



CONNECTIONS

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

July/August 2024

Price £1.80

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 from 1st 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
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) Sunday
11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Every 2nd (& 5th) Sunday

A bumper, 56 page issue this time, but then it is covering both July and August. Even so, there was so much potential material that some items from our regular contributors have had to be held over for a future edition, as they weren't quite so 'time-sensitive' as some of the articles included. Don't worry – you haven't been forgotten, and I look forward to receiving further contributions in future.

This month we shall welcome our new Curate, Lorna, and there are details of various opportunities to meet her and get to know her better. The Friends of St Mary's are very busy, with the Summer Barbecue in early July; a couple of Coffee mornings; another Blues in the Pews in August; and, in particular, their annual Plant & Produce sale in late-August. Do have a look at what, apart from help, is needed, and do what you can to sort out items and prepare plants for sale. Non-perishable items can be accepted well-beforehand, but anything else would be appreciated between 4.00-6.00pm the day before the Sale. And, of course, come along and support the event on the day.

A little while ago, it became clear that various members of the editorial team would be visiting different Cathedrals in the coming months, so we came up with the idea for a new occasional series — 'Celebrating Cathedrals'. Judith MacLeod starts us off with her recent visit to Exeter, but perhaps, in your travels this Summer, you may be visiting one of these magnificent buildings. If so, why not consider contributing to the series? We'd love to hear of your impressions, especially with some photographs.

There are also a couple of reflections this month – of the D-Day Commemoration and of being the Town Mayor – and John Pritchard encourages us all to exercise our democratic right and vote in the up-coming election. He also tackles the thorny issue of Church monies, before the Archdeacon seeks to clarify some of the myths about Project Spire. There is an important up-date on Step-Free Access from Peter Trewby; details of two charities seeking our support; Wendy Pritchard shares her love of hardy geraniums; and Christine Porter takes a closer look at our National Anthem. With a round-up of dates in the next couple of months from Jim Jack, we hope there is something to appeal to everyone.

John McCormack

**Cover photo:
Upper Swaledale by Wendy Pritchard**



Martin's Message

July/August 2024



Welcome, Lorna

Well, it has been a long four months since Paul and Jeanette left us! As they continue to settle in at Kirkbymoorside, we continue to give thanks for them and to hold them in our prayers. And now we are very much looking forward to Lorna's arrival at the end of June. No doubt you are joining me in also giving thanks for her and holding her in your prayers.

Lorna is to be ordained as a deacon in Ripon Cathedral on Saturday 29th June. Her first day with us will therefore be Sunday 30th, when she will fulfil the role of a deacon at our services. She will be bringing with her a broad range of gifts and skills which can only be a blessing to us. She will be living where Paul and Jeanette did, the house being provided by the Diocese. In her early weeks and months with us, she will be especially keen to get to know the church – and wider-communities – of our Benefice.

Lorna will be our full-time, stipendiary Assistant Curate for the next three to four years, during which time she will be immersing herself in the life of our Benefice. She will then move on to become responsible for a parish (or several parishes, as in Paul's case!), or perhaps enter a chaplaincy role. At the end of her first year as a deacon (literally, one who serves), she will be ordained as a priest, and this will bring with it additional responsibilities and opportunities for personal growth.

Over the course of her ministry (which could stretch well beyond the next 30 years) Lorna is likely to see huge changes in the Church and the world. It is therefore essential that her training with us will provide a solid foundation on which to build that ministry: good levels of self-awareness and resilience alongside an understanding of good practice. We will all have a part to play in supporting her as those foundations are laid.



All this means that, just as Lorna will be a blessing to us, so we can be a blessing to her. She will be the latest in a long line of Curates who trained here. Together

then, let us:

- pray regularly for her;
- be welcoming and supportive as she settles in; and
- remember that, with this being a training post, she will appreciate constructive feedback and encouragement.

In welcoming her to the Benefice, we will be holding a Songs of Praise service on Sunday 30th June at 6:30pm; a Friends of St Mary's Summer Barbecue on Saturday 6th July from 12.00–4.00pm; and gathering for Café Church on Sunday 21st July at 4.00pm, when Bishop John will be in conversation with her – giving us an early opportunity to get to know her story and what makes her tick!

Farewell Jennifer

Just before Lorna arrives, very sadly for us Jennifer Patrick will be moving away. Her move to Lincoln to be nearer to family has been in the offing for a long time, but as I write the completion of her house sale looks finally to be taking place in the last week of June. We will miss Jennifer greatly: she has been an integral member of our church family ever since she and her late husband Christopher, with their young family, moved here from Kendal. Over the years, Jennifer has been involved in all aspects of church life, including discharging in exemplary fashion the roles of Pastoral Assistant, PCC Secretary, and Home-Group host and leader, for many years.

Thank you, Jennifer, for blessing us with your presence. As you leave with our blessing, be assured of our ongoing love and support.



Our elected representatives on the PCC

At the **Downholme and Marske Annual Meeting** on 29th May, we elected Jean Calvert and Ruth Tindale as our **Churchwardens**.

We also elected as **PCC members** (from Downholme:) George Alderson, Phil and Penny Ham, Eileen Simms, Joyce Sunter; (and from Marske:) Peter van der Eijk, Andra Ham, Naomi Meredith, Revd Jennifer Williamson (by *co-option*), and Peter Coates (*appointed* as Treasurer).

We are grateful to each of them for their willingness to serve in the governance of our churches. Do please hold them in your prayers – particularly when they meet (in September, November, February and May). Indeed, as our elected representatives, the Downholme and Marske PCC would love to hear your views on any aspect of church life.

Choral Evensong on 14th July will be in Downholme

In July, our monthly service of Choral Evensong will be making its annual pilgrimage to the villages of our Benefice, this time to St Michael and All Angels in Downholme: 14th July at 6:30pm. Do join us as we gather together as a Benefice for worship in an idyllic setting. Bring a picnic to enjoy beforehand in the church grounds.



Going on Holiday? Don't forget to take God.

Summer is here and the holiday season stretches ahead. Perhaps you are hoping for some rest and relaxation, or the opportunity to enjoy a welcome break from the daily routine. It all sounds very inviting, but the reality can often turn out to be rather different – with frayed tempers and demanding children! On the other hand, you may have such a wonderful time that life will just seem to drift by. Whatever happens during this holiday period, remember to include God in it.

Sadly at holiday time, God can sometimes be forgotten altogether – yet it can be an excellent opportunity to benefit from some spiritual as well as bodily refreshment. Whether lying on a beach, climbing a mountain, walking in the country or just relaxing in the garden, we can let our hearts and minds dwell on God's bounty, the beauty of creation, and thank him for all the blessings in our lives.

All this fits in with the perfect balance of the proven Benedictine way of life – which applies as much to holidays as ordinary days. So our holidays should include time for physical, mental, and spiritual refreshment. Prayer, spiritual reading, and just spending some time *being* with God are vital and essential elements of every day, including holidays. Don't push God to the back of your mind this holiday season: get to know him better!

Blessings,

Martin



HOLD ON
TO THAT
WHICH
IS GOOD





PRE-ORDINATION THOUGHTS

As she prepares to join us as this issue appears, our new Assistant Curate — **REV LORNA HEATLEY** — tries to put into words how she is feeling.

One of the major problems in having only changed school once in my life, is that I never got used to that “new school feeling”. You know the one – where you turn up to a new place filled with people who already have rich social lives and networks. It’s different to starting university – we’re all in the same boat there. The bonding can come from the trauma of being thrown into an entirely new place and expected to do new things. Even starting a new job is different, because you’re there with a goal, doing something that no-one but you can possibly do in this situation.

The new school feeling, however, is a unique and disconcerting experience, and it’s one that’s sinking in as I thrive in my pre-ordination life. Now I am fortunately in a very privileged position here. This community has already opened up to welcome me instantly; the teachers have made me feel right at home; and the other kids are eager to chat and include me in their various things (and also give me loads of new furniture, which is always handy). The learning, however, is fairly daunting.

Three years at college has taught me a lot, but, as I face this new venture, I have to ask myself “How much do I actually know?”. A few months ago, I gave a sermon on Daniel and the Lion’s Den, and the main gist of it was that we all have to trust in God (me included). This ordination business is very much the time that I must give myself fully and completely over to God’s will, and let myself be led by his Spirit. Which sounds so great in theory, but in practice, God and I are having a small tug-of-war over whether I want to give up complete control – because I am a human and that is something that’s always a difficulty. But there’s something innately soothing about that as well. I may have started a whole new school, but this just means that I get to keep studying, and to keep trusting in God is a lesson that I am happy (if a bit apprehensive) to learn.

Lorna



LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN TODAY'S WORLD

Inspired by the World Day of Prayer, three women from different generations were invited, at Morning Worship in early May, to share their experiences of being a Christian in Richmond today. Their testimonies were moving, and that of the youngest — a 14-year-old girl from St. Francis Xavier School — is thought provoking and worth hearing again .

KARLA'S TESTIMONY

For me, being a Catholic Filipino young woman is harder than how a white young man would live in the present day. I've struggled not only with racial discrimination, but also misogynistic discrimination which, to me, has not been easy. Growing up, and 'til this day, I always think I'm separated from the people around me, as I feel like I have been separated from my culture, fearing as if I have become too 'Westernised' and distant from who I am, just to fit the standard of normal everyday life here.

I have tried to get into touch with my origins, asking my parents about the language and beginnings, but when I try to apply it outside of my home life, I feel persecuted for trying to embrace who I am, or who I'm trying to be.

When I'm around my friends, I often think to myself, "Am I fitting in?" or "Am I acting how they would act", just to try and save myself from constant criticism. However, when I'm at a friends' or family gathering, I think 'I'm too Westernised to be here', or 'I can't even fit in with my own people', even when I'm trying my hardest to please both standards.

I feel like if I am open about my faith, and who I am, people around me will tell me that I'm wrong — like so many have. I feel I'm denied of my culture, and think the society we humans have created isn't what God wanted for us.

God told us to love each other as he has loved us. In Matthew 7: 3-5, "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?"

God has told us countless of times to love each other, and to never judge someone else, knowing that we, as humans, are able to notice the smaller mistakes on other people, yet not the larger mistakes on ourselves. Sometimes, I wish that I was born in a generation that can be open about each other, instead of judging those who seem vulnerable and different.

As a Catholic Filipino young woman, I find it difficult to try and fit in, but I know that if I stick with my faith, Christians like me can help this Earth to become more like what God had wanted for us. And, with your help as Christians, younger girls or people like me, can live better lives, never having to worry about the constant fear of rejection.

Karla

**Friends of
St. Mary's Church Richmond**
**Family Summer
Barbecue**

In aid of Church Development

St Mary's Church & Grounds
Saturday 6th July 12pm-4pm

Food and Drink

Garden Games

Barbecue

Raffle

Music

Welcome to All

Tickets £5.00 for entry and BBQ
(Under 12's free)

On the door

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

ANNUAL CHURCH BARBECUE - Saturday 6 July, 12.00—4.00

With master chef John Challis brandishing the tongs and firing up the charcoal, it's time to gather round the coals for a social event, with the added opportunity to chat with Lorna Heatley, our new curate. To ensure that the event will take place regardless of weather, the seating will be inside church, as will games of skill or chance which will add to the entertainment. Cooking will be outside the North Door and we can always stray outside if it's really warm. Charge will be £5.00 (first helping of food is included in this price) and members from Downholme, Hudswell and Marske will be welcome to join us. You can obtain a ticket in advance from Committee members or pay on the door (children under 16 free).

COFFEE MORNINGS

Our **Annual Summer Coffee Morning at the Town Hall is on Thursday 25th July from 9.00 — 12.00**. Help is needed to prepare and serve coffees and also staff the door and stalls. Offers of home baking for sale also welcome. See David Frankton, Peter Trewby, Jim Jack or any committee member to offer your time for part of the morning. Thank you.

Saturday 10 August sees the return of the '**At Home' Coffee mornings**, this time at the home of **Carole and John McCormack**, 10 Castlefields Close, Richmond from 10.30 — 12.30. Do pop in for part or all of the morning. Once again, gifts of home baking and raffle prizes always welcome.

PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE — Saturday 24 August, 10.00—4.00

The big fund raiser of the year, folks, so do please support. **We need donations** of home baking, plants and cuttings, jams, chutneys, preserves, home-made confectionery, books, cds, bric-a-brac, knitted and other hand-made goods to sell on the day **please**. These can be delivered to church from 4.00 p.m. onwards on Friday 23rd August. Jam-jars and plant-pots for filling are in the vestibule of the North Door. Please take what you need, if you need them. The Belles café will once again be operating for teas, coffees, light refreshments and light-lunch meal-deals. There will be music, bell-tower tours, and we are hoping to have an exhibition and additional stalls. If you can help on a stall, please let a committee member know.

Jim Jack



St. Mary's Church Richmond

**Annual Large
Plant and Produce
Sale**

**Homemade
Chutneys Cakes Jams
Crafts Plants Books CDs
Fruit and Vegetables
Raffle and Tombola
Music**

And much much more...

Cafe open all day

10am - 4pm

Bank Holiday

Saturday 24th August

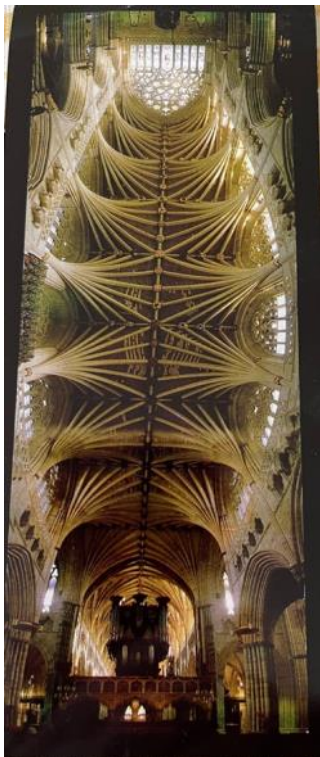
CELEBRATING CATHEDRALS

There are over 40 Anglican Cathedrals in the UK, of varying age, size and style of architecture — yet all are magnificent in their own way and are a focal point of their diocese. **JUDITH MACLEOD** recently visited **Exeter Cathedral** and shares her impressions with us.

One blustery Saturday afternoon in early April, I went with a friend to Exeter Cathedral. Unlike Durham Cathedral, the one in Exeter is right in the middle of the city, so we left the busy shopping street and made our way to the Cathedral Close via a dark alley, full of traditional buildings.

One's first impression is of a squat building surrounded by more historic buildings such as the Deanery and Mol's Coffee House [1596]. The effect is of one of cosiness.

Exeter Cathedral has a very long history. There were some Roman baths on the site; evidence of Christian worship in the fifth century; and a monastery in the seventh. A bishop's seat was established there in 1050.



The Norman towers of the current building are older than the rest, which is new Gothic. The nave is remarkable for having the longest stretch of vaulting – 300 feet – of any cathedral in this country. Moreover, it contains wonderful examples of carving, particularly the fourteenth century Minstrels' gallery decorated with 14 wooden angels carrying musical instruments, and the pulpitum [or screen] which divides the nave from the quire. The latter was installed after the Civil War in the seventeenth century, when Exeter was controlled by the Parliamentarians. The city council allowed Presbyterians to worship in the quire and Congregationalists in the nave, with the pulpitum providing a dividing screen.

On entering the cathedral, I was struck by the wide, airy feel of the interior. The vaulting is decorated with dozens of bosses of different sizes. The largest boss shown in the photograph (overleaf) depicts the murder of St Thomas Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury Cathe-

dral, in 1170. A boss is the carved underside of the keystone, which locks the vaulted arches in place by small projections of rib. The bosses in Exeter Cathedral are among the finest examples of English Decorated-Gothic architecture. On the ground, a papier mâché model tells visitors that the largest bosses weigh over 2 tonnes, the subjects of which are human figures, biblical stories, naturalistic and fabulous scenes.



Other architectural gems are the vividly painted ribs of the vaults in the Lady Chapel below the east window and the blue, star-spangled ceiling of the adjacent side chapel.



There are some quirky points of interest too, such as the elephant misericord, the small wooden carving on the underside of one of the choir stalls.



Another is an alabaster effigy of Bishop Edmund Stafford [d.1419], which is covered in graffiti, some of which dates back to 1601.



My favourite, however, was the hole in the bottom of the door leading up to the astronomical clock. It was cut around the end of the sixteenth century for the Bishop's cat – a precursor to the modern cat flap.

For me, however, the spiritual highlight of the visit came when we sat at the end of the nave listening to the London Vasari choir practising for the Sunday services. Ethereal music soaring above the quire was the perfect accompaniment to our contemplation of the broad nave illuminated by the west window, with its intricate fourteenth century tracery and the high-level windows of the clerestory.



*Judith
MacLeod*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It is always good to hear from our readers, so I'm pleased to print below a response to **John Pritchard's** article about Good Friday in our March edition.

Ed.

Sir,

I read Bishop John's article in the March issue with great interest. I'm not sure that he's correct in saying that most Christians call it 'Good Friday'. I think that some parts of Europe and Scandinavia call it 'Black Friday'.

About fifty years ago I spent Easter in Denmark, leading a group of housewives with the 'Experiment in International Living'. We were centred around Silkeborg near Aarhus and I was staying with the local Bank Manager and his wife, Holger and Lisbet Nielson. On the Friday, we headed west to the coast, where they had a holiday chalet.

The Danes are very proud of their flag, a white cross on a red background. All the Scandinavian countries have the same basic design, even the Faroe Islands. Along all the streets in Denmark, in towns, villages and even in the countryside, there are flag-poles ready for the flags to be hoisted on special days. To my surprise, there were flags flying at half-mast on all the posts we drove past, even in the little chalet gardens by the sea.

To my immense surprise and delight, at 3.00pm, the time we record as Jesus saying, 'It is finished' and dying on the cross, all the flags were simultaneously hoisted to the top of the pole. 'Black Friday' had become 'Good Friday'. It is a memory I treasure still.

Yours,

Daphne Clarke.

THE 200 CLUB

Congratulations to June's lucky Winner:

No: 184 — Steve Wade

I'VE OFTEN WONDERED...

Money is always a contentious subject, and there are frequently mutterings when appeals are made for this or that or to increase giving.

But things are rarely as straightforward as they might appear, so, never one to duck a challenge, **JOHN PRITCHARD** attempts to throw some light on Church of England funding.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS' MILLIONS?

We're often reminded that, as a corporate body, the Church Commissioners are very wealthy. They have investments of £10.2 billion, accumulated from a variety of historic resources going back to the strangely named Queen Anne's Bounty in 1704, although the Church Commissioners in its current shape was only formed in 1948. The 33 members are appointed and elected mainly by the Crown and General Synod, together with appointments by the Archbishops, on the basis of expertise. They are charged by law to fund the work of the Church of England in churches, dioceses and cathedrals.

So, if there's all this money around, how come dioceses are always saying they need more money from the Parish Share? To explain the complexities of the overall funding of the Church of England would require an extended seminar, so let's restrict ourselves to the Church Commissioners on this occasion.

In broad terms you could say that the Church Commissioners provide 20% of the running costs of the Church of England. The rest has to come from diocesan land, investments and the parishes. In 1963 the Church Commissioners paid 75% of the total needed for clergy stipends, but they were vastly overspending and now provide only about 10%. So what do they spend their income on?



The Church Commissioners allocate most of their funding of the Church in these ways:

Mission projects: £117m in 2022. There are two main streams for this:

- (i) *Lowest Income Communities.* These parishes are those that cannot meet the full cost of ministry, which is roughly estimated as £50-55K per incumbent (£30K stipend plus pension, housing and other central support costs)

(ii) *Strategic Development funding* — particularly for major change projects in urban areas, often those that are focused on work with younger generations.

Bishops and Archbishops: £45m in 2022. There are 42 diocesan bishops and 73 suffragan or area bishops. The parishes and dioceses don't pay for their bishops. The Church Commissioners funding is for stipends (diocesan and area or suffragan bishops, chaplains, secretaries), housing, pensions, expenses of office. In our huge diocese we have six bishops.

Cathedrals: £14.3m in 2022. These funds go to pay for the dean and two residentiary canons in each cathedral, and to help with other staff costs for cathedrals with the lowest incomes.

Pensions: £117m in 2022. The Church Commissioners meet the cost of clergy pensions earned in service until 1997. Pensions since 1998 are funded by dioceses and managed by the Church of England Pensions Board.



The Church Commissioners are committed to ethical investment through their advisory board, with a special emphasis on environmental factors (aiming for net-zero investment by 2050). There are particular exclusions on gambling, tobacco, armaments etc.

Many church-goers have been exercised about the allocation of £100m to address past wrongs in the Church's involvement in the slave trade. This was through investment in the South Sea Company that was enmeshed in this reprehensible trade, and through societies and individuals receiving compensation for loss of income when slavery was abolished in 1833. There are controversial questions around this. Is it right to penalise people today for the wrongs of their predecessors? Can loss and benefit be calculated at this distance? Who should benefit? But the decision has been taken on moral grounds, in keeping with society's current mood about providing redress for historic errors.

I realise that this very brief summary could beg even more questions than it answers. How then do diocesan budgets work? Where does the Archbishops' Council fit in, as the Church's central co-ordinating body with its financial decision-making powers? Discussing money in the Church of England is as contentious as it is in Government. I'm not going there, but greater detail is available on the Church of England website. Enjoy!

John Pritchard

PROJECT SPIRE

Coincidentally, after the previous article written by **John Pritchard**, our clergy received a lengthy document from the **Archdeacon, Jonathan Gough**, to help explain the background to this project and to clarify some of the mis-conceptions which are circulating in the media. At Canon Martin's request, an extract is re-printed below.

At the 2024 session of the Church of England's General Synod, a presentation was given on the Church Commissioners' work to address historic links with African chattel enslavement. It followed a report, published in early 2023, which found the Commissioners' endowment had historic links to slavery, partly traced to an early 18th Century fund called Queen Anne's Bounty.

In response to the Report's findings, the Church Commissioners' Board took steps to begin addressing past wrongs, with a commitment to £100 million of funding in the nine years following 2023. An Oversight Group was set up to propose objectives and a structure for the investment, and the resulting report suggested a name: "The Fund for Healing, Repair and Justice". It also outlined that its foundational principles should be healing, transparency and non-repetition of the harms it aims to address. Most importantly, the fund will be guided by its engagement with those descended from the enslaved Africans.

The Synod met in February and heard from members of the Oversight Group and Church leaders about this important work's progress. Speakers included: The Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York; The Right Reverend Dr. Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon; Jonathan Guthrie, writer and financial commentator; and Roy Strong, Director of Mission Investments and Ford



Foundation. The text of these speeches can be found in this document: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/church-commissioners-for-england-healing-repair-and-justice-speeches-delivered-to-general-synod-2024.pdf>

Since then, a great deal of media attention has been given to this work, following the publication of the recommendations of the independent Oversight Group about taking it forward. Sadly, there has been quite a high level of mis-reporting, and so we want to take this opportunity to bust some of the myths that you may have seen online or in the newspapers.

Myth 1: The Church of England is going to pay £1 billion in reparations.

The Truth: In 2023 the Church Commissioners announced a commitment of £100 million over three triennia – this commitment is not changing.

Our response is not about paying compensation to individuals, nor is it purely about money. The fund being established has the primary aim to achieve impact through investments, and it is hoped that these investments will enable the fund to grow over time, leaving a lasting positive legacy, as well as enabling a programme of grant-making.

The £1 billion figure is an aspiration. The Church Commissioners recognise that no amount of money will ever be enough to address the horror of African chattel enslavement. The scale of ambition for the initiative to grow to £1 billion was discussed at an early stage by the Church Commissioners themselves, the hope always being to act in a catalytic way by seeding the fund with our £100 million commitment. We hope that others may invest alongside us in support of this ambition, for example, institutions with similar histories seeking to address these legacies.

The aspiration is an exciting one, and we are grateful to the Oversight Group for encouraging us to be bold in our ambitions. The Church Commissioners hope this initial commitment of £100 million will form the nucleus of a larger initiative; that this fund will grow over time; and that we will inspire others to act to reach the goal of £1 billion.

Myth 2: Money that parishioners donate is going towards this response.

The Truth: None of the money given to a parish church will be used for this fund. None of the money for the new fund will come from parish income. And, of course, every gift made through the Parish Giving Scheme will go to the intended beneficiary, now and always. The majority of a church's ministry is paid for by the generous giving of its local community.

Myth 3: Enslavement has nothing to do with the Church.

The Truth: The Church Commissioners' research has revealed that one predecessor fund of the Church Commissioners' fund – Queen Anne's Bounty – invested in, and received income from, South Sea Company securities. The South Sea Company transported and traded enslaved people. *"Over its trading lifetime, the South Sea Company forced nearly 42,000 people to leave the African coast. It disembarked almost 35,000 people, meaning that just over 7,000 people died on the crossing."* according to economic historian, Dr Helen Paul. Queen Anne's Bounty also received numerous benefactions, some of which may have come from individuals linked to, or who profited from, enslavement.

CARPE DIEM...

This phrase, literally translated, means 'Seize the day' – an exhortation not to dither or let opportunity pass by. At a wider level, there are many days in July and August, some religious, others secular, which we might wish to seize, celebrate, acknowledge or at least give the nod to. On the other hand there are half-a-dozen in July where nothing is listed! **JIM JACK** delves deeper into this two-month swift trawl of the calendar. Is there something here for you?

Well, the annual British Summer holiday period is upon us (starting, curiously, in terms of travel agent charges, a full four weeks after mid-summer day). July itself brings us quite a number of saints whose feast days fall within its thirty-one days. Perhaps the most relevant to holidays is St Swithun, whose feast day (15th) tradition tells us, may presage 40 days of rain, if rain falls on that day (or of good weather, if it happens to be fair on that day).

Swithun was a man born in or around the year 800AD and went on to become Bishop of Winchester. Unlike other religious figures, he asked not to be buried in a prominent place within Winchester Cathedral, but outside in a simple tomb "where the sweet rain of heaven may fall upon my grave". Later generations, however, moved his tomb inside the cathedral, at which point a torrential downpour occurred. This was seen as a sign of his (and God's) displeasure.



St Swithun's Tomb, Winchester Cathedral

By the 15th, you will doubtless have already missed the feast of St Thomas (3rd), St Boisil of Melrose (7th), Abbot of the Abbey which marks the start of St Cuthbert's Way walk, St Camillus (14th) and St Benedict (11th) – founder of the Benedictine monastic order and first abbot of Selby Abbey .

Speaking of holidays earlier, booking for Jersey for 16 July may not only be marginally cheaper, but could take you to St Helier, the capital named after the monastic hermit, who came from Belgium to bring the gospel to the island of Gersut. He settled on a tidal island amongst a community of fishermen based in what is now the capital of modern Jersey, healing a lame man and praying for a storm which arose and dispersed a marauding pirate band.

Repentant sinners can look to the feast day of St Mary Magdala (22nd), or cross the road in safety on 25 July to celebrate the life of St Christopher, or even travel to Norway on 29th to join Norwegians in marking the feast day of their patron Saint,



Glastonbury Tor

St Olaf. Fans of Glastonbury may wish to visit on 31st to mark the feast day of Joseph of Arimathea, who assumed responsibility for the burial of Jesus after his crucifixion. Legend has it that Joseph visited the west country with the teenage Jesus and that, after his death, returned to England as a missionary and stayed until his death at Glastonbury at the age of 86, having founded Glastonbury Abbey.

Moving to the more secular (and, dare I say in some cases, quirky?) days for celebration and awareness raising in July, start with a laugh on International Joke Day (1st – who knew?), followed by an annual day to celebrate Alice of Wonderland fame on the 6th – Alice Day. Our former curate, Paul Sunderland would be delighted to know that the following day (7th) is World Chocolate Day; ‘Jaws’ lovers and swimmers off Australian beaches will want to know of Shark Awareness Day on the 14th, but Rachel Reeves (who may be Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time of reading and a former junior girls’ chess champion) will probably have a greater interest in International Chess Day on the 20th.

22 July is Windrush Day, which honours the contributions of migrants to the post-war economy. It is named after the HMT *Empire Windrush*, which carried Afro-Caribbean migrants to the UK after WW2. 24 July is National Cousins Day (get in touch with the ‘rellies’), 29 July sneaks in Global Tiger Day, before a rush of animal days in August (see later), while the month ends with Harry Potter’s birthday on the 31st.



Harry Potter

Three major sporting events bridge our magazine dates. We start the month with the knockout round of the last 16 in the UEFA European Nations football championships, and Wimbledon also starts on 1st July. Both events finish in the middle of the month – on 14th July – whilst the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games start on Friday 26 July and end on Sunday 11 August, which takes us nicely through half of our magazine publication span for this issue.



Jim Jack



THE GENERAL ELECTION

By the time you read this, voting will probably only be a few days away. **JOHN PRITCHARD** offers some thoughts on the importance of voting and shares a prayer he was asked to write when the election was called.

VOTING IS A PRIVILEGE

Whether the General Election is yet to come or is done and dusted as you read this, the vote we have is a privilege. It pains me when I hear people say they don't think they'll vote, because it won't make a difference. People have died to get the right to vote. Millions are living in autocratic states where their vote is meaningless, because the system is corrupt. But here it matters, it's an honest system and no-one will claim (like Trump) that the election was stolen.



I hope we're all passionate about what we believe, whether it be in our faith, in our politics, in our values, in our concept of fairness. Of course we'll be passionate in our differences too, holding different beliefs about which political party has the best vision for the country. But what I hope we all have is a profound desire to bring our understanding of faith and its implications into direct engagement with our vote. Too often I think we vote on the basis of family tradition, old loyalties, naked self-interest or intellectual laziness.

What matters is that we lay alongside the party manifestos those Kingdom values of compassion, justice, fairness, integrity, sacrifice, courage, and more (see the Bible for details). Jesus bids us to love God, our neighbour, our enemy, and ourselves: which party will best enable us all to do that?



Here is a prayer I was asked to write for Premier Radio at the start of the Election campaign.

Gracious God

*You have placed us in a world where politics matter, and where **our own** political decisions matter and are valued. To vote is a privilege not everyone has.*

Help us to take this General Election seriously and not to dismiss politicians with superficial judgements such as that they're 'all the same' or 'just in it for themselves.' Because they're not.

Strengthen our minds to ask the right questions — about what kind of country we want to live in; about what kind of policies we believe are good and honest; about what kind of politicians we want to serve us; about where truth and integrity are to be found; about where Jesus would be.

Save us from the selfishness that only thinks of ourselves. Save us from the arrogance that thinks we know better. Save us from narrowness of vision, as if only this country matters when the world is in turmoil.

Give us, good Lord, the vision of a larger, better kingdom, your kingdom, where as a nation we do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God. And help us to vote for those who believe in that kind of kingdom too.

For Jesus' sake, and for ours,

Amen

John Pritchard

D-DAY — 80th ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS

The commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day was featured in last month's magazine, with the cover picture featuring the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer on the Normandy coast. With the ceremony now over, Jim & Jan Jacks' daughter — **Catherine Parums**, Head of Commemorative Events at the Royal British Legion — provides an insight into what was involved in the organisation of the whole event.

Planning began on 7th June 2023, immediately after a lower-key event on the French coast last year, with a 'walk through' of the sites to be used in 2024. At the time of the last big D-Day event in 2019, the beautiful Normandy memorial had not been completed and the haunting silhouettes of servicemen were not in place. Now the small Events Team of the Royal British Legion had to get the feel of the venues in preparation for this year's major commemoration.



Silhouettes at Sunset

The central principle underpinning all that was done was that this was to be for the surviving veterans and a fitting tribute to those who did not return in 1944 or suffered life-changing injuries. Whilst the Legion has a primary concern for UK servicemen and women, it was important that the service of troops, aircrew and naval personnel from the Commonwealth and the United States and from France was also being recognized in other ceremonies on the same day, and that dignitaries may want to attend more than one of the planned events.

The planning brought together teams from the Ministry of Defence for the military input; the Royal British Legion as the over-arching commissioning body; and the BBC. They were the broadcast partners tasked with the live coverage of events in Portsmouth and Bayeux on the 5th, and then at the British Normandy Memorial on 6 June, together with a parallel event at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire for veterans who would not be able to travel to France for the main events. All of these plans also required co-ordination with the French authorities on whose soil much of the ceremony would take place. A keen knowledge of protocols was needed from the outset. The fact that part of the ceremony was a state occasion meant that the British Embassy in France also had to be involved alongside the

wishes of the Elysée Palace for the President of France. Thus all of the planning of what would be appropriate for, and appreciated by, the D-Day veterans had to be set within the protocols surrounding such occasions. Appropriate seating plans for Heads of State and any government members attending; having guards of honour of the correct number; additional security — all of this, whilst ensuring that it was the D-Day veterans and who they represented, who would be the focus of all that was planned and scheduled. Given the age of the veterans wishing to go to France, there would always be uncertainty until the last minute as to who would actually be able to travel, so some flexibility had to be built in.



Landing on D-Day itself

Having mapped out the key events for 5th & 6th June, the details were drawn up through a series of meetings, both in the UK and in France, over the ensuing year. The content of each ceremony was meticulously planned, led by the RBL and the BBC, who were central to the ‘choreography’ of each event. These two teams are accustomed to working together on the Festivals of Remembrance. As the detail was developed over 2023/24, it was im-

portant to liaise with others centrally involved — the D-Day veterans themselves and their families and carers, being aware that some were not part of the Royal British Legion network; the Spirit of Normandy Memorial Trust; and the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans, both of whom supported other veterans in attending the commemorations. Liaison with the military units which were to be involved; Buckingham Palace; the Elysée Palace staff; national political leaders; and the French authorities extended the list.

Security services needed to know what was planned, whilst the French police also had key roles to play in moving large groups of people around. There were temporary stands to be booked and erected when layouts were decided; guest lists to be finalised; invitations sent out, whilst working to a large, but fixed, number of guests. The BBC had lighting, sound and camera rigs to be deployed, with the staffing and cost implications there — and all of this to a pre-planned budget, much of it financed by the RBL. Media involvement had to be planned so that it reported, but in no way drove, the event.

Underpinning all of this meticulous planning was the fervent desire to ensure that this whole commemoration was exactly that — not a show or performance, but an act of remembrance for fallen comrades; of gratitude to those who, in dying, had saved the lives of comrades around them; and the wider immeasurable benefit,

which the actions of all involved have conferred on their own and future generations, of which we are a part.

There were four 'staged' events to be managed. The first, on the South coast, on 5th June at Southsea, was to remember the day and night before D-Day. None of those participating in France through readings and personal reflections would attend this one, as they would already be on their way to France on the 8.00am sailing of the Brittany ferry *Mont St Michel*. The second would be at the Bayeux War Cemetery on the evening of the 5th June, a site beautifully and sensitively managed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Then, on the morning of 6th June, on to the British Normandy War Memorial itself (pictured on the front cover of last month's magazine), managed by the Normandy Memorial Trust. Finally, for those unable to make the journey, an act of remembrance at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire was organised.



Sergeant Richard Brock sits in front of some of the 4,600 lit headstones in Bayeux Cemetery (BBC News)



Harry Birdsall, 98, and Alec Penstone (front), 98, lay a wreath (BBC News)

The ferry crossing marked the start of a very special two days for those who had survived D-Day and felt fit enough to travel. Brittany Ferries gave wonderful support in their treatment of the travelling party, including a detour to stop and lay a wreath at sea for the fallen. Quite an emotional moment. The excellent Central Band of the Royal British Legion (all volunteers themselves) under the direction of Captain David Cole, together with the Jedburgh Pipe Band, provided music. A small number of members of the media also made the crossing. The leisurely journey gave time to meet others,

talk and reflect. Those who saw the television pictures would once again be struck by the overpowering humility of the veterans, their passionate desire that they should not be treated as heroes — 'it was the ones who didn't come back who are the real heroes' — and a fervent wish that their efforts were the cost which will need to be paid again, unless we of future generations work hard to maintain the peace which their sacrifice had earned.

Although they had no desire to be treated as heroes or celebrities, it was moving also to see the crowds who had turned out in France, waving flags and cheering as

they disembarked, before moving on under blue-light escort by the French police to their accommodation in 4* or 5* hotels with their supporters/carers for some rest before the Bayeux evening event.



A veteran chatting with King Charles

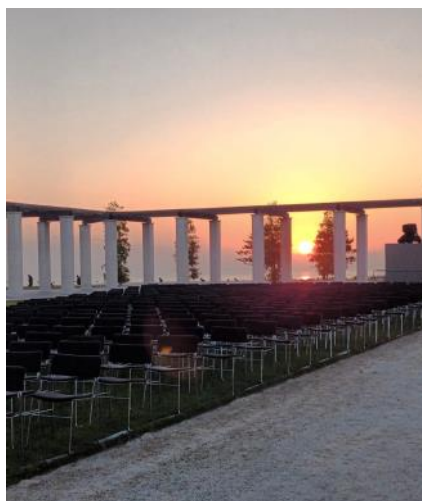
Each member had been allocated a serving member of the armed forces from the modern-day battalion or equivalent in which he or she had served. All words spoken were their own. Careful planning by the BBC ensured seamless transition from one participant to another, but with any movement 'off camera' still carried out with dignity and respectful military precision, so that those who were there in person never felt that they were just part of an outside broadcast crowd. Then back to hotels, some supported with Land Rovers freely provided by Jaguar Land Rover and driven by ex-military JLR staff .

Once again blessed with good weather, we moved to Ver-sur-Mer on the 6th for the commemoration of the 22,442 people from more than 30 countries under British command, who were killed in Normandy from 6th June to 31st August 1944 and whose names are engraved on the memorial. The service went smoothly, with every veterans' moving words being applauded, to their surprise, by the assembled 2500 people. Great respect must go to the actors who read the words of those who felt unable to speak themselves, as the actors voicing their thoughts spent considerable time beforehand getting to know them and trying to get inside their feelings as best they could.

Before and during these three events, the RBL team was heavily immersed in detail. We ensured that each participant and supporter was provided with lunch-bags and breakfast at appropriate times. Special poppies were given to be laid after the event – many of which were taken to specific cemeteries by guests visiting the graves of family members, who are laid to rest in other parts of Normandy.

Other elements of such events are unseen by the public. Booking and supplying toilet facilities; having extra wheelchairs on hand, just in case, but invaluable when one bus dropped off their party in the wrong car park; and stand-by first-aid and medical facilities. Ensuring that services are planned sufficiently far in advance for rehearsal; availability of programmes in French as well as English; setting deadlines for replies to invitations to ensure seating plans could be made; and having to say 'No' to people if they hadn't met the deadline. Being prepared to be roused at

2.00am to deliver vehicle ID stickers to drivers, when the originals had not materialised; act as stewards, when booked stewarding didn't materialise; and having a plan for moving 2500 people off-site after the British Normandy Memorial commemoration had ended (People come in small groups, but leave in droves). The calling of a General Election so close to D-Day meant that the involvement of all politicians had to be scrutinised under the 'purdah' rules, so that their words or actions couldn't be deemed to be 'electioneering', added an additional last-minute planning and scrutiny element.



The night before — seats set out in readiness for the ceremony

A year's work in the planning all over in two days? Not quite. After all of the publicly witnessed work had finished, there was still a group of veterans to care for at a level equal to that which they had experienced beforehand, to ensure their journey home went smoothly. After all of the highs, this would be the last such event, and possibly the last time some of them would see each other or the shores of France again. Members of our team will visit each of them to check that they're still OK, and probably re-live some of the memories of what we hope for them was a very worthwhile and special time — for they are indeed ordinary, yet very special, people.

There's so much more I could say. In spite of all the planning and advance notice, some things didn't quite go to plan and that is always frustrating, when the plan and everyone's part in it has been agreed and communicated. I am proud that the small team we have, took on and delivered such an important commemoration for our veterans.

It was hard to 'enjoy' it at the time, because the whole team was working 15-18 hour days whilst it was on. I'm not usually one to say this, but we were all exhausted when the last act of dropping the van off in London was completed. All I needed to do then was to catch a train home to Manchester to see my lovely family, who I hadn't seen for nearly a week.

The quiet satisfaction has come afterwards. On returning to work on the Monday after D-Day, my inbox, shared with the team, was full of with warmth, thanks and appreciation for the work everyone had done. All will be responded to as the flow continues. Many are highlighting aspects of how parts of what we had planned

together, and the reason for it, had been achieved, noticed and appreciated.

I've also had a chance to watch the commemoration events on catch- up, as have my colleagues. It's only then that the positive impact of a year's planning and many days effort actually hits home. We feel it was indeed a special time for some very special people. We hope you did too.

Catherine Parums

Veteran watching the fly-past



Silhouettes representing the fallen on D-Day on the hill-side between the beach and the Memorial.



Footnote: Catherine Parums (4th from left) will be better known to some of the St Mary's congregation as Catherine Jack, church member and chorister until she left for York University to study Music in 2003. She is now married and lives with her husband and two young daughters in Manchester)

Jim Jack

BEHIND THE HYMN

Perhaps not a hymn as such, although it can be found in most hymn books, our King's recent illness and on-going treatment have given some poignancy to the words of The National Anthem. **CHRISTINE PORTER** has been looking into its origin and development and has unearthed some interesting facts.

The National Anthem

Our British National Anthem in its present form dates back to the eighteenth century. The phrase "God Save the King", however, is much older, appearing, for instance, several times in the King James bible. A text based on the 1st Book of Kings, Chapter 1:38-40 "And all the people rejoic'd, and said: God save the King! Long live the King! May the King live for ever, Amen", has been sung and proclaimed at every coronation since that of King Edgar in 973. As early as 1545, "God Save the King" was a watchword of the Royal Navy, with the response being "Long to reign over us".

The first published version of a patriotic song similar to the present anthem appeared in 1744, with no title but the heading "For two voices", in the anthology *Harmonia Britannia*. It was first performed publicly in London the following year. In September 1745 the 'Young Pretender' to the British Throne, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, defeated the army of King George II at Prestonpans, near Edinburgh. In a fit of patriotic fervour, after news of Prestonpans had reached London, Thomas Arne, Leader of the Band at the Drury Lane Theatre, arranged *God Save The King* for performance after a play. It was a tremendous success and was repeated nightly. This practice soon spread to other theatres, and the custom of greeting the monarch with the song as he or she entered a place of public entertainment was established.

On the opposing side during the same period, Jacobite beliefs were echoed in an alternative version, sung to the same tune:



Bonnie Prince Charlie

"God bless the prince, I pray,
God bless the prince, I pray,
Charlie I mean;
That Scotland we may see,
Freed from vile Presbyt'ry,
Both George and his Feckie*,
Ever so, Amen."



*Frederick — Prince of Wales

When the song was sung in 1745, the first line was “God save great George our king”. The third and fourth words were later changed to “gracious” for George’s successors, when it was realised that William, Victoria and other monarchs’ names didn’t scan. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, it had become known as the National Anthem.



An alternative to the first two lines of the National Anthem has traditionally been used in Lancashire: “God save our Duke the King, Long live our noble Duke”, out of respect to the reigning monarch, whether male or female, in their capacity as Duke of Lancaster. This unofficial Lancashire anthem is often used at formal dinners in the county and in Lancastrian regiments of the armed forces. It is used every Sunday at the Savoy Chapel in Westminster, which is owned and governed by the Duchy of Lancaster. Also, it is still currently used by Old Boys of Lancaster Royal Grammar School.

A somewhat graphic and gruesome version from 1794, composed by the American republican and French citizen Joel Barlow, celebrated the power of the guillotine to liberate:

*“God save the Guillotine, ‘til England’s King and Queen, her power shall prove;
‘til each appointed knob, affords a clipping job, let no vile halter rob, the Guillotine.
“France, let thy trumpet sound, tell all the world around, how Capet fell;
And when great George’s poll, shall in the basket roll, let mercy then control, the Guillotine.
“When all the sceptre’d crew, have paid their homage due, the Guillotine;
Let freedom’s flag advance, ‘til all the world like France, o’er tyrants’ graves shall dance, and peace begin.”*

The lyrics we use in Britain today are, by and large, those sung in 1745, with “Queen” substituted for “King” when appropriate. In the UK, the first verse is typically sung alone, even on official occasions. Additional verses have been added down the years, but these are rarely used. In our Common Praise hymn book, we find just one additional verse:

*“Thy choicest gifts in store on him be pleased to pour, Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws, and ever give us cause, to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.”*

This second verse is added on certain occasions such as during the opening ceremonies of the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics; the 2022 Commonwealth Games; and usually at the Last Night of the Proms. It was also sung during the re-

cent Coronation. As well as Royal occasions, the anthem is played at events such as Wimbledon; the Royal Variety show; the Edinburgh Tattoo; Royal Ascot; Henley Regatta; and the Proms. Until the latter part of the 20th century, theatre and concert goers were expected to stand, while the anthem was played at the end of a show. In cinemas this brought a tendency for audiences to rush out while the end credits played to avoid this formality. (This can be seen in the 1972 *Dad's Army* episode "A Soldier's Farewell").

The composer of the national anthem is unknown, and when *The Gentleman's Magazine* published the song in 1744 the tune largely resembled our present one. European visitors to Britain in the eighteenth century noticed the advantage of a country possessing such a recognised national song. *God Save the King* was exported around the world via the expansion of the British Empire, serving as each country's national anthem. As the empire evolved into the Commonwealth, the anthem declined in use in most states which became independent. In New Zealand it remains one of the official national anthems, and French-speaking Canadians use:

*"Que Dieu protège notre gracieux Roi,
Longue vie à notre noble Roi,
Que Dieu protège le Roi!
Rends-le victorieux, Heureux et glorieux,
Que soit long son règne sur nous,
Que Dieu protège le Roi!"*



Other countries which have used the tune for their national anthem include: former German states, many of which were linked to Great Britain by marriage; the Kingdom of Prussia from 1795; the German Empire from 1871 to 1918; Imperial Russia from 1816 to 1833; and Switzerland until the 1960s. Both Liechtenstein and Norway still use the tune today. The American song *My Country 'Tis of Thee* (also known as *America*) was written in 1831 with the same tune. In the 1930s, when the US was choosing an official national anthem, this song was a popular choice, although the final decision was *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

In total, around 140 composers, including Beethoven, Haydn and Brahms, have used the tune for *God Save the King* in their compositions. The rock band Queen recorded an instrumental version for their 1975 album *A Night at the Opera*. This recorded version was played at the end of every Queen concert from the end of 1974 to 1986, and on 3rd June 2002, during the Queen's Golden Jubilee, their guitarist Brian May performed the anthem from the roof of Buckingham Palace for the Party at the Palace.

In 1745 when the anthem first appeared, the first line “God save great George our King” was different to the one we now sing. Will the country revert to this original line when 10-year-old Prince George accedes to the throne, I wonder?



4 generations of the Royal Family taken on the late Queen’s 90th birthday

Christine Porter

GOOD NEWS FLASH!

Seen recently in a park in Martina Franca,
Southern Italy.

How nice to see such consideration for Mia, a
four-legged friend of the community.



STEP-FREE ACCESS — AN UPDATE

Having been in preparation for some time, **PETER TREWBY** is at last able to provide a start date for phase 1 of this project, and some important information about access to the church during the works.

The first part of the project involving the path, ramp and work to the South porch and door is planned to start on August 27th to be finished in time for Remembrance Sunday.

The work will unfortunately necessitate closing the south door completely for some weeks between late-August and November. Access to the church will then be through the North door, either the main North door down the steep steps, or through the choir vestry which might be preferable.

For services, the welcomers will be positioned at these entrances to help people with the steps, and there will be signage. A section of the normal path from the car park will be diverted on to a temporary path joining the existing path on the west side of the church, so the North door will still be accessible from the Council car park. We will make absolutely sure the stones outside the North door are free of “slippiness”!

The plans and timeline are on display in the church, but please make contact (trewbyp@gmail.com) if you have any queries or concerns, particularly about accessing the church during this time. In the meantime, we are still actively looking for funds for the car park part, which is such an integral part of the project.



North Door

Both doors involve steps, unfortunately, but it will be worth it in the end.

Peter Trewby



Vestry Door

WHAT HAS THE PCC BEEN TALKING ABOUT?

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) meets every 2 months to consider and discuss matters relating to the workings of our Church. **JOHN PRITCHARD** has kindly summarised the Minutes of the meeting on 15th May '24 to keep us up to date with what is happening.

New members: Linda Curran and David Frankton were welcomed back to the PCC and Carole McCormack and Isobel Short were welcomed in their absence on holiday.

Finance: The finances are healthier than previously and charitable giving is up on previous years. Moving to the Parish Giving Scheme is to be commended further.

Appointments: Various appointments were made and elections held, with the Electoral Roll Officer being the only gap. The agenda-setting Standing Committee consists of the Rector, Peter Trewby, Wendy Pritchard, David Frankton and Colin Hicks.

PCC Meetings: These are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month. The next Away-Day for longer-term planning is on 26 October.

Admission of children to Communion before Confirmation: A consultation is to be held, with guidelines provided by the Diocese as a basis. It is hoped this will be introduced soon, though obviously it will be open to each family to decide.

Step-free access and disabled car park: Nearly three-quarters of the *funds required* have been raised. The *builder* was agreed on. It was proposed that the path and ramp be of *tarmac*. It is hoped the work will be done mainly in *September and October*, with access in those months being by the *north door*. The *lease for the car park* has not yet been agreed with the diocese. The *defibrillator* will have to be re-positioned in consultation with the donor. Depending on faculty permission, the *Norman font* will be moved to a new location outside church, within the arc formed by the new pathway.

Christmas lunch: The Town Council is happy for town churches to organise this in the Town Hall. The Rector will consult other churches to gauge interest.

Safeguarding: PCC members were asked to read through the Church of England safeguarding policy papers for approval at the next meeting.

Bells: Susan Welch is now the Yorkshire Education Officer, with training sessions being held in our belfry.

Next meeting: 17th July '24

John Pritchard



CHARITY OF THE MONTH — JULY

This not-for-profit charity supports families with at least one child under the age of seven experiencing difficulties with day-to-day life.

JIM JACK tells us more about its work

Although the national Home Start organization provides a framework for local bodies, and says how the service and volunteer training should be offered, each local organization has to raise all of its own funds through donations, fund-raising and grants.

Our local Home-Start covers all of the former Richmondshire District, with family support offered wholly by volunteers who give two hours of their time each week to visit their 'paired' family and offer help as needed. This might be help with managing domestic chores; supporting medical appointments; playing with children in the home; or simply helping the family get out of the house e.g. to the local park. Whilst doing this, the volunteers become trusted visitors to the family. This offers confidence-building support — in much the same way as extended family used to do when their parents, aunts, uncles, or siblings wouldn't be too far away to lend a hand.

A number of those supported are single-parent families with more than one child, or families where one parent is working away from home for periods of time. Equally, some have both parents at home, but may have a child with significant illness or disability: each family is different, as are their needs.

The value of volunteers visiting is that they are not part of any formal organization e.g. social services, so there is a feeling of equality and friendship between family and trained volunteers. Also, volunteers often make themselves available at times when social services staff are not working.

Funds raised pay for volunteer travel-expenses and the pay of a small core team of part-time staff, who organize the service and co-ordinate fundraising to keep the local organization going. There is a 'very positive' response from families about the work of the volunteers.

For full details and to read testimonials, do have a look at the website www.homestartrichmondshire.org.uk. Donations can be made through the website or at the back of church.

Jim Jack



CHARITY OF THE MONTH — AUGUST

Marie Curie — the UK's leading end-of-life
Charity.

Marie Curie International memorial, now known simply as Marie Curie, was established in 1948 with 4 priorities:

- Establishing special residential homes to care for cancer patients;
- Providing home nursing for cancer sufferers;
- Providing help with practical needs such as bed-linen, furniture and medical equipment; and
- Giving public advice about cancer and the help available for patients.

During the 1950s and 60s, the Charity opened 9 Marie Curie Homes; was helping people who need nursing at home in 9 areas of the UK; and made research grants into the causes and treatment of Cancer.

Since then, the Charity has developed significantly, with an increasing focus on hospice care in purpose-built premises, but with Home Nursing remaining as its core service – not just for cancer sufferers, but now also for others with a terminal illness.

The Charity believes that, currently, about one in four people dying in the UK don't get the care and support they need – and the problem is getting worse as the population ages. By 2048, it is estimated that the need for end-of-life care will have increased by 25%, so they are aiming to deliver support – when, where and how it is needed – to more people, including those with dementia and from under-served communities.

In addition to actual nurses home-visiting to provide help and advice, they currently offer support and information in other ways – by phone (0800 090 2309) web-chat, website, printed media and an on-line community. They raise funds with their annual Daffodil appeal; through street collections and their numerous of Charity Shops; and various other events. For more information, take a look at their website – www.mariecurie.org.uk – and see what you can do to help them achieve their aims. Or, as usual, make an actual donation in the jar at the back of the church. Thank you.

John McCormack

CARPE DIEM ... AGAIN

And so to August, when the Dales' silence may be punctuated from 12th by the sound of gun shots, reminding the reader that a month with several wild animal protection/awareness days definitely does not include the grouse. **JIM JACK** continues his journey through the month to come, to remind of – or unveil – possible dates for your August diary,

The nights continue to draw in, with a newly elected government in place, but some dates come round annually, whatever the weather and whoever is in power.

If Yorkshire is indeed God's own county (and, as a true born Scot, I quite like the definition of a Yorkshireman as 'a Scotsman with the generosity taken out'), then the first day of the month – Yorkshire Day – is a day of note. Celebrations are held in a different Yorkshire town each year (it's York this year), where a declaration of integrity is read out, defining who may call themselves a Yorkshireman or woman. The day was chosen to commemorate the day when Yorkshire soldiers who fought in the Battle of Minden picked white roses as tributes to fallen comrades.



The day itself, however, is more recent, chosen by the Yorkshire Ridings Society – set up as a protest movement against local government re-organisation in 1974, which ended the formal 'Ridings' of the county as administrative areas of the country's largest named county of Yorkshire.

I mentioned earlier that this is a month where many animals have their day – even dogs (26 August – International Dogs Day). It's owls who first slip in silently with International Owl Awareness day (4th August) whilst, lurking in the ocean's depths, will word reach Sea Serpents on their special day (7th)? An international day for all Cats on the 9th is followed by World Lion Day on the 10th (big cats only – no tabbys or tigers – remember they've already had theirs). 12 August is World



Elephant Day, whilst lizards have their own day on the 14th. The endangered orangutan is the international focus on 19 August, whilst on the second day of the first cricket test match between England and Sri Lanka (24 August) is International Bat Day – the bat that works best under bad light or preferably no light at all.



Moving away from animals, the 9th is set aside as the as the UK Rice Pudding day. There's a day for Left-handers on the 13th and the 15th is a day for knitters to get cracking, knitting granny squares to join together to make blankets etc. on Granny Square Day.

And what of our saints celebrated this month? There are few who are well-known, and most with Saxon connections, however there are some of great significance. Two with North-

umbrian connections are St Oswald (5th August) and St Aidan (31st), whose lives have been featured in previous editions of this magazine – Aidan bringing Christianity to Northumbria and Oswald supporting him as promoter and translator in the spread of the religion.

From Richmond's point of view, it's August 15/16 which have the most significance, as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15th August (Usually her feast day is on the 16th). An ancient name for this day is the Transition of Mary – her crossing over to eternal life – or the Assumption of Mary. From becoming the mother of Jesus, she embarked on a journey that took her to the temple in Jerusalem; a wedding feast at Cana; the Cross of Calvary; and the upper room at Pentecost. Throughout Christian history, her story has spoken to people in every age, culture and land.



If August is 'light' on dates to celebrate better known saints, the work of saintly people is certainly marked during August. 9th August marks the remembrance of the death, in 1892, of Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union, an organisation still of worldwide significance today. 13 August marks the death – and therefore remembrance – of Florence Nightingale in 1910. She was the daughter of Unitarian Christians and was born whilst they were travelling in Italy – hence the name. At the age of 30, Florence gave her life to nursing and led significant improvements in nursing practices during the Crimean war and afterwards, supported by her strong faith. John Bunyan is also remembered in August – on the 30th.

So, plenty to ponder in the holiday month of August – whether it be the care of the world's wild life; the good works and demonstrations of great faith in action; or remembering to think of left-handed people and the eating of rice pudding. And to the Knit and Natter group – don't forget Granny Square Day.

Jim Jack

A TIME OF MY LIFE

We are coming to the end of a general election campaign, where all parties have published detailed, wordy manifestos — statements of intent. At the Civic Service in St Marys last October, the then Mayor of Richmond, **COUNCILLOR IAN WOODS**, summarised his agenda in a few words — promoting and recognising civic service. At the end of his term of office, he talks with **Jim Jack** and looks back — not only over his year as Mayor, but also the life which had brought him to this historic role and what's next after handing over the Chain of Office.

Ian Woods met me in the study of the home which he and his wife Fiona had bought in Richmond in 2018. Initially, he reflected on the journey from his Lancas-



trian birth; his study for a degree in English Literature in Leeds; and then living and working in a variety of places in West Yorkshire, before settling in Thornton-le- Moor in the former district of Hambleton, when his wife was appointed as a consultant at the Friarage Hospital in North-

allerton. Her medical studies pointed the way to her career path: Ian's Literature degree, however, was less clearly linked with his work with the minerals multinational Rio Tinto Zinc, where it was not on the engineering or metal processing side of the business, but in sales and marketing. This role required meeting new people and 'networking' with colleagues and potential clients — in short, communicating with people, seeing opportunities and links, and leading teams.

Taking responsibility and working locally was not foreign to Ian, for, when a student at Leeds, he took on a leading role with the charity fund-raising annual Rag magazine. Although the more usual way of producing such publications was to use a commercial national firm to run much of the process, he felt that it was important to use local printers, so he visited one particular local printer, who said he had been waiting for years to be asked. As a consequence, the printer ensured that the student publication was produced to a high quality and on time. He also gave Ian a list of advertisers, with all advertising revenue earned going back to their students' charities fund to be distributed locally. These socially ethical, entrepreneurial principles, used in giving local service and support for others are qualities which seem to have been a constant in the lives of both Ian and his wife Fiona, wherever they have worked, lived or travelled.

In due course Ian took a professional move to work for a commercial company in the textile trade — ‘Bag2School’. Partner UK schools collected unwanted clothes from families in schools and bagged them for collection by the company for export. When clothes were sold, a percentage of the profit went back to schools.



Fiona’s consultancy at the Friarage in Northallerton led to the family putting down new roots in North Yorkshire. Ian continued to work from there as his base and



Northallerton Street Angels

joined the New Life Baptist Church in Northallerton. Within a year, he was involved in setting up a Street Angels support scheme in the county town. Teams of volunteers (40 in total) walked around the streets (supported by monitored CCTV) from 10.00pm. on a Saturday evening until 4.00am on the Sunday morning, looking out for people in need of help and ensuring

that they were re-united with friends or family and had a safe place to go to before the night was over.

The scheme had to be put on ice in 2020 when Covid struck, but Ian’s forté for bringing people together and organising a volunteer force was deployed in a different way. Those regular readers who experienced their inoculations at Tenants in Leyburn, spoke warmly at the time of the quality of the volunteers who supported the process at that venue. It was Ian and Fiona who organised the volunteer cover and rotas, with a team of 60 people offering service to their community.

By this time, Ian and Fiona had been Richmond residents for over two years, whilst Ian, who had been Chair of the Parish Council at Thornton-le-Moor from 2015 until they moved, had responded to an advert looking for co-optees to the Town Council of this, their new home town, in 2018.

He was appointed to West Ward, a large ward with 1750 dwellings. Ian knows this because, with elections in 2019, he made a point of putting a leaflet though each door in his ward. He secured election as the representative for the area. No politicking, simply working in service to the community.

As a lover of history, the historic nature of the Town Council is not lost on Ian and

he has made a point of getting to know the history of this, the first of all Richmonds, better. Not content with simply learning of its past, Ian chose to serve the area and its tourists, sharing this knowledge as a town guide in the guise and Victorian garb of PC Charles Manley, the third policeman to be appointed by Richmond Corporation in the 1840s. Manley himself, seconded from the Metropolitan Police in London, found to his cost that this rural market town was no sinecure. Having had a number of 'run-ins' with hard-drinking 'navvies' building railways in the area, he was set upon several times, eventually dying, at the age of 37, of injuries sustained in the course of duty. The Ian Woods' incarnation, in contrast, lives on and will be part of a Victorian Music Hall planned for the Georgian Theatre in the near future.



The historic role of mayor was accorded to him in May 2023. Ian's interest in history meant that he took up the role well-versed in its past and traditions. The November 2023 edition of our magazine reprinted his address to the congregation at the Civic Service, in which he summarised some of the key parts of a role going back to 1665. On that occasion, almost 5 months into his term of office, he emphasised that his priority was to ensure that civic service — service to the community, whether voluntary or paid — would be celebrated, promoted and supported.



There was physical manifestation of this at Mayor Making in May 2023; at the Civic Service itself; and at the Mayor's Banquet towards the end of his term of office. Local GPs, nurses, teachers, voluntary youth organisations, charities, refugee organisations, carers and more were all invited, celebrated and publicly thanked for what they do in and for people in our town.

The formal part of the role has taken Ian to a wide range of places, some of which he may never otherwise have visited. As part of the Diocese of Leeds, he represented Richmond on formal occasions at Ripon Cathedral. He has visited other towns in the same way as their mayors come to Richmond on Civic Service days. He has been invited into schools and other venues, sometimes to talk about his role and its history or perhaps to present awards. On such occasions, he wears some or all of the ancient regalia of office.

Here, he pauses to talk of the fact that the mayoralty was hard won by his predecessors. The Mayor of Richmond is not only preceded by his/her ceremonial mace, but is the only mayor in the country who carries his/her own small mace. Many others were confiscated by Cromwell who sent commissioners round to impound

trinkets and baubles of value to swell his coffers. Arriving at Richmond, the ‘locals’ were able to convince them that this mace was simply an ornate tool for breaking sugar off the large blocks in which it was supplied in the 17th century. Demonstration of this unusual use (never of course previously tried) resulted in success in the breaking of sugar — as well as a small lump of silver coming out of the mace, which has not been repaired to this day.

It was not, however, for this ceremonial duty that Ian accepted nomination. It was an opportunity for him to ‘walk the talk’ of community service in different arenas and to promote the message of serving others — servant leadership. He has continued his own voluntary work whilst in office, as has Fiona, and has used his networking abilities to put people in touch with each other to make their work more effective.

He recalls a number of stand-out moments, more than can be mentioned here. Some of the more amusing were, for example, his attendance at Duck Club Sports Day, when the announcer said that there was a tradition that the mayor took part in a particular race. As a reasonably fit 70-year-old, Ian had the ‘presence of body’ to take part — and the presence of mind to take the microphone to create an unknown piece of history, saying that another tradition was that the mayor would always give precedence to all others participating by coming last! This cunning plan seemed to be working well in front of the cheering crowds — until those in the second and third last places slipped and fell. Marking time was the only way to maintain this newly created ‘tradition’, but gave a welcome breather.



Or the time he was meant to be at a boxing event at the invitation of the Army starting at 5.30, having already attended an out-of-area event which had overrun earlier in the day. A later than planned arrival at the barracks (and having had no food since breakfast time) led to a hurried entry to the ‘Camp’ and directions to a ‘Mess’, only to be confronted with a large assembly of army personnel in full military dress attire with wives/partners in evening gowns — but not a boxing glove in sight! A hurried exit, transfer to a different part of the site, and a dignified but somewhat breathless entrance to the gym, where there were hundreds of cheering squaddies watching the bouts. Ian became safely installed (in regalia?) behind members of the Royal Family of Bahrain. Whether he was ever fed that evening, I didn’t find out. What the story did elicit, however, was Ian’s tremendous gratitude

to the Army at Catterick in their support for Richmond and for him personally as Mayor.

Another moment of particular warmth, was a repeat of an initiative of the late Ann Brewer — a competition open to children of Richmond's primary schools to design a Christmas card for printing and use by the Mayor. Ian's design brief was for the children to illustrate an act of kindness to others. The winner, Kitty Brindle, drew a picture of a block of flats, with residents exchanging gifts across top-floor windows. Ian's wide 'network' thinking drew him to send this beyond the traditional list. He added in such dignitaries as the King and the Duke of Richmond. Ian was both delighted and touched to be able to pass on a card from King Charles to Kitty to congratulate her on her design, and a letter from the Duke, mentioning Kitty by name and saying that it reminded him that it was some time since he had visited the town and that he must come again in the near future.

Ian reflected that the saddest, and most poignant, moment of his year as Mayor occurred while he was taking part in a charity walk, the route of which passed near Catterick Garrison. The party was walking across some open ground, when a group of soldiers emerged from the cover of a copse. Although a dull day, the sun broke through and shone like a spotlight upon them. They were young men from Ukraine, training before going to join the conflict in their home country. A few weeks later, Ian met the Ukrainian Pastor and asked after the group of men he had seen. 'How many have survived?' was his question: 'Very few,' was the sad reply.



The Mayor's Banquet provided Ian with another opportunity to 'walk the talk.' He had heard through his conversations about a talented young chef, Thaer, a Syrian refugee. Here was an opportunity to bring people together once more. Thaer, surprised and delighted to be asked, set to and provided a most excellent meal for 100 guests in the Town Hall. This was cooked in kitchens off-site and transported in hot boxes to the event — facilities kindly provided by local businesses known to Ian and David and Jackie Walker, who are very active in support of our local refugee community. Look out for Thaer's forthcoming stall in the outdoor market—an enterprise triggered by this single request.

Now the year is over, Ian looked back on how being Mayor had affected his own life. It was immediately evident that the active support of Fiona was a huge help.

Planning their own family commitments with two adult daughters, one married with two children living not too far away in Wylam, and working in palliative care south of the Tyne, but the other teaching in Singapore, has been challenging.

And what next, now that the year is over? In December 2023, Ian once again 'walked the talk', by becoming a founding director of the newly-formed Richmond Yorkshire Community Interest Company (CIC). A CIC is a legally recognised body that the government added to the statute books back in 2005. It allows companies to be created that exist solely to deliver not-for-profit activities for the

benefit of their communities. The hoped for surplus that the Richmond Yorkshire CIC earns will be reinvested in sustaining new social enterprises that have been set up, as well as being distributed to various organisations or individuals in our community who are making Richmond an even better place to live.

One thing seems certain. Although the spotlight on Ian as Mayor will now move on to Bob White, there will be no let-up in either Ian or Fiona living their faith, in being willing to exercise servant leadership in an unassuming but highly effective way.



Jim Jack

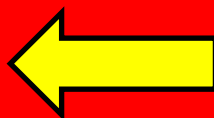
Friends of St Mary's Church Richmond
and
Found the Note
present

**Jo Carley and
the Old Dry Skulls**
Plus support

Friday August 16th
St Mary's Church Richmond
7.30pm for 8.00pm
Bar

Tickets : £10 from :
Blues Night 85, Frenchgate Richmond
and The Castlehill Bookshop
or contact :
foundthenote@yahoo.com

**A DATE
FOR YOUR DIARY**



NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

One of the most popular plants for summer gardens is the geranium, or, more accurately, pelargonium, as **WENDY PRITCHARD** explains below. Whether planted in borders or trailing from window-boxes and wall-pots, their rich variety of bright colours are always a joy to behold — especially when the sun shines.

One of the few flowers that most people can identify is a geranium, adorning roundabouts, parks and window boxes with their bright red, pink or white flowers. Discovered in South Africa in the 17th century, some specimens were taken to the Netherlands for breeding, then popularised throughout Europe. Today around 400 million are sold in Europe every year, with around 17,000 differently named varieties.

The only trouble is, these are not actually ‘geraniums’! They were given the name early on, because they had some resemblance to our native cranesbill, a true geranium. The popular plant we all know is actually a ‘pelargonium’, although the name ‘geranium’ has become so well-known that most people just stick to that.

The true geranium has flowers with five similar-sized petals, equally spaced, but a single-flowered pelargonium has two petals smaller than the others. This may seem a trifle fussy to deny it the name ‘geranium’, but that’s life in the flower world!

Pelargoniums die in the lower temperatures of our winter, but would survive happily if in a warmer setting. Proper geraniums are garden plants that have no problem with the cold – hence the name ‘hardy geranium’. These too are extremely popular – blue ‘Rozanne’ was winner of the RHS Plant of the Centenary at Chelsea Flower Show in 2013. Margery Fish, a famous gardener, is reputed to have said ‘If in doubt, plant a geranium’, a message I’ve taken to heart.

We have about 30 in our garden, with at least 16 different varieties.

Hardy geraniums can be blue, magenta, pink, white, pale pink or purple and some have leaves that turn orange-red in autumn. They can spread out to over a metre wide, or be tiny rockery plants, can hug the ground or grow a metre high. Some flower all summer, some can grow in dry shade, whilst some like full sun. Most



Geranium — Rozanne

die down over winter and can be cut back to the ground, but form nice mounds of fresh green when spring comes again. They need no special care except to give them a trim, if the flowering stems get too long and straggly. Only a few of the garden varieties seed themselves, so they won't take over your garden. A pink one I bought from a nursery does just that, though, if left to itself – it came with the description '*Idiot proof. Grows anywhere*', which should have been a warning!



Geranium — Patricia



Geranium — Dreamland

Hardy geraniums have lots of fascinating names. Geranium phaeum is known as 'Mourning Widow' because of its dark purple flowers; Geranium cantabrigiense is named 'cantab' from being bred in Cambridge; purple 'wlassovianum' is almost unpronounceable, but whoever named it 'Blushing Turtle'?

Wendy Pritchard



Warm Welcome is now in its second year and continues to provide a safe, warm, comfortable space in Richmond, where visitors are offered free hot drinks and light snacks. Over the winter months we were open on Monday, Wednesday, and

Friday each week, and we have relied on our rota of loyal volunteers. We are continuing through the summer and, from May, we will be open on Monday and Friday mornings, from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Volunteers are needed to welcome visitors, and to provide hot drinks and snacks. This remains a wonderful opportunity to serve the local community. If you feel that you could support this project by volunteering during any of the sessions, it would be good to hear from you. **To register your interest as a volunteer, please contact Dr John Ridley (Tel. 01748 818653, or by email: JohnRidley7449@aol.com).**

Thank you.

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 services — 28th July and 25th August
For children and the young at heart.

Why not come and join us?
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 meetings:
19th July and 30th August '24



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 July and 1st August '24



WORD SEARCH

SEA SUNDAY

14th July brings us Sea Sunday, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck.

To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries. You might wish to support one of these three well-known societies: The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican), The Apostolate of the Sea (Roman Catholic), and The Sailors' Society (inter-denominational).

July
Sea
Sunday
Remember
Pray
Give
Thanks
Merchant
Seafarers
Daily
Shops
Economy
Afloat
Harsh
Working
Environments
Piracy
Shipwreck
Hundreds
Global
Port
Chaplains
Hospitality
Friendship
Practical



Sudoku - Easy

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

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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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



"All are welcome
in this place."

Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku — Medium

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

Wordsearch

M	S	E	A	D	E	Y	L	I	E	C	O	W	H
R	P	E	L	H	N	Y	C	N	H	N	L	O	T
A	O	L	A	C	I	T	C	A	R	P	H	R	N
T	H	R	B	S	H	I	P	W	R	E	C	K	A
V	S	S	O	R	Y	L	I	A	D	I	Y	I	H
H	E	I	L	U	A	A	Y	A	A	A	P	N	C
C	A	M	G	I	H	T	D	S	D	H	Y	G	R
P	F	F	N	I	U	I	R	N	T	E	S	E	E
A	A	S	S	U	N	P	U	O	E	J	B	C	M
F	R	I	E	N	D	S	H	I	P	M	O	A	A
L	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	S	N
O	R	I	A	S	E	H	H	M	O	V	S	M	N
A	S	H	A	A	D	H	E	M	J	H	I	T	I
T	H	A	N	K	S	R	Y	L	U	J	E	G	R

**Deadline for September '24 edition; Friday 12th August.
To contribute letters, articles, etc. please contact
connections.ed24@gmail.com or 07866 033263**

TIME TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AT RICHMONDSHIRE MUSEUM



Come to Richmondshire Museum and spend time exploring our galleries that are full of the interesting history of the area.

Find us down Ryders Wynd just off King Street roundabout behind The Kings Head.

www.richmondshiremuseum.org.uk

@richmondmuseum



Advertisements

YARNS

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

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

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

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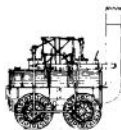
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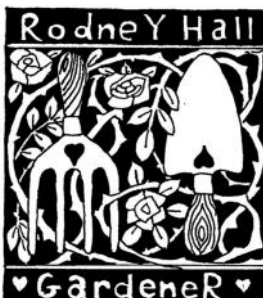
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