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May 2022

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Head of School: Mr B. Gatrill, NPQH

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**THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME
AND MARSKE**

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR

Revd. Martin Fletcher The Rectory, Church Wynd 07762 440094 or 821421
martin.fletcher@leeds.anglican.org

ASSISTANT CURATE

Revd. Paul Sunderland 1 Wathcote Place, Richmond 07989 178196
paul.sunderland@leeds.anglican.org

HONORARY CLERGY

Bishop John Pritchard · Revd. Jennifer Williamson - Revd Pauline Shepherd
Revd Martin Clarke

READER

Mr Scott Lunn 01748 826895 2 Hurgill Road slunn@richmondschool.net

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mrs Jennifer Patrick 850693 1 Roper Court, Richmond

ACORN CHRISTIAN LISTENERS

Mrs Jennifer Patrick 850693 Dr Sheila Harrisson 822059

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests to pray@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk or text 07394 907924

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CHURCH OFFICERS - ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND

<u>Mayor's Warden</u>	Dr Peter Trewby	824468	24 Hurgill Road
<u>Rector's Warden</u>	Mrs Jan Jack	07725 574188	jjackuk@gmail.com
<u>Warden Emeritus</u>	Mr David Frankton	823531	8 Allan's Court
<u>Director of Music</u>	Mr Chris Denton	07817 386070	chrisdenton@gmail.com
<u>Bell Captain</u>	Mrs Susan Welch	823700	8 Maple Road
<u>Head Verger</u>	Mr John Welch	823700	8 Maple Road

Parish Administrator

Colin Hicks 07498 299061 admin@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

OFFICERS OF THE PCC (AND OTHERS)

<u>Lay Chair</u>	Dr Peter Trewby	824468	24 Hurgill Road
<u>Secretary</u>	Sharon Digan	07791 426659	
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		07812 109243	
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<u>Publicity</u>	Andy Lovell	07974 766020	skeeby@skeeby.com

**N.B. National policy will continue to shape how we conduct public worship safely.
Please note current mask and distancing rules and
continue to check the web-site regularly for up-to-date details. Things can change!!**

CHURCH SERVICES - St MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND with Hudswell

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Sunday
10.00 a.m.	Parish Communion Worship for All	Every Sunday apart from 3rd Sunday (including communion) Every 3rd Sunday
4.00 p.m.	Café Church Fun-Key Church	3rd Sunday (every 2 mths—Jan, March etc) Last Sunday each month
6.30 p.m.	Choral Evensong Free to Be	Second Sunday each month 3rd Sunday (every 2 mths—Feb, April etc)
9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Wednesday
10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Thursday Holy Trinity Chapel, Market Place

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME

CHURCH OFFICERS

<u>Reader</u>	George Alderson	68, Brompton Park, Brompton on Swale DL10 7JP	07487 257646
<u>Church Warden</u>	Mrs Jean Calvert	823001 Thorpe Farm, Reeth Road, Richmond	
<u>Organist</u>	Fionnagh Bennet		
<u>Church Treasurer</u>	Phil Ham	07920 884103	'Sundale', Reeth, DL11 6TX philip.ham@outlook.com
<u>PCC Secretary</u>	Rev Jennifer Williamson	824365	rev.jenny1@btinternet.com

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

<u>Church Warden</u>	Mrs Ruth Tindale	823371	Skelton Lodge, Marske
<u>Organist</u>	Mrs Jennifer Wallis	822930	1 School Terrace, Marske
<u>Treasurer</u>	Mr Peter Coates	07801521954	Orgate Farmhouse, Marske peter.coates54@hotmail.co.uk
<u>PCC Secretary</u>	Rev Jennifer Williamson	824365	rev.jenny1@btinternet.com

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

I don't know about you, but it's so hard to look past the awful events in Ukraine and a total incomprehension about how a nation's military forces can carry out the actions which are rightly being reported to us daily in what is supposed to be an increasingly civilised world.

It really is hard to know how this will end and also difficult to come to terms with how helpless we are as individuals to make things different. It also does raise questions for us of what is happening in other corners of the world of equal damage to human beings there of which we know little and therefore do little. With our dual focus on USPG as charity of the month and Christian Aid, we are also reminded of the little things we can do to help—a challenge to church, state and individuals alike,

On the home front, this month's magazine reminds us of how things are 'opening up', with churches playing host to more events, meetings resuming—whilst our personal contacts will also be reminding us that Covid has definitely not gone away. Even if vaccinated, it can still have debilitating effects after the initial infection has gone.

So we have reports and reviews of these activities as we look back to March and April and information of what's to come in May. We have regular contributors still bringing their interests and specialisms to you— a carefully chosen cover photo from Ian Short, walking with William, history with Jane, a different sort of poem from George and a look back at May customs with Liz. The three part series recalling the volunteer efforts which brought the Station in Richmond to its current iteration is concluded this month, reminding us of how many in the community worked together to make it happen.

At a different level, Mister Jack Finney's alternative Richmond Meat comes to a rousing conclusion. Another Grand Day Out is offered and a favourite hymn to learn more about from Judith MacLeod broadens our knowledge. We do want to hear which hymns appeal to you, so do get in touch to have chat upon which an article can be based—or even write the whole thing yourself! John Pritchard follows up his Café Church chat with Revd. Julia Reid with a Sixty Second Interview, whilst also offering further thoughts on 'Pathways in Prayer' and a useful summary of PCC matters. It would be good to hear what the Downholme and Marske PCC has been doing.

Annual Parish Meeting time at all of our churches is a time for review and planning for the future. We pray for and support our volunteer committee members who give their time to this work. With a new Mayfest in Richmond, internationally acclaimed artistes (and Fourum) at the Swaledale Festival and Friends of St Mary's events beginning—it's time to get out and about—safely! Go well.

Many thanks to Ian Short for this month's seasonal cover photograph



Martin's Message March 2022



2022 seems to be flying by! As I write at the beginning of April Easter is not far away. By the time you read this we will be well into the long Eastertide season and, I hope and pray, looking forward to our celebrations of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee on the weekend of Pentecost. Meanwhile, May will be another busy month in the life of our churches.

There will be the **Annual Meetings**, the Richmond with Hudswell Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) taking place at St Mary's on Sunday 8th, straight after the 10am service. The Downholme and Marske APCM will take place at St Edmund's on Tuesday 24th at 7pm. We will be electing our Churchwardens and PCC members for the year ahead, and appointing our church officers.

On Saturday 21st May, the Richmond with Hudswell PCC will be meeting for a **PCC Away Day**. They will gather to pray and plan together, setting priorities for the coming year. Please pray for those who represent the parish in this way – and please let them know what you feel our priorities should be.

Christian Aid Week has always been a fixture in May and will this year be from **Sunday 15th until Saturday 21st**. In Richmond the churches come together to raise both awareness of and funds for this worthy cause in Christian outreach. Details of the work of Christian Aid and of the various ways we can offer our support can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Ascension Day falls this year on Thursday 26th. To mark this major festival in the Christian calendar there will be a special service of Holy Communion in St Mary's at 7pm. On Ascension Day we recall how the disciples were called by the risen Lord Jesus to continue his missionary work and invited to wait until they had been 'clothed with power from on high'. Together, we too are called – and equipped – to play our part in building the Kingdom.

The ten-day period between Ascension Day and Pentecost has become established in recent years across all denominations as the time for a wave of prayer known as **'Thy Kingdom Come'**. At the heart of our prayer are the words Jesus himself taught us, 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done'. In striving to back up our petitions with action we can confidently expect God to use us to help answer this prayer.

And then on Sunday 5th June we will celebrate **Pentecost** and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As we acknowledge that we can do nothing by our own strength – and the abundance of God’s grace – it is fitting that Queen Elizabeth should be celebrating her Platinum Jubilee that weekend: 70 glorious years on the great 50th day! Throughout her years of service she has shown by example a deep and humble trust in God’s grace: a model Christian life.

After the Cards returns

Since the first Lockdown was imposed our valued bereavement ministry *After the Cards* has had to discontinue its monthly in-person gatherings. However, as regular readers of this magazine will be aware, Carrie Stephenson has faithfully maintained the offer of support through telephone contact. As Carrie says, ‘bereavement is a very difficult time for the spouse or partner left behind. Starting again on your own is even more difficult. We are here to help you with the next step.’

Meeting again in person resumed last month, with future gatherings taking place on the first Wednesday of each month: 1:30pm at the Fleece for relaxed and informal conversation over coffee. If you would like further details do please contact Carrie (850103), Jennifer Patrick (850693), Paul or myself.

With every blessing this Eastertide,

Martin

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We welcome those who have joined the church through baptism

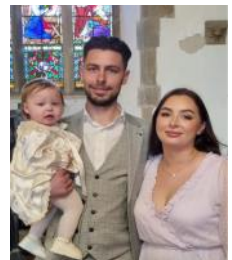


Spencer Colin Gregory

with his parents Reece
& Charlotte Gregory

Ivy Rose Shepherd.

with her parents Billy
Shepherd & Rebecca
Tennant



Charity of the Month



Our support this month returns to the United Society Partners in the Gospel (www.uspg.org.uk), the Anglican mission agency which partners churches and communities worldwide in God's Mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock the potential in communities and support the championing of justice.

As with other charitable organisations, USPG is specifically inviting donations to support humanitarian work for people affected by the war in Ukraine—those still in the country, those who have left and also anticipating the long-term work of recovery in the future.

Their website also highlights other routes for donations—setting up a wellness garden in Zimbabwe, supporting children to attend school in Sri Lanka, helping women to attend pre-natal outreach clinics in Africa are just some of the examples.

You can donate through the usual basket at the back of church, cash in an envelope through the Rectory/Parish Office door or direct to USPG via their informative website whose address is given above. Thank you. *The Charitable Giving Team*



We have laid to rest those who have died.



Anne Forster 15th March

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

(Extract from 'Death is Nothing at All' by Revd Henry Scott Holland)

WHAT'S ON IN MAY ?

- Saturday 30th April: Concert with GreenMatthews—'A Brief History of Music' 600 years of music in 90 minutes (St Mary's at 7.30 p.m.). Part of Richmond Mayfest—tickets via Richmond Mayfest on line booking.
- Monday 2nd May: Richmondshire Choral Society in St Mary's. 5 p.m. Choruses from Handel's 'Messiah' and the original local work 'Cantique 950' written as part of Richmond 950 celebrations. Part of Richmond Mayfest. Free admission—donations welcome.
- Sunday 8th May: St Mary's Annual Parish meeting 11.15 a.m.
- Monday 9th May: Friends of St Marys Committee Meeting 2.00 p.m.
- Saturday 14th May: Vox Populi at St Mary's.
- Sunday 15th May: Annual Green Howard's Service (St Mary's) 11.45 a.m.
Café Church . St Mary's . 4.00 p.m.
- Saturday 21st May: PCC Away Day (a.m)
Recital by Iona Brown & Mike Gerrard (Royal Northern Sinfonia Orchestra) St Mary's 3.00 p.m. raising funds for Henry Dancer Days Children's Cancer Charity (details on page 35)
- Sunday 22nd May: Rogation Sunday. Rogation comes from the Latin word which Means 'to ask.' - in this case asking God for forgiveness and protection. Rogation Sunday traditionally marked the start of a period of fasting or abstinence leading up to Ascension Day. Also marches & processions were used to mark the day, often for 'beating of the bounds' - walking the parish boundaries to indicate the areas for which they were praying for protection of crops within the parish so defined.
- Thursday 26th May: Ascension Day. Holy Communion 7.00 p.m.
- Saturday 28th May: Gala Concert opens Swaledale Festival. Handel's 'Messiah' @ Ripon Cathedral (7.30 p.m.) Tickets via Swaledale Festival office
- Sunday 29th May: Service of Baptism at noon (St Mary's)
- Tuesday 31st May: Swaledale Festival Event. Brodsky Quartet & Laura van der Heijden (7.30 p.m.) Tickets via Festival office

LOYAL DALES VOLUNTEERS (The Station—part 3)

With the 'train shed' now in the care of the newly-formed trust and the unseen work of securing support for the volunteer-led project in hand (PARTS 1 & 2), we now hear how the group decided to put the grade 2* listed building to work as a focus for community fund-raising. Substantial grants were in the process of being secured -£1.2m from the EU, £690,00 from the Heritage Lottery, but thus left a shortfall of £350,000 to be raised from (and by) the people of Richmond and the surrounding area to bring the project to fruition. This was the time for the hundreds of signed up supporters to roll up their collective sleeves and bring the Station to life.

'It's not a station, it's a cathedral'

Thus spake a South African visitor when he walked in to the vast light, open space which was the cleared train shed as preparation for the first open day began. A new life was beginning as the doors were opened on a two year fund-raising challenge.

• FRIENDS OF •

RICHMOND STATION

BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST

In the years between acceptance of the community-led proposals for the station and the building opened to the public on November 9th, 2007, a small group of volunteers brought their expertise to the work in a number of ways. Alongside the central work done by Donald Cline and Ian Hepworth in negotiating with funders, council officers and councillors, others gave their professional expertise free of charge in such fields as legal work, building contracting procedures and accessibility issues. Having paid in excess of £50,000 to RDC for the lease of the 'train shed' (the station building itself), trustees now had access to whole building and, with suitable insurances and Health and Safety checks in place, began organising groups of volunteers from the list of Friends to take the vision to the community.

The large sliding doors at the end of the building were pushed open and a team from Randall Orchard moved in to remove the last vestiges of the Richmond Garden and Farm Supply infrastructure, leaving a light, dry cavernous building available for development. The Community Team from the Trust decided to put the building to use until such time as the development work was ready to start.

Their aim was three fold – to help to raise the £350,000 community contribution to the scheme, to give the community access to the space to share the vision of what it could become and to enable the many volunteer supporters to take a further stake in making the project happen.



So, on a bright Saturday morning, Richmond Pride moved in, augmented by signed up volunteers from the initial DL10 'mailshot'. A massive weed and tidy effort filled skips with shrubbery and weeds and the rubbish from the fenced yard area outside the station—removed free of charge by Yorwaste.



Although there was no heating in the building, there was electricity and water on site. To prepare the building for temporary use by volunteers, Sue Holden and her team secured donations of carpet, carpet fitting, paint and items of furniture for the former waiting room, which then served as a base for the volunteers.

One enterprising idea was to recruit a local professional tiler to run a day's tiling course, free of charge. By the end of the day, the toilet area had had a makeover with gleaming white tiles, whilst volunteers had learned new skills. One toilet seat was missing – reputedly removed by an unidentified Kate Winslett fan on an assumption that it had been a 'throne of the stars' when the building had been briefly leased to a film company making the feature film 'Jude' starring the said M/s Winslett and Christopher Ecclestone. A donated seat was duly fitted and the area was ready for use!

Dancing on Ice—almost

A programme of events was planned, each chosen to appeal to different interest groups in the area and, with a January weekend targeted for the first of these, what better than to bring in a skating rink for the weekend – a clear signal that one future aim for the building was as a place for families.

Volunteers acted as stewards, sold tickets, promoted the event. A caravan was driven in and parked on the track bed, providing a base for volunteers and providing hot water for drinks sold at a temporary snack bar, again stocked and staffed by friends of the Station. All tickets were sold in advance; a local firm provided propane gas heaters and cylinders at no charge – as indeed they continued to do throughout the time when events were staged at this magnificent venue. What could go wrong?

Well, nature took a hand overnight. At the town end of the Station were six trees, planted in 1899 to mark the visit of the then Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) to

Richmond – one for each of his children. A force 8 gale blew in, uprooting one of the one hundred year old historic trees , which fell within centimetres of a trustee’s car and completely blocked the entrance to the car park. This was spotted at 7.00 a.m. – but volunteers armed with chain saws arrived, cut the tree into slices (which were later sold in aid of the project!) so that when eager children arrived with parents for the first session, there was no real evidence of anything untoward having happened. (If you’ve ever wondered why one of the trees on the triangle of grass outside the Station is smaller than the rest—that’s the reason. The Trust planted a replacement in due course!).



The first open event was a huge success in terms of community involvement and use. People had experienced how this Victorian listed structure could be enjoyed – one of the essentials of any Heritage Lottery supported project.

The event also taught the Community Team that being able to serve refreshments was important, both from a fund-raising point of view and as a social complement to activities . So the ‘Platform Café’ was born.

What Ye Shall Eat—and Drink; Fit for a King?

Volunteer Peter, a water engineer by trade, climbed the ladders to bring a water supply to the area of the platform opposite where Angel’s Share is now located. A local electrician installed more lighting and electrical sockets for boilers, again giving labour free of charge. The only problem was the sloping platform!



Visitors to the Station now may not be aware that the platform used to slope downwards from its edge down to the main doors. In 1846, the platform had been level. However, a change in carriage design meant that the platform needed to be higher – but to raise the whole thing would have meant having step down into the offices, waiting rooms and toilets.

Answer? Jack up the flags at one side, raise the support walls at the track side (and to a lower level half way across) and drop them back into place – great for getting into trains, but not good for tables, chairs and a long service counter. Once again, volunteers stepped up and made a counter which,if standing on level ground,

was higher on one side than the other but perfect for a sloping platform! With recycled timber, two cheap worktops from B & Q (one of the few things not donated) and mugs, glasses and plates, soup kettles from ebay, two catering urns from Norman, a stainless steel catering table with sink which someone had in his garage (don't ask why.. I don't think he could remember!), the Platform Café which was eventually to offer Prince Charles and Camilla a cup of tea, was born. Led by 'the 'two Margarets' with their team of volunteer helpers, it was to play an important role over the following eighteen months. At every day-long event, the doors opened with the smell of bacon sandwiches wafting through the air. And so the events began.

Eventful Times

Jude organised regular Book Fairs, John organised Rail Collectors Fairs, there were events and exhibitions of the work of local school children. Young students from Richmond School displayed their unicycling and juggling skills at one event, whilst local brass bands gave concerts in the building. A local felt maker and artist ran



workshops for children whilst the rooms which had been refurbished were used for occasional courses and meetings. None of these occasions raised massive sums of money – certainly none hit the tens of thousands, but what volunteer 'Friends of the Station' were able to do was to invite the whole community to cross the threshold and become part of the vision for a new asset for the area.

Open days were also organised. Roger brought his consummate television skills to interviewing people on camera about their memories of Richmond Station, building up a heritage bank of recollections of the place of the railway in the town and in their lives. On another day of children's activities, the Fire service came in , games were organised and a miniature railway was installed to bring back steam travel to the station. Unfortunately, organisers forgot that the louvred vents in the roof had been blocked up when the roof had been refurbished so the service had to be

suspended occasionally for the smoke to clear – no leaves on the line but no louvres above the line either!

There were big events too. A 'Taste of Italy' evening was organised with a three course Italian meal, accompanied by a performance of baroque music by Richmondshire Orchestra to a backdrop of images of Italian Art projected onto a large screen as darkness fell. Volunteers sourced and brought in furniture, prepared the food, found the screen (again, free of charge) and staffed the event. A full Mayor's Ball was held in the Station – a highly colourful event – which again involved bringing in large quantities of tables and chairs and, in this case, outside caterers. A major local arts and crafts display – the forerunner of the 'Spot on The Wall' still held annually at the Station - allowed artists to exhibit and the public to view – raised further funds for the project as exhibitors paid to show their talents.



Perhaps the largest single fund-raising event in the Station itself was 'Hague, Hog and Honkey Tonk'. This brought together a hog roast, a jazz band and an entertaining talk by William Hague and necessitated supplementing the chairs already on site (another eBay purchase) with tables and chairs loaned by Richmond School. Nearly 700 people sat in the improvised 'theatre' on the track bed with the hog roast quietly rotating in the yard outside. In party conference style, once again a large screen was borrowed and the late Mike Porter used his professional camera and sound equipment to project our former MP's image onto the screen behind. Once again, the volunteer force rallied round to put this together – and to take it apart the next day, returning loaned items to their owners.

Let's Go Fly A Kite!

Activity was going on off-site as well. Anna and Tim organised an annual 'Open Gardens' event; another Tim and Austin ran a 'Silent Auction' with a meal at their home which raised over £10,000. Sue and Kathryn, with a large team of volunteers, organised two Kite Festivals on the Racecourse with free entry but with trade stalls to accompany the flying displays. The second of these also offered a marquee-based meal in the evening. These festivals also surprisingly introduced local people to the race course



for the first time, but as a mass attendance event, they were excellent in publicising the project to the community. Once again, over one hundred volunteers were

in evidence -staffing car parking, patrolling the area, shaking donations buckets, offering health and safety coverage, handing out leaflets and enjoying seeing the family fun which the festivals created. Money raised from these events combined to trigger a matched funding offer from a private donor, who had already made a substantial individual contribution. Seeing how the project was developing, he offered another £50,000 if the community could also raise £50,000. They duly did ... and more!

This fundraising was complemented by personal donations from people in the area. Some paid £1,000 to be a 'Friend for Life', others simply donated what they could if they could; there were occasional collaborative projects with other charitable trusts in town; other people ran events themselves and handed over the cash; some private foundations gave money; one gave a five year loan from £150,000 with repayment over 5 years – invaluable to help the Trust when bills had to be paid before grants were received. The 'Darlington and Stockton Times' adopted the project as a fund-raising casue , encouraging readers to donate. From wherever it came, the money was raised and the project could move to completion.

The volunteer effort to support the re-birth of the Station in a new guise was significant and lasted over an extended period of time. The events run in the Station itself showed how invaluable this unique large covered space could be. Where else in town could this be achieved? But it also showed the community that, to keep its Station going when re-opened, the amount of work needed to constantly find new uses for the space from occasional users was not a sound basis upon which to build a certain and long-term future for the building. As Trustees had decided, the safer way to do this was to secure some long-term tenancies which would supply what people had asked for but which also create a flow of income which would keep the Station open.



There was a curious sadness in the volunteer force when the builders moved in to do the conversion work. The satisfaction from achieving a financial target was mixed with a realisation that the camaraderie from working together on making the vision a reality would probably wither. But the volunteer effort had brought them together, made new friends and acquaintances and given a positiveness and pride in the town for 'our Station'. And when the doors opened in November 2007, people literally came from far and wide – and still do so- to experience the end product of the combined efforts of its volunteer workers. . Not quite a cathedral, but still a focal point created by the community for the community for years to come. *JEJ*

PATHWAYS IN PRAYER

Praying as relationship

Prayer isn't so much about methods and techniques as simply a relationship with a God who loves us lavishly and unreservedly. So think of your closest relationship, be it with a partner, friend, parent or child. There will be different levels or dimensions of that relationship that may correspond with our relationship with God. I suggest:

'Just getting on with it.'

Chatting

Talking

Intimacy



I'll take one of these each month.

'Just getting on with it.'

Whatever close relationship you choose to think of, much of it will be lived naturally and unselfconsciously. I'm not thinking all day, 'Gosh, I'm married to Wendy – how lucky am I!' I don't go on about it but it's always there as a secure backdrop to my life.

Similarly much of our relationship with God involves simply getting on with the pleasures and problems of everyday life, but against the background of God's good and loving presence.

Every so often I'll remember Wendy (lovingly of course!) and, as it were, 'look in her direction.' So we might look in God's direction too at different times through the day, remembering the 'love that will not let me go.' We glance at God, and smile.

Brother Lawrence, a 17th century monk who worked in the kitchens, called this 'practicing the presence of God.' He said he found God as much in his kitchen as in the chapel. So might we also as we practice the presence of God in our daily activities, not piously but simply with pleasure. Look over the shoulder of whatever is happening and glance in God's direction.

And practice makes perfect!

John Pritchard

A Prayer for our Times

Dear Father in Heaven

As we thank you for May, this most beautiful of months, we know that not everything in your world is beautiful; not every attitude kind or just.

There is so much pain and suffering in the world that we can sometimes feel overwhelmed and helpless. Help us, Lord, to remember that Jesus came to bring brokenness together, to bring reconciliation and wholeness.

Thank you that nothing in all creation—no evil attacks, no illness, no human powers, no circumstances at all—can separate us from Your love. We will not be overwhelmed as we keep our eyes and thoughts on You. Guide us, we pray, to do what we can and must to make your world a better place. Be with those especially who need to know of your love and comfort.

In Jesus' name Amen

From a prayer by Daphne Kitching

LOCAL FOODBANK

Foodbank use continues to rise. Can you help, please— either by buying extra from the list below during your weekly shop and donating via their 'bins' or leaving at the back of Church. Particular need for tinned vegetables and tuna currently.

Foodbank Reminder: Essential Items

For readers who add to their weekly shop by buying items for the Foodbank based at the Influence Church, a reminder of the most useful donations;

Tins of : meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, soup, beans, pasta, tinned meals (e.g. chilli, stew), pies, rice pudding

Packets of: pasta, pasta sauce, noodles, cereal, porridge, rice, biscuits

Jars of: pasta sauce, sandwich fillings, jam, spreads

Also: UHT milk, squash

More information : storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk

Or please contact Suz Gregory on 01748 823161

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT St MARY'S?

March meeting of the PCC

These are some of the items that may be of interest to those not on the PCC:

The church building:

- ◆ There was a proposal for two new noticeboards to give more visibility to publicity about church events.
- ◆ We will be trialling a single floodlight for the tower. The unit will be borrowed for the trial period and will use the same energy as a 50W LED bulb.
- ◆ Ian Short will form a small group of people to visit churches that have undertaken internal reordering. This will give information that will help our discussions about north aisle reordering plans.

Global Sanctuary Foundation:

The PCC agreed to register an interest in offering appropriate support for Ukrainian refugees.

Saving Creation

The Deanery Synod has had an extensive discussion about the project for the diocese to become net-zero in carbon emission by 2030. Some members of the PCC had attended a webinar with useful information on different heating sources. Short term our priority would be carbon off-setting. Work continues.

Children and young people

We have new children in the choir and as bell ringers. There was an encouraging discussion about future plans - the possibility of restarting an ecumenical toddler group, growing relations with Trinity Academy, and involving the pupils in Fun-Key church.

Pastoral care

A review will be taking place after Easter of our developing ministry of pastoral care, particularly of those who could be forgotten. The goal is the creation of proper relationships, not just 'visiting.' Paul Sunderland will report back.

Other items: Chalice assistants, sidespersons, music (including thanks to Keith Robson for the Nunc Dimittis and Magnificat that he's written for the choir), church hiring policy, finance, Covid-19 precautions, bell-ringing.

NOTES FROM OUR PAST

JANE HATCHER's most recently published book —'Richmondians' - contains many fascinating and revealing stories of people who have lived and worked in the town in the past and some of whom have achieved national recognition for their work.

In this 'time piece', we hear the story of the clock on the tower and its link with a medical practitioner of local renown—and also of one of his patients whose writings were known far beyond the confines of our market town.

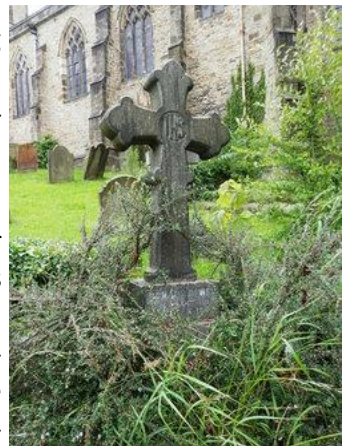
Tempus Fugit

We rather take for granted the clock chiming away in the tower of St Mary's Church. The church tower seems to have had a clock by 1689, when Thomas Apedale was paid 8 shillings to 'keep' it. And in 1739 when James Harrison, of Barton in Lincolnshire, put up a new bell-frame, he also repaired the parish clock. Further repairs to it, and the replacement of small parts such as ropes, occur frequently among the 'petty cash' expenditure of the churchwardens.

However, this early clock would seem to have been taken down, for no clock is shown on paintings of the church by the Georgian artist George Cuit, nor on prints and early photographs from the time just before and just after the Victorian restoration of the church.

The present clock was installed in St Mary's at Easter 1894 in memory of Richard Bowes by his widow Sarah. So who was Richard Bowes, to deserve such a memorial? As well as being a stalwart member of the congregation of St Mary's, he was much loved as one of Richmond's many 19th-century medical practitioners.

Furthermore, he was a member of a family which produced quite a dynasty of Richmond doctors, or surgeons as they were then usually termed. Richard's grandfather Matthew (1725-1811) was a noted apothecary in Richmond, and Matthew's son, Christopher (1764-1850), was apprenticed to him, before becoming a naval surgeon on the slave ships. Christopher later retired back to Richmond, living in Frenchgate. He also kept a record of the town's rainfall.



The Bowes Grave Marker in St Mary's Churchyard

Christopher Bowes married twice. His first wife, Jane Readshaw, died shortly after giving birth to their son, also named Christopher, who sadly died at the age of 20 in Edinburgh, where I assume he was studying medicine. With his second wife Mary Hutchinson he had quite a large family, including three sons who all entered the medical profession. Richard was the middle son, born on 24 October 1809, and dying on 1 January 1892, so he had quite a long life. He practised in Richmond with his younger brother John, who would eventually die at Pau in France a few months later in March 1892, although he was brought back to Richmond for burial.

I have recently been looking at the late-Victorian diaries of Anne Bowman (1796-1886), a Richmond authoress who had great success as a writer. Her range of best-selling books covered a variety of subjects, from cookery to adventure stories for boys. The diaries cover the last twenty years of her life, when she was getting on in years, and the entries make innumerable references to her consultations with 'Mr Bowes' about her many ailments.



Anne Bowman

In those days, he always attended his patients at their home. There is no evidence of his seeing patients at a 'surgery'. His bill was sent retrospectively once a year, and it caused quite a shock when it arrived – "rather appalling" she says on one occasion! The account presumably included the cost of many medicines as well as his visits.

At various times Anne Bowman complains to her diary about a painful liver, heart palpitations, rheumatism, diarrhoea, biliousness, vertigo, a cough which kept her awake at night, a mosquito bite. We are rarely informed what Mr Bowes prescribed, though it sometimes included a tonic, instructions to stay indoors to avoid harsh weather, to eat better, and purgatives. He must have had great patience, and this even extended to him posting medicines to her when she wrote to him with complaints while she was staying at the seaside at Redcar or Whitby.

Mrs Bowes supported her husband by helping to raise money for 'good causes' in the town, including a "Lying-In" charity established to provide support for hard-up women when they gave birth. The charity would then at its discretion distribute a box of linen, baby clothes, and that great and expensive luxury – soap – to aid the hygiene of both mother and baby. Many communities founded such charities in the 19th century, well-to-do people subscribing to their funds. Anne Bowman subscribed 3/6. Although the National Health Service has generally taken over such welfare work, some similar charities still exist. The Richmond one seems to have folded in 1933.

COFFEE MORNINGS.

Our first coffee morning is getting very close now. **It is on Saturday 28th May** and is being hosted by Rachel and Howard Walker at their home at 'Northcliffe', Gatherley Road, Brompton-on-Swale, DL10 7JH.

The event is due to **commence at 9.30 am** and continue through **to 12.30 pm**. Many thanks to Rachel and Howard for offering us the hospitality of their home

As part of our fellowship and finally being allowed a little more freedom to socialise, we have planned a few other events to be held throughout the rest of this year. The thoughts behind this series of coffee mornings are to enjoy each others company, drink coffee or tea, bring—and buy—products such as cakes, biscuits, breads and really anything that you feel will make us all come back to the next event.

We will be holding a single prize raffle during the morning with the winner being declared before you leave to go home.

The dates for future events are as follows, so please put them into your diaries:

Rachel and Howard Walker	28th May
Alice and John Challis	16th July
Carole and John McCormack	6th August
Jeanette and Paul Sunderland	17th September

The dates for The Town Hall coffee mornings are Thursday 16th June and Saturday 17th December.

This is the beginning of many events that the planning committee of "The Friends of St Mary's " have scheduled for this year. If you wish to part of the team to help us, or would like to host a coffee morning please let us know.

John Challis
07712 135601



POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

GEORGE ALDERSON has recently written a reflection on the challenges and habits attached to mobile phone use.

Do We Need The Mobile Phone?



“Man cannot live by bread alone.”
These days he “kneeds” a mobile phone!
It doesn’t matter where he goes,
He “must” be linked with “friends” and “foes”,
And woe betide him if it’s off,
As one of them is sure to scoff!

“So, where’ve you been? I called last night.
I wondered if you were alright?
You didn’t say that you’d be out!
(Been up to mischief, I’ve no doubt!)
And anyway the voicemail said
“He’s not available. In bed?!”

It’s though you have no need to sleep.
It’s such a shame that chat is cheap!
The questioning goes on until
You’ve heard enough. Your lips were still,
But now you have to say your piece,
Before the jeers and jibes increase,
For goads like this are rare from one,
There’s often more who set upon
The quest to find out where you were
And meanwhile have a little stir!



The trick’s to go for empathy –
In other words “it’s them and me!”
You say “the signal wasn’t strong
And as I waited for so long,
The battery needed quite a charge,
Then I had problems, small and large!”
So, now, at last, the subject drops.
Quite suddenly the taunting stops.

It’s just as if they’ve taken ill!
They need some sort of speaking pill!
The mobile has what it calls “apps”
From videos to books and maps.

It is a very clever tool
With recipes to make you drool
And games and films and so much more.
It gives advice, from leaks to law.

The problem is we start to feel,
It is as useful as the wheel!
We cannot put it down in case
We cannot keep up in the race!
Where once we could communicate
It seems we now have placed our fate
In looking at a little screen
To learn what other folk may mean!



The sound of peace, once in a while,
Is much preferred to “ring” and “dial”
But if you wish, please, send a text.
You’ll not disturb, they’ll not be vexed,
Or maybe wait until you meet,
Or else, perhaps, put pen to sheet?

Yet, if it isn’t worth the strain,
Consider what you hoped to gain.
“Man cannot live by bread alone”
But can he live without his phone?!

George Alderson



"It comes to something when the state of the pound is such that we *hope* to find lots of foreign coins!"

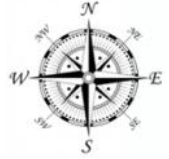


...if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon...



WILLIAM'S WALKS

May 2022



WILLIAM GEDYE's suggested walk this month takes us along a well-known part of Wensleydale, sometimes known as the Leyburn Shawl, Queen Mary's Shawl—even Lady Algitha's Shawl. Whoever or whatever the 'shawl' is attributed to, the walk known as the Shawl offers wonderful views through trees now coming into leaf of a dale which is wider than Swaledale.

The 'shawl' attribution is due to the legend that Mary, Queen of Scots, escaped briefly from her confinement in Castle Bolton in 1568 and fled along this escarpment towards Leyburn. Snagging her shawl on a briar branch as she fled, she had no time to retrieve it. Pursuers found it and the 26 year old Mary was soon re-captured, never to have the relative freedom she enjoyed in Wensleydale again.

Less romantically inclined folks may prefer to believe that the word derives from the old word 'shaw' meaning 'wood' or the old Norse word 'schalle' or 'skali' meaning huts or shelters. On the land below the Shawl, it is said that there are some remains of prehistoric dwellings occupied by early dalesfolk. However far you venture along this limestone escarpment, an overview of Lower Wensleydale is almost guaranteed.

Start/Finish – Leyburn Marketplace

Ordnance Survey Map OL 30 Yorkshire Dales
(Northern & Central Areas)

Distance: 4 miles

This walk has splendid views of lower Wensleydale and Pen Hill. It is 4 miles, but can be shortened by turning back anywhere along The Shawl.



Refreshments, Parking & Toilets—Leyburn Market Place

-o0o0-

Leave Leyburn Marketplace, heading up Shawl Terrace between the Bolton Arms and Campbell's store. Go left and right through the gates onto the Shawl and pause to admire the special view of Pen Hill and the Wensleydale valley. Continue up the good path/track along The Shawl, which falls away steeply to the left.

Follow the path across the field and go through the gate with the wood on your left. Go up through the wood and emerge by the seats which are a great place to pause and admire the evolving views.



The Shawl quarry is on your right.

Keep going along the path which rises up through the trees (the site of Lady Alghitha's Cave—now collapsed- is marked on the RHS of the track), emerging with a stile over into the fields on the left.

Follow the path across the fields keeping right at the path junction staying on the level. At the end of the fields, turn left before the wood and follow the good track down to the farm.

Turn left along the track above the farm buildings going through several fields.

When you get to a large open field take the path off to the left after about 50 yards. Follow this back up the steep slope to The Shawl.

Retrace your steps back down to Leyburn.

This is a Ramblers' Wellbeing Walks Richmondshire route. For more information email: walk.for.health@btinternet.com or call William on 07710 739192



Last Sunday of Every Month !

4.00 p.m.

Why not come and join us?

**Tell your family and friends—anyone
with children**



MOTHERS' UNION

Party at Town Hall 5th May 2.00 p.m.

All are welcome at the St Mary's branch.

For details, contact Susan Scrafton (07530 392935), Margaret Clayson (822631) or Christine Steadman

BEHIND THE HYMNS

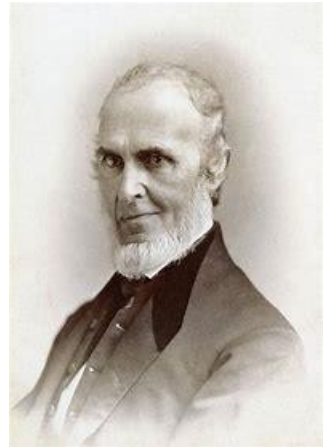
Many readers will have hymns which are special to them—the words, the tune, special situations in which the hymn was played or sung. JUDITH MacLEOD delves into the background of some church music which has special meaning for her. Last month's choice, 'My Song is Love Unknown', was sung on Palm Sunday. Have you a favourite hymn to share? Do get in touch.

DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND

Until a few days ago my choice of hymn for this month was set to be another favourite of my mother's. However, when I heard one of mine, and many other people's, played by the Catterick Army Band in St Mary's on Thursday 7th April, I could not resist— so mother's favourite will have to wait! The one they played was 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind'.

As with 'My Song is Love Unknown', it was written as a poem and set to music at a later date. The words are by John Greenleaf Whittier [1807-92], an American Quaker. Quakers are noted for their love of quiet.

Strangely, the original title of the poem written in 1872 was 'The Brewing of the Soma', with soma being a hallucinogenic drink which can induce religious ecstasy. Whittier did not approve of religious frenzy, nor did he enjoy hearty singing. There is an irony here in that the words are usually sung to the rousing melody *Repton* written by Sir Hubert Parry [1848-19180].



The words of the hymn we sing at St Mary's are taken from five of the last verses of Whittier's poem. They are an exhortation to God who is 'dear' and 'father' of us all. I appreciate the alliteration of the f's in verse 1 line 2 'Forgive our foolish ways' and the idea that we may achieve purer service and deeper reverence through God's grace.

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind
Forgive our foolish ways,
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.*

Verses 2 and 3 refer to the calling the disciples in the Holy Land. It is the story of James and John, fisherman of the Sea of Galilee, who answered the call of Jesus to become his disciples. This was brought to life for me recently by the photos of that sea and the surrounding hills shown by Anna Boyce in conversation with

John Pritchard at Café Church. In the words of the hymn Jesus ‘knelt to share’ in humility ‘with thee’, giving a wonderful feeling of inclusion - a very direct and personal message to us. Moreover, although the story is biblical, it is timeless with the promise of the greatest gift of all - love.

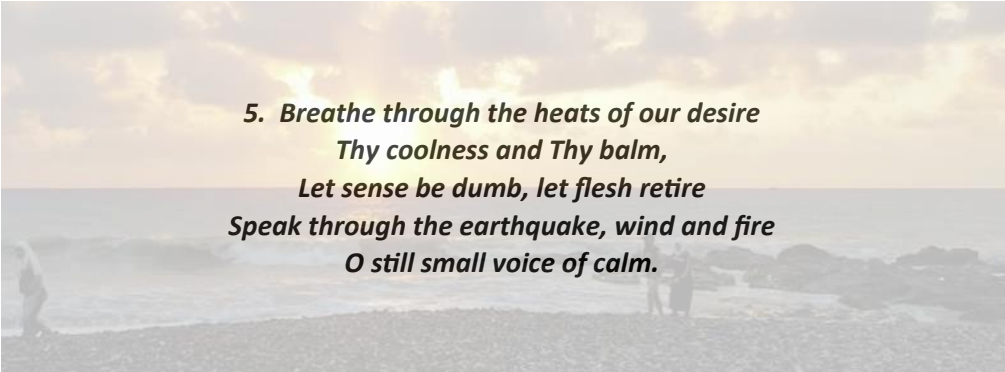
*2. In simple trust, like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian Sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow Thee*

*3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity
Interpreted by love*

Verse 4 works perfectly with Parry’s setting as it starts with a diminuendo to evoke quietness in line 1. ‘Drop thy still dews of quietness’ leads us to the point of perfect serenity when our ‘strivings cease’ and we can enjoy God’s peace.

*4. Drop thy still dews of quietness
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.*

I always have to check myself at the beginning of verse 5 not to sing ‘hearts’ instead of ‘heats’. I love the contrast between the ‘heats of our desire’ and the ‘coolness’ of God’s ‘balm’ in line 2. The wonderful conclusion in the last 3 lines starts with a crescendo in line 3 ‘Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire’ - another urgent exhortation - before the volume drops like the wind on the Sea of Galilee - ‘the still small voice of calm’ penetrating the ‘earthquake, wind and fire’ which is our emotional turmoil. The word ‘still’ has the double meaning of ‘unmoving’ and ‘ever’ - the voice of God who is a constant source of peace, even in our deeply troubled world.



*5. Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm,
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire
O still small voice of calm.*

SIXTY SECOND INTERVIEW

The Revd Julia Reid, Minister at Richmond Methodist Church

First memory? Running away on Hayling Island, aged 2.

Favourite meal? Anything with mushrooms.

Adele or Beethoven? Beethoven.

Pet dislike? Intolerance.

London or Lake District? Lake District (*actually, Scotland*).

Childhood hero? Godparents.

Luxury on a desert island? Cheese.

East Enders or The Archers? The Archers.

Worst fault? Procrastination.

Last film watched? 'Still Alice.'

Favourite drink? Diet Coke.

Gardening or sitting in the garden? Sitting in the garden.

Dickens or John Grisham? Dickens.

Favourite charity? Action for Children (*a Methodist charity*).

Italy or the Orkneys? The Orkneys.

Three dinner companions? My three children.

Wild hope? For people to see everyone as God sees them – loved and special.

Traditional or new Lord's Prayer? Traditional.

Epitaph? 'God's servant.'



John Pritchard

200 CLUB— APRIL DRAW

Winner of the April draw was No. 52—Amy Thornton.
Congratulations, Amy

News from the Pews

Calling all Singers

Our fantastic organist and Musical Director, Chris Denton, is kind enough to welcome **ALL** singers and would-be singers on the first Sunday of the month to lead our worship. Nothing tricky or scary, just an opportunity to praise God in song and glorify His name. Also for the 'Worship for All' singers on the third Sundays.

Just turn up and sing and/or have a word with Chris – chrisjdenton@gmail.com

St Mary's supports people with a visual impairment

Many members of our congregation support the visually impaired.

Anna Baldwin chairs the Richmond Group of the Macular Society which has now resumed monthly meetings in the Methodist Church Lounge. At their first 'in-person' meeting for some time, Jonathan Roberts, gave an excellent talk about the Talking Newspaper.

Jonathan is the contact for Richmond Talking Newspaper. This is a free fortnightly CD service with all the local news brought to the comfort of the listener's home and is expertly read. Many members of our congregation give up their time to be part of the team to read, edit, record, duplicate and post, as do our friends from the Methodist Church. **Jonathan's** number is 01609 881 216.

The local group of the Macular Society next meets on **Monday 9 May at 1.30 pm** and will hear two members of the ECLOD team – the local Eye Care Liaison Team - which offers practical support, based at our hospitals, to assist day to day living.

You can contact **Anna** at baldwinyork@btinternet.com.

Church Cleaning at St Mary's

Many thanks to members of the cleaning "hit squad" under John Welch, Head Verger, for the spring clean on the Saturday prior to the Easter Week services. Special thanks also to Alan Judge and Pamela Holland for sustained regular cleaning, Katharine Perry for a mammoth solo job and Mary Taylor and David Frankton for all of their work. Unseen but very much appreciated. Thank you.

Free Recital on 21st May

Mike Gerrard and Iona Brown, leading members of the Royal Northern Sinfonia Orchestra have chosen St Mary's as a venue for this fundraising concert for children's cancer charity Henry Dancer Days. Although there is no entry charge, donations to the charity for the concert and to our church for the refreshments—tea, coffee and chocolate brownies in abundance—are invited. Details on page 35

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022

Problem:

Volunteers don't mind delivering envelopes but many people are reluctant to knock on doors to collect them back.

Solution:

There are now "Delivery Only" envelopes which we can use this year.



You can scan this
QR code to donate



How it works:

- You volunteer to deliver envelopes in your own street or nearby streets.
- Sarah Scrafton (our church rep) gives you the envelopes.
- You write your address and a small message on the envelopes and deliver them.
- Householders put their donation into the envelope and post it back through your letterbox.
- You return them to Sarah.

Advantages:

- It takes far less time to write your messages on your envelopes than it would take to go knocking on doors to collect them.
- All you then do is put them through letterboxes.
- Anyone can deliver the envelopes - children can help.
- Areas who did this last year found that they collected more money and more people Gift-Aided their donations.

LET'S GIVE IT A GO!

Please will you help during Christian Aid Week this year?

Look out for more about this towards the end of April and in May.

There will be a sign up sheet at the back of Church on 1st, 8th and 15th May.

There is also the facility to give online either by visiting the Christian Aid website or, if you wish your donation to be counted as part of our Richmond Christian Aid Group total, then you can use the QR code for our Just Giving page, as we did last year.

Any energetic people wishing to take the 300,000 Step Challenge can find details on the Christian Aid website.

Judith Barber (Richmond Christian Aid Group Co-ordinator)
(07435) 566566 or e-mail judithbarber8@gmail.com



Baptism at Downholme

**On 26th February 2022, we welcomed
Nancy Robyn and Thomas James Dixon
into our church**

Artwork from Sam Watson



This drawing is dedicated to my 18th Communion anniversary, featuring myself (9 years old), Rosie (my childhood Bear) and Spice the dalmatian taking Communion, with a dove flying above them

REVIEWS FROM THE PEWS

As our churches have opened up more, April saw a small clutch of musical events at St Mary's. More will follow in May and the church is playing host to Swaledale Festival events at the end of May & beginning of June with visits by the internationally known Scottish percussionist, Evelyn Glennie, and the cello section of the Halle Orchestra. But what of the April events?

Folk with Fourum—18th March

They're back; they're good – and we missed them!

Fourum played to a packed house at St Mary's in March - enhanced by the church's IT facilities which meant that the concert was 'streamed' to people as far away as Abu Dhabi, Texas and even Australia— and they were superb. We had missed them so much and we sang and clapped in joy and laughter. This is their 50th year and they are as fresh and innovative as ever. We heard a wonderful variety of old and new including Rod Hall's wonderful "St Mary's Bells" which brings tears to the eyes. The visual imagery accompanying the music was beautiful and enthralling. We so look forward to the Swaledale Festival (10th June—Langthwaite—nearly sold out) and more Fourum performances.



Alexe Finlay

Manchester Universities C.A.O.S.—20th March



We were delighted to welcome a party of 40 + students from the two universities in Manchester who were marking their end of term with a pre-Easter workshop for singers and instrumentalists at Grinton Youth Hostel. Presented with their music for the first time on the Saturday morning, they played and sang all day before coming to St Mary's to present a one hour programme to a local audience.

The afternoon was a delight. It began unusually with three quiet unaccompanied choral pieces which were beautifully balanced and contained some assured solo work. On then to the orchestra, with energetic renditions from well-known classical pieces and musical theatre. The whole ensemble comprised music students, past and present, and talented players and singers from a range of academic disciplines joined by a clear love for the music they were performing. They loved the acoustics of the venue and the peace of the Dale—and may well be back next year.

The Herschel Players—25th March

We were thrilled and delighted to welcome the international quartet of Susanna Pell, Graham O’Sullivan, Huw Daniel and Mie Hayashi to St Mary’s at the end of March.

What a treat for us that they are northern based, with Susanna (and Jacob) well known to us all as they live in Richmond.

The sounds of Telemann, Handel, and Bach filled the church, while we marvelled at the sound of Baroque instruments at Baroque pitch and the sheer skill and delicate emotion with which the pieces were crafted.



Welcome back, Herschel Players, and visit again soon.

Alexe Finlay

Army Band—7th April

After previous cancellations due to COVID, it was great to see the Army Band return to St Mary’s for their annual visit. The eager audience turned out in droves to hear and see the band play and the full house was not disappointed. A rousing programme of band music was presented and enjoyed - a performance which drew the audience in and displayed the multi-instrument talents of army musicians. The standing ovation given at the end was testament to a great evening of music.

The space and the acoustics of St Mary’s church mean that the band enjoyed the experience of using the church as a performance venue. Roll on next year. *Ed*

Stainer’s Crucifixion - 10th April

The vision of Chris Denton, complemented by the organ expertise of Andrew Christer and enhanced by soloists Dan and Roger (supported by Henry, Andrew and Jonathan) gave us a deeply moving, reverend and spiritual Lenten offering in the context of worship as the Choral Evensong offering on Palm Sunday. The chorus was drawn from churches in Bilsdale, Yarm, Middlesbrough, Northallerton, Barnard Castle, Aldborough St John / Melsonby , Barnard Castle, Catterick.. and more. The congregation was involved too in the five hymns which comprise part of the work. It was a privilege to be part of these acts of worship and a joy to sing with a group of singers which rehearsed quickly and professionally to reach a standard of musicianship which befits the composition and is the embodiment of Stainer. It was an especial joy to welcome Lucy Scrafton to the Richmond rendition and we look forward to Camilla Campling-Denton bringing her fabulous soprano voice to the presentation of the work at Melsonby.

Alexe Finlay

Footnote: one member of the congregation wrote to say ‘how much we enjoyed the Stainer yesterday—it really made Tom’s birthday.’ As a choral evensong session to promote worship and meditation, there was no formal ‘thank you’ or applause. Indeed, Chris Denton had asked that the service should start and end in silent reverence. Nevertheless, our correspondent felt she should ‘leap up and lead heartfelt applause’ and asks that thanks should be conveyed to the choir for a ‘really moving’ evening. I’m sure all who attended and those on YouTube would echo those sentiments.

Ed

The Stanwyck Group – Questions Jesus Asked

A wonderful way to spend Wednesday evenings in Lent has been in the company of the Reverend Camilla Campling-Denton, Ruth Abbey, and the members of that group of churches, studying Bishop John’s latest book.

It maybe was not quite as good as having Bishop John in the room, but his “first hand accounts”, discursive commentary, and challenging questions, have had us reaching for our Bibles and discussing all manner of avenues from the situation in Ukraine, to “Paying it Forwards” and period poverty.

We have heard some very dramatic readings which have drawn us into the heart of the narrative and brought fresh understanding to it and we have been guided by Camilla and Ruth’s gentle and dignified leadership, combined with their spiritual wisdom and guidance.

Alexe Finlay

-o0o0o-

Mike Gerrard & Iona Brown
 (Royal Northern Sinfonia)
 Viola and Violin Duo

In Concert
 St Mary’s Church, Richmond
 Saturday 21 May 2022, 3pm

FREE ENTRY
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 DONATIONS WELCOME

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Mrs Logan went for her atmoiser and Mrs Pugh went for hers...

GRAND DAYS OUT

On our search for places to enjoy which are virtually on the doorstep but overlooked, we were looking for somewhere to go which offered easy walking, fresh air and interesting surroundings. Having passed the brown sign for 'Hardwick Country Park' on the A689 on a number of occasions, we decided to take a look

There may be places you know of which you would be willing to share with others. If so, please let Carole McCormack know - (01748) 824232. or carolemmccormack7@btinternet.com

HARDWICK COUNTRY PARK

LOCATION; Hardwick Country Park, Sedgefield. TS21 2DN

DISTANCE FROM RICHMOND; 25 miles

TRAVEL TIME : 30-35 mins

ROUTE: to A1(M) north ; A689 (J60) eastwards towards Teesside; turn left onto A177; first left into car park.



PARKING: many marked bays; payment at ticket machine; £2.00 for 2 hours; £3.00 all day. Accessible parking bays available and electric charging points

TERRAIN: tarmac or ash surfaced paths with options to go into woodland alongside paths. Circuit walk accessible to visitors of all abilities

FEATURES: woodland; wildlife; lake; follies, views; visitor centre; children's play area

REFRESHMENTS; café selling drinks, snacks light lunches, covered areas to eat own picnic at Visitor Centre.

TOILETS: at Visitor Centre.

-o0o0o-

A Brief Background History

I had heard of the general location some time ago. Hardwick Hall Hotel is just next door. Indeed, the park itself is part of the country estate, which wealthy Tyneside businessman, John Burdon, acquired in 1747. As well as rebuilding the existing manor house (now the luxury hotel mentioned earlier), he set about

transforming the 120 acre estate (in the way of the time) to look completely natural even though it was heavily 'engineered' by his leading local architect, James Paine. Using the River Skerne as the water source, two lakes were created, and buildings, temples or ruins were built in open areas to be passed on the way as Burdon and his visitors took the air around the garden he had created.



As happened with a number of large country estates, where the owner lacked the means to maintain the area, over time some buildings disappeared, the main lake silted up, the carefully created views became overgrown.

Having changed ownership a number of times and been tenanted rather than owner occupied for many years, the hall became an evacuation maternity hospital for Sunderland in WW2, and continued to be used as such until the late 1960s when the building was sold and re-developed as a hotel.

The new use brought with it extensive renovation and it is now a 4* luxury hotel, which can be seen from Hardwick Park. The surrounding estate lands were acquired by Durham County Council in the 1990s and, with the aid of a £4.1m Heritage Lottery grant, work began in restoring the large estate area to a park for the benefit of the public at large.

Gruffalos at Large

Having paid our fees to park (and noting the parking tickets on two adjacent vehicles when we arrived just after 11.00 a.m) we elected to miss out the café and head off round the park in an anti-clockwise direction, keeping to the right of the River Skerne which winds its way through the whole estate on its route to the North Sea. We had been drawn by sight of an old tower on a gentle hill off the main path.



Exploring further, we came across a metal sculpture which, it transpired, was based on a character from the Julia Donaldson Gruffalo stories. Having spotted this .. and then another.. and another, we thought 'Great place to bring the 'grand boys' – a view enhanced by the sight of children enjoying following the same trail or walking with parents and lead-inhibited hounds, following some of the myriad routes



through woodland trees. The fact that cycle routes were also marked was another tick for a grandparent-led return.

Returning to one of the tarmac paths, we found ourselves moving into a more



open part of the estate as the landscaped lake opened out on our left and fine views of the Georgian-style former hall on a hill came into view on our right— beyond a stylised ruin with seating looking out over the lake. Determination to keep moving on a lovely sunny morning led us to ignore the seats dotted around and continue progress around the lake, again detouring off on grassy paths to explore wooded areas and spot various winged creatures enjoying James Paine's creation as much as we were.



More Exploring

Another detour up a substantial grassy mound was instigated by the view of Minerva's Temple on the top. Access to the structure was denied by builder's site fencing, indicating that Minerva was clearly having some home improvements done! Tracks beyond another fence showed that Durham County Council were continuing to develop access to more of the site- another reason to return.



Back to the splendid lake and a boardwalk through some wetlands on the land bounding the lake, where carefully located bird feeders meant ornithological interest abounded, before a return to the main pathway which sloped gently down to the bank of the Skerne on the opposite side from where we had started. The river had been opened out here to create a small lake in which a statue stood, complementing a grotto in the woodland on the other side of the path.

Tea for Two – Well done , Durham

A return to the car park and visitor centre revealed a much busier children's play area than when we arrived, a fuller car park (well, it was a Saturday) , more parking tickets and a long-ish queue for well-earned cups of tea, a tasty sausage roll each and an admiration for the work of the county council in restoring this beautiful area whilst keeping the charges at a very reasonable level. Small wonder that this country park has won significant awards for what it has provided since its inception.

MUSINGS FROM MARSKE

Liz Kluz writes, 'Thinking of something to write for the magazine which is relevant to the month in which it will be published is sometimes tricky but I can always be sure of inspiration from my dog-eared copy of *A Dictionary of British Folk Customs*. Written by Christina Hole and first published in 1976, it is a fascinating compilation of ancient traditions, most of unknown origin, possibly stretching back thousands of years with some still being practised today.'

The Customs of May

As a nation, we do like our customary celebrations, many of which are distinctly eccentric, and despite the efforts of various bodies over the centuries to stamp out what they perceived as corrupting influences, we still enjoy a good fire, feast and any excuse to dress up in strange outfits.

Decorating willow hoops with flowers and dancing around the Maypole on the first day of May dates back to the pagan festival



of Beltane. This festival represented the beginning of summer when cattle were driven to their fresh pastures and people emerged from the long winter months spent indoors to celebrate new life and the hope of a good summer to come. In 1644, during The Long Parliament of 1640-1660, Maypoles were banned throughout Britain as they were seen to be “a heathenish vanity, generally abused to superstition and wickedness”. However, once the monarchy was restored in 1660 Maypoles were rebuilt all over the country in defiance of the previous Puritan strictures and revelry was restored.

One of the odder May Day traditions noted in Christina Hole’s book is an uncomfortable reminder of one of our less endearing human traits, making judgements about other people. We all do it, whether we choose to admit it or not, but the following May Day tradition took it to another level completely.

The strange custom of May Birching flourished mainly in the north west of England and also in the Midlands but could only have existed in small close knit communities where all the inhabitants knew each other.

On May Eve, sometime between sunset and dawn the next day, the May Birchers used to go from house to house attaching branches of trees or sprigs of plants onto or in front of their neighbours’ houses. What they left depended on their opinion of the householder, his wife or their grown up children.

The trees or plants used were chosen for their symbolism or because their names rhymed with the description of the person. A flowering branch of hawthorn was always a compliment but any other thorn meant that someone in the house was the object of scorn. Lime which rhymes with prime was a compliment as was pear which meant fair of face or character. Conversely briar, holly or plum represented liar, folly or glum and alder, which was pronounced "owler" in many country districts, rhymed with scowler. A nut branch outside a woman's door suggested she was a slut and gorse in bloom cast doubt on her reputation. Other plants which showed unpopularity were nettles, thistles, sloes and crab apple. In Lancashire, the worst possible insult would be to sprinkle salt on a doorstep for some reason we cannot understand today. Very often this distribution of "birches" represented the honest opinion of the villagers and when it was uncomplimentary it was meant to serve as a warning to the household.



How awful it must have been to open your door, on what should have been a joyous day, to find something insulting and not to know who put it there or why. Of course this was used as an opportunity for spite or revenge, much as Twitter is today, and could do lasting damage. People who felt they had been targeted unfairly would often resort to violence if they could find out who had made the judgement.

Thank goodness that particular practise had died out by the 1890s as villages grew larger and "outsiders" moved in.

The good old days? No not always.

Liz Kluz

Reverend Matthew Hutchinson's Charity

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For further information please contact:
Mrs M Morris (Clerk to the Hutchinson Charities), Stonehaven,
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All in the month of May

150 years ago, on 18th May 1872 , Bertrand Russell, Welsh philosopher, mathematician, historian, and writer was born. He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature.

125 years ago, on 26th May 1897, Bram Stoker's horror novel *Dracula* was published.

100 years ago, on 27th May 1922 , Christopher Lee, British film actor was born. Best known for his many Hammer Horror films, especially his role as Dracula. He also played a leading role in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. (Died 2015)

90 years ago, on 9th May 1932 , London's Piccadilly Circus was lit with electrical lighting for the first time. The road junction later became famous for its neon lighting and video advertising displays.

60 years ago, on 25th May 1962 , the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during WWII.

50 years ago, on 28th May 1972, Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor, died. He was formerly Edward VIII, until his abdication in December 1936.

40 years ago, 27th-28th May 1982 , the Battle of Goose Green took place during the Falklands War. British victory.

25 years ago, 1st May 1997 , the Labour Party won a landslide victory, ending 18 years of Conservative Rule. Tony Blair became Prime Minister.

15 years ago, on 3rd May 2007, three-year-old Madeleine McCann went missing while on holiday with her parents in Praia da Luz, Portugal. Despite long-running investigations costing millions of pounds, she has never been found. Her disappearance is the most-reported missing person case in history.

10 years ago, on 18th May 2012 , social media network Facebook went public. Its initial public offering raised \$16 billion – the third-largest amount in US history.

MEN'S GROUP

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

**CASTLE TAVERN,
Richmond Market Place**

This month's meeting: 5th May



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

FROM A RECTORY GARDEN

Regular readers who follow the exploits of MISTER JACK FINNEY and his three legged, one-eyed dog, Lucky, will recall that we left them at the end of the April edition training assiduously for the newly-instituted Richmond Meat, inspired by ol' Hamilton, Jack's comedy duo partner and butcher. Jack's erstwhile boss, the vicar (known affectionately as 'his nibs') had invested heavily in specialist Church Times sponsored, lycra- based kit and a high energy diet to partner Lucky in his seemingly hopeless challenge to defeat the bishop's red-hot favourite, an Irish wolfhound with shaggy coat and enormous stride in the Dag and Sausage Race. Ol' Hamilton was keen on this in order to recreate the pictures of rogue dogs emerging from butcher's shops dragging links of sausage and pursued by an irate butcher shouting, 'Come back, you varmint' as depicted in the Beano. Now read on.

' Well, ladies and gennelmen, it were when his nibs finds out that the bishop was runnin' a sweep on the Richmond Meat Dawg and Sausage Race - along Finkle Street an; round the hoberlisk and back agin – that things started to get serious. Give 'im his due, his nibs ordered a speshul Lycra 'Heavenley Host' marathon kit on hoffer from the ' Church Times' (one for the price of two. he said) and went into



Secret training shot of Gilling West Galloper

proper training. 'Im and ol' Lucky was up at six o'clock and runnin' to Heasby and back before baggins. I timed them each day with me pocket watch and they was clippin' minutes off their best times each mornin'. I thought they was in for a good chance of winnin' the Dawg and Sausage race and getting' a year's supply of sausages and a gold medal, each in the shape of a veal and ham pie

Folks was bettin' on all the dawgs. The favourite was Father O'Relly's Irish wolfhound, sponsored by the bishop in the name of ecummenikals and it were comin' in at 3 to 1. Poor ol' Lucky, 'im only having free legs, were a 101 dalmashuns to one.

Then the bishop comes dahn to the shed, all cocky like, and asked if we wanted to put a bit of the collection money on his dawg , 'cos it were bound to win. He said he would only take ten percent so it would be a nice little earner for the church.

But the vicar, he said, "No!" – that would be uneffical – and anyway he'd already used it to buy a pair of vegan running shoes for the event , made out of carrot skin. So the bishop said' Please yourself,' – a bit huffy like- but backed outer the shed quickly when Ol' Lucky went to nip him in the gaiters.

So the day of the Meat arrived and there was a real carnival atmosphere in the town. Tables and chairs outside cafes, Mooker Silver Band playin' away and the Lord Mayor trottin' about, wearin' his chain of hoffice made outer buffet pork pies and cocktail sausages sprayed with gold paint, on hoffer from Yorkshire Trading. 'Look North' were there too, with that nice Gerry Jackson reportin' – although he did seem to have developed the shakes since the last time he'd come to Richmond to report on the bomb crater in the church piece.



Skeeby Shifter on training run from Lidl freezer

The Big Attraction, o' course, were the Dawg and Sausage Race what were takin' place at free o'clock. The p'lice had made all the roads pedestrian and the crowds started queuing up a couple hours beforehand to get a good view.

The course started at the far end of Newbiggin and contesters had to run down inter Finkel Street, then the Market Place, round the hoberlisk, then down Friars Wynd and up ter the finishing line at ol' Hamilton's butcher's where Miss Gilling West 1953 would be there to present the prizes.

So, all excited, the dawgs and chasers were limberin' up like they do afore they runs a marafon, like bending one knee and sticking the other leg out behind and pressing on the bent knee with boff hands..no idea what that were supposed to do. I tried it once and split me corduroys clean down the middle!

There was a hush as all the teams of dogs and 'oomans lined up. The mayor started the race by bangin' on a Yorkshire puddin' tin wiv a fryin' pand and they was off.

Everyone was shoutin' 'Come back, you varmint!' like they was supposed to but his nibs said that weren't a nice word and so he shouted 'come back, you incorrigible scoundrel!' instead.

Right from the start, it were clear that o' Lucky and Father O'Reilly's Irish wolfhound were the best runners and they was right in front as they raced into Finkel Street, with their sausages streamin' out behind them and folk cheerin' and clappin'.

'Twere then I just caught sight of that crafty olf bishop lurkin' in John Mennil's alley and I knew he were up to no good. Lucky were in the lead and, o' course, the bishop wanted his dawg to win 'cos he had a stack o' cash on it.

Quick as a flash, he jumps aht and tries to put his foot on ol' Lucky's sausages but he slips and falls on one of ol' John's plant trolleys on wheels what started careerin' dahn Finkel Street with the bishop on top amongst the vanunculas. He went bouncin' over the cobbles, holdin' on for dear life, getting faster an' faster, with plants

fallin' orf all over the spot until it reached Millgate when it musta bin doin' sixty miles an hour. The bishop were prayin' for his deliverance when it got to the bottom and chucked him in the Falls.

Meanwhile, back at the race, his nibs an' ol' Lucky were streaking round the hoberlisk, with the vicar almost hoarse, shoutin, 'Redire cum tomacula mala canis.' ('Come back, you bad dawg, with them sausages' Virgil).

Neck and neck, the vicar and Father O'Reilly were racing to the finish line. Father O'Reilly's baretta flew orf and his nibs lost one of his carrot skin trainers. But just as they turned into Rosemary Lane, ol' Lucky puts on a spurt and wiv a hop, skip and a jump, he broke the sausage skin finish line to the cheers of the crahd.



Then, o' course, the vicar an' ol' Lucky was hoisted onto folks's shoulders and paraded round the town like on Gold Cup Day in the old days and like conkering heroes, with their medals round their necks and everyone said it were the best day they'd ever had.

And, as for the bishop, well, when he had dried out , he heard that his amazing ride on John Mennil's plant trolley had been videoed and had gone vinyl on newt tube and he were in to stand to get a packet!

So, that were that.. well, almost. As ol' Lucky and I walked to the King's 'Ead for a well-earned dandelion and burdock, my old neighbour who is ninety-five years of age, puts her head out the winder and says,' Hey, Jack, can you gimme a hand with this jigsaw I'm tryin' to do. It's gurt difficult and I can't figure how to get it started.'

'Oh, aye,' I says – knolledgable like, 'What's the pikcher on the box?'

'It looks like a rooster, ' she says, ' Although me eyes ain't as good as they were.'

'Righto,' I says. So I pops inter her sittin' room, while ol' Lucky sits on top of her bean bag, lickin' 'is medal, and she shows me where she's got the puzzle spread out on the table. So, I looks at the pieces, and I looks at ol' Lucky, and ol' Lucky looks at me, and I looks at the box and then looks at the pieces again.

'Now, darlin,' I says. 'You just goo and mek us a nice potta tea... and I'll just put all these cornflakes back in the box!'

And ol' Lucky goes 'Heh, Heh.'

INFORMATION POINT- ALL ARE WELCOME.

More groups are resuming in-person meetings as time moves on. The latest to re-start is the invaluable support given by Carrie Stephenson and her group to those who are suffering the pain and sadness following bereavement (see 'Martin's Message' on pps 7 & 8).

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 resume on the first Wednesday of every month at the Fleece, starting at 1.30 p.m.

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

TELEPHONE SUPPORT IS ALSO STILL AVAILABLE.

Do please get in touch.

PASTORAL CARE— A CONTINUING SERVICE

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

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

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

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

*"All are welcome in this place."*

Sudoku - Easy

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

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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St Mary's Groups

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

We need YOUR help and ideas.
 You are automatically a Friend!
 Could you please consider giving some time to get things going again?

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, Jim Jack at stmarys.maged@gmail.com (07754 283161)

NEXT EVENT
 Coffee Morning
 Saturday 28th May (see page 22)

KNIT & NATTER

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

Every Friday
9.30am to 11.30 a.m.

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

Everyone is welcome

Contact Anne Clarke 07982 658991

Word Search

A prayer for Ukraine

Lord, we pray for Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. And so, we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: "Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; He shall be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. *Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.*

Ukraine

War

Cease

Earth

Break

Bows

Shatter

Spears

Burn

Shields

Fire

Save

many

Lives

Crisis

Lord

Our

Rock

Fortress

Deliverer

Hope

In

You

Be

Still

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

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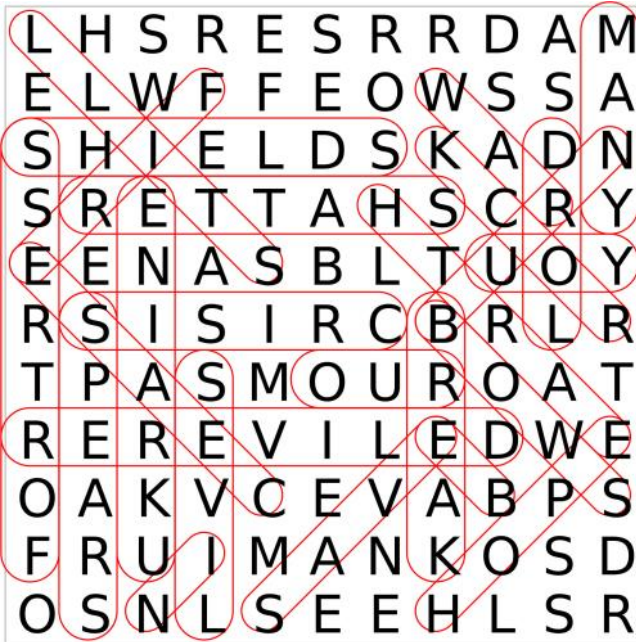
Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku—Medium

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

Wordsearch



Deadline for June edition : 15th May

Stay safe.

For letters & articles, contact stmarys.maged@gmail.com

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