCormack's piece on Pentecost take our thinking into the period leading to the Ascension, with a poem from Daphne Clarke harking back to Easter themes. These are on our yearly round.

However, on 6 May, we have a church event which happens only rarely—the coronation of our sovereign. Christine Porter has written a fascinating piece which reflects pomposity and chaos in previous coronations, much of which I suspect will be new to many readers. We follow this up with easy access to one of the three recipes devised to celebrate the occasion.

Alongside these matters of the time, we have news of positive signals at St Edmund's from Liz Kluz, more aids to prayer, this time within the church service, from John Pritchard and seasonal garden observations from Wendy. The hymn writing skills of Charles Wesley are celebrated, whilst George Alderson draws our attention to an important 75th anniversary on the horizon. The changes at St Mary's building over 900 years chronicled by Jane Hatcher remind us that, in the great scheme of things, we have a collective responsibility to plan for the future as well as hold onto that which is good from the past.. Ian Short once again contributes a striking seasonal colour photo from his collection

We continue to be grateful for the hard work of our clergy team, supplemented by a number of ordained 'retirees' who will be spreading their time across the Deanery as the national problem in filling vacancies is evidenced in our area.

Regular readers will note that we have a growing number of writers for your magazine with others preparing articles for the months ahead. Can you offer something—a visit enjoyed, a memorable experience, your hobbies and talents shared? Please get in touch.

Our magazine Delivery Co-ordinator, Keith Robson, also co-ordinates the Happy Bodgers—a small group of individuals to offer help with simple repairs and tasks at home, perhaps helping with small jobs that you may not be able to do for yourself at present. Needless to say, these are not professionals and will not be able to tackle some jobs, especially those requiring specialist skills and knowledge. Those people who have asked for assistance by phoning Keith can often be helped but please accept that he may say 'Sorry. Can't do' if it needs a professional. A donation to church funds is not a requirement but always welcome.



A Letter from Paul— Curate , not Saint



Well, the business of Easter is behind us and we can see the summer just around the corner. We can allow ourselves to drift into daydreams of long summer days spent with friends and family. A Rector and his Curate could be forgiven for looking upon May as a quieter month, but May sees the Easter Season lead in to Rogation Sunday on 14th, Ascension Day on 18th and Pentecost on 28th. These are not insignificant dates in our Church Calendar, and deserve to be at the forefront of our preparations. Even the crowning of our earthly King, Charles can not overshadow these important celebrations.

You may have heard these words spoken in the past, but let's be honest, the church is not averse to a little bit of jargon from time to time. These three events in the Church's Calendar may mean little to those not well versed in the Church 'lingo', yet these three events, with Easter and Christmas, mark the cornerstones of the Christian faith.

Rogation is an ancient church festival to seek blessing for a community and its sustenance. The word rogation comes from the Latin verb *rogare*, meaning "to ask". As the Book of Common Prayer puts it: "Rogation Days are the three days preceding Ascension Day, especially devoted to asking for God's blessing on agriculture and industry."

The Sixth Sunday of Easter (the fifth Sunday after Easter Sunday) is traditionally known as "**Rogation Sunday**" in the Church of England's calendar of festivals. This is because the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the following week are known as the "Rogation Days," days for fasting and prayer.

Rogation invites people to ask for blessing – for a particular place; for all its inhabitants; for every endeavour to promote the common good. It is totally inclusive – joining everyone together in seeking sustenance and a commitment to play their part in its provision.

Ascension Day is the exclamation mark at the end of Easter season: at the end of the sentence 'He is Risen! '

The ascension literally means that Jesus ascended, or was taken up, to Heaven. This is significant as it shows that he has returned to Heaven after completing his mission on Earth. The **Feast of the Ascension** is a major feast day of the Christian liturgical year, along with the Passion, Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas. Ascension Day is traditionally celebrated on the sixth Thursday after Easter Sunday, the fortieth day from Easter day. During those forty days, the gospel writers record that there were many witnesses who saw Jesus after his resurrection.

If Ascension day was about Jesus and his mission, then **Pentecost** is about our mission. Pentecost is a significant Christian festival that is celebrated on the seventh Sunday, or fifty days, after Easter. The word 'Pentecost' comes from the Greek word "*pentēkostē*," which literally means "fiftieth," referring to the fact that the holiday occurs fifty days after Easter.

This day marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ, as described in the New Testament. Still to this day, Pentecost is a time of renewal and reflection on the power of the Holy Spirit and its role in the Christian faith.

The story of Pentecost is described in the New Testament in the book of Acts of the Apostles. According to Acts 2:1-4, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and they began speaking in different tongues. This event drew a crowd of people who were amazed to hear the Apostles speaking in their own languages. Peter then gave a powerful sermon, and about 3,000 people were baptized that day.

Pentecost is often referred to as the 'birthday of the Church' because it marks the moment when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and empowered them to spread the message of Jesus Christ to the world. The Holy Spirit is considered the third person of the Trinity and is believed to guide and inspire Christians in their faith.

So, Easter Sunday is far from the end of the story. Indeed it could be seen as the start of another story. May is a month filled with reflection, prayer and celebration. Remember; you are always welcome to join us at any or all of our services. I pray that you may see the Holy Spirit at work in your life, and that you will embrace that gift of Love which is demonstrated in the Easter Story and confirmed through Rogation, Ascension and Pentecost.

Paul





THANK YOU FROM FREDA DYKES AND FAMILY

For the cards and beautiful messages following the death of our dear Tony. We were overwhelmed and much humbled by the love, sympathy, prayers and care for us, with which we were enveloped over the past few weeks. The children are re-assured that I will be well looked after as they have gone back to their busy lives.

Special thanks go to all NHS departments who cared for Tony over the past four and a half years. Thanks also to James Blenkiron for guiding us through the organising of the funeral and to Rev Martin and Rev Gillian for leading the service. Tony would have loved the day, especially when so many friends, old and new, came to give him a good send-off. Thank you to you all. *Freda*



We have laid to rest those who have died and give thanks for their lives.

John Michael Graham Douglas Berridge Smith Dr Michael John Nicholls Olga Jacobs Doreen Margaret Addison 3rd February 22nd February 6th March 13th March 18th March

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







PENTECOST

The festival which is Pentecost is celebrated at this point in the church's year annually. **CAROLE McCORMACK** looks at the festival and its meaning and also reflects upon her own remembrances of Whitsuntides past and how this period has changed over the years. What are your recollections?



Pentecost is a joyous Christian festival and is regarded as the birthday of the Church, when the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Jesus' followers. It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter, and takes its name from the Greek *pentekoste*, which means 'fiftieth'. Because the date of Easter changes each year, so does the date of Pentecost: in 2023 it is celebrated on 28th May.

Just before Jesus ascended into Heaven, he explained to his apostles and followers that when he was no longer with them on earth, they would receive 'power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (Acts Chp 1 v.8). When Jesus' followers were in Jerusalem, celebrating the Jewish Feast of Weeks (Shavuot), or Harvest Festival, 'suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit ...' (Acts Chp 2 v. 2-4). These 'tongues of

fire' are traditionally shown above the heads of those receiving the Holy Spirit; and the fiery theme is carried through to church vestments being red at this season.

With its focus on God's Spirit being poured out on believers, Pentecost is one of the most popular days for baptisms and confirmations in the Church's year. The tradition of wearing white on being welcomed into the Church is reflected in the term Whitsun (also Whitsunday or Whit Sunday) used in Britain, and other countries among Anglicans and Methodists, to refer to Pentecost.

Until 1971, Whit Monday was a Bank Holiday but, probably because of its changing date, was replaced by May Bank Holiday from 1972. In the early decades of the twentieth century, some factories and mills would close for an entire week, not just a single day, to give their entire workforce a holiday from the hard and demanding industrial work.

A cluster of secular leisure activities grew up around this traditional 'Whitsun holiday', including brass band concerts, choirs and the races. But one of my personal memories is an annual walk of witness associated with the Methodist church that I attended with my parents. As a very small girl, in company with the other young members of the Sunday School, we were loaded onto an open wagon, with the more mature members of the church walking alongside. We were all dressed in white and we carried posies of flowers, and I regarded it as a very special occasion indeed – probably more for the new dress than for spiritual significance, and for being very proud of my father who, as Sunday School teacher, walked alongside the wagon, watching carefully over his charges. I have tried in vain to find my own, well-remembered photograph of one of these walks, and can find nothing comparable on Google. Best perhaps it is best to leave the memory as it sits – in a simpler world, where the weather always seemed warm and sunny, and the strong community in which I lived and worshipped was full of laughter.



(Whitsun Parade in Alderley Edge in 1958)

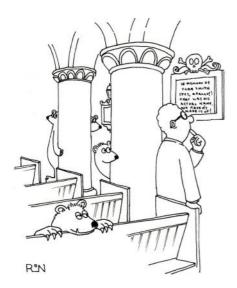


Easter Morning in Swaledale - a reflection

Half circle by the farm gate, cows and calves: Herefords, Friesians, brown, white, black. Soft nuzzling noses, deep, languid eyes looking down in bovine bewilderment at small, mud-caked carcass, unnatural in death. The living, motionless too, bellowing their grief.

We pause, sharing their sorrow, then cross the road and climb the Chapel steps. We gather, not to mourn a death but celebrate a Resurrection.

Daphne Clarke



Dennis spent a long time in church looking for his forbears



"Did you remember to water the lawn?"

CORONATIONS PAST-THE BEST LAID PLANS

We shall be celebrating the coronation of our new King, Charles III on May 6. Delving into the history books, CHRISTINE PORTER discovered that, due to unforeseen circumstances, personalities and human foibles, many coronations in the past have been marred by mistakes, mishaps and squabbles. Some coronations have even descended into mayhem and farce. No TV archive available—just let your mind's eye picture the scenes as living a Christian faith often seemed to take a back seat!

William the Conqueror—a Fiery Start

A most spectacular coronation was William the Conqueror's, which ended in chaos. William I was crowned on Christmas Day 1066, keen to legitimise his rule as soon as possible after the Battle of Hastings. He had posted knights outside Westminster Abbey, to deal with anyone who was not demonstrating unconfined joy at the great

event. During the coronation, these knights heard the shouts of acclaim from inside the Abbey. They concluded that an assault or riot was under way, for which the standard response was to set fire to every building in sight.

The historian Orderic Vitalis wrote: "As the fire spread rapidly through the houses, the people who had been rejoicing in the church were thrown into confusion, and a crowd of men and women of every rank and status, compelled by

this disaster, rushed out of the church. Only the bishops and clergy along with the monks

stayed, terrified, in front of the altar and only just managed to complete the consecration rite over the king who was trembling violently. Nearly everyone else ran towards the raging fire, some to fight bravely against the force of the flames, but more hoping to grab loot for themselves amid such great confusion. The English, believing there was a plot behind something so completely unlooked for, were extremely anary and afterwards held the Normans in suspicion, judging them treacherous." After this fiasco, William doubted the sincerity of the formal acts of homage made at his coronation. Immediately after Christmas, he began constructing the sturdy fort that would become the Tower of London.

Normally the Archbishop of Canterbury officiates at coronations. But sometimes other bishops have performed this duty. William I was crowned by the Archbishop of York, since the Archbishop of Canterbury had been appointed by the Antipope

William I's Coronation as depicted by the Bayeux Tapestry



Benedict X, who was not recognised as valid by the Pope. **Edward II** was crowned by the Bishop of Winchester because the Archbishop of Canterbury had been exiled by Edward I. **Mary I**, a Catholic, refused to be crowned by the Protestant Archbishop Thomas Cranmer; her coronation was instead performed by the Bishop of Winchester.

With the Reformation, the boy king **Edward VI** was crowned in the first Protestant coronation in 1547, during which Archbishop Thomas Cranmer preached a sermon against idolatry and "the tyranny of the bishops of Rome". Six years later, he was succeeded by his half-sister Mary I, who restored the Catholic rite.

In 1559, the coronation of **Elizabeth** I was the last one under the auspices of the Catholic church. However, the senior prelates were either dead, too old and infirm, unacceptable to the Queen, or unwilling to serve. Elizabeth's insistence on changes to reflect her Protestant beliefs resulted in several bishops refusing to officiate at the service and it was conducted by the low-ranking



Coronation procession of Eliizabeh1

Bishop of Carlisle. Unfortunately, he upset Elizabeth by elevating the host despite being told not to, so the Queen walked out of her own coronation service. When James II was deposed and replaced with **William III and Mary II** jointly, the Archbishop of Canterbury refused to recognise the new sovereigns; he had to be replaced by Bishop Henry Compton of London.

Traditions, Symbols— and having a bath

In the Middle Ages, monarchs prepared for their coronation by having a bath as an act of purification. In 1399 **Henry IV** invested some new knights on the eve of his coronation, who were known as the Knights of the Bath. As it involved knights bathing the monarch, not surprisingly, the tradition died out with the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth. With later monarchs, the practice was briefly reinstated, but had disappeared by the time of the Georgians. It changed to a military order: the order of the Bath, with George I. Thankfully some unusual practices never caught on – Elizabeth I at her coronation in 1559 had a cat burned in a wicker basket to symbolise the releasing of demons.

Traditionally the monarch was also a knight so the coronation ceremonies have

involved related symbols such as spurs, armills and swords. There used to be a custom for a Champion to ride into the coronation feast in Westminster Hall, fling his gauntlet to the ground and challenge everyone present to deny his sovereign's right to the throne. If no-one accepted the challenge, the Champion, in full armour, then had to reverse out of the hall to the entrance. In 1685, at the coronation of James II, the Champion threw down his gauntlet with such enthusiasm that the rest of his body followed through. As he lay on the floor on his back in heavy armour, resembling a beetle in difficulty, the King burst out laughing. At George IV's banquet, the King's Champion rode a horse he had hired from a circus. When the horse heard the applause, it did its full routine of tricks.



Throwing down the Gauntlet at the coronation banquet of George IV

Coronation feasts were often expensive, riotous and disorganised, involving great quantities of food and drink. Guests at **Edward II's** feast in 1308 drank 1000 casks of wine. After **George I's** coronation there were advertisements in London newspapers pleading for the return of stolen silverware including *"dishes, trencher plates, knives, forks, spoons and salts"*.

Planning didn't always work

George IV had his coronation postponed for a year, until 19 July 1821, hoping that Parliament would deprive his estranged wife Queen Caroline of her titles and grant him a divorce. He was unsuccessful but had her excluded from the coronation. She turned up anyway, only to find the various doors to the Abbey being closed in her face. After the ceremony, the recessional was marred by the premature departure of the choir, and the King had to pass empty benches covered in litter, described in the press as "*a most unpicturesque arrangement*".

George IV's procession to the coronation banquet was an inelegant affair. The Barons of the Cinque Ports traditionally carried a canopy over the King. George IV decided to walk in front of the canopy, maybe to allow more people to see him. But the elderly Barons quickened their pace, causing the canopy to sway and alarm the King, who walked even faster. The press reported it as "a somewhat unseemly jogtrot".

At Westminster Hall, the banquet was extravagant. The July heat caused large blobs of melted wax, from 2,000 candles in the chandeliers, to fall continually on the aris-

tocracy below. The supervision of serving food was done on horseback. One rider was the Lord High Steward who unfortunately had to dismount to uncover the first fish dish on the royal table. His prosthetic leg made dismounting nearly impossible without the help of several pages. The whole scene was found highly amusing by the unsympathetic guests. During the feast, the Household Cavalry had to prevent a mob supporting Queen Caroline from breaking windows in



George IV 's Coronation Banquet, Westminster Hall

the West End. When the King eventually left, spectators from the galleries were allowed down to eat leftover food. Unfortunately, they also helped themselves to table ornaments, silver platters, cutlery and glasses. Armed soldiers arrived just in time to stop the kitchen being ransacked.

There had been a long history of coronation banquets in Westminster Hall, dating back to the coronation of Richard I in 1189. But George IV's was the last to take place there. The cost of his banquet was £238,000 (£27 million today) and was too expensive to repeat in later years.

George's brother and successor **William IV** had to be persuaded to be crowned at all. His coronation, 10 years later during an economic depression, cost one sixth of the previous one. To save money after George's excessive spending during his reign, William IV's coronation had no banquet. Traditionalists threatened to boycott what they called a *"Half Crown-nation"*. Queen Victoria also did away with a lavish feast. In 1878, her coronation cost a modest £70,000. The British aristocracy were livid that some medieval trappings had been eliminated and called it the Queen's *"Penny Coronation"*.

Was Queen Victoria amused?

Victoria's ceremony was seen as the last of the botched coronations. With little rehearsal, participants were in doubt as to what came next. The ceremony was therefore marred by mistakes and accidents. The music in the Abbey was criticised in the press, only one new piece having been written for it, and the large choir and orchestra were badly coordinated.

During the ceremony, the lords queued to touch the crown on Victoria's head. But Lord Rolle, somewhat old and feeble, fell down the steps despite being held up by two other lords, and landed in a crumpled heap. He was lifted to try again and again, amid shouts of admiration for his bravery. The social theory writer Harriet Martineau reviewed the day as "highly barbaric". Even the Archbishop made a mistake: he forced the sovereign's ring on the wrong finger, causing Queen Victoria much pain to remove it. The service lasted five hours. Whenever the royal party was not needed at the centre of events, they withdrew to St. Edward's Chapel, which Lord Melbourne said: "was more unlike a Chapel, than anything I have ever seen, for what was called an altar, was covered with plates of sandwiches, bottles of wine, &c".

Is a revival of tradition imminent?

At George IV's coronation, the procession had 700 people, headed by the King's Herb Woman and six maids scattering petals, with a military band and a choir repeatedly singing William Child's anthem *O Lord, grant the King a long life*, interspersed with drumming and trumpet fanfares.

It is over 200 years since a woman led the coronation procession, scattering herbs and flowers. In 1821 that role fell to Anne Fellowes, a friend of George IV. Anne had been promised the role of royal herb strewer years earlier by William as Prince Regent. By the time of his coronation, Anne was in her fifties and it was assumed the King would change his mind. But he kept his word, although to pretty things up a bit, they did choose six young girls to strew herbs behind her. A descendant of Anne, Jessica Fellowes, has made an official application to the Cabinet Office to revive the role for King Charles III's coro-



Miss Fellowes, the Herb Strewer

nation, to walk at the head of his procession scattering herbs and flowers. Jessica wrote in her application: *"We believe that reinstating the Herb Strewer's post . . . would be fitting as a symbolic nod towards the King's own long and passionate advocacy for environmental and rural causes, most particularly the importance of organic farming, and the pleasant benefits of being in nature and of gardening."* She has been told by the Cabinet Office that a decision will be made in due course.

Reinstating this tradition would be a fascinating feature in the imminent coronation. But reinstating Elizabeth I's cat-burning? Let's hope not.

AND TO FOLLOW

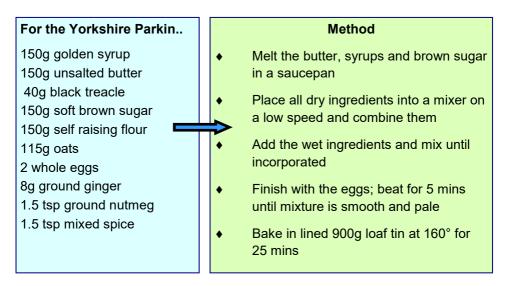
Many people will be aware that the dish Coronation Chicken was devised in 1953 for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, whilst a trifle was concocted for a recent jubilee. The tradition of creating new dishes continues and **CAROLE McCORMACK** passes on the outcome of her researches on the topic.

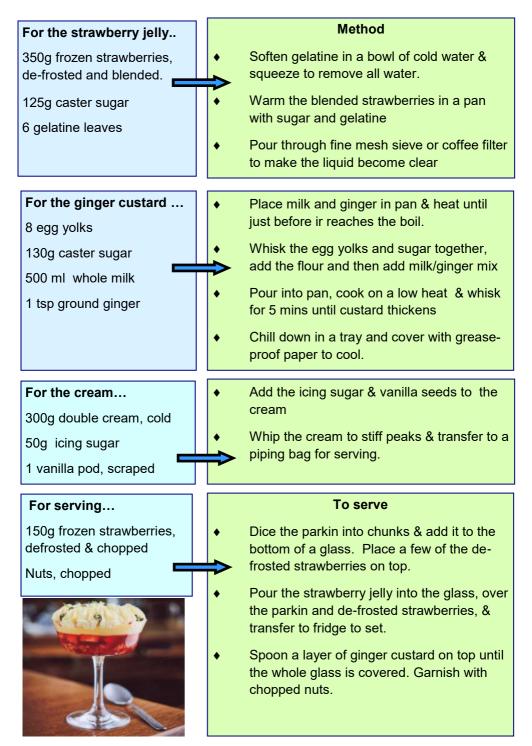
OFFICIAL RECIPES FOR CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

It's good to see that a traditional recipe from our beautiful county appears as the basis of the desert in the trio of 'official' recipes for the Coronation of King Charles III. These are: Ken Hom's Coronation Roast Rack of Lamb with Asian-style marinade; Nadiya Hussain's Coronation Aubergine; and Adam Handling's Strawberry and Ginger Trifle. Taken together these recipes reflect the multi-cultural nature of modern British society; and the increasing move towards vegetarian food; whilst we are reminded that the trifle is an historic dish, with its origins in 18th Century Britain.

Each of these dishes sounds delicious, and can be accessed and downloaded, together with a range of lovely resources for a community celebration at: <u>Toolkit –</u> <u>Coronation of His Majesty The King & Her Majesty The Queen Consort</u>. But because of the local relevance of Yorkshire Parkin, the trifle recipe is reproduced below.

ADAM HANDLING'S STRAWBERRY AND GINGER TRIFLE





CHRISTIAN AID WEEK : 14-20 MAY 2023

JUDITH BARBER from St Mary's is the local Secretary for Christian Aid. Whilst the work goes on throughout the year, every May brings round a national focus on Christian Aid in which our local churches take part, in bringing to public attention the variety of need throughout the world which the organisation seeks to alleviate.

Can you help with the one day street collection on 20 May?

Well, a lot has changed since last month's Christian Aid article—including my phone number! - so here is the update.

Our honorary Canon, Martin, was very keen to abseil from a great height to raise money for Christian Aid, as was Curate Paul and one or two other brave souls. We looked at Trinity Tower in the Market Place and at St Mary's church tower.

These two towers were assessed by Al Fresco Adventures, based in Reeth. However we were all disappointed to hear that, due to the age of both buildings, the insurance compa-

ny are unable to cover the event so sadly the big fund-raiser we had hoped for cannot take place.

On a brighter note, John Ridley (Methodist Church) is giving a talk entitled "A Village Headmaster" on Friday 19th May at 7 pm in the Methodist Church. £5 admission including tea and cake, so please put this in your diaries. It promises to be very entertaining.

Several people in the past have expressed a preference for street collecting rather than house-to-house collecting so you may be pleased to hear that this year we have decided to do a one day street collection with tins and tabards in Richmond Market Place. This will be instead of house-to-house collecting and will take place on **Saturday 20 May from 9 am until 4 pm**. If you can spare an hour or two on that day please let me know.

Charity of the Month for May at St Mary's will be Christian Aid so there is another opportunity to donate! There will be envelopes in church (and also in the Methodist Church and the Catholic Church) for any donations you wish to make and these can be given to Martin Clarke, treasurer of the Richmond Christian Aid Group, myself or a churchwarden.

Your donations and help in making this year's Christian Aid Week a huge success will be greatly appreciated!



Sadly, a sight not to be seen at St Mary's!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PCC? 15 March Meeting Notes

Chairman's notices. There's an outline plan to watch the Coronation on the big screen in church, although a wedding follows quickly. The APCM will still be held the next day after church.

Some of our church silver is on display in the Green Howards Museum.Gillian Lunn's ordination as a priest is on 24 June.

Disability access. The plan is to raise the floor of the south porch on to a platform with steps and a 'C' shaped step-free incline. A disabled car park proposal in the rectory garden is being discussed with the architect. Help with initial funding for the project will be requested from the Friends.

Finance. The audited 2022 Financial statement was approved.

Mission and growth. The **All Age service** trial continues with encouraging growth in music and lay leadership. Take-up for the **Lent courses** has been good. The eventual **loss of Scott (June) and Paul (eventually)** will be sorely felt but Camilla is coming on to the rota for services. A planning group of young people for **Fun-Key Church** is being sought. The **May Awayday** will look at next year's priorities.

Churchwardens' report. A defibrillator has been anonymously funded by a member of the congregation and may be located on the lamp-post outside church.

Team updates.

Bells. A quarter peal has been rung recently. Andrew Slade is now Chair of the National Association of Bellringers. Congratulations , Andrew.

Fundraising/Friends. The Blues Night is going to be well-supported. Another wine tasting is planned for October. Plant and Produce on August Bank Holiday weekend.

Safeguarding. Jan Jack has done wonderful work over many years and is handing over to Pamela Holland, Alan Judge and Bob Hill.

Deanery Synod. Easby benefice is now in vacancy as Yvonne Callaghan has retired. There have been two presentations to Synod, one on net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and the other on the Barnabas Project to encourage all aspects of church life.

Schools. Trinity Academy is working hard to address the issues raised by the latest Ofsted inspection. SFX are due an inspection, not having had one for ten years.

Website. The new website is close to completion.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

CHANGES IN CLERGY DUTIES

There will be a number of changes over the next few months to cover vacancies in the Deanery , the progress of Scott Lunn's training and Jennifer Patrick's planned move out of the area.

Paul will be on placement between May and July on a half time basis (Sundays plus another 3 days). He will remain working in the Benefice for 2 days . Whilst the details are yet to be finalised, he will not be leading worship in our churches on Sunday mornings; his two days may include Wednesdays and Thursdays. Taking a longer term view, he is arranging succession for Fun-Key Church and Free to Be.

Sadly for us, Scott's final Sunday in the Benefice will be on 11 June, concluding with Choral Evensong. It is also sad for us all to know that our Pastoral Assistant, Jennifer Patrick, will be moving away from Richmond within the next few months to be nearer family members. Taken together, this obviously means that, regrettably, there will be a reduction in our capacity for pastoral ministry, but we do wish both Scott and Jennifer well for the different lives which await them in the near future.

A big 'thank you' to Pauline Shepherd, Martin Clarke, Stuart Ridley and Camilla Denton for kindly offering to step up their already invaluable involvement in leading services. Thanks too for all of the assistance being given with resourcing Easby, Skeeby, Brompton and Bolton-on-Swale—as well as Forcett, Aldborough and Melsonby! Martin Fletcher

NEWS FROM MARSKE

On Sunday, 12 March, Bishop John Pritchard baptised David Buckingham at St Edmund's. Peter, Shirley and Stephanie Coates of Markse parish were confirmed as were Michael Brierley from the parish of Melsonby and David Buckingham of ST Mary's in Richmond. A happy occasion for those involved, for their families and friends and for their respective parishes.

200 CLUB

The winner of the March Draw for the 200 Club was again no. 22, Pat Shields. Congratulations, Pat. Two months in a row!

MUSINGS FROM MARSKE

On the previous page, you will find listed the names of individuals either baptised or confirmed—or both—at St Edmund's in March. **LIZ KLUZ** notes, with pleasure, the signs of a strengthening church community.

During Lent at St. Edmund's, our simple, unadorned church can seem rather austere without the lovely flowers which add colour and fragrance during the rest of the year. However, on March 12th we were given permission to decorate the church for a special occasion. For the first time in at least twenty years, judging by the present Register of Services, we had a Service of Confirmation, Baptism and Holy Communion. The candidates were all adults who had taken the decision to become part of the church a little later in life. Bishop John Pritchard presided over a very happy and moving service welcoming them all into our worshipping community.

In a recent newspaper report, a preliminary survey of five representative dioceses suggests that weekly church attendance may have fallen by more than 20% since lockdown which followed a fall of between 15% and 20% between 2009 and 2019. The survey also says that approximately 25% of Anglican churches no longer hold weekly services. That makes for rather depressing reading given that the cost of running and maintaining our churches has rocketed.

Having compared the findings of the survey with attendance records for Marske between 2009 and 2019, we seem to have followed the general pattern. Part of the reason for the reduction in our numbers was that over ten years we lost nineteen members of the community either because they passed away or moved out of the village which left a substantial gap. For our Easter, Harvest and Carol services congregations continued to fill the church but on a regular weekly basis our numbers were down until I looked at the entries for 2022. Our average weekly attendance rate has returned to the level we were at in 2014 which is very encouraging. We have several new faces in our congregation, all of whom are keen to support plans for the future of the building. Having struggled to keep the flower rota filled, we now have eight volunteers who put their names down for a fortnightly slot, including a chap...at last!

Along with the silent volunteers who clean out blocked gutters, cut back undergrowth, remove bird's nests in the porch, make shelves to support the flower arrangements, sweep the church and empty the donations box, we also have a wonderful network of helpers keeping us going. I'm sure that there are many people who I haven't mentioned to whom we are eternally grateful. It's so heart-warming to know that people in the village, and beyond, want the church to continue and are prepared to help in a variety of ways to ensure it has a future. And yes we still have a regular weekly service thanks to our lovely interchangeable clergy.

POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

GEORGE ALDERSON penned his verse whilst under treatment by the NHS, noting that the service we all value marks its 75th anniversary in July. In a note accompanying the submitted poem, he also suggests that the NHS, like Malta after WW2, should be awarded the George Cross for its remarkable and unstinting service for the benefit of our whole community. Not a bad idea, George!

TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

I waited nine months for a bed And, when admitted, smiled and said, 'It's long enough to bear a child Who hopefully would grow strong yet mild.' My surgeon answered patiently, 'You haven't seen what we can see! You're burdened with a lot of stones, Some small, some LARGE so hence your groans. In fact,' (she went on with her theme), "We've found a most productive seam! If they were diamonds, not just 'rock', You'd want a safe with flawless lock To keep these new-found gems secured— But these stones need to be endured. We'll schedule you for urgent care; We have techniques that we can 'pair'; So we will need to think what's best: Eventually you'll find some rest. Meanwhile we'll do some further scans To help us with our treatment plans." Now things are moving at a pace But I will wait with praise and grace. The surgeons, doctors—ALL the crew Are priceless for the work they do. And, as they do it, I will sleep, (Without a need for counting sheep). Then, when it's over, I'll arouse And silently will make my bows To ALL who work to help us heal, Regardless of the things we feel.

George Alderson

NOTES FROM OUR PAST

The St Mary's PCC has discussed a number of possible alterations to the building to meet the current and ,perhaps more importantly, anticipated future needs of the church as it seeks to widen its active engagement with the whole community in Richmond. **JANE HATCHER's** review this month draws to our attention the fact that our building has been regularly adapted over the past 900 years!

ST MARY'S-AN EVER-CHANGING CHURCH

The Richmond Burgage Pastures Act of 1853, which still governs our old Racecourse, states that a notice of the annual meeting of 'Burgage Owners' should be fixed to the North door of St Mary's. In 1853 it must have been that door which was used by most people attending church, despite its many steps, the very reason it is no longer normally used.

Now we all use the South door, and many people approach from the council car park. Which set me thinking how the church building, both inside and out, has been in an almost constant state of change during the 900 years that St Mary's has been Richmond's main place of worship. From small beginnings the building grew to its present extent during the medieval period, following which there were numerous

internal changes to reflect different styles of worship, until the middle of the 19th century.

There then occurred an enormous change, when the building was almost entirely rebuilt under the supervision of the famous Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott. I am intrigued by what might have led to this major undertaking, granted that the building was then undoubtedly in a poor state. The steepness of the sloping site alone would have caused cracks, added to which there had been many internal

Sir George Gilbert Scott

caused cracks, added to which there had been many internal changes involving cutting into the walls, plus relatively little maintenance.

The idea of doing something about the condition of the church seems to have started soon after the arrival in 1843 of a new Rector. Revd Scott Frederick Surtees, distantly related to the Surtees family of County Durham, was an Oxford graduate who wrote books on historical as well as theological subjects, such as on Julius Caesar, Merlin and King Arthur, and Shakespeare.

He was only about 30 when he was appointed Rector, and possibly rather full of his

own importance. In 1846 he had printed a letter addressed "To the Inhabitants of Richmond" and headed "My Dear Parishioners". He was hoping to raise funds to alter the church seating so as better to accommodate the poor, who were being made more welcome by the various nonconformist chapels recently established in the town than in the parish church, which was dominated by the middle-class owners of private pews.

The Rector's letter explained that he had obtained a plan for his proposed pew rearrangement from Ignatius Bonomi (1787-1870) of Durham, then the leading northern architect, whose versatility enabled him equally to design country houses, schools, mine offices, and work houses as well as churches. The letter concluded "I am, my dear Parishioners, Your faithful Rector and friend, Scott F. Surtees", but it would seem his relationship with his congregation did not extend to persuading them to adopt his scheme.

Perhaps there was relief all round when Revd Surtees was appointed to the living of Banham in Norfolk which had been held by his father, who was a Canon of Bristol Cathedral. It fell to the next incumbent to achieve the restoration scheme for Richmond's Parish Church.

Revd Lawrence Ottley arrived in 1850, and got off to a better start. The Ottley family knew Richmond well, for some of them had attended Richmond Grammar School and been great friends with headmaster James Tate the elder. And Lawrence Ottley had been at Trinity College, Cambridge, like many of Tate's pupils. He was also wellconnected with the church authorities, as his brother-in-law became Bishop of Ripon in 1857.

George Gilbert Scott, appointed architect to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster in 1849, was a rapidly rising star of Victorian architecture who would be knighted in 1872. So it was quite something that Ottley was able to persuade him to become the architect for St Mary's. The works he carried out were so fundamental that the church was closed from June 1858



until April 1860. Sadly, Ottley did not enjoy the updated church for long, as he died in 1861 at the age of barely 53.



St Mary's Church interior from an undated postcard. Note the galleries above the North and South aisles and pews situated behind the pillars nearest to the back of church. No sign of organ pipes at the eastern end of the North aisle. The eagle can be seen in its current position.

The scale of change wrought by Scott was great. To accommodate a larger congregation he inserted large galleries over both North and South aisles, and this required considerably raising the height of the nave arcades and roofs. Pews were also crammed into both chancel aisles. The overall impression of the church interior today is one of a very typical Scott layout, with parallel ranks of oak pews. However, there have been a surprising number of changes to Scott's arrangement.

The first major change was probably replacing the pews in the North chancel aisle with an enlarged organ in 1883. Then in 1889 came the present brass eagle lectern in memory of Revd Richard Earnshaw Roberts, Ottley's successor as Rector. Next the sanctuary was considerably altered in 1892, with a new window inserted in the South-East corner. The sanctuary has indeed seen several subsequent changes, including the installation of the present reredos in

A new choir vestry was built onto the North side of the tower in memory of Charles Grey Tate who died in 1900, and the galleries over the aisle pews were removed in 1921, though you can still see in the tiled floor the places where the columns which supported these galleries stood.

More of Scott's seats were removed when the South chancel aisle became the

Regimental Chapel of the Green Howards in 1932. This was a major change, as it involved lowering the floor level, which Scott had raised, to what it had been formerly, reexposing the medieval aumbry, piscina and sedilia. Then the pulpit Scott had designed was replaced in 1948 by the present pulpit to commemorate Richmond doctor, Angus Dalrymple-

Smith. The area near the chancel arch was



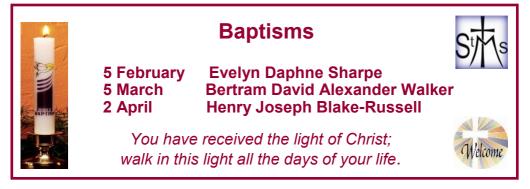
New Bells 1923

again changed in 1974 with the creation of the free-standing altar.

The church was closed for much of 1989 for the roofs to be completely renewed, and in 1996 a small galley-like kitchen and two toilets were created at the west end of the church. This necessitated relocating the whole baptistery area to a new position just west of the organ, moving not only the medieval font but also a Victorian stained glass window commemorating the Blegborough family. More recent improvements have been the ingenious creation of a toilet with disabled access below the tower in 2016, and of course the commissioning of a new peal of eight bells in 2017.

Almost all these changes have seen a gradual reduction in the number of seats provided by Scott's scheme. Not just the major removal of the galleries and those in the chancel aisles, but in more recent times a few pews have gone from here, and a few from there, to create space needed for other facilities.

So, the next time any major changes are suggested for the interior of St Mary's, remember that you have read here about the ongoing programme of change throughout the last 900 years! *Jane Hatcher*



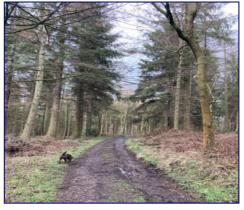
TAKING THE LEAD

CAROLE McCORMACK describes three walks in one here, each suitable for readers with dogs to exercise but equally accessible to those without canine responsibilities.

Outline: This offers a series of linked footpaths and bridletracks, which include stretches of Jaggers Lane, around the villages of Hartforth, Whashton and Gilling, giving several options for walks close to home. The three routes that follow are

linear, rather than circular, walks but each encompasses some beautiful local scenery, attractive parkland and woods filled with bluebells and wild garlic in the springtime.

Terrain: Walking is mainly undulating but **Route B** has some steep stretches. Strong walking boots or wellingtons are certainly necessary in the winter or in wet weather. **Doggie notes:** There are no poo bins on any of the options, but ample drinking water – especially on Walks A and B.



What were Jaggers lanes? Lead ore mined in Swaledale was formed into ingots, or 'pigs'. To carry the iron out of the dale, the ingots were loaded into wicker panniers placed across the saddles of small sturdy ponies called jaggers, bred by local Swaledale farmers to supplement their income. Jagger 'trains' of up to twenty untethered ponies would be controlled by a man and dog, and the lead animal would carry bells on its harness to announce the arrival of the train. The tracks that the ponies followed were well-defined, but with a variety of surfaces. The ones in this series of walks are of earth and do get muddy giving a clear idea of how arduous



the journey would have been for these animals weighted down with around 190 lbs of lead.

The jaggers travelled eastwards via Marske to Richmond, where the lead was stored in a yard at the former Nag's Head, Pinfold Green (now a private house).

Bell Horse leading Jagger Train (W. Gilbert Foster)

From Richmond the lead was transported to its onward journey by rail. As the lead mines closed towards the end of the 19th century, the jaggers began to disappear from Swaledale and the breed has long since died out – leaving just the name to hint at the tough history surrounding lead mining.

Walk A: Gilling Wood, down Jaggers Lane to Hartforth (map route pink--2.2 miles)



- Park your car – or hopefully get dropped off by a helpful friend or husband – at the layby opposite Gilling Woods on the Whashton Road. Cross the road and go through the gate, into the coniferous woodland which is safely fenced from the surprisingly busy road. Dogs can be let off the lead, but there are ground nesting birds, so caution needs to be taken during nesting time.

- Follow the clear track through the woods (a gentle downwards slope) and exit through a wooden gate into a field. (pictured above).

Safety note : sometimes this pasture is grazed by animals: if sheep, then just slip on the dog's lead; if cattle, this is more problematic as my rule is never to walk with a dog through a field where cattle graze. But this has only happened twice in the dozens of times I have done this walk and I just return to the road and walk somewhere else!

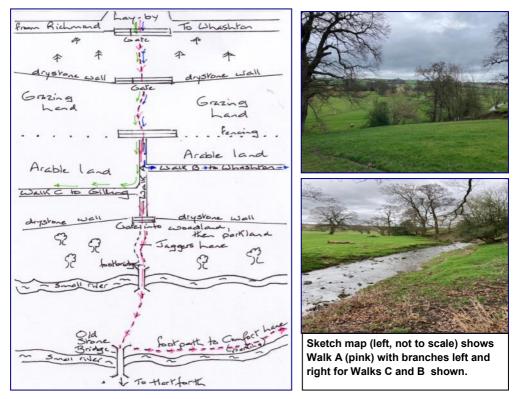
- Continue along the track as it crosses the pasture and exits to a bridle track. From here until Jaggers Lane, the land is arable, not pasture, and dogs can be safely let off their leads.

- After about 200 yards the bridle way branches to the left (Walk C on the sketch map); and shortly after to the right (Walk B on the map)).

- Walk A continues straight ahead, skirting the edge of an arable field until the gate into deciduous woodland and Jaggers Lane appears. These woods are full of bluebells and wild garlic in spring.



- After going through the gate, the track emerges after about 75 yards onto very attractive open parkland, sometimes grazed by sheep, never cattle, with mature trees and clear streams suitable for drinking or swimming (dogs, not humans).



Depending upon where one's helpful partner is parked, either walk straight on to the village of Hartforth – very limited parking here – or cross the field, past Hartforth Hall Hotel, to a water splash and a bridle track, at the end of which parking is possible.

Walk B, marked in blue on the map

At the point indicated above, turn left and follow the bridle track through arable fields until a small belt of woodland is reached. There is a steep slope down to a shallow river crossing, with stepping stones, (clear water for drinking here) and a steep slope up on the far side. Follow this track until you reach farmland, where a footpath crosses pasture (sheep often here). Turn right up a narrow lane – usually traffic free – which leads to Whashton village.

Walk C, marked in green on the map

Where the main track in Walk A above branches to the right, follow this bridle track past farm buildings and farm entrance down to Waters Lane which comes out in Gilling West. Dog leads necessary from the farm until Gilling – as there are farm animals to consider and Waters Lane is surprisingly busy. *Carole McCormack*

ALL IN THE GARDEN GREEN

WENDY PRITCHARD shares her Springtime thoughts on the everchanging scene in her garden as days grow longer and warmer. Every plant has its time and season and, as Wendy's article and photographs illustrates, its own particular history and colours—and quirks which lead to some timely warnings!

The Striking Bluebell

So far, in previous magazines, daffodils and tulips have been the stars. The next

bulbs to come into flower are the bluebells, and how could we miss these out! No woodland walk can be complete at this time of year without the challenge of finding a swathe of bluebells, turning the ground intense blue and transforming the landscape into fairy land. Bluebells are easy to grow in gardens too – I have lots growing under a large silver birch, in a challenging area where it's shady and often dry. Bluebells are fairly indestructible and very reliable, but make sure if you're buying some bulbs to get English bluebells and not Spanish. The flowers of English bluebells droop over to one side at the top whereas Spanish ones are more robust and upright. Although very pretty, the Spanish ones interbreed with any nearby



English ones and the hybrids produced can eventually take over from the native species.

Some Bluebell warnings

Bluebells have lots of other names (beside their botanical name of Hyacinthoides non-scripta) – wild hyacinth, cuckoo's boots, witches' thimbles, lady's nightcap, fairy flower - but my favourite is granfer griggles! They are associated with ancient woodland and are a good clue as to the age of the woodland. Apparently, if you pick a bluebell, you will be led astray by fairies and wander lost in the woods, so it's probably best not to try! And if you wear a wreath of bluebells, you will be able only to speak the truth – a useful judicial tool, I imagine.

The sticky sap of cut bluebell stems was once used to bind the pages of books, and stick feathers onto arrows. During Elizabethan times, bluebell bulbs were crushed to make starch for stiffening the ruffs of collars and sleeves, luckily a use we no longer need. All parts of the bluebell are poisonous, and can cause serious

stomach upsets if eaten. Apparently, the white bulbs can be mistaken for spring onions or garlic, although anyone with a sense of smell is unlikely to make this mistake!



Bluebells produce small black seeds but these take about five years to grow to flowering size bulbs. So if you have any bluebells in the garden, and don't want a sea of tiny grass-like shoots growing from miniature bulbs all around your clump, be sure to cut off the faded flower stalks before the seeds mature.

It is illegal to dig up wild bluebells, and even

farmers are not allowed to sell bluebells growing on their land, but they are easily obtained from reputable suppliers. Plant the bulbs in autumn, preferably in a shady area, but they'll cope with most locations. Be aware though, that the leaves flatten to the ground and turn into a slimy mess soon after the flowers fade, so give them room to do this then gently pull off the rotted leaves before you slip on them!

Wendy Prítchard

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

BLUES IN THE PEWS

Friends of St Mary's hosted this new event for Richmond as a test event. The blues band who entertained those attending the curry night last November (the Drystone Blues Collective) were looking for a venue to try running a Blues club in Richmond and felt that the back of church provided a great environment with good acoustics. With the incredible guitar skills of Julian Socha (right) on view and a large and appreciative audience, the evening was judged a success by the organisers. They are looking to organise three further evenings this year (30 June, 15 September and 17 No-



vember) —dates to be finalised, pending a review of the evening to ensure that it works for the church and the organisers and that problems (if any) which might have emerged through staging this experimental event can be ironed out. FoSM made approximately £450 from providing the bar for the event. A big thank you to John Challis , Andy Lovell for leading the support for the evening and to everyone else who helped.

PATHWAYS IN PRAYER

Many of **JOHN PRITCHARD's** articles in this series have focussed on supporting and developing personal prayer which can take place at any time during the week and in any space. The church service is a time when we come together to worship—and to pray.

This month's article offers ideas on how we can actively pray at all times during the service—not just the times when the 'script' allocates specific time for prayer. Active personal engagement from when we walk through the door to when we leave the building is supported by these ideas.

PRAYING THROUGH THE SERVICE

When we come to church we're not there for passive entertainment; we're there to participate as full, active members of the family of God. So how can we pray through the service?

Before the service: When you get to your pew, don't just close your eyes and count to ten; reflect on the highs and lows of the past week and present it all to God. And pray for those who are going to lead the worship.



Hymns: Don't just sing a tune without thinking of what the words are saying. Pray with the words - which are either addressed to God or expressing great Christian truths in memorable ways.



Bible readings: Don't just let your mind wander off to the afternoon's televised football; listen actively to the luminous, perplexing, but truly rewarding passages being read. Maybe ask the rector what they all meant... Active listening is hard.

Sermon: Pray for the preacher! Then ask yourself what the heart of the sermon is saying to YOU. What do you want to remember? Don't say afterwards, 'Thank you for that sermon, John. I never did understand that passage. I still don't understand it, but at a higher level...'

Intercessions: Don't tune out. These are big issues. Try really to focus on these people and places and lift them up to God, loving them enough to be serious in your praying. Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

Communion: Don't just go through the motions. As you receive the bread and wine hold open your life before God and in exchange receive the life and energy of Christ for yourself. Wow! - new for old, fulness for emptiness, joy for confusion, life for death. Go back to your pew and give thanks.

Blessing and dismissal: Don't rush off to collar someone you need to see. Sit quietly for a while reflecting on the service and what you might take away to help you integrate Sunday into Monday. Resolve to 'take the service home.' Then go and talk to someone you don't know.

Sunday worship just got a lot more interesting!

John Prítchard

SMALL GROUPS IN OUR PARISH LIFE

Every month, we 'advertise' the existence of a number of small groups which get together on a regular basis in the parish. This is the first of a series where, each month, we will tell you a little more about these groups and what they do to help you get beyond the title and perhaps pop along yourself to find out more.

POETRY AND PUDS

Wendy and I have borrowed this idea from some friends. The group has been going for the best part of a year and has a simple format i.e. everyone brings two poems and a pudding!

Poetry has a powerful appeal to many people. It explores deep things and fun things and faith things and everything, but it 'tells it slant' (Emily Dickinson). Robert Graves called it 'stored magic'; someone else said it's 'medicine for hard days.' And yet another said 'if prose is a river, poetry is a fountain.'



We read the first poem we've brought and say why it appeals to us. Others comment in whatever way they want. Then we move on, until we've all read our first poem and deserve a pudding! Then we repeat with the second poem.

The variety of poems we get is a delight. Sometimes we suggest a broad theme but every poem that arrives seems to feed us. We think, we learn, we laugh, we eat. And our life is in some small way enlarged. No expertise is required; we're all amateurs in poetry, though a couple of our members do write their own poems.

We have a floating membership of a dozen or so and usually assemble eight or nine at the monthly meetings in the comfort of our house. If the idea appeals to you, have a word with Wendy or me. John Pritchard



SIXTY SECOND INTERVIEW

John Challis (pictured right) can be seen as a 'greeter' at St Mary's, or as a server, or as a key volunteer in leading or sharing in the running of events organised by the Friends of St Mary's. With such varied contributions to church life, he is an interesting subject for JOHN PRITCHARD's brisk twenty questions.

First memory? First day at Garrett Lane Infant School (at the age of about five, I think) feeling very grown up.

Favourite meal? Anything cooked by my wife - but a curry of course.

Favourite music or musician? Dire Straits/ Eric Clapton/ Electric Light Orchestra

Pet dislike? Bad manners

Best holiday? Greece

Childhood hero? Robin Hood

Favourite hobby? Listening to music

Luxury on a desert island? Record player

Recent TV you've enjoyed? Endeavour

Worst fault? Driving too fast.

Two best films ever? 'Cabaret' & 'The Magnificent Seven'

Favourite drink? White wine

Regret? Not getting a full motor bike licence

Best recent book? 'Redemption' by David Baldacci

Favourite charity? Yorkshire Cancer Research

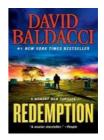
Three dinner companions? Ian Botham, Liza Minelli, Paul McCartney

What do you pray for most? Good health for all of my family

Traditional or new Lord's Prayer? New

Epitaph? What a lovely chap.





BEHIND THE HYMNS

Instead of focussing on a single hymn this month, **CHRISTINE PORTER** looks at the life of a man who wrote over six thousand of them—Charles Wesley. In the anniversary month of the evangelical conversion of both Charles and brother, John, she looks back over an extra-ordinary life of a man whose influence on the music of worship survives and thrives until this day.

Charles Wesley— His life and hymns

This month marks the anniversary of the evangelical conversions of two of our most influential religious figures in England: Charles Wesley's conversion took place on 21 May 1738 and his older brother John had an identical experience three days later. Both brothers had already been ordained as priests in the Church of England. While John went on to become known as the founder of Methodism, Charles became famous for producing around 6,500 hymns. These include "And Can It Be", "Christ the Lord is Risen Today", the carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", and "Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending".

Early Life

Charles was born on 18th December 1707, the eighteenth child of Susanna and Samuel Wesley,. He was one of the ten out of those nineteen children to reach adulthood. His father was the rector of Epworth, Lincolnshire, who was also a poet, and his well-educated mother knew four languages. All the Wesley children were homeschooled by their mother, who also gave them weekly instructions in religious matters, passing on to all of them some of her own independent spirit. Education and religion were therefore focal points of Charles' life.



Susanna Wesley (1669-1742)

This background prepared Charles for excellence when he started at Westminster School at the age of eight. There, he was chosen as King's scholar and became head boy. He then went on to Christ Church, Oxford, where his brothers had also studied. At Oxford, Wesley continued to strengthen his religious background by forming a Bible study and prayer group with his peers and older brother, John Wesley. Since they were so dedicated to this group, other students began to taunt them by calling them *the Holy Club*. This nickname turned into *the Methodists* due to their methodical approach to the Bible.

Charles graduated in 1732 with a master's degree in classical languages and literature, following his father and brother John into the church by becoming ordained

as a priest in the Church of England in 1735. Together with his brother John, he travelled to Georgia in America at the request of the Governor. Charles was sent chaplain to the garrison and colony at Fort Frederica, St. Simon's Island. Matters did not turn out well and Charles was largely rejected by the settlers, so he returned to England a year later, while John remained in Savannah a little longer.



Artist's impression—Wesley's sailing for America (Methodist Museum)

Evangelical Conversion

Charles's evangelical conversion in 1738 took place at the house of John Bray, near St. Botolph's Church, Aldersgate, London, with John's conversion in Aldersgate



St Botolph's Church today

Street a few days later. Charles became vividly convinced of the power of the New Testament message of salvation and how faith in Jesus Christ could change one's life. His conversion invigorated him, with a renewed strength to spread the gospel. Together with John and their "Methodist" friends from Oxford, Charles preached that the value of one's life should be measured by faith and decent sober conduct, rather than just church attendance.

In January 1739, Charles was appointed curate at St. Mary's, Islington, but was forced to resign when the churchwardens objected to his evangelical preaching. Later that same year, finding that they were unwelcome inside parish churches, the Wesley brothers took to preaching to crowds in open fields. They were influenced by George Whitefield, whose open-air preaching was already reaching great numbers of Bristol colliers.

From 1740, Charles and John travelled throughout Britain and Ireland, converting followers to the Methodist revival through evangelical preaching and hymn-singing. They were opposed by many Anglican clergy, especially when their appointed lay preachers began to preach in parishes without seeking permission. In Newcastle, Charles established its first Methodist society in September 1742, and he faced mob violence at Wednesbury and Sheffield in 1743 and at Devizes in 1747.

In 1749, Charles married Sarah Gwynne, daughter of a Welshman who had been converted to Methodism by Howell Harris. Sarah accompanied the brothers on their journeys throughout Britain, until around 1753. After a period of illness in 1756, Charles made no more journeys to distant parts of the country and settled in Bristol with his family.



Sadly, only three of Charles and Sarah's nine children survived infancy. Their other six children died between 1753 and 1768 and were buried in Bristol.

Shortly afterwards, Charles, Sarah and the surviving children moved to London. There, Charles brought the gospel message to as many people as he could, particularly to the poor, uneducated workers in London's slums and in Newgate Prison.

Hymn Writing Gathers Pace

It was around the time of his conversion in 1738 that Charles had begun to write the poetic hymns for which he would become famous. On every important occasion, whether private or public, his feelings found their best expression in a hymn: his conversion, his marriage, the rumours of an invasion from France, the defeat of Prince Charles Edward at Culloden, the Gordon riots, every festival of the Christian church, every doctrine of the Christian Faith, striking scenes in Scripture history, even the deaths of friends, as well as many hymns for children. His hymns are marked by their strong doctrinal content, notably the Arminian insistence on the universality of God's love.

Among the collections of hymns published in Charles's lifetime were *Hymns on God's Everlasting Love* (1741, 1742), *Hymns on the Lord's Supper* (1745), and *Short Hymns on Select Passages of the Holy Scriptures* (1762). He even produced a collection of hymns on the occasion of the two London earthquakes of 1750.

Despite their closeness, Charles and John did not always agree on questions relating to their beliefs. In particular, Charles was strongly opposed to the idea of a breach with the Church of England. Increasingly in his later years, Charles became the mouthpiece of the so-called 'Church Methodists'. However, he was strongly opposed to a separation of Methodism from its Anglican roots. In the 1780s, he was especially dismayed by his brother's ordination of priests to serve in America which he criticised in a published poem. Likewise, John was deeply grieved because Charles would not consent to be interred in the cemetery of the City Road Chapel, where he had already prepared a burial plot for himself. However, the differences between the brothers never led to a breakdown of their friendship.

On his deathbed Charles sent for the Rector of St Marylebone Church, John Harley, and allegedly told him "*Sir, whatever the world may say of me, I have lived, and I die, a member of the Church of England. I pray you to bury me in your churchyard*." Charles died on 29 March 1788 at the age of 80, and his coffin was carried to the church by six clergymen of the Church of England.



Memorial on the site of Charles Wesley's original gravestone, St Marylebone Old Churchyard, London

Charles Wesley's enormous output of fine hymns has subsequently had a significant influence not only on

Methodism, but on Christian worship and modern theology as a whole. Considering the quantity and quality of Charles's output, he is probably the greatest hymn writer of all time. Christine Porter



Last Sunday in every month. Next service Sunday 28 May 4.00 p.m. For children and the young at heart. Why not come and join us? www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

THIRST!! (The Men's Group)

Meets first Thursday of every month from 7.00 p.m. CASTLE TAVERN, Richmond Market Place

Next meeting: 4 May

Contacts: Rev Paul Sunderland or Leonard Scrafton. Just turn up and be welcome!



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 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.

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

To ask for prayer you can either telephone, email or text Rev Martin on 821241, <u>fletcher martin@yahoo.co.uk</u> or 07762 440094; or Paul Sunderland (07989 178196) paul.sunderland@leeds.anglican.org—or speak to any member of the Pastoral Team and they will place your prayer in the circle. Please be assured your requests are confidential.

• To be a praying member of the circle or a member of the Pastoral Team, please speak to Rev Martin or Paul. They would love to hear from you.



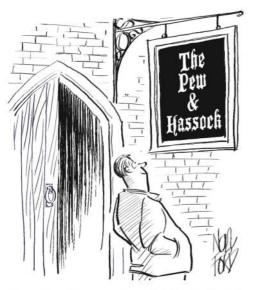
Sudoku - Easy

Sudoku - Medium

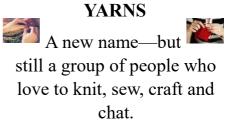
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Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services



Every Friday 9.30am to 11.30 a.m.

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

Everyone is welcome

Word Search

Facts about King Charles

He was born at 9.14pm on 14th November 1948 at Buckingham Palace.

He has been heir-apparent to the throne since he was three years old.

He is the first monarch in British history to have earned a university degree.

He can speak Welsh. He is a qualified pilot and diver.

He is a keen watercolour painter, a published author and played the cello at Cambridge.

As Prince of Wales, he founded about 20 charities which raise about £140million each year for good causes.

Aged 73, King Charles III is the oldest monarch ever to be crowned in British history.

He became King on 8th September 2022, after the death of his mother, **the** Queen, in Balmoral. As King, he is also now head of the Commonwealth.

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Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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Wordsearch



Deadline June edition : Friday 12 May To contribute letters, articles,etc contact <u>stmarys.maged@gmail.com</u> or 07754 283161

How we can support Richmond's Food Bank For readers who add to their weekly shop by buying items for the Foodbank based at the Influence Church, this is an updated list of the most useful donations Tins : meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, soup, beans, pasta, tinned meals (e.g. chilli, stew), pies, rice pudding, spaghetti **Packets:** pasta, pasta sauce, noodles, cereal, porridge, rice, biscuits, spaghetti; flapjack pasta sauce, sandwich fillings, jam, spreads, tea, coffee Jars: UHT milk, squash, washing up liquid, deodorant, bars of Also: soap, tampons, sanitary pads, nappies (0-3 mths); laundry detergent or powder;, toilet rolls (4 packs); shower gel; shampoo More information :storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk Advertisements SWALE ECCLES HEDDON LLP VETERINAR) SOLICITORS SURGERY **OUR SERVICES** A COMPLETE SERVICE FOR ALL FARM, Residential & Commercial Conveyancing Agricultural Law EQUINE AND COMPANION ANIMALS Wills & Lasting Powers of Attorney 24 hour Emergency Service -Inheritance Tax & Succession Planning Probate & Trusts Family & Litigation RIPON 01765 601717 THIRSK 01845 522324 BEDALE 01677 422422 ww.eccles-heddon.co.uk Why not let me help odney Hall you to be satisfied RICHMOND SURGERY, Fairfield Way, Gallowfields with your Trading Estate, DL10 4TB garden? PETS: 01748 826600 All general gardening FARM/EQUINE: 01748 822389 work undertaken. Branch surgery also at Reeth. Telephone 07969265906





We are delighted that we also offer additional childcare, outside of the usual school day, run by school staff who know the children:

Breakfast Club (07:50 – 08:50): £4 per session (£3 sibling discount) After-School Club (15:20 – 17:30): £8 per session (£7 sibling discount)







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