

CONNECTIONS



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

May 2025



Price £1.80

**National
Silver Award 2024**

THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME AND MARSKE

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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

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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

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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

At the time of writing, we are half-way through Holy Week – a particularly busy time of year for our clergy as they lead numerous activities in the run-up to Easter. As they prepare us for the lows and highs of the Festival itself, they deserve our thanks, as well as their well-earned breaks afterwards.

This month, we have tried to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, so, as well as a celebratory front cover, Jim Jack has been finding out about how that momentous occasion was marked in Richmond itself, as well as providing some details about what is planned nationally by way of commemoration. He has also found a quiz to tax your memories and general knowledge of events 80 years ago. Jane Hatcher has broadened the time-frame and contributed an article about the military's involvement in our town over the centuries, while Judith MacLeod has visited Ripon Cathedral and also provided a review of a charming book which really caught her imagination. John Pritchard continues his Bible Pointers series by asking, and attempting to answer, 'What's the Big Story?'; Mark Beresford-Peirse invites us to 'Pause for Thought'; and Carole McCormack has been investigating the background to that marvellous hymn *'Thine be the Glory'*.

Jim Jack has been back to find out more about how The Station has evolved in recent years, and some potentially exciting plans for the future. He is also keen to bring another new venture of the Friends of St Mary's to our attention – a Comedy Night with Paul Karenza, a performer with a national reputation, who has been enticed to come to Richmond. We need a full house for this event, so do please spread the word and come yourselves, with as many of your friends and neighbours as possible. Details on pages 24 & 25.

Your support is also invited for Christian Aid Week, which always occurs in May, and for which there are details of a special talk about the author of *'Swallows and Amazons'*; separately another talk in aid of Marrick Priory; and an invitation, from the Station Singers, to 'Come and Sing'. Wendy Pritchard looks forward to her garden coming into bloom; and finally Ian Woods has penned a poem about his first grand-child.

All in all, an issue which we hope contains something for everyone.

John McCormack

**Cover photo by Jim Jack
Red Arrows over South Shields**



Letter from Lorna

May 2025



The Whirlwind of Easter — and thereafter

It's strange to be writing about a post-Easter world when I am writing very much before Easter. As I try to put myself into the mindset of what I'll be like after the whirlwind of activities and services that will make up Holy Week, Easter week, and my post-Easter week holiday, I find myself completely unable to do so – but quite honestly, I'm not sure I want to.

All of us are guilty in some way or other of 'wishing our lives away'. Whether we are wanting the day to hurry up because we have plans in the evening, or the week to finish because we have a holiday coming up. Maybe we have something we are really not looking forward to, and we say to ourselves "this time next week... tomorrow... in twelve hours".

Frankly, as life hurtles towards me at an incredible speed, I find myself doing this – first Easter, then holiday, then ordination, and so on. I am writing this, however, in my beautiful sunny garden, and I'm reminded of the need to pause and take a minute to appreciate it all. Take it all in, as it were.

To stop and smell the roses is a privilege that we may not have all the time, but it's something we should put our minds to doing. Take a pause in our lives and thank God for where we are – and when that's difficult, thank God for helping us through. I will, hopefully, be enjoying the post-Easter lull when this edition appears, ahead of my frantic rush towards priesthood, and I hope I am able to stop, breathe, thank God for where I am, and let myself sit in the moment – that sunny moment in the garden – before it all happens.

Blessings,

Lorna



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Baptism

On Sunday, 6th April '25

Edmund Terence Green
& Maia Elise Robertson



were both welcomed into the Church
through Baptism

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



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



Bob (Robert Sydney) White 27th March '25
Joshua Sebastian Jones

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

THE 200 CLUB

Congratulations to our latest Winner

April — no: 28 — Ann Clarke

VICTORY IN EUROPE — 80th ANNIVERSARY

This month marks the 80th anniversary of the end of hostilities in Europe during World War II. The war itself was not quite over, for there was still conflict in the Far East, but the relief was palpable. **JIM JACK** has been looking back — and forward to planned events.

8th May 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 hostilities in Europe after nearly six years of armed conflict. Following on from last year's commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings, there are plans afoot for people across the land to come together in some forms of common acts of celebration and remembrance.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is leading on the celebrations, with every encouragement for communities to organise their own events to tie in with the four-day period of celebration. This is much in keeping with the spontaneous outpourings of celebrations which greeted the end of war in Europe — although many were also well aware that the war against Japan was showing no signs of ending.



Troops from these islands, as well as other parts of the world, were still engaged in fighting in Asia or were held captive by Japanese forces.

Although no public holiday is planned, this is a sample of events which will start on May Bank Holiday Monday and culminate on VE day itself — Thursday, 8th May.

Commemorations will begin on Bank Holiday Monday (5th May), which will see the Cenotaph in London dressed in Union flags. This will provide a focal point for the commemorations and a place to pay silent tribute to all those who died, both at home and abroad, during the Second World War. A military procession and a flypast will also take place in London.



Led by a street party on HMS Belfast, moored on the Thames, it is hoped that street parties, barbecues and get-togethers, supported by ideas and inspiration from the Together Coalition and

The Big Lunch, will be held by communities across the country, echoing the celebrations 80 years ago as the population welcomed the end of the war.

In another push to capture the social history of the time, a nationwide call has already gone out for families to delve into their lofts and discover their own Second World War stories. The installation of ceramic poppies will return to the Tower of London on 6th May to mark the anniversary. Nearly 30,000 of the original poppies from the 2014 display at the Tower, which commemorated the centenary of the First World War, will be displayed in a new installation within the walls of the fortress. This poppies installation will resemble a 'wound' at the heart of the Tower, which was itself bombed during the Blitz and still bears some of those scars today. It will mark and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many during the Second World War. Historic landmarks across the UK will also be lit up this evening.

On the evening of the 7th May 1945, a newsflash announced that the following day would be Victory in Europe Day. To commemorate this important moment in the nation's history, the Parliament Choir will host a Victory in Europe Day Anniversary Concert in the famous Westminster Hall at the Palace of Westminster, eighty years to the day that victory was declared.

Finally, on VE Day itself, a service will take place at Westminster Abbey that will be both an act of shared remembrance and a celebration of the end of the war. The DCMS says, "It will be a moment to give thanks and to honour a generation that showed extraordinary courage and resilience".

A concert at the historic Horseguards Parade will finish the VE Day 80 commemorations in a celebratory tone, echoing how the nation reacted to the news 80 years ago. With more than 10,000 members of the public in attendance, the concert will feature stars of stage and screen, together with military musicians, and will tell the story of victory and the legacy of the Second World War in Europe.

Taking up the challenge

The Royal British Legion is organising a commemoration at the National Arboretum and has produced a booklet of activities which could be organised in support of VE day. Bruno Peek, the late Queen Elizabeth II's pageant-master, bows out from the role by organising an array of beacons across the country, with requests that smaller groups should organise a 'Lamp Light of Peace' at 9.30 pm on the 8th.



In the days of wartime food rationing, which in fact extended until 1954, one of the few unrationed items were the ingredients of fish and chips. This traditional British dish, important in the days of the Great Depression of the 1930s, continued to be a stalwart of cheap and available nutrition during the War, so the National Federation of Fish Fryers is urging its members to get involved in the celebrations to mark the huge effort farmers and fishermen played in feeding the nation and keeping the war effort strong.

What Happened in Richmond?

The late Audrey Carr's book 'You Must Remember This' gives some insights on VE Day itself in our town. We are told that ringers A Morton, S Hunt, J Watkin, Miss D M Killingsby, and S Thorpe were joined by Councillor J Todd for a peal of Grandsire Doubles which was rung 'several times' (Now there's a challenge for our bell ringing team!), with E Headon and K Healey ringing the cover bells. That evening, Churches were filled.

Audrey tells us that, as excitement rose that the war was really over, the Band of the Green Howards played in Friary Gardens, where people of all ages began to dance, before moving on to the Castle grounds. Huge crowds 'singing, dancing and laughing flocked up Hurgill Road to High Moor, where the beacon was set alight.'

Dancing continued around the town, Queens Road being lit by 'electric lamps hanging from the trees' and the festivities being supported by 'amplified records provided by Mr Murphy, Amusement Caterer.' 'In a dreamlike atmosphere, people hugged each other and sang in each others' ears'. This euphoric atmosphere was shattered by a series of explosions, which terrified spectators. A man was pointed out and 'detained by the police' for setting-off thunder-flashes.

Next day, the Duck Club organised sports and games for the children in the Castle Grounds, and there followed more sports, games, excitements and hastily arranged street parties. A Victory street party in Coronation Place entertained 90 children, whilst down on the Green, all of the residents chipped-in with food for a children's party at the Green Mission (an outpost of the Parish Church). Long remembered as 'a lovely occasion', Sports took



**Mrs Eva Curran's house
on The Green**



Street Party, Tower Street

place on the Green itself and houses were decorated, with Mrs Eva Curran winning first prize (pictured overleaf).

Gradually a new normality began. Evacuees returned to their own homes, the Royal Observer Corps was stood down, and there were children alive who had no idea what peace meant. At the Grammar School Old Boys meeting, they stood in tribute to the 27 killed in action. A Mutual Assistance Scheme set up by Richmond traders in the event of a blitz on the town was wound up.

But there was still a war in the Far East and, although some servicemen and prisoners of war had returned from Europe, others remained in combat or imprisoned in the war against Japan. All was not yet over. VJ day was still to come... and come it did in August.

VE Day 2025 in Richmond

At the time of writing, I have not been able to discover what is planned locally, although I'm sure this is due to my inadequacies as a researcher and the pressures of a deadline to meet. By the time we publish next, all will be done. But the day itself will undoubtedly be marked, as it was then, by streets getting together and marking the day. And this nostalgic look back may prompt some memories in you, our readers. Please do get in touch and share your recollections, and family stories, of that time.

Jim Jack

VE DAY QUIZ

TOTAL
SCORE
24

ROUND 1 - FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- 1 Made with hot water and now usually served with ice cream, what dessert became popular during the war?
- 2 Dig for Victory was a wartime campaign encouraging people to do what?
- 3 In the UK, what restriction lasted until 1954?
- 4 Often included in military rations for British troops, what was corned beef also known as?
- 5 During the war, vinegar and baking soda replaced what ingredient as a rising agent in cakes?
- 6 The root of what common yellow flower was often used during WW2 as an alternative for coffee?
- 7 What was the name of the character created to encourage people to use more potatoes during the war?
- 8 What needed to be presented every time someone purchased a rationed food item?

ROUND 2 - STEP BACK IN TIME

- 1 What does the VE stand for in VE day?
- 2 At what time did Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister leading Britain during WWII, deliver his VE Day speech on May 8th, 1945? A. 3pm
- 3 Who sang the popular wartime song 'We'll meet again'?
- 4 Codebreakers at Bletchley Park successfully cracked which code, that helped to shorten the war?
- 5 Due to rationing and shortages, which item of clothing worn by women was famously hard to obtain during the war?
- 6 Which British aircraft played a significant role in the Battle of Britain in 1940?
- 7 Which native British flower is commonly associated with remembering the war?
- 8 What protocol did Britain introduce to help move children away from cities because of air raids?

ROUND 3 - COMMUNITY SPIRIT

- 1 What tradition was revived during the 1940s to bring people together and lift morale?
- 2 What was the name of the campaign that encouraged saving food and household items?
- 3 What women's organisation helped raise money, produce food and evacuate children during the war?
- 4 How did British Troops stay in touch with their families during the war?
- 5 Which organisation, known for its mobile canteens, provided hot meals and drinks to soldiers and civilians in need?
- 6 What popular ball sport was encouraged within British troops to help keep up morale?
- 7 What well-loved slogan was used after The Blitz to help lift spirits?
- 8 A popular pastime during the war, what was the Jitterbug?

Celebrating VE Day's 80th anniversary.
ve-vjday80.gov.uk



Answers on page 40



Marrick Priory

Outdoor Education and Residential Centre



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Helen Guy presents



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life on a remote hill farm in the early 1900s.

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in aid of the Marrick bursary fund.**



CELEBRATING CATHEDRALS

Our nearest Cathedral, and focal point of our Diocese, is at Ripon, but how often do we look closely at what is on our doorstep? Recently, **JUDITH MacLEOD** decided to pay a visit and shares her with us what she discovered.

It is very special to be the first visitors of the day to a cathedral. One sunny Saturday at the beginning of April, I went with a friend to Ripon for 2 precious hours to visit the cathedral. We arrived just before 9:00am (opening hours are 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Saturday) and the building was empty.



Early morning at Ripon Cathedral

As you approach the cathedral from the car park on the north side (£1.20 for 2 hours), you notice 2 metal figures representing soldiers from WW1. In 1918, the poet Wilfred Owen, when he was stationed in Ripon prior to his return to the Western Front, visited the Cathedral on his 25th birthday. Tragically, he was killed a few months later, just a week before the Armistice. Words from the preface to his poems: *'My subject is War, I mean the truth untold, the pity of war, the pity war distilled. The Poetry is in the pity.'* are displayed on the reredos panels in the Chapel of Justice and Peace to the left of the shop.



Ripon Cathedral — West front

The west front, built in 1220, is simple and elegant. The cathedral is dedicated to St Wilfred of the 7th century (another figure in the development of the early Christian church in England). Scenes from his life have been etched on the modern glass doors, which were installed in 2012.

Unlike the other cathedrals I have visited in the last year, there is no entry fee. Visitors can give whatever they choose.

The nave is composed of a series of Gothic arches, wide aisles and windows in the Perpendicular style. It replaced a narrower Norman nave of 1180. There is a curious lack of symmetry at the east end, where it joins the transepts with some unfinished columns on the right-hand side. Another architectural hotchpotch is visible in the south-west corner of the nave, with doors into passages which cannot be reached.

As we moved from the nave towards the south transept, one of the Canons gave us a friendly greeting and encouraged us to visit the crypt, accessible by a narrow underground passage leading to the entrance to the quire. The crypt is a vestige of the church of St Wilfred built in 672.

The quire is wood-panelled and cosy, with its candles used by the choir for evening services. Here, another friendly staff member showed us some of the best-loved misericords, including the one overleaf depicting a rabbit caught by a griffin while another escapes down its burrow. There are other carvings to delight you, such as the elephant with a curious carved castle on its back containing medieval figures which is situated near the bishop's stall.



Different styles of architecture



Misericord beneath a choir stall

The entrance to the quire is through the arch of the pulpitum, a 15th century screen of intricately carved stone. The coloured figures may look medieval, but are as recent as 1947.

I always find it interesting to look up to the tower from the point where the transepts meet the nave. After the tower was badly damaged in 1450, new Gothic arches were created to the south, now over the organ, whereas the Norman arches to the north transept were never replaced. In the photograph opposite, you can see the mixture of Norman and Gothic styles in the arches, which are round and broken respectively.



Looking up from the crossing

The east window with its intricate stonework and stained glass looked particularly lovely in the bright sunshine. Unable to capture the brilliance of the effects of the light, I focused on the roundels at the top. We enjoyed what my friend described as the 'kaleidoscope effect' of the tiny panes.



Upper part of East Window

If you enjoy sculpture, there are 3 modern ones of Mary in different media. The one overleaf of her sitting on a chair holding Christ after the Crucifixion is particularly touching. Whether you are a Christian or not, you are bound to be moved by this depiction of the grief of a mother who has lost her son, of which there have been so many examples in recent news.

Other features to be enjoyed are the organist's wooden hand; the medieval font; and the Arts and Crafts pulpit erected in 1913. There is also a full programme of musical events.

After our visit we crossed the road to a small café serving delicious homemade cakes, sat at one of the 3 tables upstairs and admired the view of the west front.

Although I have visited Ripon cathedral several times, I had never looked with such attention as on this visit. It has everything — architectural beauty, spirituality, history, art, music, poetry and a delightful quirkiness. Above all, I loved the warmth — not just the ambient temperature, but the friendly welcome from those who work there.

Judith MacLeod



Mary holding Christ after crucifixion

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

The Christian story, with its huge claims, just sometimes feels too much to swallow. Can this really be the answer to the meaning of life? One thing which helps me see it with different eyes, is the wonder and strangeness of nature and some of the extraordinary insights of science. In quantum physics, for instance, it seems that particles can be in more than one place at the same time, in fact at opposite ends of the universe, yet still influencing each other. (Have I got this right, scientists?)

In a rather similar way, the extraordinary events of the life and death of Jesus can be seen to be making claims which are just so enormous. Yet the evidence — from the Bible, from the first disciples, and from men and women down the ages and world-wide today — points to it being true. So does our own experience of life, surely, and the sense that it chimes in with what really matters. Somewhere within us the values and hope which our faith offers ring true, even though we can't fully grasp them. Maybe, to quote the hymn, *Love Divine*, we find ourselves "lost in wonder, love and praise".

Mark Beresford-Peirse

BIBLE POINTERS

Perhaps it is particularly appropriate at Easter-time to reflect upon what the Bible is all about. This month, **JOHN PRITCHARD** shares his thoughts about 'The Big Story', using the metaphor of 'friendship'.

What's the Big Story?

We tend to encounter the Bible in puzzling, bite-sized pieces. On the day I'm writing this, next Sunday's readings are from Joshua 5 on the manna in the wilderness coming to an end; 2 Corinthians 5 on our ministry of reconciliation; and Luke 15 on the Prodigal Son. These are all splendid readings, and a preacher might just about pull them all together, but it would be a strain for both preacher and listener.



What we miss is the Big Story, the overarching narrative into which the different parts fit. In one sense that's impossible, because the Bible is such a multi-faceted, multi-genre, multi-intentioned book of histories, poems, prayers, prophecies, biographies, letters, apocalyptic etc. It's reasonable to ask, however, what God is saying to us about himself and about us and our purpose in life through this great text. So let's try and see some of the answers, and let's use the metaphor of 'friendship.'

Friendship formed: The first part of Genesis sets the scene in its great poetry of creation. God's good intention was to create a lasting friendship with creation and with humankind.

Friends fall out: The poet-writer now gives us an account of why our best laid plans fail, and why our experience of life is so hard. But God is also saying, 'Don't worry. I'm coming to look for you to bring you home. 'Adam, where are you?'

Friends living together: In Exodus we find pre-history and real history merging, as God takes his people through wild country to the Promised Land. God tries to teach his friends how best to live, by giving them the Law and the Commandments as guidelines.

Friends look to the future: After struggling with the reality of 'friends living together', and trying various forms of leadership (judges, kings, a coalition), God

sends some tough performers, the prophets, to both condemn Israel's disloyalty and injustice, and to promise a golden future. God was determined to bring his friends home.

Friends start again: In the famous first chapter of John's gospel, we hear the announcement of the second creation as God starts again with the offer of life-long friendship. 'In the beginning was the Word...' in John is parallel to 'In the beginning God created...' in Genesis. And we begin to feel that we are now creeping into the story and God is asking us for our friendship.

Friends learn together: God gives us Jesus, who in turn gives us the Kingdom of God as a way of living in permanent friendship with him. He taught about it and demonstrated it in his healings and his care for the poorest and most neglected. He also had many arguments about it with stale religious authorities. This Kingdom of God was an exhilarating upside-down world that we've been puzzling over ever since (see Matthew 5-7).

Our best Friend dying: Every great love story has a crisis. God's 'search and rescue' love story came to a crunch, when the sheer unguarded goodness and faithfulness of Jesus met the selfish designs of sinful humanity. In Jesus, God continued to offer us friendship but we rejected it. The result was the cross.

Friendship restored: You can't destroy love, not if God is love and love is the energy of creation. Love can't be turned off or shut down. In the resurrection, the great engines of creation were thrown into reverse and 'love is come again.'

Friends made new: The story of the early Christians in Acts and Paul's various letters is the story of men and women working out how to be a friend of Jesus when in bodily form he had left them. These very ordinary people had a strength beyond human understanding (called the Holy Spirit). They were quite simply, 'a new creation.'

Friends forever: The end of the Big Story in Revelation has the same poetic quality as Genesis. The end of all things is in God's hands. In the end we will find that God has gathered up his friends forever. God's friendship is irresistible.

I hope that makes some sense of the overall trajectory of our great book.

John Pritchard



PLATFORMS FOR GROWTH

Previous articles have traced the community efforts to bring new life into our historic Grade 2* listed Station. Twenty years after the project was mooted, and over seventeen years since it opened to the public once more, **JIM JACK** re-visited to meet **CHRIS BROWN** — CEO of Richmondshire Building Preservation Trust — to find out what's been happening since that early development work by members of the community, which has itself become part of the Station's history.

Walking into the light and airy Station building one sunny Thursday morning, the first impression is that nothing much has changed since it first opened in November 2007. The art work is on the walls, the café bar is busy, the retail units are all occupied and there is a cheerful buzz about the place. But on meeting Chris Brown, the enthusiastic CEO of Richmondshire Building Preservation Trust, who joined the organisation in February 2021, I am reminded of the many changes which have taken place since The Station opened its doors to the public.

At that time, the food offering was run by Seasons, independent rental tenants, with a different floor layout from the one we see today. What is now Screen 3 for the cinema was a meeting room called the Swale Room seating 24 people; the current Sweet Shop space began by hosting a tenant offering jams, chutneys and other preserves; whilst Lacey's cheese occupied half of the space now tenanted by a local brewery. Archers Jersey Ice Cream has been a 'constant', as has The Angel's Share Bakery, whilst completing the ground-floor layout, the removal of an electricity sub-station has freed up space for first a chocolatier and now Goosewing Studios. Finally, casting our eyes upwards, the display of an old film projector is a reminder that, in 2007, large reels of celluloid were delivered (and collected) on a weekly basis, or more frequently depending upon releases at the time. At the mezzanine level, GSC Grays and a financial advice firm have both re-located, to be replaced by a successful and popular dance studio and a welcoming site office, more spacious than the original.

The original station ticket office was set out as a Heritage Centre in 2007, telling the story of The Station and the social impact of the coming and going the railway made on Richmond and Swaledale. Now the Heritage Centre has gone, once more selling tickets but



Celluloid projection in 2007

this time for the showing of films, which are no longer celluloid but shown in a digital format.

The original cinema ticket office became a shop some ten years ago, owned and run by The Station. Screen 2, originally fitted out with moveable seating to allow flexible use of the space, was refurbished, similar to Screen 1 next door, with fixed seating, more comfortable than the original installation. Outside, an array of solar panels installed by far-sighted trustees have continued to make a contribution to the running costs of The Station itself.



Original cinema seating nears completion

Finally, the Station, once leased by the Trust for a peppercorn rent from Richmondshire District Council, was bought by the Trust, together with the ‘Top’ car park, about ten years after the historic opening date. Major refurbishments to the toilet areas; the re-tiling of the flooring on the former track bed; better draught proofing of the café/bar area; air-conditioning in the cinemas; and regular upkeep and maintenance meant that the building was kept as fresh and inviting to visitors as it did when it first opened over seventeen years ago. Then COVID lockdown struck, the doors closed and staff were furloughed.

The Station Re-opens

When The Station first opened, it was said that, for all of the work being driven by ‘amateur’ community volunteers and run by a volunteer unpaid board as a charitable trust, people crossing the threshold would not know this. They would expect a thoroughly professional environment and level of service. Indeed, one of the things which impressed Chris Brown on his arrival in February 2021 was how much had been achieved by local volunteer time, donation and service, both in getting the whole project moved from inception to completion in just over 3 years and then how it had adapted to changing circumstances over the years. In spite of all of the positive changes noted above, however, COVID closure almost inevitably led to changes and slippage.

Living as he does near Ripon, over half-an-hour from Richmond, Chris had only visited The Station a couple of times before being interviewed for the post — ‘a rightly rigorous process which involved three rounds of interviews’. Nevertheless, he was excited by what he saw, delighted to be offered the post

and relished the challenges which lay ahead. Government support through COVID had helped to retain both Station staff and those in the businesses which tenanted The Station . The removal of this financial support when lockdown was lifted was a real challenge to small- and medium-sized enterprises, for lifting the restrictions did not automatically mean that visitor numbers returned to pre-COVID levels. Nor did everyone want, or were able, to return to their pre-Covid jobs. Chris also noted that people’s ‘buying’ habits had changed, sometimes permanently. Others, as we know, were still cautious about returning to group situations, and so the re-opening phase for many was a struggle.

Chris had direct experience of this himself. Involvement in the hospitality trade from an early age, fired up his interest in this as a career. After A-levels, he chose this as his path, rather than moving onto university, which he had originally planned and for which he had received unconditional offers. Before Covid struck, he had shown a flair for the work with an interest in the catering and hospitality trade. He also had developed an interest in business management, finance,



Chris Brown — CEO

governance, customer service, heritage and charitable work. His last role, prior to the pandemic, was as General Manager and Executive Director of the hotel, wedding & events venue, the Grade 2* listed Old Deanery in Ripon. The steady growth of this company was stymied by COVID and, during the final national lockdown, the directors made the decision to close the company due to the loss of future trade, and a vast increase in overheads. Chris was left with the painful task of making staff redundant—including one who later became his wife! Nevertheless, he was able to help all the employees into alternative employment before drawing a final line under the venture.

In career and employment terms, the opportunity to manage The Station seemed a good fit with his interests and experience, hence his successful application. On arrival, he found a very committed staff with a very professional approach and a



From the menu

love of the environment in which they worked. Whilst there were financial challenges, the underlying sound management of finances had ensured that The Station had emerged from lockdown with a relatively stable base from which to re-start work. The Café/Bar, under the expert management and leadership of Gareth and Emma Bottomley, was certainly ready to pick up the traces. They had only recently taken over

the running of the refurbished café pre-pandemic, following the enforced departure of the Seasons' owners due to compliance breaches with external parties. An enthusiastic and skilled staff started to attract customers back at a good rate upon re-opening.

Inevitably, some of the building itself was starting to look a bit 'tired'. Although some of the volunteer workforce decided not to return, the local volunteer board of trustees and its offshoot company, which managed the development of the restaurant, were committed to ensuring that the founding three strands of film, food and art were maintained and developed and funds were made available to upgrade the building itself, including the installation of a reliable lift from platform to café/bar level.

Chris was also keen to establish a wider professional management team in consultation with trustees and long-serving staff. People with backgrounds in retail management, events planning and promotion/publicity were eventually joined by a new member to run the Cinema, which the trust decided to take over when the long-standing founder/owner moved out.

Branching out

Chris explained that taking over the cinema was a calculated risk, as audience levels had not returned to pre-Covid levels and there was an existing competitor on the doorstep in Catterick. Indeed, in its first year of Trust operation, the Cinema lost money, partly due to investments and facility upgrades, but in its two subsequent years of judicious management, it has returned to clear profitability — a great achievement.

His own personal interest in heritage buildings and the preservation of The Station's history has seen a new thrust in making information about the building's former use being made



far more accessible. There are plans for heritage plaques outside each room explaining their original function; enhanced platform displays; and a clearer recognition of the part which local, national and international funding played in the establishment of the building as it is today. There is also an awareness of the fact that the setting up of The Station by the community from 2004 is now part of

The Station's history. The sense of ownership which exists in the community is part of its loyal customer base.

Chris's excitement that the Trust is continuing to look to the future is clear. He is now CEO of the Richmondshire Building Preservation Trust (RBPT), having first joined as General Manager, responsible not only for The Station (always seen as the first project by RBPT) but for a renewed active interest in saving other historic buildings in our area. This is evidenced by the



wide consultation in another effort to develop the Old Grammar School in Richmond. Over 2000 people have been involved, including 1200 young people in Richmond and the surrounding area, as well as community groups and businesses. A detailed plan with a strong business case and financial plan has been submitted to the new Unitary Council. A decision is awaited soon. A successful outcome will mean that plans can be unveiled and the process of obtaining the required funding can begin. Chris is under no illusions that this will be a long and challenging process. Nevertheless, he is confident that the goal can be achieved, if plans are approved. He points to the fact that the Trust has a stable financial base. The fabric of The Station building itself is sound with a great staff team of over 70 people, including members of our refugee community. This number rises to over 100, if staff employed by tenants are included — a clear endorsement of one of the original objectives of creating local employment opportunities. Staff turnover is low — a good indicator of enjoyment of working in this heritage environment.

In 2023, The Station was the fourth most visited free-attraction in Yorkshire and the Humber (2024 results pending!). It now sees over 430,000 visitors each year. There is a list of nearly 40 people interested in tenancies should any of the current, popular, established tenants ever decide they want to leave. In short, the track record of the Trust's first venture into building preservation provides good evidence of the capacity to succeed with a further major project.

Chris Brown clearly loves his work in Richmond. He sees so much to enjoy about the future. He constantly refers to the enthusiasm, skills and commitment of the staff team. There is a welcoming feel still to the flagship project — The Station. It could be time to anticipate another big step forward. And a time for us all to get behind another significant adventure in the town's development. Watch that space!

Jim Jack

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

EVENTS

Publication dates for our magazine mean that we are unable to report on the two key events in April — another Blues night and our first-time Fashion show, but early signs of Ticket sales are most encouraging. Thank you for your support.



We now need you to turn out in force, with your friends, is for our first ever Comedy night, featuring writer-comedian **Paul Kerensa** (See opposite). Paul appears in writing credits of long-running series 'Not Going Out' and 'Miranda' and has top endorsements for his comic abilities from such people as Lee Mack and Chris Evans. He has also featured in such places as the Edinburgh Fringe and in Canada. As a Christian himself, he has a serious side, with radio appearances on such programmes as 'Pause for Thought', whilst a feature of his comedy nights is an absence of swearing, crudity or gratuitous offensiveness — yet still being very funny. He doesn't normally bring his act this far north, so we are looking for as full a church as we can manage— come yourselves and do tell others. Tickets are £10 per head from Committee members, Wendy Pritchard (07484 108595), or you can get them from Neeps & Tatties. This also marks our first venture into on-line ticket sales, so you can also buy via Eventbrite, but this will incur an additional administrative charge. (<https://bit.ly/4kDDcn7>) Please support this new venture.

PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE PREPARATION

August may seem a long way off, but it's not too soon to be preparing for our big late-Summer event. We'll be asking for your usual fine donations of plants, cuttings, home-made jams, chutneys, marmalades and other preserves, cakes and biscuits, so get set to bake and freeze if necessary, or set aside the preserves you already have, to ensure we will ensure plenty to sell on the day.

But there's also the Christmas jigsaws you have done and want to pass on to someone. Why not keep them for us. Board games, DVDs, books you've finished with, raffle prizes, items for tombola stalls — it's time to keep all of this in mind. How about having a space, a bag, or a crate in which you can gather stuff??

Thank you.

Jim Jack

Friends of St Mary's Church
Present

Evening of Comedy with **Paul Kerensa**

Paul Kerensa is a British Comedy Award-winning writer and comedian, with credits including Miranda, Not Going Out, Top Gear and BBC Radio 2 Pause for Thought.



"Top comic. Top writer. Top bloke!" Lee Mack
"His mastery of his comic art is first-rate" Metro

St Mary's Church Richmond
Friday 16th May at 7:30pm

Tickets £10 from :

Eventbrite <https://bit.ly/4kDDcn7>

Neeps & Tatties Richmond

Suitable for 12 +



CHARITY OF THE MONTH – MAY

Christian Aid Week itself is actually 11th-17th May, but once again we are invited to give it our wholehearted support throughout the month.



Christian Aid celebrates 80 years this year, having been founded in 1945 to help refugees in Europe following World War 2. This is an ecumenical charity, supported by 41 Protestant and Orthodox churches within the UK, as well as overseas, and has raised a substantial sum each year since it started, including just over £83 million last year. It fundraises to fight injustice; respond to humanitarian emergencies; campaign for change; and bring security and comfort to all people,

regardless of creed or nationality, who have had to flee their homes due to disasters, both natural and man-made. The charity also helps the world's most vulnerable people to claim the services and rights that we here in the UK take for granted – rights such as access to healthcare, education, and clean water.

As usual, May sees the return of Christian Aid Week, an event which started 60 years ago to raise more funds to support this important work. It is one of the few charities – possibly one of the only charities – that still undertakes a house-to-house collection, raising, in previous years, £3-£4,000 in Richmond alone. Due to various factors, however, and difficulty in recruiting volunteers who are willing to go house-to-house, this amount has declined considerably, so it's even more important that we at St Mary's are inspired to help out and be a part of this amazing cause.



Thankfully, the students at St Francis Xavier school have graciously taken up the banner, and, under the leadership of previous chaplain, Liz Sanders, have fundraised and done a lot to raise awareness of the importance of Christian Aid in Richmond and the surrounding area. SFX have previously held many mini fundraisers, including a non-uniform day on the theme of 'Pentecost flames', which have raised hundreds of

pounds towards the cause — one that they say brings us “hope for a fairer world”. The staff and students at SFX agree that their ethos of ‘love of God and love of neighbour’ means that supporting Christian Aid week is the perfect way to share their pride in their school and love of God.

Christian Aid week runs from 11th—17th May and, this year, there is a ‘70k in May’ challenge. The goal is to walk or run (or swim?) 70 kilometres in the month of May, something that I know the various walkers and runners in the congregation can manage easily! There are many emergency appeals for what has been happening all over the world, including the DEC Myanmar Earthquake Appeal, the Sudan Crisis Appeal, and humanitarian appeals for both the Middle East and Ukraine, but I hope you will consider supporting Christian Aid this month. Sadly, its work seems to be more



Aftermath of Myanmar earthquake

important than ever, with wars increasing in their intensity, climate change wreaking havoc on the world, and more and more people losing their basic human rights as a result. In this time when we are remembering Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for us, his time of teaching and love before his Ascension, let us look to God, and to each other, to ensure that we do what we can in our own lives to help the lives of others. It is important that we enable charities like Christian Aid to continue, so that they can be that beacon of light and hope to those who are struggling.

For more information on Christian Aid, please go to their website, www.christianaid.org.uk.

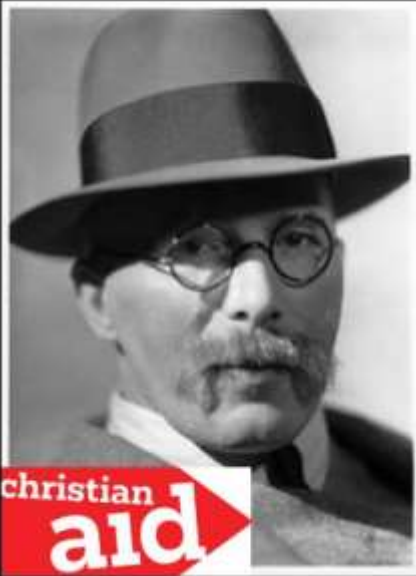
Lorna Heatley



AND ALSO FOR CHRISTIAN AID

'Arthur Ransome: Author, Adventurer and Yorkshireman'

An illustrated talk by Dr John Ridley

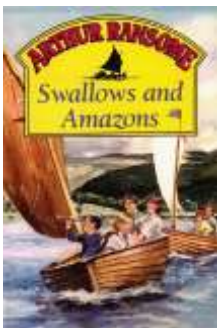


Arthur Ransome: Author, Adventurer, and Yorkshireman

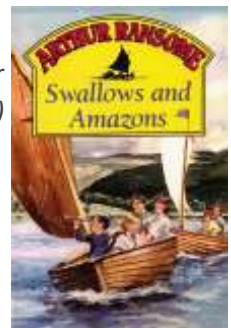
A talk for Christian Aid
by Dr John Ridley

Richmond Methodist Church
Friday 16th May at 7.00pm
£5 including refreshments

In this illustrated talk, John explores the life of Arthur Ransome and his most famous children's book, *'Swallows and Amazons'*. Written towards the end of his career as a journalist and foreign correspondent, this adventure story, set in the English Lake District and evocative of a time between the wars, has been enjoyed by generations of children and adults. But why was it so successful? Could it have been a combination of Ransome's spirit of adventure, his love of the Lake District, his passion for sailing and, not least, his distinctive writing style?



John Ridley is a former Associate Lecturer with the Open University (2010—2020) where he taught Children's Literature.



BEHIND THE HYMN

In spite of it being one of our best known hymns, surprisingly little has been written about this one, and there appear to be no images of the person who actually translated it into English. **CAROLE McCORMACK** shares what she has been able to discover, together with an example of the translator's skill.

"Thine Be the Glory"

A Hymn of Triumph, Resurrection, and Hope

"Thine Be the Glory" is one of the most beloved and powerful hymns in the Christian tradition, sung particularly during the Easter season but also at baptisms, weddings, and memorial services. The hymn exalts the victory of Jesus Christ over death, celebrating His resurrection as a transformational victory that promises eternal life for believers. Clear New Testament references underpin each verse, deepening the meaning of the words and giving them a wider perspective.



Edmund Louis Budry

The hymn was originally written in French by Edmond Louis Budry, a Swiss Protestant pastor, in 1884. Born in Vevey, he studied theology in Lausanne and was a pastor at Cully and Sainte-Croix between 1881 and 1889. He then became pastor of the Free Church in Vevey for a further 35 years, retiring in 1923. Besides writing original hymns, he translated German, English, and Latin lyrics into French. He died in Vevey and is buried in Cully.

The French title was "*À Toi la Gloire*", which translates as "To You Be the Glory". Budry's intention was to create a hymn that captured the theological importance and awe of the resurrection. He sought to convey the joy, power, and hope that stems from the central Christian doctrine of Christ rising from the dead. His hymn quickly gained popularity in Switzerland, spreading within a few years to other European countries.

In 1925, the hymn was translated into English by Richard B. Hoyle, an Anglican clergyman, who was known for his skill in translating French hymns into English. His version of Budry's "*À Toi la Gloire*" manages to retain the passion and

grandeur of the original.

Hoyle was born in 1875, in Cloughfold, England and attended Regent's Park College in London from 1895 to 1900. He served as a Baptist minister in a number of churches in England for twenty-six years, before then working with the YMCA. For some time, he edited their publication — *The Red Triangle*.

Hoyle had a real talent for translating hymns written in a number of languages, translating their literal meaning whilst retaining the spirit of the original. For example, the literal meaning of the first verse of Budry's original version —

Thine [be] the glory, Oh resurrected One!
Thine [be] the victory, for eternity!
Shining with light, the angel descended,
He rolled the stone from the conquered grave.
Thine [be] the glory, Oh resurrected One!
Thine [be] the victory, for eternity!

was translated by Hoyle as:

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won

He translated about thirty French hymns into English and also translated hymns from twelve other languages, all of which he read fluently. In 1934 he went to the United States, where he taught at Western Theological Seminary in Philadelphia for two years. When he returned to England, he became the Pastor of the Baptist church in Kingston-upon-Thames. He died in Wimbledon in 1939.

Thine be the Glory is sung to the tune of the chorus "See, the Conqu'ring hero comes", from the third section of Handel's oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus*. This was written in 1747 as a compliment to the victorious Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, upon his return from the Battle of Culloden.

Carole McCormack

MEMORABLE MANUSCRIPTS

This month's review has kindly been provided by **JUDITH MacLEOD**, who can thoroughly recommend a short book so evocative of life in rural Yorkshire about a century ago.

Book: A Month in the Country

Author: J.L.Carr

Publisher: Penguin Modern Classics

The author, James Lloyd Carr, was born in 1912. His father was a Methodist preacher and, as a boy, he went to the village school in Carlton Minniott near Thirsk and then to Castleford Grammar School. After working as a headteacher in Northamptonshire, he retired early to publish maps and pocket books of poets. He also wanted to write a novel and was awarded the 'Guardian' Fiction Prize for 'A Month in the Country' when it was published in 1980.

The book bears the same title as a novel by the Russian author Turgenev, but Carr's novel was made into a film in 1987. I was amused to learn that, when the filmmakers tried to persuade him to change his title, he said he didn't think he would.

I saw the film when it was first released in 1987. Although I found it gentle and beautiful, it did not make much impact on me and I did not register that the leading role was played by a young Colin Firth, either then or subsequently.

When the book was given to me as a present last Christmas, I read it in an afternoon (There are just over 100 pages). What a gem! I loved it and promptly watched the film again to appreciate the details of how the events and themes were captured. The film was well done but, in my view, it's not a patch on the book.

The story is set in Yorkshire in 1920. Tom Firkin, a young veteran from WW1 suffering from shell shock, has been trained to restore medieval murals. He has accepted an assignment to uncover a whitewashed mural on the wall of a Yorkshire church. His fee – 15 guineas for the month – is barely enough to live on, so he works and sleeps in the belfry, a good vantage point to observe visitors to



the church and the surrounding countryside. He meets the villagers and 3 strangers – Moon, an archaeologist digging for a 14th Century grave in a bell tent beside the church, and the Vicar and his wife.

The uncovering of the painting is engrossing, both for Birkin and the reader. The descriptions made me think of the 13th Century frescoes in St Agatha's church, Easby. They are vivid in the film, but so much more intense in one's imagination, seen through the eyes of Birkin.

Carr is not only describing Birkin's recollections of a past, peopled with endearing or interesting characters, he is evoking a nostalgia for something we never had, 'inhabited by neither the present nor the past'. For those of us who live in Yorkshire, it is a delightful depiction of local life as it may have been more 100 years ago.

Judith MacLeod



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Free hot drinks and snacks



Warm Welcome is now in its third year, and continues to be staffed by volunteers from the church and wider community. It is proving to be popular and there are many regular visitors.

You are invited to drop in, meet the team, and experience Warm Welcome for yourself.

We continue to need volunteers who can help to keep this valuable community project going.

We are grateful to St Mary's for their continued interest and support.

For further information please contact Dr John Ridley, Warm Welcome Co-ordinator,

01748 818653
or johnridley7449@aol.com.

NOTES FROM THE PAST

It seems appropriate, as we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE DAY, that **JANE HATCHER** should reflect upon some of our town's historic links with the military during the past almost 1000 years.

Our Armed Forces

We are reminded of St Mary's historic links with our armed forces each Sunday morning when the 10.00am service starts with the Green Howards Prayer, and reference is made to the Green Howards Chapel in the church. There are also several memorials to military figures on the south wall, including the hard-to-read bronze plaque to John Laird Mair Lawrence, First Lord Lawrence of the Punjab. He was buried in Westminster Abbey when he died in 1879, but as he had been born in Richmond in 1811, into an army family, another memorial to him was put in the church here in 1909.



The town's military links of course go back much further, indeed one could say back to 1071 when the Castle started to be built. It is hard to remember now that our Market Place was originally an exclusively military zone, and only became a place of residence and trade following early-14th century incursions by the Scots. During the Civil War of the mid-17th century, following the Parliamentary victory at the Battle of Marston Moor, fought near York on 2 July 1644, the Royalist commander, Prince Rupert of the Rhine, came north to Richmond, hoping in vain to rally what remained of his forces.

The following century saw many military personnel in the town. From the 1740s, soldiers appear frequently in our parish registers. Regular soldiers, from numerous regiments, must have been in the town long enough to

woo and marry, and have children born and, sometimes, die here. Indeed, the number of soldiers marrying local girls makes one wonder where they all came from, and even how local men found any to marry themselves.

Other groups of fighting men paid very short visits to the town. In the Georgian period, most military units did not have their own permanent bases, and so many soldiers were kept on the move throughout the country, as well as being deployed abroad. A Richmond lady recorded in her diary in February 1765 that three companies of foot soldiers had broken their march south from Scotland to London here, each arriving one day and departing the next, to stagger the pressure of billeting them.



William Herschel

Two local militias had been established in 1759, and numbers of their personnel feature conspicuously in the records. William Herschel, the German-born composer and astronomer, briefly spent some time in Richmond as bandmaster of the Durham Militia, and the North York Militia were to be part of the life of the town for well over a century. I related in the March 2021 Parish Magazine the amazing story of their presence contributing to the collapse of a gallery then in St Mary's, onto the unsuspecting clergy and other church officials below, during the Evening Service one Summer Sunday in 1774.

Fund-raising for good causes is something for which St Mary's, and Richmond in general, can be rightly proud, but it is nothing new. On 2nd October 1798 the Mayor of Richmond, Philip Macfarlan, called a public meeting in the Town Hall to raise money towards the national collection being organised at Lloyd's Coffee House in London's Lombard Street, a fashionable meeting place for the shipping industry community, for the widows and children of sailors lost in the Battle of the Nile.

Fought in the evening of 1 August 1798, that battle established Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson's fame, as it resulted in the loss of no British ships, but it had left 218 British dead, and 677 wounded. Richmondians clearly dug deep into their pockets, for nearly £60 was subsequently sent to London. Thomas Bowman, the Richmond printer, circulated a printed list of 104 names who had contributed to the subscription, with 8 more names added on by hand. The sums involved ranged from 5 guineas down to 1 shilling.

A later phase of the Napoleonic conflicts, of course, culminated in the Battle of Waterloo, fought on 18th June 1815. Following this major event, many former soldiers had to try to settle back into civilian life, and we know something of how two Waterloo veterans spent their later years in and around Richmond. William Watson and Augustus Blytheman not only survived the carnage of Waterloo, but lived for many years afterwards, before being buried in our churchyard in 1844 and 1847 respectively.

It was not long after Waterloo, in 1819, that the North York Militia built a depot and arsenal at the top of Cravengate. It survives as Temple Square. But the barrack block they built within the Castle itself in 1855 no longer exists. The Adjutant of the North York Militia at the time that barracks was built, however, is commemorated in St Mary's. The stained glass in the west window of the south aisle is to Captain Dugald Stewart Miller, who died in 1875.



North York Militiaman

The surviving cell block at the Castle entrance, contemporary with the barracks, is now well known for housing Conscientious Objectors during World War I. Another reminder of the town's Victorian military history is the huge army barracks built in 1875 at the top of Gallowgate, now transformed into the Garden Village. Rather less survives of Richmond Camp, the World War II army base which was repurposed as the Gallowfields Trading Estate. Few of its original brick single-storey structures now survive, as most have been replaced by more suitable modern premises.

In the later 20th century, four military units were granted the Freedom of Richmond: the Green Howards Regiment, the Royal Corps of Signals, the RAF Regiment, and the company of the frigate HMS Richmond, and over the years there have been many impressive Freedom Marches through the town. St Mary's is always packed for Remembrance Sunday, and army bands give concerts in the church. Many veterans have over the years chosen to settle in and around Richmond, and we are all well aware of the presence of our neighbour, Catterick Garrison. This is now the largest military base in Europe, established from 1915 as Catterick Camp by the founder of the Scouting movement, Lord Robert Baden-Powell.



Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Jane Hatcher

AN ANTIDOTE TO GLOOM AND DOOM

Smiling

*Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the 'flu
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too
I walked around the corner, and someone saw me grin
When he smiled, I realised I had passed it on to him
I thought about the smile, and then realised its worth
A single smile like mine, could travel round the earth
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected
Start an epidemic, and get the world infected.*

Source unknown

POET'S CORNER

Shortly after the birth of their first grandson, **IAN WOODS** felt moved to write this lovely poem, after his daughter told him about waking one morning to find baby Jack just looking at her.

Baby awakening first

*In years to come
you will tell me the word is to 'awake'
but I only know it is the difference
between thinking I still lie within you
to being free and moving in air*

*I am not yet hungry
(again, a word you will tell me later)
but as I make what little sense of
this life, I know
It is you who will satisfy that need*

*You are not looking at me
Those round things that shine when you do
Are closed
If I look at you long enough
Will the love I do not yet know wake you?
Will you reach out and hold me close,
which is what I want you to do*

*This room (another word) is now light,
I am awake
But maybe I will be quiet for a while
There is lots of time and I am happy*

*Soon you will 'awake'
then it will begin again
love and being loved
as it always has
as it always is
as it always will be*

Ian Woods

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For all voices

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Screen 2, The Station, Richmond

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**Coming up...Come and Sing on Wednesday 10th September
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NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

The recent spell of almost unseasonably warm weather has certainly brought more leaves on the trees and some colour into our gardens. This month **WENDY PRITCHARD** looks forward to a very attractive plant coming into bloom and adding even more colour.

Hurrah, it's May – the blossom should be out, some tulips still blooming, but only a few garden flowers impressing yet. The glorious abundance of June is just around the corner, but there is a quiet space at ground level just longing to be filled. Onto the stage steps aquilegia – also known as granny's bonnets or columbine. There are around 130 different species of aquilegia, coming from all across the Northern Hemisphere. Some varieties are named after real people, like aquilegia 'Nora Barlow', a British botanist and geneticist, the granddaughter of Charles Darwin.

Aquilegias are lovely short-lived perennials spanning almost all colours from blue, pink, white and yellow to bi-colours like maroon and white. There are spurs at the back of the flower head, which can be short and curved back, or long and flowing behind. You get the idea – these are a breeder's dream! Even the bees find these fun, since they can totally mix up the colours stored in the seeds when visiting one flower after the other. I once saved seeds from about ten different colour combinations and found they all grew to be pink and cream!



The spurs at the back of the flower hold the nectar and have evolved to different lengths as a response to different pollinators. Our native aquilegia is attractive to bumble bees, so has fairly short spurs, but some American species, pollinated by humming birds with long tongues, have spurs 15cm long.



Aquilegias will grow anywhere, but don't like to totally dry out in summer or be cold and soggy over winter. They have deep tap-roots, so don't like being moved when they're older. The seed heads are upright twisted capsules which burst open to scatter the shiny black seeds, so cut off the dead flower stems if you don't want new plants. If you collect seeds to refresh your stock, they germinate best if left to experience some

cold weather, so scatter them on an empty patch of soil and wait for next Spring!



The dark blue smaller-flowered aquilegias are native wild plants in this country and appear in many medieval paintings. The name ‘granny’s bonnets’ just describes how they look, but the botanical name ‘aquilegia’ may have come from ‘aquila’, the Latin word for ‘eagle’. The spurs can look a bit like eagles’

claws. ‘Columbine’ has been used since at least the 14th century, from the French or Latin words for dove, because the fluttery petals look like bird’s wings.

Aquilegia seeds and roots are poisonous, although apparently there was a belief that lions favoured them as a light snack. Carrying the flowers or rubbing some sap into your hands was supposed to give a person the courage and fearlessness of a lion.



Really?

Wendy Pritchard



VE DAY QUIZ ANSWERS

(from page 11)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Food for thought | 2. Step back in Time | 3. Community Spirit |
| 1.1 Jelly | 2.1 Victory in Europe | 3.1 Street parties |
| 1.2 Grow their own food | 2.2 3.00pm | 3.2 Waste not, Want not |
| 1.3 Food rationing | 2.3 Vera Lynn | 3.3 Women’s Institute |
| 1.4 Bully beef | 2.4 Enigma Code | 3.4 Letters |
| 1.5 Eggs | 2.5 Silk stockings | 3.5 Salvation Army |
| 1.6 Dandelion | 2.6 Spitfire | 3.6 Football |
| 1.7 Potato Pete | 2.7 Red Poppy | 3.7 Keep Calm & Carry On |
| 1.8 Ration book/coupons | 2.8 Evacuation | 3.8 A dance |

Source — DCMS VE DAY RESOURCES WEBSITE

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

Join the St Mary's Song Squad

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

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

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

For more information or to sign up for the Song Squad

Contact Chris Denton 07817 386070



Usually last Sunday in every month

Next service — **25th May '25**

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 meeting:

30th May '25



THIRST!

(The Men's Group)

Meets first Thursday of every month from

7.00 p.m.

Next Meeting at

The Town Hall Pub & Dining, Richmond

1st May '25



WORD SEARCH

Ascension Day

This month (29th May) the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fact that our God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus was seen on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He encouraged his disciples, and said that He was sending them to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven; his work on earth was done. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, and on the fateful morning of Pentecost, there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. That morning the Holy Spirit came to dwell in all those who believed in Jesus: the Church was born. And so we have a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Ascension
Blessed
Taken
Jerusalem
Wait
Prayer
Power
One
Room
Disciples
Tongues
Flame
Joy
Praise
Confusion
Languages
Earth
Peter
Holy
Spirit
Trinity
Father
Son
triune



Sudoku - Easy

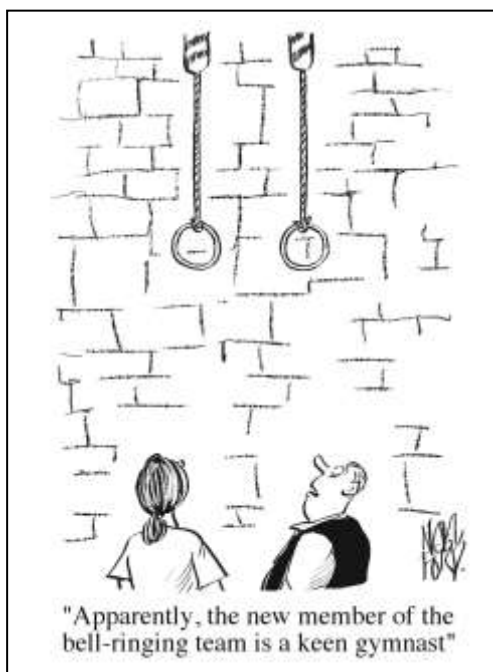
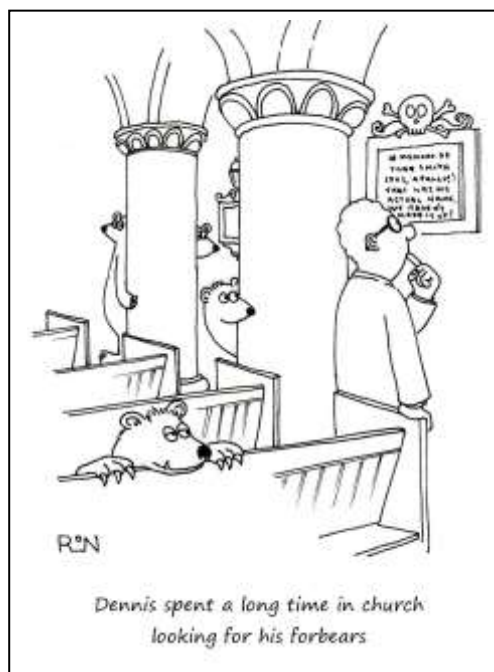
5	4			7	6	1	8
7							2
		6	1	2	4	7	3
		4	8			9	
2				3			1
		8			1	3	
	6	1	5	4	9	2	
	5						6
	2	9	7	6			1

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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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



Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku — Medium

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

Wordsearch



Deadline for June '25 edition; Monday 12th May.
To contribute letters, articles, etc. please contact
connections.ed24@gmail.com or 07866 033263

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