

CONNECTIONS

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

September 2026



Price £1.80

National
Silver Award 2024

THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME AND MARSKE

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk
www.facebook.com/StMarysRHDM

MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR

The Revd Canon Martin Fletcher
martin.fletcher@leeds.anglican.org

The Rectory, Church Wynd, Richmond
07762 440094 or (01748) 821241

ASSISTANT CURATE

Revd Lorna Heatley lorna.heatley@leeds.anglican.org 07783 903156

HONORARY CLERGY

Bishop John Pritchard - Revd Jennifer Williamson - Revd Pauline Shepherd
Revd Martin Clarke - Revd Stewart Ridley

OCCASIONAL PREACHER

Paul Perry

PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Graham Pearson	(07455) 943875	Sharon McCormack	(07791) 426659
Sharon O'Connor	(07704) 467833	Jan Jack	(07725) 574188

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests to Anna via boyceadl11@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICERS — ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND

Mayor's Warden	Peter Trewby	(01748) 824468	24 Hurgill Road, Richmond
Rector's Warden	Wendy Pritchard	(01748) 850854	
Warden Emeritus	David Frankton	(01748) 823531	8 Allan's Court, Richmond
Director of Music	Colin Hicks	(07498) 299061	
Bell Captain	Susan Welch	(01748) 823700	8 Maple Road, Richmond
Head Verger	John Welch	(01748) 823700	8 Maple Road, Richmond

Parish Administrator & Secretary to the PCC

Colin Hicks (07498) 299061 admin@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

OFFICERS OF THE PCC (AND OTHERS)

Lay Chair	Peter Trewby	(01748) 824468	24 Hurgill Road, Richmond
Treasurer	Paul Carnell		stmarys@paulcarnell.co.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Jan Beeton	(01748) 823169	beetonjanet14@gmail.com
Magazine Editor	John McCormack	(07866) 033263	connections.ed24@gmail.com
Magazine Advertising	Jim Jack	(07754) 283161	
Magazine Distribution			
Church Bookings	Colin Hicks		admin@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk
Publicity	Andy Lovell	(07974) 766020	skeeby@skeeby.com

CHURCH SERVICES — St MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND with Hudswell

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

CHURCH SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL, MARKET PLACE , RICHMOND

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Every Thursday

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME

CHURCH OFFICERS

Reader	George Alderson (07487) 257646	68, Brompton Park, Brompton on Swale DL10 7JP
Church Warden	Andra Sison-Ham (07753) 842246	andrakrumins@gmail.com
Church Treasurer	Phil Ham (07920) 884103	'Sundale', Reeth, DL11 6TX philip.ham@outlook.com
PCC Secretary	Andra Sison-Ham (07753) 842246	andrakrumins@gmail.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

Church Warden	Ruth Tindale (01748) 823371	Skelton Lodge, Marske
Organist	Jennifer Wallis (01748) 822930	1 School Terrace, Marske
Treasurer	Peter Coates (07801) 521954	Orgate Farmhouse, Marske peter.coates54@hotmail.co.uk
PCC Secretary	Andra Sison-Ham (07753) 842246	andrakrumins@gmail.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 hesitate to ask, because by the time this magazine appears the situation may be very different, but can you remember when we last had some rain? The recent spell of prolonged hot and dry weather may have been a boon for harvesting cereals, but it certainly hasn't helped crop yields or our gardens. If yours is anything like ours, we're just hoping that the plants and grass survive.

We start off this issue with a report from Revd Martin about those appointed at the Annual Meetings; some details about the procedure for his replacement; and various matters from the PCC. To supplement these, there are details elsewhere about the national church finances and a new local initiative – the Richmond Open Pantry – being organised collaboratively by all the churches in Richmond. Jim and Jan Jack have almost reached home on their Camino Walk, and Jim has also contributed another My Business is Your Business, as well as providing an update on the Friends' activities. If you haven't got tickets already, don't miss the chance to hear Jez Lowe in concert. And if this reaches you before the end of August, don't forget the Plant & Produce Sale, in church, on 29th August — Bank Holiday Saturday.

Christine Porter reflects on Pilgrimage within Christianity and her Bible Lands pilgrimage with Bishop John 3 years ago, and Judith MacLeod continues her travels around Sicily, this time up the eastern side. John Pritchard explores another Hard Question with the intriguing title 'Do Christians Eat God?' We also have the welcome return of George Alderson with one of his poems; a prayer from Michel Quoist which is still relevant today, in spite of first appearing over 60 years ago; and details of the Charity of the Month – Garget Walker House and Time Together Tuesday – both of which are local and really need our support. And finally, there is a notice about an ancient Richmond tradition – the First Fruits Ceremony.

As ever, we hope you find this issue interesting and informative. We would love to have more contributions from others than the editorial team, so do please think about what you could offer.

John McCormack

**Cover photo by Carole McCormack
*Nature's Bounty***



Martin's Message

September 2026



Annual Meeting Matters

This is my first opportunity to give an update on our Annual Meetings which took place in May. Our wonderful Churchwardens – Peter Trewby, Wendy Pritchard, Andra Sison-Ham and Ruth Tindale – were all re-elected for another year and duly admitted by the Archdeacon on 2nd July. On behalf of us all, I would like to say thank you for the invaluable work they do for us.

A total of eight new PCC members were elected or co-opted, and this is the full list of members for 2026-27:

Richmond with Hudswell PCC

- Churchwardens: Peter Trewby and Wendy Pritchard
- Elected members: Carole McCormack, David Frankton, Linda Curran, Anne Clarke, Judith MacLeod, Libby Sands, Hannah Rafferty, Paul Perry, Sally Boddy,
- Co-opted members: Colin Hicks, Kelly Greener, Martin Clarke
- Ex-officio members: Stuart Rowan (Deanery Synod representative), Lorna Heatley and Martin Fletcher (Clergy)
- Officers: Jan Beeton (Safeguarding Officer), Paul Carnell (Treasurer).

Downholme and Marske PCC

- Churchwardens: Andra Sison-Ham and Ruth Tindale
- Elected members: George Alderson, Jean Calvert, Joyce Sunter, Phil Ham (Downholme Treasurer), Naomi Meredith, Tom Maxwell
- Co-opted member: Jennifer Williamson
- Ex-officio members: Lorna Heatley and Martin Fletcher (Clergy)
- Officers: Jan Beeton (Safeguarding Officer), Peter Coates (Marske Treasurer).

Joint PCC Away Day

The new PCCs met for an *Away Day* in June. We discussed the upcoming Vacancy; received an update from the Richmond with Hudswell Parish Vision Team; and agreed priorities for the coming year.

Preparing for the Vacancy

Following my last Sunday on 22nd November, Vacancy will formally begin on 1st December – with Lorna due to leave us in September 2027. It is therefore important to have begun our Vacancy preparations as early as possible.

An initial meeting between the Archdeacon and Churchwardens was held in May, with a further meeting involving both PCCs in July. We are now on track to begin advertising the post in early 2027, making it feasible for a new rector to be in place by September.

The Archdeacon set out the reality that reduced Parish Share receipts in recent years has led to the need for a reduction in stipendiary clergy posts across the Diocese. This will in turn require the parishes of each Deanery to work more closely together in their ministry and mission – i.e. to ‘resource’ one another – and be more innovative, for example in launching ‘Fresh Expressions of Church.’

How this works in practice will depend on the local context of each Deanery. Within our Deanery of Richmond – comprising a market town, a large garrison and a network of rural villages – our Benefice is well-placed to play a central part in facilitating the required culture-shift. The role description of the new rector may therefore include responsibility for pioneering this change.

To enable such change across the Ripon Episcopal Area Bishop Anna is preparing a bid for funding from the Church Commissioners. See page 20 on how the Church of England is financed.

Richmond with Hudswell Parish Vision update

The Vision Team was set up last year to formulate and propose to the PCC a long-term vision.

They recognised that our vision must involve maintaining St Mary’s ‘Unique Selling Point’ as the parish church of Richmond with Hudswell. A clear vision will ensure that those outside, as well as inside, the church community know what our church is about.

Within our particular setting we are to play our part in the Church of England's overall commitment to be 'a Christian presence in every community' by:

- reaching out to our wider community as well as serving our congregation e.g. by being fully inclusive (hence our unofficial 'All are welcome' strapline);
- in welcoming any request for the occasional offices, and in embracing the civic, military and commercial aspects of community life;
- resourcing the Spiritual Growth of all ages and stages;
- service through Community Engagement ('when the worship is over the service begins');
- safeguarding our Sustainability (which includes ensuring that income covers outgoings, office-holder posts are filled, and our buildings are fit for purpose);
- collaborating in mission and ministry with the other churches and agencies (including church schools) in Richmond.

The Team recommended that the PCC continues to focus on our three core areas of **Spiritual Growth**, **Community Engagement** and **Sustainability**, whilst also building-in the emerging 'Resourcing Deanery' culture shift. Each short-term objective we set is to enable us to progress in one or more of these core areas.

The Team also recommended that the PCC becomes more effective as an executive body – to ensure that our objectives are completed within a prescribed timescale. The PCC should therefore be delegating its authority to specific groups or individuals, as required, to take on the responsibility for a particular task.

Richmond with Hudswell priorities for the coming year

For 2025-26 the PCC had selected these priorities from a comprehensive list of possible objectives:

- undertake a Christian Development survey to find out what is actually needed to encourage spiritual growth;
- attract and retain newcomers, including re-arranging the back of the church to be more welcoming and less cluttered;
- make Morning Worship more accessible and better publicised;
- work more closely with local schools; and
- build up the Verger team to support our community and outreach events.

Having re-visited the full list of possible objectives, and in recognising that the

PCC will soon be fulfilling each of the above objectives, the Parish Vision Team recommended, and the PCC agreed to, the following priorities for 2026-27:

Spiritual Growth:

To continue offering a broad and inclusive range of worship styles and discipleship resources, whilst also giving young people greater involvement.

Community engagement:

To collaborate more actively with other churches and agencies in the town in identifying and meeting areas of need.

Sustainability:

To undertake re-ordering projects (e.g. the kitchen and toilet facilities) which have the support of the wider community.

The Worship and Prayer Team under Lorna's leadership are actively pursuing the fulfilment of the first priority, with initiatives such as our August Month of Prayer. The forthcoming Richmond Open Pantry (see page 13) is an example of how the churches and schools in Richmond are working together to meet local need. The recent extensive plaster and paint repairs to the interior of St Mary's will be leading to further improvements which will benefit all who visit the church.

As we enter the late summer and begin to move towards the autumn, we look back with gratitude for times past and look forward with confidence in God. We know from experience that, as he calls and equips us, he is unfailingly gracious and unceasingly creative.

With every blessing,

Martin

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A Prayer for Serenity

***God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.***

Amen

CAMINO COUNTDOWN — THE LAST OF THE UNFAMILIAR

In our last issue, we learned a little more about the Saint who is the ultimate focus of the Camino Santiago de Compostella and left **Jim and Jan Jack** entering the church of St James the Great in Melsonby to collect another stamp on their Camino Ingles passports. As they set foot in the first church on their journey to bear his name, they spent a little time exploring, before setting off for their next, and penultimate, destination — Gilling West.

The logistics were becoming easier as we left home to head for — home! No need for cars — just a swift journey on a bus from the Market Place and bus back from Gilling. Except no bus appeared. A call once more to our daughter, who luckily was free on this Spring Saturday morning, and a lift to Melsonby, with the promise of collection in Gilling later, was obtained.

The Church of St James the Great is worth a visit. Another Grade II* listed building whose origins go back to Norman times (listed in the Domesday Book) with Anglo-Saxon stones outside, but whose building has been changed to meet the needs of the times — or been restored after periods of decay. We were unable to find out why it is particularly dedicated to St James, which, indeed, raised the question ‘How was the chosen saint of any church decided?’ Nevertheless, stained glass in the church portrays the now familiar image of St James with his staff, gourd and scallop shell on his own journeying to spread the teachings of Christ, before meeting his own untimely end.

In addition to the stained glass remembrance of St James, a local man, one Frank Turnbull, had also painstakingly created a similar memorial, but in the style of an Eastern European icon (right). It’s a fine piece of work. As a tintinnabulist, Jan also noted that there is currently an appeal for financial support to increase the number of bells in their active bell tower from six to eight.



Remembering that churches in Norman times were the ultimate village hub — place of worship, pew-less meeting place, location of fire-fighting equipment, etc. — St James’ hosts the village post office; a café on certain days, which is well used by local residents; and a number of community meetings and events.

The temptations of a coffee were resisted — we had some pilgriming to do! — so we left the church, turned right to head for a post box with knitted headgear and thence to the main crossroads. A right turn here soon led us to a gate on the left just beyond the school and we were immediately walking on a historic pathway as we headed south in the general direction of Gilling West.

And it did have a historic ‘feel’ to it: a gentle uphill gradient with moss-covered walls on either side and overhanging boughs, but nothing to impede the traveller on foot on another bright, sunny morning. In short, all augured well for a steady half-day’s walking towards our destination for the day. Apart from getting our kicks crossing the UK’s route 66, this was felt to be enjoyably routine.



A few memories from the day’s walk

We were following the route of one of the oldest ‘roads’ in the country, Jagger Lane, which connected the lead mining centres of this part of the Yorkshire Dales to the Roman Road of Watling Street. We were being reminded that much of the local Roman interest in our area stemmed from access to lead, which they used in buildings and plumbing work (plumbing from the Latin word ‘plumbum’, I believe, meaning lead). So we pressed on. Images of the tough Swaledale ponies used to carry the lead from mine to market (called jiggers by dalesfolk) were also close to our thoughts, as a couple were spotted grazing in a field nearby. Our notes told us that the word ‘jagger’ actually is derived from *Jagar* which refers to a hunting pony. This was new information for us. Plenty to discuss here, as we walked through dappled sunlight ever upwards. Jagger = Jagar = Jaeger= the hunter = clothing brand now sold by M&S. And so on. No definitive answers, but plenty of questions — and, anyway, it was a lovely day to walk and enjoy nature.

At the top of the hill, we broke out onto a concrete farm road at a point where it took a turn southwest-wards, harder on the feet, but still straightforward and clear. Expansive views started to open up to our right on this late-March Saturday, revealing quite an extensive quarrying operation and concrete works in the distance. We were now on Gatherley Moor, once the site of horse racing in the 15th century. The path straightened again to turn due south once more and on to the A66.

A surprisingly easy crossing of this often busy road, which follows the route of the East-West Roman Road of Watling Street (not even a Roman soldier in sight) to re-join Jagger Lane as a green track. Clearly, many had trodden this way before us, not to mention volumes of water in the past, which had clearly seen this route as the quickest way to go down the hill, taking top soil with it. I'm afraid I found this the most uncomfortable part of our entire Camino experience, as tree roots and exposed stones of various shapes and sizes tried to send my feet in directions which they did not like.

Nevertheless, all bad things come to an end as we moved out of woodland, crossed two tarmacked roads and headed for Hartforth. The views of the valley ahead of us presented a fine panorama, and we were able to pick out some familiar landmarks as the walking became easier once more and the small settlement of Hartforth beckoned.



There were daffodils everywhere here and trees sporting early blossom in a village dominated by the Grade II listed Hartforth Hall (above) and its accompanying estate buildings. Built in sandstone for the Craddock family in 1744, it is a major feature of the valley. As we proceeded over an attractive stone bridge across Gilling Beck, our notes informed us that the hall was used as a prisoner-of-war camp in World War II. On such an idyllic spring day, I can't imagine anyone would seek to escape from here!

Out came the lemon and ginger tea and Nature Valley bars, as we stopped to soak up the quiet beauty of this open valley, thoughts miles away with home quite close. There is so much accessible countryside to enjoy so close to our town and, apart from rocky paths down from the A66, reached by some relatively undemanding walking. So it was surprising that, once more, we had hardly met a soul on our travels. Two young people and a lively spaniel in Hartforth village were the sum total of our fellow walkers to greet as our paths crossed.

Our sturdy jagger ponies would have trodden the route unfolding before us. The direction of Jagger Lane was once again made clear by a line of trees, banking and the remnants of a dry stone wall which headed off up a steepish rise. Even when we moved into a wooded area near the top of the incline, the remnants of a dry-stone wall on our left spoke of the lead miners and their work horses of the past.



Jaggers ponies hauling 'pigs' (baskets) of lead

We were now on the home-run to Gilling village, which could be seen to our left. Familiar ground at last. The route tells us to go straight down the surfaced farm road, past the Wedding Barns and fishing lakes on Waters Lane, to rejoin the main road through Gilling. Turning left, the route follower (me) walked up the High Street to another ancient church — St Agatha's. But ever the adventurer, further back up the lane Jan accepted the two stiles challenge to go across the fields and enter St Agatha's (who chose St Agatha?) churchyard via the back gate. Just as we had almost 45 years ago in October, we travelled different routes (though not quite these ones) to arrive at this self-same church to start a shared pilgrimage of marriage.

Good memories; passports stamped; a call to our daughter requesting a lift home and we were finally set-up for eating the last leg of the proverbial elephant. Gilling West to Richmond — the most familiar ground of all.

Jim Jack



RICHMOND OPEN PANTRY

On page 8 of his *Message* this month, Revd. Martin mentioned this new joint initiative. If you can help in any way, he'd love to hear from you.



Together, all the churches of Richmond will be launching an Open Pantry in October. This will be similar to the Open Pantry in the parish of Easby, Skeeby, Brompton and Bolton-on-Swale, which we have supported at our Harvest Festivals in 2024-25.

The Open Pantry will be a means for all the church denominations in Richmond to work together in supporting the wider community we serve. It will complement the established and very successful *StoreHouse* foodbank managed by the Influence Church, where the main open time is Thursdays, 4.00-6.00pm.

The Richmond Open Pantry ethos is to offer the opportunity on any day of the week for anyone to collect or to donate everyday essentials, food and toiletries: "If you don't have enough, then you are welcome to come and receive. If you are fortunate to have enough, then please give something, so that it may be shared out."

Each church will have a table or rack near the entrance for people to receive or to give, and the opening hours of every church will be publicised – along with a list of items that would be appreciated and which will be regularly updated.

If you would be willing to help keep the St Mary's Open Pantry neat and tidy and up-to-date, please let Martin know.



St Joseph and
St Francis Xavier
RC Church



FROM THE REGISTERS



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



Joyce Sidgwick	12th April '26
Margaret Bailey	27th May '26
Malcolm Woodman	11th June '26
Margaret Merlane	23rd June '26
Allan Smith	12th July '26

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.

AND ON A HAPPIER NOTE



Wedding

On 8th August 2026

At St Mary's Church, Richmond



**Olivia Cherry to Spencer Scaife
and
Lucy Bateson to Patrick Martin**

Wishing both these couples long and happy marriages.

May God guide you along your journey and bless you each day.

HARD QUESTIONS

The sacrament of Holy Communion may be taken for granted by some, but others find it more challenging. As ever, **JOHN PRITCHARD** tackles the issue head on,

Do Christians eat God?

In the eucharist, the service speaks of eating the body of Christ and drinking his blood. Isn't that an awful image? It's such a vivid picture, that sometimes I find myself unable to say the Prayer of Humble Access, because it contains these lines: 'Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood....' It's shocking. Indeed, one of the charges made against the first Christians was that they were cannibals!

So how do we answer that? There are a number of approaches.

- In one sense we can accept the charge. The philosopher Feuerbach wrote 'Man is what he eats', meaning it dismissively as if to say 'that's all a person is.' His statement, however, couldn't have been more Christian! When we feed spiritually on Christ in Communion, taking him spiritually into our lives, we become more like him. That's our intention and goal.
- The main thing to say, of course, is that unless we take the idea at it's most literal (which admittedly some versions of transubstantiation do) we aren't eating and drinking physically but rather sacramentally, that is, symbolically or metaphorically. The bread and the wine *represent* the body and blood rather than *being* the body and blood. We can recognise the presence of Christ in the bread and wine, without confusing it with the actual physical components.
- At the eucharist we are taken back to the Last Supper, and reminded of the core actions of Jesus at many meals (taking, blessing, breaking, sharing), and we're reminded of the crucial moments in the life of Jesus, his death and resurrection. In a sense we *re-inhabit* those actions, those moments. They are *re-presented* to us and we own them as central to our lives.



- This service looks back to the foundational events of our faith, but it also looks forward to the end of time as an appetizer for the Royal Banquet to come. You could say that the Holy Community gathers together to receive Holy Communion as a foretaste of the Holy Kingdom that God intends for us all. Pope Pius X said the eucharist is the shortest and safest way to heaven!
- There are many other things that the eucharist signifies. It communicates beyond words for one thing. When words fail us as poor, thin things that can't carry the most profound truths, sacraments can do the job for us. How can we stuff the deep mystery of an infinite God into the straightjacket of human words that have been chewed so often they've lost their meaning? Let the sacrament do it for us.
- Holy Communion also signifies the radical egalitarianism of the Kingdom of God. We are equally welcome, we sit at the same table, we eat the same food, we look at the same central figure, we belong to one another and no-one is more important than anyone else. We accept each other as brothers and sisters whatever our income, education, crazy ideas or dress sense! Professor and pauper kneel together.
- By recognising the presence of Christ in this one place (bread and wine), we're helped to recognise the presence of Christ in every place. We can't ask God to 'come into' a situation – he's already there! We just have to become aware of this radical truth. It changes our whole approach to the week, to the people we meet, the events we go to, the things we hear. And we become more aware of the companionship of Christ and his love.
- And lastly, we come to Communion simply because we need it. We're often bewildered seekers, chased to exhaustion and desperately in need of something more sustaining than the thimbles of sustenance our shallow society offers. Former archbishop Rowan Williams put it this way: 'We take Holy Communion not because we are doing well, but because we are doing badly. Not because we have arrived, but because we are travelling. Not because we are right, but because we are confused and wrong. Not because we are divine, but because we are human. Not because we are full, but because we are hungry.'

We are privileged to recognise the truth of this, and so we come, week by week, to be 'ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven', as the hymn says, and to be shaped a little bit more into the likeness of Christ.

John Pritchard

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

AN EVENING WITH JEZ LOWE — FRIDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER

Well, Bob Hill from the Friends Committee has certainly pulled in a big name for our Autumn Folk Concert. Jez has been a leading folk artist for over forty years, whether performing on his own all over the world, appearing with his band 'The Bad Pennies', or as part of the highly acclaimed Pitmen Poets who have been celebrated across the UK. Singer songwriter and now author, Jez comes to St Mary's on the last Friday in September.



We are guaranteed a superbly entertaining evening, as Jez demonstrates the full range of his songs – historic, social, poignant and humorous. Tickets are £15.00 each and can be obtained from the Bookstop in the Market Hall, from Bob Hill, Andy Lovell, John Challis or me at Church, or online through Eventbrite (a small additional booking fee applies). Do pass the word around. There is a limit in ticket numbers, but we would like a full house.

The usual bar and raffle will also run before the concert and during the interval.

RECENT EVENTS

Since the last magazine was published, Musicality treated us to another excellent concert at the end of June. Although there was a smaller audience than last year, the mixed musical programme was thoroughly entertaining and beautifully sung with great precision. They'll be back next year.



The second week in July was particularly busy with a coffee morning in the Town Hall on Thursday 9th, followed by the annual Church Barbecue on Saturday 11th. As ever, both occasions were most enjoyable, although the numbers attending the Barbecue seemed down on last year's event. Whether this was related to being a week later than normal, or the clash with a number of major sporting events on TV — football, cricket, tennis, holiday commitments — who knows? Those who came along thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, eating good food and taking the opportunity to enjoy the fine weather while chatting to friends and meeting new people.

The other challenge for the committee was 'staffing' both of these events, with a small number of people stretched to provide the level of service needed. If anyone reading this article feels that they may be able to help with any future events, please get in touch with me on 07754 283161.

Your help would be very much appreciated and we'll always find a job for you!



THAT'S THE WAY THE MONEY GOES

The Friends of St Mary's was set up to bring the church community together for social occasions; to raise funds to protect and develop the fabric and environment of the church; and to maintain it in a way in which it can fulfil its role as a church for the whole parish — which means everyone living here.

As you will know, we were able to raise a significant sum towards the step-free access project, demonstrating a level of financial contribution which unlocked a number of grants and led to the successful completion of a significant improvement in what St Marys is able to offer.

The five-yearly structural review of the church revealed some areas of the walls which demanded immediate repair and re-decoration to prevent serious problems later. The most essential parts of that work have now been completed, with the Friends fully funding the cost, thus saving the PCC in excess of £7,000.

We are currently looking at ways of improving the toilet areas to bring them up to a higher standard for church goers, visitors and event audiences alike. Another factor here is to make these areas easier for cleaning teams to clean and keep a hygienic environment. This, too, will be fully funded by the Friends.

In considering how to use resources accumulated through fund-raising activities, we are also seeking to retain sufficient in reserve to meet any needs which result from the PCC's development plan for the church. The forthcoming events between now and Christmas — Jez Lowe, Quiz Night, Curry Night, Blues in the Pews, a Mad Hatters Tea Party on 17th October, concerts and coffee mornings at Christmas — will all help to boost our ability to support our church over the next few years. And look out for the Bootleg Eagles in January. It's going to be quite an Autumn at St Mary's and we look forward to your continued support.

Jim Jack (Secretary)

Friends of St Mary's Church
Present

The Legend **Jez Lowe**

One of the busiest and most admired performers on the International folk scene, Jez Lowe is celebrating decades of success as a singer, songwriter, musician and author.



Friday 25th Sept at 7:30pm
St Mary's Church Richmond Yorks
DL10 4LB

Tickets £15 available from :
Eventbrite : <https://bit.ly/4eXvPVT>

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

www.jezlowe.com



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

In his Message this month (see page 6), Revd Martin referred to the implications of our Parish Share shortfall for whoever may be appointed to replace him, and felt that the following clarification might be helpful.



How is the Church of England financed?



At the Richmond with Hudswell Annual Meeting in May, a question was received on the how the Church Commissioners' reserves are used. As we take in the consequences of the need for our Diocese to reduce the number of stipendiary clergy and to bid for funding from the Church Commissioners, now seems a good time to revisit this matter.

The July/August 2024 issue of *Connections* included an article by Bishop John on the origins, management, and use of the over £10 billion invested by the Church Commissioners. He also mentioned the Commissioners' allocation of £100 million to address historical links with the slave trade. The same issue included a further article on the latter subject, which sought to address various myths which had sprung up surrounding this allocation. If you no longer have access to these articles this issue has been restored to the Magazines section of our website www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk/Resources/ (pages 17-20).

You may also find these articles informative:

From the Diocesan website, an explanation of how the Parish Share is calculated and used: [Parish Share Explained - Diocese of Leeds](#)

From the Church Commissioners page on the Church of England website, an explanation of who they are, and what they do:

[Church Commissioners | The Church of England](#)

From the Church of England website, an article on major investment plans over the next three years:

[Major investment in local churches and parish clergy, as £1.6bn three-year national spending plans unveiled | The Church of England](#)

Martin

PILGRIMAGE IN CHRISTIANITY

To complement her previous article about Pilgrimage in Other Faiths, this month **CHRISTINE PORTER** reflects upon its place in Christianity and a memorable pilgrimage of her own.

In the earliest days of Christianity, pilgrimages were made to sites connected with the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Surviving descriptions of these journeys date from the 4th century, when pilgrimage was encouraged by church fathers such as Saint Jerome, and there is evidence that St Helena (mother of Constantine the Great) made several journeys to the Holy Land.

To walk in the footsteps of Jesus was a life-changing experience for a group of us, led by Bishop John, on a pilgrimage to Galilee in 2023, just a few months before the recent conflict started. We visited the modern Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, on the site of a 5th century Byzantine church originally constructed over a grotto, believed to be the childhood home of the Virgin Mary. Excavations have revealed that the grotto was part of an ancient village of caves, dating back to the 1st century, featuring rock-cut silos, water cisterns, and early Christian graffiti.



**Church of Multiplication,
with mosaic floor**

On the northwest shore of Lake Galilee, we visited two churches at the foot of the Mount of Beatitudes. The Church of the Multiplication is the site where Jesus performed the miracle of multiplying loaves and fish, and also where Jesus appeared for the fourth time after his resurrection. This modern church is built on the remains of a Byzantine 4th century one. The outstanding feature is the original mosaic flooring, which survived the destruction of the first church by Persians in the 7th century. These are the earliest known examples of figurative floor mosaics in Christian art. In the two transepts, mosaics depict wetland birds and plants, also lotus



**Bread and fish mosaic
in front of altar**

flowers, reflecting a Nile landscape, popular in Roman and Early Byzantine art. The other motifs depict plants and animals from the Galilee area. The mosaic in front of the altar shows two fish

flanking a basket containing four loaves of bread, and beneath the altar is a large rock where it is believed that Jesus placed the fish and loaves as he blessed them during the miracle of feeding the 5,000.



Church of the Primacy of St Peter

Nearby is the Church of the Primacy of Saint Peter, now a Franciscan chapel, built in 1933 over the remains of another 4th century church. It is constructed around the "Mensa Christi" (the Table of Christ), a low block of rock where Jesus is said to have shared a meal with his disciples after his resurrection. It commemorates, and allegedly marks the spot, where Jesus re-instated Peter

as primary leader of the Apostles. Less than 2 miles away is Capernaum, where we saw the ruins of Peter's mother-in-law's house, where Jesus cured a high fever, lowered a paralysed man through the roof, and often gathered with his disciples.

On the summit of the Mount of Beatitudes, we visited the beautiful church which now marks the site of the Sermon on the Mount. The church was constructed in 1939 and has an elegant dome, colonnaded cloisters, and eight sides representing the eight Beatitudes.

Another visit was to the Kibbutz Ginosar, again by Lake Galilee, where the Yigal Allon Museum displays the "Galilee Boat", an ancient fishing boat discovered in 1986, when the lake's water level had dropped dramatically during a drought. Fishermen found the boat in the muddy bed of the lake, where it had been lying for almost 2,000 years, just 1.5km north of Migdal, formerly Magdala, the Biblical hometown of Mary Magdalene. The boat is 8.3m



The Galilee Boat

long, 2.3m wide and 1.3m deep, capable of carrying up to 15 people. The complicated excavation of the waterlogged timber took 11 days, then another 11 years for complete conservation. Radio-carbon testing showed the boat to be

from 120 BC - 40 AD, dating it to Jesus' lifetime and the period he spent in Galilee. At Magdala we saw excavations, still in progress, of a biblical-era fishing village and synagogue. During the synagogue's excavation, a coin dated 29 AD was found, proving that the synagogue existed during Jesus' lifetime, where he may even have preached.

Our week ended with a drive up the steep road to the summit of the Mount of Transfiguration, where there is a 20th century Franciscan Basilica. The isolated mountain rises abruptly from the surrounding plains, and the descent provides spectacular distant views. It seemed surreal to walk around these sites, with their throngs of visitors and modern buildings, while trying to visualise how the locations might have looked in the time of Jesus. Many sites, however, are by the shores of Lake Galilee, where it was possible to find a quiet spot away from crowds, to focus on the relevant events from Jesus' ministry. One secluded location, just a few feet from the water's edge, was a simple open-air altar, where Bishop John led our group in a memorable Eucharist.



**Bishop John celebrating Eucharist
beside Lake Galilee**

Pilgrimages have always been made to Rome and sites associated with the apostles, saints and martyrs, and to places where there have been apparitions of the Virgin Mary, such as Lourdes. The veneration of early martyrs was brought home to me in a moving way on a visit to the Roman Colosseum a while ago. As we were focussing on the splendid architecture inside the amphitheatre, a group of South American Charismatic Christians unfurled a banner commemorating first century martyrs that had died there, then started singing and chanting prayers, bringing crowds of tourists to a hushed standstill.

Over the centuries, well-trodden pilgrimage routes developed. Possibly the most famous is the Way of St. James to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, where the shrine of the apostle James is located. Pilgrimage experienced a new change with the improvement of infrastructure from the 19th century onwards, and millions now travel to famous sites, many people following ancient routes. For example,



The Maastricht Septennial Pilgrimage

the Maastricht Septennial Pilgrimage, last held in 2025, is a combined pilgrimage held every seven years in the three Dutch towns of Maastricht, Aachen and Kornelimünster, when many important relics are displayed and carried in procession. Originating in

the Middle Ages, the modern festival developed from a pilgrimage to the grave of Saint Servatius into the present-day religious, historical, and cultural enterprise.

Pope Benedict XVI, frequently spoke about pilgrimages, notably in November 2010 at Santiago de Compostela, when he summarised the purpose of pilgrimage:

“To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe. Above all, Christians go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, to the places associated with the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. They go to Rome, the city of the martyrdom of Peter and Paul, and also to Compostela, which, associated with the memory of Saint James, has welcomed pilgrims from throughout the world who desire to strengthen their spirit with the Apostle's witness of faith and love.”



Pope Benedict XVI

The British Pilgrimage Trust, founded in 2014, is dedicated to promoting pilgrimage. Their publication *Britain's Pilgrim Places* lists a variety of holy places: cathedrals, churches and chapels (whether in use or ruined), holy water (wells, springs, rivers and confluences), holy islands (e.g. St Cuthbert often retreated to islands), holy hills, ancient retreats (such as hermitages and caves), holy ruins and ancient monuments. The Trust seeks to make pilgrimage inclusive, connecting people of all faiths and none, allowing people to bring their own beliefs to the journey. The Trust claims that the ancient practice of pilgrimage offers powerful solutions to the challenges of modern life, by fostering personal growth and mental wellness.



**The Shrine of Our Lady
of Walsingham**

Walsingham in Norfolk, known as "England's Nazareth," has been a major Christian pilgrimage destination since 1061, and there are Anglican and Catholic shrines as well as the Abbey ruins. In spite of a ban on pilgrimages by Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell in 1538, many pilgrimage routes have been revived and are walkable today, such as the Camino Inglés which will connect eventually with the Way of St. James to Santiago. Geoffrey Chaucer's 13th century *Canterbury Tales* were fictional narratives of a group of pilgrims travelling from London to Thomas Becket's shrine in Canterbury Cathedral. From March 17th–22nd

this year, Bishop Sarah Mullally walked the same historic 87-mile route, now known as the Becket Camino, as spiritual preparation for her official installation as Archbishop of Canterbury.

The programme *Pilgrimage* is a regular fixture on BBC2. The latest 3-part series in April this year, *The Road to Holy Island*, featured seven well-known celebrities. Over 12 days they travelled 242 miles on foot and by bus, from Whitby Abbey, passing through Durham Cathedral and Warkworth Castle's medieval hermitage, to Lindisfarne. The group included adherents of different faiths, as well as professed agnostics. During their pilgrimage, they focussed on the 7th century Celtic northern saints (Hild, Oswald, and Cuthbert) and shared interfaith dialogue about their personal beliefs. This experience brought them closer together, with a better understanding of each other's beliefs.

King Charles made pilgrimage the central theme of his last Christmas broadcast, encouraging people to journey forward with resilience, while learning from the past. The King likened life and the Christmas story to a pilgrimage, referring to the journeys of the Holy Family and the wise men, highlighting that inner strength and kindness are found by journeying with others. He said: "The Catholic Church's 2025



Jubilee theme *Pilgrims of Hope* invited believers to reignite their faith and become beacons of hope for a suffering world. Pilgrimage is a word less used today, but it has particular significance for our modern world, and especially at Christmas". In summing up the purpose of pilgrimage, he said: "It is about journeying forward, into the future, while also journeying back to remember the past and learn from its lessons."

Christine Porter



CHARITY OF THE MONTH — SEPTEMBER

GARGET WALKER HOUSE and TIME TOGETHER TUESDAY

Dementia Forward is the leading dementia charity for North Yorkshire, providing advice, support and wellbeing services to people living with dementia, their families and carers. It is dedicated to helping people live well with dementia and ensuring that no-one faces the condition alone.

In Richmond, Dementia Forward operates a welcoming Hub Club at **Garget Walker House**, which offers a Day Service where people with dementia can enjoy activities such as music, crafts, exercise and social interaction in a safe, supportive environment. The Club is tailored to the individual needs of each person, providing stimulating activities that encourage engagement and enjoyment, while at the same time offering family members and carers valuable respite.



Time Together Tuesday is a well-being café offering a light lunch, which runs each week on Tuesdays from 1.00pm – 3.00pm in Richmond Town Hall. It is run entirely by dedicated volunteers, without whom it could not function, and is a friendly, inclusive community group for anyone in the local area. This, too, is supported by Dementia Forward, which provides a member of staff on an ad-hoc basis to give advice to those who may have questions relating to dementia. As at Garget Walker House, carers are able to go out and have some time for themselves, knowing that there is support for their loved ones whilst they are away. After lunch, there are activities on offer such as crafting, jigsaws, quizzes and dominoes, and singers come in to entertain the group from time to time.

For further information about Time Together Tuesday, please contact Niki Rutland on 07375 944032 or email — timetothertuesday@gmail.com.

Dementia Forward also has a Helpline – 03300 578592 or email — info@dementiaforward.org.uk.

As a local charity, Dementia Forward relies on the generosity of local communities and supporters to help fund its services. Please help if you can.

Thank you

TIME OF MY LIFE

Earlier in the year, **JUDITH MacLEOD** fulfilled a long-held ambition to visit Sicily. Having described her travels down the western side in the last issue, this second instalment relates to what she found as she travelled up the eastern side.

The intriguingly named Portopalo Capo del Passero (*passero* meaning sparrow) on the SE tip of Sicily is a seaside town which attracts holidaymakers in the summer, but lacks excitement out of season. It is where the Ionian Sea meets the Tyrrhenian Sea. As the water was quite choppy – dramatic, even — it made us shudder to imagine swimmers plunging in to reach the nearby island. The lovely Baroque town of Noto, however, is just an hour away by car. In 1693, a devastating earthquake seriously damaged many towns on the east side of Sicily and many were rebuilt in the Baroque style. In the old centre of Noto there is an eighteenth-century cathedral and many churches. There are also civic buildings and private residences financed by the aristocracy. All are made of honey-coloured stone.



San Nicolò Cathedral



Bow-fronted balconies

Many civic buildings are decorated with elaborate ironwork, such as the bow-shaped balconies designed to accommodate the full skirts worn by women in the eighteenth century.

A trip to Syracuse further up the east coast had been on my agenda for some time. Syracuse was the main Greek city of Sicily and was founded in the 8th century B.C. The Greek settlers were the elite, while the local Siculi were the oppressed working class. One of its most famous residents was Archimedes, the mathematician and inventor from the third century B.C., whose many achievements included establishing the principle of displacement and inventing a screw which is still used for irrigation. The city has the largest Greek theatre in Sicily and has an interesting history. Over the years, it fought the Carthaginians, the Romans, the Franks and the Arabs, and had been ruled by the Normans, the Swabians and the Spanish. As our time in Syracuse was limited, we had just 2 ambitions – the first of which was to view a

painting by Caravaggio in the Basilica of Santa Lucia. We arrived early in the square in front of the basilica and treated ourselves to a spinach pasty from a nearby bar. Do not go there, as they were quite disgusting! If you did not know that the painting is in the basilica, you could easily miss it in the low light. You could pay €1 for it to be lit up, or wait for someone else to pay for you!



The Caravaggio painting

Santa Lucia, a fourth-century martyr, is the patron saint of Syracuse. Caravaggio completed the painting entitled 'The Burial of Santa Lucia' in 1608. Santa Lucia is small and fragile in contrast to the gravediggers in the foreground. She occupies only a tiny proportion of the canvas. The large empty space above her creates a sense of oppression and solitude.

Our second ambition regarding Syracuse was to visit Ortigia (the name means 'quail'), a small island connected to the mainland by 3 bridges. Although it is possible to drive there, it is advisable to walk as the streets are very narrow.



The narrow streets of Ortigia



Doric columns in Syracuse Cathedral

Despite some ancient buildings such as the Temple of Apollo and the Jewish ritual baths, the overall architectural impression is of eighteenth-century Baroque.

The old cathedral of Syracuse is set back from the quayside in a square of remarkable Baroque buildings both religious and secular. The interior, however, has remnants of Greek architecture as apparent in the Doric columns of the Greek temple of Athena which preceded it and which have been integrated into the existing building.

It is worth seeing the puppet theatre used to present old medieval stories and Italian poems of the Renaissance. A puppet, the size of a small child, takes a month to make by hand. Also worth seeing is the Fountain of Arethusa (right) which is fed by a freshwater spring and not seawater as you would expect, since it is on an island. You can enjoy the ducks, the carp and a papyrus plant.



On day 8 we travelled north from Ortigia to Taormina, a few hours' drive up the east coast. As you approach Catania, about half-way up the coast, Mount Etna, the active volcano, comes into view. What struck me most was the snowy cap – perhaps not surprising because of the height of the volcano (3,357m) and the time of year (April). If you want to visit Etna you can embark on a 5-hour trip by train from Catania, but we were content to admire it from a distance. Driving into Taormina by car is challenging, because of the many hair-pin bends and the steep gradients. Once you arrive in the higher part of the town, however, you are rewarded with a remarkable view of the east coast, with the smoking crater of Mount Etna to your right. The town itself is charming, if rather busy, even in April. Orange and lemon trees can be seen everywhere, and almond paste is a local speciality.



The Greek Theatre in Taormina

The Greek theatre, the second largest in Sicily after that of Syracuse, overlooks the sea with Etna in the background shrouded in mist.



Below it (left) is the Parco Trevelyan, an exotic garden designed by a Scottish woman who bequeathed it to the town in 1922. There you can wander with visitors of all nationalities, see children playing football, enjoy refreshments and admire the views of the sea. Entry is free.

For the best view of Mount Etna take the bus to Castelmola, directly above the town.



Snow-capped Mount Etna, with smoking crater

After 3 relaxing days in Taormina, we were ready for our trip to the north coast of Sicily. The delightful town of Cefalù and the splendours of Palermo and the Monreale monastery will be described in Part 3 next month.

Judith MacLeod

AND DON'T FORGET...

The 'Welcome Hub' has now been running successfully for three years.

If you would like to learn more about joining the volunteering team, please contact:

Dr John Ridley,

Welcome Hub Coordinator

on (01748 818653 or

JohnRidley7449@aol.com).

WELCOME HUB
FREE WARM WELCOMING SAFE

Richmond Methodist Church
Dundas Street Entrance
Monday: 9.30am – 12.30pm
Friday: 9.30am – 12.30pm
Free hot drinks and snacks

POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

George Alderson kindly offered the following contribution some time ago, with the observation that we might never know what people — or frogs! — are thinking. Even if they seem serene, we must not pre-judge appearances — calm or otherwise!

The Humble Frog



Show common courtesy to frogs
Who sit upon their favourite logs!
Although of green and slimy hue,
Were you a frog, you would be, too!
They never seem to do a lot,
Except when it becomes too hot,
When they will jump into their stream.
It would appear their life's a dream,
Just waiting for a fly or gnat
To saunter past where they are sat,
And if they fancy having lunch,
They shoot their tongues out for a munch!
As not much action comes their way,
They haven't very much to say.
Occasionally, one makes a croak.
(Perhaps it's an amphibian joke!)
So, on their day goes into night,
Then some will have an awful fright!
Though they have minded their affairs,
With little joy but fewer cares,



They find themselves in quite a state –
For now, they're sitting on a *plate*!
It's pleasant, going for a meal,
But not so much when you're the deal!
When just a tadpole, in the flow,
They thought that they'd be left to grow,
But didn't think their nemesis
Would be so very hit and miss!
A frog upon a lily pad
May seem serene, but soon seem sad.
The little inoffensive beast
Might well be, shortly, someone's feast!
The reason they procrastinate?
He's thinking of his mate — you ate!

George Alderson



ANNOUNCEMENT

THE 200 CLUB

Congratulations to our latest Winners

July — no: 31 — Dan Gudgeon
August — no: 126 — Peter Trewby

MY BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS

One of the older buildings in our Market Place is the Market Hall, which houses a number of outlets of small local business, selling a variety of items. Seeking out a map for a planned visit to Norfolk, Jim Jack dropped into the covered market and was reminded of how long it was since he'd visited the building and what a range of quality wares and interesting products are on sale there.

His eyes quickly fell upon the work of the Yorkshire Glass Studio and what started as a brief conversation with owner Amanda Douglas-Slater became a fascinating meeting with another local individual starting up a new venture — and a new way of life.



The familiar Market Hall entrance and its interior

How often do we overlook something simply because it is on our doorstep?

I was recently reminded of this, when I called into Richmond's Indoor Market in search of an Ordnance Survey map. It must have been several years since my last visit and, rather embarrassingly, I had allowed my memories of quieter days and empty stalls to shape my view of what I expected to find. The Indoor Market today is a very different place.

Its stalls are occupied by an interesting collection of independent traders offering books, clothing, locally made products, gifts, games and much more. The café is busy, and the volunteer-led Tourist Information Centre provides a valuable service to visitors — as do the only public toilets in the Market Place (thank you, Richmond Town Council). There is also a friendly sense of community throughout the building.

One of the businesses that caught my attention was The Yorkshire Glass Studio. Behind the stall was its founder, Amanda Douglas-Slater (right), surrounded by an attractive collection of engraved and decorated glassware, crystal keepsakes and decorative glass coasters. Many of the pieces featured scenes, wildlife and symbols inspired by Yorkshire. What began as a brief conversation developed into hearing the story of a new Richmond business — and an example of the creativity that can now be found inside the Indoor Market.



Amanda grew up in an Army family and spent parts of her childhood in Catterick, Germany and Cyprus. On leaving school, her career has included graphic design, glassware, greetings cards and product development for international companies. Those varied experiences, coupled with her long-standing love of art, have given her an unusual combination of artistic, commercial and practical skills, all of which are now coming together in The Yorkshire Glass Studio.

After returning to Richmond and re-assessing the kind of working life she wanted, Amanda decided to build a business around the parts of her previous career she had enjoyed most: design, product development and creating something tangible. From a small studio at home, she now creates engraved and printed glassware for gifts, celebrations, awards and special occasions.

The drinking glasses originate from Italy and the Czech Republic, both countries renowned for their traditions of quality glassmaking and strong workplace standards. They are then decorated and finished with her own designs, like those below, by Amanda, here in Richmond.



A central part of the collection is inspired by Yorkshire itself. Amanda develops her own artwork using local landscapes, wildlife and familiar regional details. These designs are then carefully adapted to work around the curved surface of a glass or across the face of a crystal keepsake.

Amanda explained how the printed designs are produced using a specialist process that creates a durable, dishwasher-safe finish, while engraving provides a more traditional frosted effect. The range she had on display includes wine glasses, goblets, tumblers, crystal blocks and decorative glass coasters.



Although the products on the stall are not personalised, Amanda welcomes commissions. Names, dates, addresses, messages and business branding can, by order, all be incorporated into pieces intended to mark weddings, anniversaries, new homes, achievements and other important occasions.

Amanda is also keen to work with other businesses in and around Richmond. She sees potential for locally designed gifts for hotels, visitor attractions, sports clubs and retailers, as well as personalised ‘completion gifts’ for estate agents, car showrooms and other businesses wanting to give their customers something distinctive and memorable when making a major purchase from them.

The Indoor Market is an important part of developing these ideas. Amanda currently attends her stall on Wednesdays and Thursdays, while spending the rest of the week designing, creating commissions and developing new products. The sessions in the Market Hall, however, allow her to meet customers face to face, listen to their reactions and discover what they are looking for.

One product on display during my visit — a decorative glass coaster — had itself been developed following conversations with customers. That immediate feedback is invaluable to a young business and is difficult to obtain when selling entirely online. Indeed, we broke off our conversation for a short space of time as Amanda and a customer discussed what the latter would wish for in the coaster range.

The affordable stall charges supported by Richmond Town Council also give small businesses an opportunity to test products and establish themselves without the costs associated with a conventional shop. In return, those businesses bring something new to the town centre and give visitors another reason to explore Richmond.

Tourists are currently an important part of Amanda's customer base, particularly those seeking a meaningful reminder of their visit to Yorkshire. As we sat talking, the numbers visiting the Market Hall suddenly increased. 'Could be a coach party arrived in town,' mused Amanda, as we broke off our conversation to enable her to engage with potential customers.



Tourist information in the Market Hall

When we resumed, Amanda was keen to stress how much she would also like more local people to discover both her work and the wider selection available within the Market. This may be the larger message from my visit: I wonder how many local residents (myself included) still judge the Indoor Market by what they remember from years ago? Certainly I think I have probably been guilty of doing exactly that, yet behind its familiar entrance is now a varied collection of local traders, products and services that deserve to be better known and supported.

There is something particularly appealing about buying from the person who designed, selected or made what is being sold. Unlike many chain retail outlets, these stall holders know their products and can talk about them. A visit to the Indoor Market offers the opportunity not only to find something different, but also to support individuals who are investing their time and creativity in Richmond.

There is a genuine community among the traders too. During our conversation, Paul from the Bookstop (who generously sells tickets for our Friends' events) appeared with ice lollies for his fellow stallholders — a small gesture, but one that captured the warm and co-operative atmosphere inside the building!

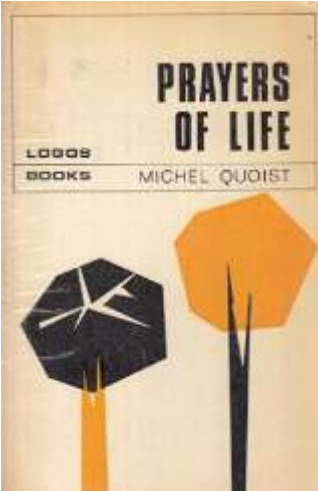
I eventually left carrying two pieces of Amanda's glassware, as well as the map I had originally come to find. One of the glasses is already being enjoyed at home, while the other will appear in the church Plant and Produce raffle. The Yorkshire Glass Studio may be a relatively new addition to Richmond's Indoor Market, but Amanda and her fellow traders represent exactly the sort of original, locally rooted business that deserve our support.

Perhaps if you haven't visited the Market Hall for a while, it could be time to step inside, take another look and re-discover what our Indoor Market has to offer.

Jim Jack

SOMETHING TO PONDER

Michel Quoist was a French priest who breathed new life into many people's prayers in the 1960s with his down-to-earth, everyday prayers. They were published in his 'Prayers of Life', which quickly became a 'best-seller'. Many are timeless, and the one reproduced below may strike a chord.



Introduction

Everyone complains that they haven't enough time. They look at their lives from too human a point of view. There is always time to do what God wants us to do, but we must put ourselves completely into each moment that he offers us.

Lord I Have Time

I went out, Lord. People were coming and going, walking and running. Everything was rushing: cars, trucks, the street, the whole town. People were rushing not to waste time. They were rushing after time, to catch up with time. To gain time.

Good-bye, excuse me, I haven't time. I'll come back. I can't wait. I haven't time. I must end this letter – I haven't time. I'd love to help you, but I haven't time. I can't accept, having no time. I can't think, I can't read, I'm swamped, I haven't time.

I'd like to pray, but I haven't time.

You understand, Lord, they simply haven't the time.

The child is playing, he hasn't time right now...

Later on... The schoolchildren have homework to do, they haven't time...

Later on... The student has coursework and so much work...

Later on... The young married couple have their new house; They have to fix it up... they haven't time...

Later on... The grandparents have their grandchildren. They haven't time...

Later on... They are ill, they have their treatments, They haven't time...

Later on... They are dying, they have no...

Too late!...They have no more time!

And so all people run after time, Lord. They pass through life running – hurried, jostled, overburdened, frantic. And they never get there. They haven't time. In spite of all their efforts, they're still short of time. Of a great deal of time.

Lord, you must have made a mistake in your calculations. There is a big mistake somewhere. The hours are too short. The days are too short. The weeks are too short. Our lives are too short.



You who are beyond time, Lord. You smile to see us fighting it. And you know what you are doing. You make no mistakes in your distribution of time to people. You give each one time to do what you want them to do. But we must not lose time, waste time, kill time — for it is a gift that you give us. But a perishable gift, a gift that does not keep.

Lord, I have time, I have plenty of time, All the time that you give me, The years of my life. The days of my life. The days of my years. The hours of my days. They are all mine. Mine to fill, quietly, calmly, But to fill completely, up to the brim. To offer them to you, that of their insipid water, you may make a rich wine, such as you made once in Cana of Galilee. I am not asking you tonight, Lord, for time to do this and then that. But for your grace to do conscientiously, in the time that you give me, what you want me to do.

Amen.

Abbé Michel Quoist

RICHMOND TOWN COUNCIL



First Fruits of the Harvest

Saturday 12th September 2026
10.30am

TRINITY CHURCH CURTILAGE

Service Led By Rev'd Canon Martin Fletcher

**Followed by the presentation of
awards for this years'
Garden & Allotment Competition**

All Welcome

WORD SEARCH

The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13.24-30)

Ever wondered why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

Kingdom

Heaven

Good

Seed

Field

Sleeping

Grain

Weeds

Enemy

Servants

Master

Sow

Gather

Reap

Root

Let

Grow

Together

Harvest

Bundles

Barn

Burned



Sudoku - Easy

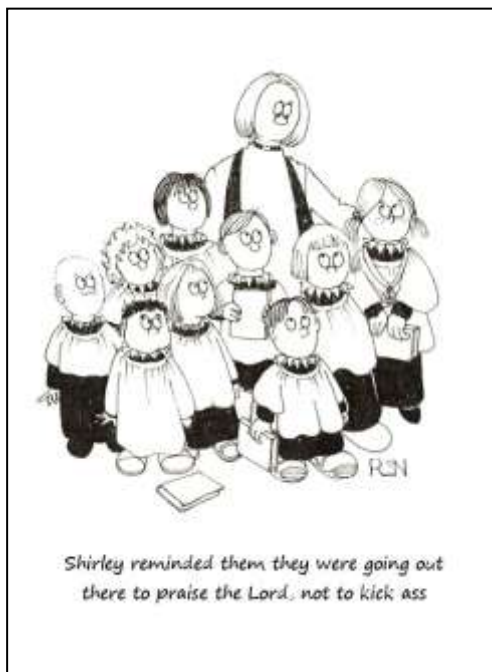
	3			4	8	9		2
		8		3			1	5
		5			7		8	
1	7	2	4				5	
4								8
	8				3	2	9	4
	5		8			6		
3	6			5		8		
8		4	3	7			2	

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Sudoku - Medium

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com



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 / carers 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 — **27th September '26**,
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 **BLACK LION**
Finkle Street, Richmond

Next meeting:
25th September '26



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

3rd September '26



Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku — Medium

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

Wordsearch



Deadline for October '26 edition; Monday 14th Sept. '26.
To contribute letters, articles, etc. please contact
connections.ed24@gmail.com or 07866 033263

INFORMATION POINT — ALL ARE WELCOME

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

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

AFTER THE CARDS AND VISITORS

Bereavement is a very difficult time for the spouse/partner left behind.

Starting again on your own is even more difficult.

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

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

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

TELEPHONE SUPPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

Do please get in touch.

PASTORAL CARE — A CONTINUING SERVICE

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

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

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



Reverend Matthew Hutchinson's Charity

Do you live in:

Richmond, Gilling West, Eppleby,
Eryholme, Hutton Magna, South
Cowton, North Cowton, West Layton,
Cliffe or Barton?

You may be eligible for a small grant
towards:

Educational courses
Necessary medical equipment
Household appliances
and many other expenses.

For further information, please contact:
The Secretary, Reverend Matthew
Hutchinson Trust, Middlemoor House,
Hudswell, Richmond DL11 6DB

KNIT & NATTER

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

Every Friday

9.30am to 11.30 am.

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

Everyone is welcome

Contact Sharon McCormack
07791 426659

This space could be yours!

**Support the work of your local
church in this community by
advertising here.**

Simply contact
connections.ed24@gmail.com
for further details



Core Value Yoga

Dru Yoga Class
for fitness and
wellbeing

RICHMOND TOWN HALL

Tuesdays, 9.45 - 10.45 am

- An enjoyable way to keep fit
- improve your flexibility
 - relax the body
 - calm the mind

Suitable for all fitness levels

Beginners welcome

For more information, contact:

Val Worley

Dru Yoga teacher

Tel: 07791 776438

Email: corevalueyoga@yahoo.co.uk



EXPLORE YOUR HERITAGE AT RICHMONDSHIRE MUSEUM



Join us at Richmondshire Museum to explore local heritage, learn about local characters and stories of those who walked the streets before us. Our galleries span from pre-history to the 20th century and have something for everyone including a dedicated childrens Discovery Centre.

www.richmondshiremuseum.org.uk

@richmondmuseum



irvings

sales • lettings

- Free valuations for rental and sales properties
- Probate valuations
- Free advice and guidance

A family business located in the heart of town.

21 Market Place, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4QG

t: 01748 821700 e: info@irvingsproperty.co.uk

52 Richmond Road, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3JF

t: 01748 883244 e: catterick@irvingsproperty.co.uk

www.irvingsproperty.co.uk



Mensponsors of
Richmondshire
Guild Club



Roots and Shoots
FLORIST
FLOWERS • GIFTS • EVENTS

Tel. 01748 824898

info@rootsandshootsflorist.co.uk

www.rootsandshootsflorist.co.uk

27 Rainsome Road, Gallowfield Trading Estate, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4SU



JOANNA PARKIN — HOLIDAY VILLAGE PERSONAL TRAVEL CONSULTANT

As a travel consultant with the Holiday Village and with the backing of Co-operative Travel, Joanna has access to 1000's of holidays with full protection from ABTA & ATOL.

Call now for great selection of worldwide holidays & cruises. With a wealth of travel experience, expert advice and first-class service is guaranteed!

Available 7 days: 01748 825 043 / 07764 926 304
or e-mail: joanna@theholidayvillage.com



Telephone: **RICHMOND 822205**
8 Rosemary Lane, **RICHMOND**, Yorks

S. Hamilton

Proprietor S. Hamilton
High Class Family Butcher



GEO. MICHIE LTD.

Home Security, Hardware, Ironmongery, Safes (Locksmiths)

Mob: 07939 063468

Email: daniel.gill01@yahoo.co.uk

136 Northgate,
Darlington,
Co. Durham
DL1 1RL

Yale **UNION** **Schubb**

Aerial Photography and Videos Based in Richmond



www.aerialshots4u.co.uk
07434678972

BEDALE COMPUTER CENTRE

IT Services for
Home and Business

Device Repairs
Health Checks
On & Off-site Support
Hardware/Software Sales & Support
Remote Fixes
Tutoring

Custom Built Desktop Computers
VHS to DVD Transfers
Cyber Security
Hosting
Website Management
General Advice

2a Bridge Street, Bedale, North Yorkshire, DL8 2AD
01677 424285 (option 2)

www.bedalecomputercentre.co.uk

DOWSE OF RICHMOND LTD

REMOVALS - CONTAINERISED STORAGE

HOME & OFFICE REMOVALS
LOCAL & NATIONWIDE
PURPOSE BUILT CONTAINER
FACILITIES
PACKING SERVICE
PERSONAL SERVICE

As an independent local removal
company we have been providing customers with the very
highest levels of service over several generations

TEL: 01748 823393

32 QUAKER LANE, RICHMOND, NORTH YORKS DL10 4BB



G Bilbrough

PLUMBING & HEATING

Installations, Servicing, Gas Repairs

GAS SAFE REGISTER

Mobile: 07914 336 183

Richmond Footcare

**KEEPS YOU ON
TRACK!**

Enjoy Dedicated and
Professional Foot Care that
is One Step Ahead of the Rest.



www.richmondfootcare.co.uk
1 Rosemary Lane - Richmond - DL10 4DP
075 111 119 84 or scan QR Code

hpcp
registered
www.hpcp-uk.org



All general gardening
work undertaken.

Telephone
07969 265906

John Blenkiron & Sons *Funeral Directors*

incorporating Simon Barningham

Est. 1968



Creating a funeral as unique as your Loved One

We provide a personal funeral service and cater to a range of requirements and budgets.

24-hour service • Memorial masonry
Unattended direct cremation

**Speak to us about Choice Prepaid Funeral Plans.
Record your wishes and pay towards your funeral.**

Richmond
01748 850033

Barnard Castle
01833 695444

Catterick
01748 906450

Reeth
01748 884327

www.blenkiron.co.uk



choice[®]
from Funeral Partners

In relation to Choice Funeral Plans John Blenkiron & Sons Funeral Directors is a trading name of Funeral Partners Limited. Funeral Partners Limited is an appointed representative of Alternative Planning Company Limited (APCL). APCL is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority with firm reference number 965282. Choice Funeral Plans are provided by APCL.