

CONNECTIONS

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

October 2026



Price £1.80

**National
Silver Award 2024**

THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME AND MARSKE

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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

What a difference a month makes! After, last time, bemoaning the lack of rain, it hasn't taken much to green up our lawn and, where the fields have been cultivated and new seed sown, already the fields are greening up too. Let's just rejoice in the wonders of God's creation, remember the glorious Summer we had, and try not to think about the clocks going back later this month.

We start this issue with Revd Lorna's letter, in which she reminds us of the benefits of prayer. Revd Martin then provides more details of the process to appoint his successor, and invites everyone to nominate the charities to be supported next year. There are details of our Harvest Festival, which this year will be used to support the new Richmond Open Pantry, before Jim Jack's final account of his and Jan's walk along the local stretch of the Camino Ingles. Jim also provides information about several Friends' events this month – see Andy Lovell's super posters about the Curry Night, Fashion Show and a Mad Hatters Tea Party with talk given by Chris Lloyd – and later has another feature about a new business which has opened in the Market Place. Judith MacLeod concludes her account about her travels in Sicily earlier this year, and Steve Erskine has kindly summarised a talk he gave during the Summer about the Richmond Workhouse.

We have another Hard Question from John Pritchard – this time 'Is the Church obsessed with Sin?' – and he is also pleased to announce that he has a new book, *'The Week'*, about to be published. If you would like to be among the first to get hold of a copy, he will be delighted to sell you one later in the month. Paul Carnell, our treasurer, has contributed an update on our parish finances and invites anyone who is not already doing so to consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme. Pamela Holland is the subject of a '60 second Interview', and finally Mark Beresford-Peirce encourages us all not to be afraid.

All in all, a veritable 'pot-pourri' of items and articles, which we hope will appeal to, and inform, our readers. Please support the different activities – so much work goes into organising them and we all benefit from the proceeds.

John McCormack

Cover photo by Wendy Pritchard
Richmond in Autumn



Lorna's Letter

October 2026



A happy October to all! As always, I'm writing this letter in the past (Obviously – but wouldn't it be amazing if I was writing it from the future?), and I've just finished writing a sermon just before this. This means that, realistically, my creative juices are tapped out. The Holy Spirit has been let loose upon the keyboard and I have nothing more to write. So, as a reset, I turn to a bit of disassociation and doomscrolling on social media, before I get back to business. I think to myself, "I need to clear my brain, it's good for work", but realistically I'm just avoiding my responsibilities, even the ones I enjoy (like this one, if that wasn't clear).

It's not healthy. I know it's not healthy. There are better ways around this than by losing several hours of my day to The Algorithm. But what is there?



Well the answer, my friends, is obvious. Prayer.

Summer holidays are a usually a good reset for people. I admit this reset varies depending upon whether you've got kids or grandkids knocking about that need entertaining in the summer — in which case, not a restful time at all. But with the schools out and the sun beating down, everything seems a bit more chilled-out and relaxed, the days are longer and life feels a bit lazier. For the clergy, it's the time when we're well in-between religious festivals and into the gloriously endless stretch of ordinary time, so we, too, can slow down and relax until it's time to start thinking of harvest festivals and advent courses and Christmas. (What's one thing the clergy and supermarkets have in common? We start planning Christmas in August!)

To reset ourselves, however, should always be a bit more than just shutting down for a bit, finding a hammock in the sun and flopping into it, reading by the pool or finding yourself on the top of a mountain in a far-flung land. Resetting yourself with God is just as important.

This August, we did our August month of prayer. We had prayer stations set up for us by SFX School in the Church, to be used by congregation and visitors alike. The Holy Trinity Chapel in the market square stayed open after the 10:30am

service to be used as a place of rest and prayer for any who needed it. We had a prayer walk from St Mary's to Easby Abbey, where we considered leaves and threw rocks (safely) into the river. All of these were as a form of reset, as a way of getting ready for what always feels, in September, to be a new year.

The thing is, though, prayer is for life, not just for the summer holidays. Prayer is a really great reset, where you can just have some lovely one-on-one time with God and bring to Him all your hopes and fears and needs and sorrows. It's not just individually, either. We're going to need to do a lot of praying over the next few months! For Martin, leaving us in November; for me (please); for the process of finding a new incumbent; and for the new incumbent that comes in. As well as prayers for each other; for our church and community; and for all who need it.

Prayer when you're sad; prayer when you're happy; prayer when you want something; prayer just to chat; prayer through gritted teeth when you're so angry at God the only thing you can do is chant the Lord's Prayer over and over again, because you really don't feel like prayer at that time.



So, let's all put our hands together for the great reset: Prayer.

Blessings,

Lorna

FROM THE REGISTERS



Baptism

On Sunday, 6th September '26

Willow Mae Anne Booth

and

Oscar Jude Bagley



were welcomed into the Church through Baptism

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



Martin's extra Message

October 2026



Preparing for the Vacancy: an update

Further to my article on the upcoming Vacancy in last month's Magazine, we now have confirmation of the key dates in the process to appoint my successor:

My final Sunday	22 nd November '26
PCC meeting with the Archdeacon (to discuss the Parish Profile and elect our Parish Representatives)	13 th January '27
Parish Representatives' meeting with the Archdeacon (to finalise the Parish Profile and all other documentation)	3 rd February '27
Advertising of the post	15 th February '27
Closing date for applications	17 th March '27
Interviews	7 th April '27

Our Churchwardens are already compiling the Parish Profile. Please be praying for Peter, Wendy, Andra, Ruth and David, and those working with them, as they prepare for the Vacancy and then assume legal responsibility for our Benefice until my successor arrives. Please pray also for Lorna as she assumes responsibility for our mission and ministry – and prepares for her own next step in September 2027, when she will commence training to become an Army Chaplain.

I am sure your support for them all will be practical as well as prayerful. Thank you!

2027 Charity of the Month Programme: nominations invited

During 2026 the Charity of the Month programme has included a mix of local and national or international charities and our Charitable Giving Team are most grateful for your support. We would now like to invite you to suggest the charities we will be supporting in 2027.

Please use the slip enclosed in the Pew Sheet to make a nomination (or simply contact Martin, Colin, or David (Frankton) – by **Sunday 25th October**. The Team will then compile the 2027 Programme and present it for approval at the November PCC meeting.

With every blessing,

Martin



St Mary's Church Richmond

Harvest Festival

Sunday 4th October

10.00 am

Welcome to All

Food Donations will be taken
in aid of
Richmond Open Pantry



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

RICHMOND OPEN PANTRY

This month, Revd Martin explains below how this new venture will operate and invites your support.

This month, as we celebrate our Harvest Festival, the gifts we donate will be used to help set up an **Open Pantry** in Richmond. This will be similar to the Open Pantry in the parish of Easby, Skeeby, Brompton and Bolton (ESBB), which we supported at our Harvest Festival last year and in 2024.

Richmond Open Pantry will involve the churches in Richmond working together in support of the wider community we all serve. It will complement both the ESBB Open Pantry and the *StoreHouse* foodbank managed by the Influence Church. *StoreHouse* is open for people to call in for a food parcel on Thursday afternoons between 4.00 and 6.00pm, and refers clients to the ESBB Open Pantry as and when appropriate. Local residents using an Open Pantry will therefore no longer need to travel beyond Richmond.

We will adopt the proven model established by ESBB, including the collection point layout; the discretion provided to clients by the normally quiet nature of the church buildings; and the possibility for vulnerable people to contact the Parish Office confidentially to request a food parcel. In offering the opportunity on any day of the week for anyone to collect or donate everyday essentials, our ethos will also be the same: '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.'

Unlike the ESBB model, however, we will not have distribution points in each church building. These will be confined to St Mary's and the Methodist Church, with Influence Church, the Catholic Church and the Friends (Quakers) each setting up a donations point which will display a list of items currently needed. The Methodist Church will be open for items to be collected when the Welcome Hub is operating (Mondays and Fridays, 9:30-12:30). St Mary's collection point will be located in the north porch and open 24/7.



In order to assess the level of demand alongside *StoreHouse* and the ESBB Open Pantry we will 'start small,' and progressively build up our offer if required.

Please note:

If you have kindly been donating food to *StoreHouse*, your donations will continue to be gratefully received. Richmond Open Pantry is intended to complement the comprehensive support *StoreHouse* already offers our community.

Our Harvest Festival is on Sunday 4th October at 10.00am.

If you would like to help us set up an Open Pantry in Richmond, then please bring as your harvest gifts any of the following long-life food items or other essentials:

Tins (e.g. soup, meals in a can, meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, rice pudding)

Cereals — in cartons or individual pots

Jars (e.g. sauces, preserves, honey)

Bottles (e.g. long-life milk or squash)

Soap, shampoo, roll-on deodorant

Toothpaste, toothbrushes

Detergent, fabric softener

Pet food (cans or packs of dried food)

Or a financial donation to help us build up and maintain our equipment and stock.

Please note we cannot accept the following items:

Fresh or perishable food

Aerosols

Medicines

Alcohol.

Throughout October, when Richmond Open Pantry will be our Charity of the Month, we will gratefully receive any further donations from the above list. Any excess stock will be shared with *StoreHouse* or ESBB Open Pantry.

If you would like to know more, please contact Martin, Colin, David Frankton or Peter Trewby.

Thank you for your support.

Martin



CAMINO COUNTDOWN — TWO BEGINNINGS, ONE ENDING

Well, this is it. With special thanks to all of our readers who have let us know how they have enjoyed following the saga of **Jan and Jim Jack's** journey from Finchale to Richmond along the Camino Ingles, this month's account finally brings them into their home base of Richmond. But why two beginnings for this ending?

So here we are, about to begin the final leg of our Camino journey in Gilling West. No car involved, simply a Hodgsons bus ride to the stone bus-shelter near the entrance to the drive of St Agatha's Church, our stopping point for our last walk. A final beginning on this enjoyable and thought-provoking journey, whose way is fairly well known and its end point geographically certain. A time to reflect — and enjoy doing so.

This Camino journey has spanned nine months, but for us, St Agatha's in Gilling West marked the starting point for another journey, started nearly 45 years ago in October 1981, whose route was unknown and which continues to this day. For it was here that we took our marriage vows to each other, in this beautiful ancient church in the parish where Jan was living at that time.

So we recalled a church full of family and friends. Jan's Uncle Jack, an ordained clergyman and university regis professor, who was sharing in the leading of the service arriving, fully robed in red, to the consternation of the vergers, who saw this figure approaching and hobbled briskly back to the church announcing, 'The bishop is coming! The bishop is coming'. Memories of singing four hymns which mean much to us still today ('they're playing our tune' when any of them crop up in a service), sung so well by the assembled congregation. Taking our first communion together as husband and wife; happy faces as we left together (perhaps apart from the organist, who had been set the challenge of playing Widor's 'Toccata' on a



weary village organ); to be greeted by an archway of hockey sticks — a guard of honour formed by mutual friends from the hockey club where we had first met in 1978. Gates tied together in true Gilling tradition, only to be released on the distribution of numerous coins thrown in the direction of waiting children, a number of whom were taught by 'Miss' at Richmond School. This teaching post had brought her to the area from Lancashire in 1978 and a school which

subsequently (did we but know it) was to play a significant part in the lives of our whole family in later years. But I digress. We had walking to do, although all of it on paths we had trodden before. Well almost!

Our trusty walking notes took us off on a turning right off the main road just outside the village. A turn taken in warm spring sunshine and up a gentle slope across open fields, where some works were clearly taking place over to our right. A path never taken before by either of us, this was a reminder that any walk will have the capacity to surprise, because it is taken at a pace where, with heads up, there is so much time to take in the countryside through which we were passing.

What was certain was that we were leaving behind a village which, at one time, was more important than Richmond and that, sooner or later, this manageable grass track would bring us to totally familiar territory. Easy stiles to pass through pasture land, until, cresting a final rise, we came across the familiar sight of Aske Hall stables ... and Mocha coffee shop.

Remembering the words of an old Methodist hymn 'Yield not to temptation, For yielding is sin, Each vict'ry will help you some other to win', we by-passed Mocha and headed across the front of Aske Stables and then Aske Hall itself.

Our notes informed us that the name dates back to Norse mythology and a manor mentioned in the Domesday book. The Dundas family bought it from Sir Conyers Darcy in 1763 and undertook significant remodelling of the house by John Carr, the famous architect who also designed the grandstand on Richmond Racecourse, itself now the subject of a project to be rebuilt. The grounds and parkland were remodelled at the same time, allegedly by the renowned landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Further reductions in size took place in 1962-3 leaving the house as we see it today.

Greeting fellow walkers heading in the opposite direction (Mocha perhaps?), we left the tarmac drive which runs across the front of the hall and headed for the next grassy rise, with Camino sign prominent and sheep grazing contentedly on fresh green grass (remember, this was in March not July!).

Then there was the familiar slope downwards to a gate and thence into woodland and a small stream, whose clear waters glistened in the Spring sunshine. Up the rise on the other side, with spring flowers pushing through the undergrowth, and out to the edge of an open field,



Aske Beck

already ploughed, and the rough track at the side leading to a crossing of the golf course. We wish that we knew more to be able to identify which crops are growing in fields. This whole journey has definitely highlighted the tremendous gaps we have in our knowledge of nature, although it's fun speculating and then finding out afterwards.

And so to the golf course crossing, with ears open for cries of 'Fore' from golfers to warn of approaching high speed, sometimes errant, golf balls. 'Why 'fore' we wonder? Apparently it may stem back to when helpers called 'forecaddies' stood downfield of the drive to check where the expensive golf balls were landing. The player shouted a warning ('forecaddie' later shortened to 'fore') to these trusted servants to let them know a ball was on its way. Or it might have military origins from a shouted warning 'beware before' to alert 17th century soldiers of impending cannon fire. Either way, a warning of potential doom not to be ignored — except on this day, the coast was clear.

Straight across the fairway, through a small copse with a stagnant pond on the right, beyond which lay the ninth hole. No reminiscences of occasional games of golf as we headed on past the clubhouse. ('Don't you think you should get rid of your golf clubs?' 'Not really, you never know when I might want them' — the type of conversation which perhaps occurs in many households, though not on a Camino) and a straight path across the car park and out at the other side on to Gower Road and the top of Barrack Hill.

Almost disappointingly, the given route did not leave the road to go across the grassland of the racecourse. But then we were reminded that many of the Camino routes on the continent follow surfaced highways. So we followed the camino sign on the lamp post at the junction of the Whashton Road and Cutpurse Lane, which was sending us straight down Gallowgate and Barrack Hill, across the traffic lights and down Frenchgate and Church Wynd and thence into our own church of St Mary's. There we acquired our penultimate stamp, held in a Fortnum and Mason blue tin which once contained florentine biscuits, but now with the familiar Camino sticker atop.

It was also a good time to look more carefully at Tom Carr's memorial window. Tom was a long-serving member of staff at Richmond School, when it was a boys' grammar school. The school crest was from the royal seal on the charter granted in Elizabethan times and has St James of Compostella,



Tom Carr's window

complete with staff, gourd and scallop shell, at its centre. This is reproduced in Tom's window, the first on the right in the south aisle, overlooking the school where he taught for so long.

It seemed fitting to have ended our much planned and debated walk at a church in which St James has some abiding representation. In an odd sort of way, the school (which re-adopted the crest in 1992) and the church are custodians of his memory on this route, travelling ever southwards towards Santiago da Compostella.

We tore ourselves away from gazing at this window, admiring its craftsmanship and perhaps also a little reluctant to move on, because in doing so we would be ending this 61 mile experience, which has opened our eyes to so much about the area in which we live. If you define a pilgrimage as a journey towards a centre of religious significance, then in many ways this hasn't met the test. Lourdes, Canterbury, Walsingham, Rome, Mecca, Richmond Station? Yet if the pilgrimage is as much the journey as the destination, then this sectional walk has opened up learning, conversation, appreciation of our world, the pleasure of meeting strangers and learning from them, a moving of the spirit through what we see, and the stirring of memories has brought both a sense of joy and achievement.

And so move on we did. Down the hill and into the Cinema booking office to collect a final stamp. Is this the end of the book or simply the end of a chapter? Just like our personal beginning in St Agatha's church forty-five years ago, the stamp at the Station is also not the end, but simply the threshold to something new, different, interesting and challenging. Perhaps we have only eaten a small part of the elephant, a meal which started on a sunny day in July near Durham and found this completion on an equally sunny day in Richmond. For, as we got home after collecting this final stamp, Jan found this quotation from an unknown writer: "The end of the Camino is the beginning of another"



Made it!

Mmmm. I wonder.

Jim Jack

CORRECTION to SEPTEMBER'S ARTICLE

Thank you to Wynn Delf who, on reading last month's article, pointed out that prisoners-of-war were held at Hartforth Grange, not Hartforth Hall as stated last month. Much appreciated, Wynn.

Friends Of St Mary's Church

Mad Hatters Tea Party

with

Chris Lloyd

Darlington & Stockton Times Historical Journalist

St Mary's Church

Richmond

Saturday 17th October at 4pm

**Afternoon Tea followed by a talk
with Chris Lloyd about the life of
Lewis Carroll**

**Tickets £15 in advance from
The BookStop Market Hall Richmond
Details phone : 07712 135601**



FROM THE REGISTERS



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



Philip Lawson
Alice Whitehead

5th August '26
19th August '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 5th September 2026
At St Mary's Church, Richmond



Honor Webb
to
Fabio Andre Bastos Almeida

Wishing you both a long and happy marriage.

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

TIME OF MY LIFE

In this, the concluding part of her account of her travels around Sicily earlier this year, **JUDITH MacLEOD** describes some of what she found along the northern coast of the island — all of which just whetted her appetite for another visit.

The last leg of our Sicilian trip was on the north coast — Cefalù, Palermo and Monreale. We drove south from Taormina towards Catania, then west through the middle of the island and finally north to Cefalù. We skirted Etna with its fertile slopes producing grapes, fruit, olives, vegetables and, most romantic of all, Sicilian emeralds — the bright green Bronte pistachios that grow in the volcanic soil. After a tricky drive to the centre of Cefalù, we found our accommodation in a narrow street in the old town, where you could almost touch the balcony of the house opposite.



Very narrow streets!



Cefalù Cathedral

What a delightful town! It has a lovely, sandy beach, small independent shops and restaurants and plenty of history. It is flanked on the east side by a large rock 270 metres high, from the top of which you can see the Aeolian Islands to the north. Below it there is a striking cathedral commissioned by the Norman king, Roger II, in the twelfth century.

The interior is distinctly Byzantine with its striking image of Christ as the Pancrator — the Almighty — and the luminous effect created by the use of gold leaf. This was a foretaste of the much more extensive use of gold leaf in the cathedral of Monreale near Palermo, which we saw 2 days later.



Interior of Cefalù Cathedral

Cefalù was once a fortified town. This gothic style entrance (right) remains, through which one can admire the golden sand and the limpid sea. It is a perfect base from which to visit Palermo, since it is only an hour away by train and driving into, and around, the capital can be exacting.



Situated on the north-west coast of Sicily, Palermo is in a fertile plain surrounded by steep-sided hills and open onto the sea. The city was founded by the Phoenicians in the 8th century BC and shows evidence of Greek, Roman, Arab, Norman and Spanish Bourbon presence. Since the 1990's the city has been shaking off its reputation for petty and organised crime, partly due to the capture



of key Mafia leaders and also the efforts of the anti-Mafia mayor Leoluca Orlando who, in the 1990's, effected political and cultural change in the capital. As we walked from the main railway station towards the Cathedral, we reached the Quattro Canti, the urban city centre. The ornate style of the buildings (left) prepares you for the Baroque splendour of the cathedral.

The exterior of Palermo cathedral is Arab-Norman in style with later additions., while inside the cathedral, marble depictions of the signs of the zodiac attracted the attention of visitors. The carefully placed meridian line which crosses the cathedral diagonally, is lined up with a pinhole in the ceiling that casts a dot of light on the correct sign at noon each day.



Palermo Cathedral



Signs of the Zodiac on the floor

In the cathedral museum you cannot fail to be impressed by the exquisite crown of Constance (overleaf), who was Queen of Aragon and Sicily and also Holy



Roman Empress from 1220. Her son, Frederick II, King of Sicily, Germany, Italy and Jerusalem, and also Holy Roman Emperor, was known as *Stupor Mundi* 'Wonder of the World'. 'He had the reputation for being the most exceptional individual of his age, partly because, at 25, he was Europe's most powerful political leader, second only to the pope himself.' (Jamie Mackay — *The Invention of Sicily*). He made important contributions to Sicily's intellectual and artistic culture by inviting scholars, artists and performers to court.

Constance's Crown

In the small hill town of Monreale, 10 kilometres to the south-west of Palermo, stands the Cathedral of Santa Maria Nuova. The modest 12th century Romanesque façade belies the splendour of the interior. When you enter,



The Cathedral of Santa Maria Nuova — modest outside, but spectacular within.

especially on a sunny day, you are overwhelmed by the dazzling Byzantine mosaics – 6400 square metres of gold-backed glass tesserae depicting scenes from the Old and New Testaments. The intention is that the viewer should follow the narrative from the apse depicting Christ, the Pancrator (reminiscent of the Pancrator in the cathedral of Cefalù, but on a much larger scale), scenes from the Old Testament in the nave, and the lives of the Apostles Peter and Paul in the aisles. Its construction is attributed to William II who, according to legend, had a

dream in which his father showed him the location of some treasure. William used it to build a cathedral that would surpass that of Palermo. He also established a Benedictine monastery next door.



Ornate columns around the monastery cloister

The cloister of the Benedictine monastery adjoining the cathedral is enclosed by 228 pairs of columns, each one decorated with a different pattern of mosaic inlay. The capitals depict biblical scenes, mythological creatures, animals and geometric designs showing Arab, Romanesque and Byzantine influences.

12 days is too short a time to appreciate more than a fraction of the geography, history and culture of Sicily. I would like to revisit Palermo to see the Teatro Massimo, which re-opened in 1997 after years of closure due to Mafia corruption, and to discover the effects of the *Addiopizzo* (Goodbye protection money) movement which was part of the Palermo Spring. There are also other places to see such as Messina in the north-east, Trapani in the north-west, and the Late Baroque towns of Ragusa, Modica and Scicli in the south. *Alla prossima.....*

Judith MacLeod

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE 200 CLUB

Congratulations to our latest Winner

September — no: 11 — Sandra Rowsell

HARD QUESTION

In this latest Hard Question, **JOHN PRITCHARD** asks if Christianity spends too much effort on our failures and hence makes faith and the practices of the Church too gloomy.

(Spoiler alert: he doesn't agree!)

Is the Church obsessed with Sin?

I hope not. It's certainly not my understanding of the glorious, life-affirming faith I've enjoyed. But I understand why it can seem to many (and has done for centuries) that the church has an unhealthy preoccupation with sin. And undeniably there is a serious issue to be addressed in human nature and the classic description of it is sin. What the concept of sin needs is a proper context.

- Jewish and Christian faith has deep roots in the myth of the Garden of Eden and the first transgression – 'original sin' – of Adam and Eve. ('Myth', by the way, means not something that's *historically* true, but something that's *always* true). It has even deeper roots in the original Creation story, however, where 'God saw all that he had made and it was very good.' In other words, original blessing came before original sin.
- In the Old Testament there's a constant emphasis on the failures of Israel and other nations to recognise the desire of God for justice, mercy, compassion and welcome for the stranger. The prophets are strong in their condemnation, and in their promise that God would bring about a new social order and give his people a new heart.
- Jesus points to the roots of sin in a person's character, and Paul writes of the universality of sin. Some of the New Testament writers see Jesus as dying 'for our sins.'



So, yes, sin is part of the Jewish/Christian narrative, and church history has seen that narrative explored and exploited in various ways, sometimes leading to extremes of bad behaviour by Christians and their institutions.

We need, however, to see a bigger picture. Sin is real. The Times Literary Supplement once said, 'The doctrine of original sin is the only empirically verifiable doctrine of the Christian faith.' And we know it. Mark Twain once sent a telegram to a dozen of his friends saying, 'Flee at once. All is discovered.' They all left town immediately! We all know we mess up. But what's the real problem?

- Christianity isn't obsessed with sin, but it does humankind the honour of taking sin seriously. There is a basic human problem, a recurrent tendency, to choose badly, and God wants to help us handle this. As Desmond Tutu said, with characteristic tongue in cheek: 'God has a soft spot for sinners; his standards are quite low.' God loves us whatever we do, but he wants to get to the deep, 'low' causes.
- Sin is the label we give to the obvious self-destructive behaviour that's part of everyone's life. It's sticky. But it isn't so much the violation of divine laws – it's the violation of crucial relationships. And fundamentally it's the violation of a relationship with the divine, with God, whereby we replace God with other things ('idols'). We make idols of money, success, power, celebrity, 'things', ultimately of ourselves – all of which are a refusal to let God be God in our lives.
- This attachment to substitutes is 'misdirected love' and Jesus wanted to re-direct that love back to the Father. Sin is therefore being disorientated from our true orientation towards God and the good grain of the universe, which is love. The philosopher Simone Weil wrote that all sins are basically attempts to fill voids. And the greatest void is so often God himself, who we avoid or banish from our lives. We 'miss the mark' because we don't aim true. The answer is good target practice – lives directed towards the one who made us for himself, and without whom we are restless and out of sorts.
- This disorientation also applies to many of the structures and systems of society that hugely influence our lives. They too can fail to serve humanity, but rather vested interests, investors, political lobbies. We are victims as well as perpetrators.



- When we observe the human condition for a while, we soon realise there's no such thing as 'original sin.' All sin is un-original; it's been done before. By contrast, what Jesus offers is grace, which is 'new every morning.'

So what do we say? Yes, the church has always had, and rightly has, a concern about sin, because it's the fundamental problem of a world out of joint with the good purposes of God. But it's far more concerned about a gospel of Good News, of freedom, of what Jesus called 'life in all its fullness.'

At the start of our service in church on Sunday morning, we have the opportunity to clean the slate of our mistakes and failures of the previous week. The Book of Common Prayer Communion service has a tendency to return time and time again to our sin, but our contemporary services have the balance right, I think. There's a real issue, but when we confess we are then 'healed, restored and forgiven,' and ready to move on to receive the life-giving sacrament.

There's a story of a bishop talking to a new curate and asking him what he preached about the previous Sunday. 'Sin,' replied the curate. The bishop looked at him closely. 'For or against?' he asked.

Against, we say. But only in the much larger context of the offer of Jesus – the glorious liberty of the children of God.

John Pritchard

SPOTTED RECENTLY IN CREGNEASH PARISH CHURCH ON THE ISLE OF MAN

One interesting fact ...

Mrs Kelly, the cleaner, would light the stove for the Sunday service. If she felt the service was going on too long she would rattle the fire with a poker causing the church to fill with smoke, and this would prompt the vicar to finish the service early
– probably to the enjoyment of all!



**Friends of St Mary's Church
Richmond**

Curry Night

**At
The Town Hall
Richmond**

**Saturday 10th October
7:00 pm**

Bar and Bingo !

Vegetarian option

Any dietary requirements contact 07712 135601

**Tickets £15 in advance from
"The Book Stop" Market Hall
Richmond**

Limited Numbers

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE

The annual big event as we came towards the end of summer was another successful day, raising over £2,500 for the Friends to go towards Church improvements. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the



occasion. There were generous pre-event donations of cakes, biscuits, raffle and tombola prizes, plants, pre-loved items, books, CDs etc, etc. With Colin Hicks providing music in the background, as well as joining a random band of musicians doing the same, the Belles Café doing a good trade in cake and drinks and the gentle odour from the sell-out

barbecue outside, it all made for a great team effort. Special thanks to Bob Hill and John Pritchard, who cleared the surplus stocks of books, CDs, DVDs, jigsaws and other items, and everyone else who stayed behind 'after the ball was over' — especially David Frankton — to ensure that the church was 'worship ready' for the 8.00a.m. Service on the following morning.

It was also good to see our Mayor, Clive World, dropping in to lend his support — not to mention his chain of office, albeit briefly!



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

By the time you receive this edition, we will have staged a folk concert by the internationally known singer/song writer Jez Lowe, but there is plenty to look forward to in October and November, for which tickets are now on sale.

CURRY NIGHT — SATURDAY, 10th OCTOBER

The Challis family are once again leading the hosting of the increasingly popular Curry Night in the Town Hall. With tickets priced at £15.00 per head, you are guaranteed a good meal, good fellowship and the chance to participate in the recently introduced bingo session, which has proved to be a popular addition to the evening's entertainment. A licensed bar will operate throughout the evening, which starts at 7.00 p.m. Tickets from John, Andy



Lovell, the Book Stop in the Market Hall, or any member of the Friends Committee. To ensure that catering works well, ticket numbers are limited and need to be bought in advance.

**AN ADDITION TO THE PROGRAMME — A Talk by CHRIS LLOYD on
'THE LIFE OF LEWIS CARROLL' — SATURDAY, 17th OCTOBER**

We are delighted to be welcoming the historical features writer from the Northern Echo, Chris Lloyd, on Saturday, 17th October to talk about the life of Lewis Carroll, a former student of Richmond School in the 19th century under his given name of Charles Dodgson. Best known as the author of 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland', he was also a writer of other books, a poet, a mathematician and photographer. Chris Lloyd is not only an assiduous researcher, but also a mightily entertaining speaker, so we are assured of a fascinating talk.

To preface this presentation, we are starting the event **at 4.00 p.m.** with what we are calling a Mad Hatter's Tea Party — no dormice, Cheshire Cats (unless Maverick, the Rectory cat, drops in), March Hares, etc. — but there will be tea



party refreshments aplenty to preface Chris's talk. Offers of cakes, scones, biscuits will be gratefully accepted to swell the tables. Again, tickets are on sale in advance to help catering — price £15.00 per head from the Book Stop in the Market Hall. Please see the poster on page 15, publicise this event and bring your friends etc., for it is open to the whole community.

LADIES FASHION SHOW — THURSDAY, 29th OCTOBER

The return of another popular event in association with **LARCHES** of Rosemary Lane, once again to be held in Richmond Town Hall, starting at 7.00p.m. This event was a sell-out last time, so we are looking forward to another excellent evening with opportunities to see the range stocked by Larches; to try on items in a relaxed manner; with changing spaces provided and no pressure to buy. You may even recognise some of the models for this year's show! A licensed bar will operate throughout the evening. Tickets are £5.00 each, obtainable from Larches or the Book Stop. Further details are set out in the poster opposite.

... and finally, don't forget our next quiz night on 14th November

Jim Jack

**Friends of St Mary's Church
and
Larches of Richmond**

Ladies' Fashion Show

Thursday 29th Oct 7pm. Town Hall

**Stylish, easy to wear, affordable clothes
Sized 8 to 24**

Licensed Bar and Raffle. Local Models

**Tickets £5 from Larches or The BookStop
Market Hall Richmond**

**Time to try on clothes with no pressure
to buy**

10% Discount on purchases

**Stockists of Robell Trousers, Lily and Me,
Alice Collins, Lunar Shoes, Pomodoro, Soya
Concept, Noen and many more**

Larches of Richmond
Ladies Boutique



60 SECOND INTERVIEW

As well as co-ordinating the Communion Assistants rota, **PAMELA HOLLAND** works quietly behind the scenes as our Parish Safeguarding Team Administrator and, until recently, was also part of our Home Communion Team. Here, she tackles the questions posed by John Pritchard.

First memory: Age 3, breaking my 4 front teeth falling off the back of the settee.

Favourite meal: Egg, beans and chips, with treacle sponge and custard to follow.

Favourite music and musician: Tamla Motown — the Four Tops.

Pet dislike: Impoliteness.

Best holiday: Kefalonia

Childhood hero: King Arthur

Favourite hobby: Reading



Luxury on Desert Island: The Complete Works of Jane Austen, and a pair of sunglasses.

Recent TV you've enjoyed: *The Art of Spain* with Andrew Graham Dixon.

Worst fault: Impatience

Two best films ever: *Where Eagles Dare* and *Sunday in New York*

Favourite drink: Gin and tonic (Tanqueray)

Regret: Not paying sufficient attention to my parents' memories.

Best recent book: *Silk* by Aarathi Prasad

Favourite charity: Cancer Research



Place you feel happiest: With my loved ones.

Three dinner companions: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Les Dawson and Julian of Norwich

What do you pray for most: Peace and reconciliation

Traditional or new Lord's Prayer: Traditional

Epitaph: She was kindly

Pamela Holland

PARISH FINANCES

Every few months, **PAUL CARNELL**, our treasurer, kindly provides an update on the state of the St Mary's finances, especially in relation to the Parish Share Request. He has adopted a different approach this time which, hopefully, is simpler and clearer.

I've come up with a new way at looking at St Mary's finances, making it much easier to compare receipts and payments over time, but showing them as line graphs instead of 'Paul's pies'. Put (very) simply, green above red is good; red above green is bad.

We've taken a different approach to paying our Parish Share Request this year. Instead of paying an amount leaving us with £25,000 in reserves every month, we've been paying at a constant regular rate.

The upper line graph (overleaf) is reality. We are currently paying one-twelfth of only 80% of the total £95,023 Request each month, which has meant that our receipts have more than kept pace with our payments. The lower graph, however, shows what the situation would have been if we'd paid one-twelfth of 100% of the £95,023 each month. As you can see, by March our Payments would have started to exceed our Receipts, and by August the gap between them (our shortfall) would have been £8,800.

Much of our ability to pay our Parish Share Request comes from the money given by our 'planned givers', so I'd like to give a heartfelt thanks to all those who give regularly to St Mary's.

These gifts are received at various frequencies but, with a bit of multiplying here and dividing there, I've calculated that the average weekly amount, per donor, is £14.50.



Average weekly giving across the Diocese of Leeds (according to 2024 figures) is £14.74, and, when you consider that this includes people giving in large cities like Leeds & Bradford, I think you could say that our regular givers are definitely punching above their weight!

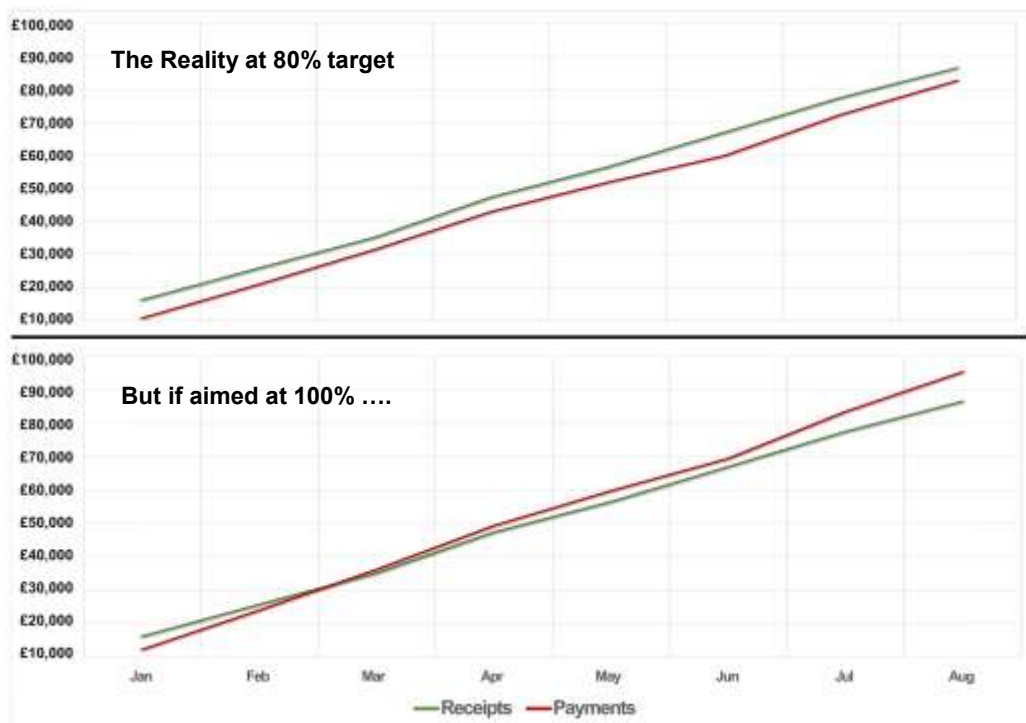
Based on our 2025 Financial Statements, it costs around £2,300 a week to run the church. Our eighty-one regular givers are contributing an average £1,175 a week which leaves £1,125 to find from other sources such as service collections, donations, funeral and wedding fees and Gift-Aid.

The £1,175 is a constant and can be budgeted for, but the £1,125 is a variable, so it's never known if it will be reached, because we never know how much is going to come in from those other sources.

It would be great to have more constants than variables and so, once again, I'm asking if those parishioners who are not yet giving to St Mary's would prayerfully consider whether they would be able to join our eighty-one planned givers. No donation is too small — the price of a cup of coffee would still be a great help on a regular basis.

I'd very much like to encourage new donors to join the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). The advantage of this is that, if you would prefer to be an anonymous donor, this is the best way to give because only the people at the PGS know who you are.

Joining couldn't be simpler: there are Gift Forms at the back of church if you would prefer to complete a paper version, or an easier option is just to go to www.parishgiving.org.uk.



Paul Carnell

IN TIMES GONE BY

During the Summer, **STEVE ERSKINE** — Researcher at the Green Howards Museum — gave a talk about the Richmond Workhouse as part of Richmondshire Museum's lecture programme. Many were surprised to learn that the building existed into the late 1960's, but what follows is an example of some of the material he discovered.

From Workhouse to War

It's impossible to separate military history from social history; each acts as a major dynamic on the other, and this relationship is often seen when researching individuals who served in the Green Howards.

Walter Ernest Tubb worked as a Porter in the Richmond Union Workhouse before enlisting into The Yorkshire Regiment (as the regiment was called at that time) on 26th January 1915. He served with the 12th (Tees-side Pioneers) Battalion and saw service in France, before being evacuated to hospital suffering from severe arthritis in both knees and from a serious tachycardia, an irregular heartbeat.

20122 Lance Corporal Tubb was discharged from military service on 2nd November 1918 and assessed for a military pension. He was awarded a pension of 13 shillings and 8 pence (roughly £40 in today's money) for 36 weeks, then 11 shillings for a further 13 weeks, when his condition and eligibility would be reviewed. His file does not show the outcome of the review.

[illegible]

Walter Tubb Recruitment Form

Various Richmondshire parishes had their own Poorhouses before the Richmond Poor Law Union was instigated on 24th February 1837. Richmond Workhouse was designed by local Architect, John Foss, and was built on the site of the local gaol. The new building incorporated the 'House of Correction' and was situated at the end of Victoria Road, where the mini-roundabout now filters traffic onto Reeth Road.



Such was the need, that the workhouse was expanded in 1842 to include a fever hospital and what were termed 'Vagrant Wards': later additions included 4 Water-Closets in 1847 and a 'Vagrants Cell-Block' in 1889. The Institution was run and managed by a Board of 48 'Guardians'. The 1881 Census shows the place being run by Thomas and Esther Wilkinson, with help from a servant, Mary Etherington. The Census also lists 52 'inmates', mostly locals but with a smattering of natives of Ireland and Wales, plying trades such as 'Char-woman', 'Licensed Hawker', 'Shoe-maker', 'Tailor' and a few poor wretches listed as 'Vagrant', 'Imbecile' or 'Wandering Lunatic'.

Walter was born in Faversham in Kent on 19th March 1891. By 1911 he had made his way to Hartlepool, where he had already fallen into the Workhouse System, his employment being listed as 'Barber with the Hartlepool Board of Guardians'. Somehow, by 1914 he had become a Porter at the Richmond Workhouse, but, not long after he enlisted, he was struck down by Scarlet Fever and was treated in the Workhouse Infirmary, the local hospitals being full.

After the First World War, Walter moved to York with his wife Elizabeth, who he had married in Hartlepool in 1914. By 1939 he had become an Assistant Station Master with the LNER and 'did his bit' during another war, as an Air Raid Precaution (ARP) Warden on the Railway.

As late as 1930, Richmond Workhouse had been taken over by the North Riding County Council, who ran what they called the 'Public Assistance Institution' catering for the sick, the elderly and single-mothers. In 1961 it became a hostel for the elderly, and in 1968 the buildings were renovated to accommodate a new old people's home. A modern housing complex now stands on the site.

Walter died on 12th April 1972 aged 81, a long-life lived, in peace and war, one of a generation that did what they did without the kind of social safety net we take for granted today.

Steve Erskine

MY BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS

There are a number of premises around the Market Place in Richmond which are being developed over the summer. Hoardings surround the former Trustee Savings Bank, Ken Warne's much-missed shop is in new hands, and even the post box on top-side has had a lick of paint, whilst the telephone kiosk has regular changes of occupancy!

JIM JACK's eyes, however, were drawn to the former Mamma Mia! Shop, recently re-opened as the only one in the Market Place whose name matches the start of a well-known hymn. So he decided to pop-in to meet the proprietor, Lucinda Farrington-Parker, to find out more.

'ALL THINGS BRIGHT' proclaimed the freshly painted signage above the door. A bright white and blue shop-frontage and an uncluttered window display of varied giftware, offers an inviting view of the interior. I was drawn inside, sensing an interesting article for this occasional series and seeking an understanding of a link between this and Cecil Frances Alexander's well-known hymn.



On the shelves was a most interesting variety of crafted giftware — crochet work, jewellery, pictures, pottery, water colours. Definitely bright and also beautiful. No creatures great and small, other than in some of the artwork. Curiosity still aroused, and still mentally humming one of the melodies for this famous hymn, I posed the question to Lucinda Farrington-Parker, owner of this new business venture, 'Do you mind telling me what is the link?'



**Lucinda
Farrington-Parker**

It turns out that the choice of name is linked indirectly through the well-known words used for the popular James Herriot television programme, just starting its fifth series. Lucinda explained that, having decided to settle in the area and start a business in Richmond, she wanted to focus on locally produced items made by independent crafts people — made in Yorkshire being the principle. Linking the title of the TV series *'All Creatures Great and Small'* with its strong Yorkshire focus to what she is setting out to achieve, the first three words of the hymn seemed to point the way to what is being sold, with people mentally adding '...and beautiful' and finding just such attractive and varied wares being offered for sale.

Answers to the broad questions ‘Why Richmond?’ and ‘Why retailing?’ were other blocks upon which Lucinda’s story is built. Early years were spent in the south of England or briefly abroad.

A degree in Land Economy, followed by a Masters in Environmental Management, led to slightly unexpected career in the construction industry, working for a national civil engineering firm. There she was looking after their work and policies on environmental matters and sustainability. This proved to be varied and interesting, involving work on projects including flood defences, naval bases, wind farms and highways.

After seventeen years in construction, however, an opportunity with a multi-national manufacturing company arose. This involved developing and delivering the firm’s strategic approach to sustainability issues and looking after the company’s reporting needs for nearly seventy sites across five different companies. And how many in the team carrying out this work? Just Lucinda.

So it was that, following posts which had involved nearly 22 years of regular travel away from home, countless hours ‘on the road’ and the ever more complex nature of the demands of sustainability reporting, Lucinda was finding the work less and less appealing. Time for a re-think, with the first question being where did she really want to live?

Having lived in many different locations across the UK (and even a couple of years in the USA) in her childhood and with work, she never really felt that anywhere in particular felt like ‘home’, but having discovered Richmond and the Yorkshire Dales over a decade ago, it had become a regular holiday destination. Taking out a map of the UK, Lucinda and her husband gradually started to rule out places where they did not want to be, until finally the circle of focus was drawn around the Yorkshire Dales. Further weekend visits narrowed it down to the historic town of Richmond — dog friendly, a beautiful market place, plenty going on and welcoming people made it a clear choice. But what to do?

Of all of the jobs Lucinda had done, the one she had enjoyed the most was before going to university and that was with a retailer called *Past Times* at Cribbs Causeway Shopping Mall and Retail Park near Bristol. The chain store (now long gone) specialised in nostalgic gifts, historically inspired homeware, jewellery and decorative items.



***Past Times* — now definitely in the past**

Meeting and talking with customers, enjoying the products which the firm sold, seeing an outcome from her work, and having regular hours had all been attractions of the job, but a visit to a Christmas Craft Fair at Tennants in Leyburn helped to crystallise her ideas, for there she met and talked with a large number of local home-working crafts people. Lucinda marvelled at the variety, beauty and skills underlying much of what she saw there. Collecting a number of business cards, the idea of '*All Things Bright..*' began to take shape, and have now found realisation at the top of the Market Place in Richmond.

Her conversations made her feel that to offer a place where local Yorkshire people could display and sell their wares (be it glass, wood, art, perfumes, soap — the list is endless) without having to spend days at different markets would have some appeal. This would be providing a service for them, as well as bringing their products to the notice of a wider buying public. And so the '*All things Bright..*' model was born. Artists and craftspeople display their wares in the shop for a period of time at no cost to themselves. Whatever the price at which an article is sold, Lucinda takes a commission and the remainder is passed on to the makers (of which she has about 50 on her books at present) on a monthly basis.

The next challenge was finding some suitable premises. This proved difficult at first, for there was nothing suitable via the estate agent route. Social media, however, provided the answer. The owner of *Mamma Mia!* was prepared to transfer the remainder of his lease to Lucinda due to health problems. Was she interested? A look at the premises; the agreement of the owner of the building to transfer the lease; and an agreed handover were all arranged swiftly.

Lucinda had been collecting suitable display furniture at a lock-up in the Colburn area, refurbishing and painting it as needed. The shop name and signage were decided and local makers were ready to sell through the shop. Those people who observe such things would be surprised at the speed with which the changes took place. It was, in fact, just a week of hard work between *Mamma Mia* closing and '*All Things Bright*' taking its place in the Richmond retail landscape.



The shop's interior

So how have the first few months gone? 'It's been unpredictable, but good', says Lucinda. Good footfall in the shop, but she's also enjoying meeting so many different people. The friendliness she has found in Richmond is replicated in the

visitors to the shop. And some nice stories too. For example, the man who asked if she would consider stocking some of his wife's crochet work. She was invited to bring some samples in and Lucinda offered to try some pieces on the shelves and agreed pricing. Within half-an-hour of the lady leaving the shop, the first piece had been sold. A surprised and delighted crafter. 'There are some really talented people around, who under-rate the quality of what they do,' Lucinda observed.

The other benefits at a personal level for Lucinda have been the predictable hours of work and the lack of time spent on the road, which has helped her to walk her dog regularly (as well as actually spending time with her husband, enjoying where they have chosen to live!). She has also taken up running and is aiming to do a 10K soon. Lucinda has also had time to accept invitations to be a guest at Rotary Club and Women's Institute meetings. Longer term, she also enjoys singing and may well join a group in the future — so her whole quality of life and work/life balance have improved immeasurably.

There are already developments in the shop. Crafting workshops are being organised for the upstairs room, giving people a chance to share their skills with anyone in Richmond and district, and giving individuals of all ages opportunities to find a new hobby or develop hidden talents. New opportunities for people in a town which is now definitely 'home.'

'Any downsides?' I ask. 'Not really – except the level of business rates for start-ups. Having started the business after April 2026, the previous business rates relief for small businesses no longer applied. So, at £500 per month, it's asking a lot for anyone to be able to stand such costs at the outset of an untried business venture.'



Another corner of the shop

Lucinda clearly has a great enthusiasm for what she is doing. Although having no direct experience of retail work, her previous employment in industry and her instincts for what customers would enjoy about walking into her premises have stood her in good stead. Certainly '*All Things Bright*' is a refreshing addition to our historic market place, especially as the business is promoting and supporting local crafts people. Why not take a look? It's certainly a great place to sing the praises of local craftspeople, and Lucinda's local business is now there to support them in bringing the product of their talents to a local market.

Jim Jack

DON'T BE AFRAID

"Whistle a happy tune" was the remedy for being afraid in "The King and I" musical. Do you remember it? Not a bad plan, but I find that an even better one is to hear God's voice calming us, and to trust that he holds us by the hand and brings us help, one way or another.

What is the overriding message of the Bible? Perhaps an impossible question, but it seems to me that probably the most common sentence is "Fear not!" or "Do not be afraid!" It's on the lips of prophets like Isaiah, as, on behalf of the Lord, they reassure the people that God is with them and has not abandoned them. This is often in spite of their faithlessness, whose consequences they've been suffering. It's the approach Jesus so often makes towards people in distress, doubt or darkness, offering hope and new possibilities. "Don't be afraid" occurs, apparently, 365 times in Scripture, which is a lovely coincidence with the number of days in the year. In a leap year, 29th February will just have to share one!

Fear has a role to play, but it can also, surely, cause such trouble. After all, isn't it the root of most warfare? Our own fears may be of loss, change, criticism, illness, of getting involved or of being ignored, of death, or of the state of the world. It can sap our energy and divide us from one another. It can stifle hope and shut out joy. In the midst of all that is negative, for ourselves and for others, may we listen to the divine voice. It will steady our fears and open our eyes and hearts to his promise to be in us and by our side, thereby enabling us to rest on that and allowing it to affect how we live.

Mark Beresford-Peirse

JUST A THOUGHT...

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

From Parish Pump

Palm Sunday

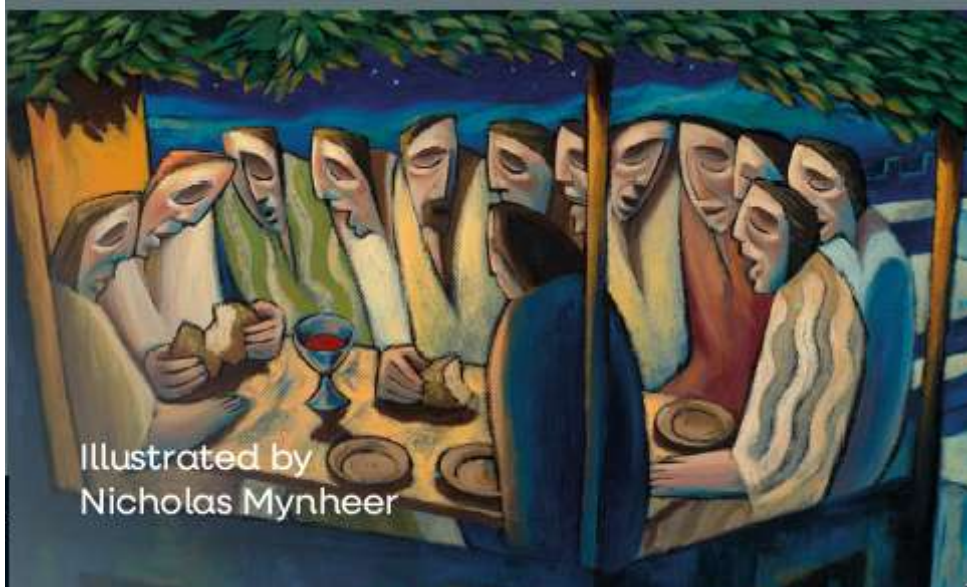
Easter Sunday

The Week

A deep dive into Holy Week through reflections, poetry, prayer, and art

John Pritchard

Illustrated by
Nicholas Mynheer



STOP PRESS!

This month sees the publication of a new book from **John Pritchard**.

If you would like to be among the first to get your hands on a copy, John will have some available in church later in the month.

The Week

A deep dive into Holy Week through reflections, poetry, prayer and art

Author: John Pritchard

Publisher: BRF 2026

‘All you need to know about everything that matters’ is the strapline of a popular weekly magazine, but John Pritchard believes the strapline also applies to Holy Week, because it tells us everything we need to know about God, about human nature, and about the world we live in. It’s the core week of the Christian year and the Christian faith.

John has used these reflections when preaching in Holy Week in a variety of English cathedrals in recent years and was encouraged to have them published. He has enriched it with some powerful modern art-work by an Oxford artist, Nicholas Mynheer, and added poetry, prayers, prayer ideas, and questions for discussion.

The result is a book which John hopes is for anyone who takes their faith seriously and recognises the crucial nature of this week. Although it can be used as a Lent book, it’s also suitable for reading at any time of the year because it deals with the central events of the Christian faith.

John will have copies on sale after church one Sunday morning at the end of October. Or ask him anytime. (Price £10.00 or nearest offer).

Editor’s note: Bishop John needs no introduction, but, from the ‘blurb’ on the back cover *‘Nicholas Mynheer is a British painter, sculptor and glass artist whose work expresses a deep spiritual vision through a distinctive modern interpretation of Christian themes. His art often reimagines biblical narratives with emotional directness and bold linear compositions. His work can be found in more than 40 churches and cathedrals.’*

WORD SEARCH

St Luke

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house-arrest near the end of his life, Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke
Feast
Day
Written
Gospel
Acts
Greek
Physician
Travelling
Faithful
Paul
Compassion
Parables
Prodigal
Son
Good
Samaritan
Women
Poor
Lepers
Sinners
Jerusalem



Pagan Rome Early Christians

Sudoku - Easy

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

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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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 — 25th October '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:
30th October '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

1st October '26



Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku — Medium

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

Wordsearch



Deadline for November '26 edition; Monday 12th Oct. '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:

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07791 426659

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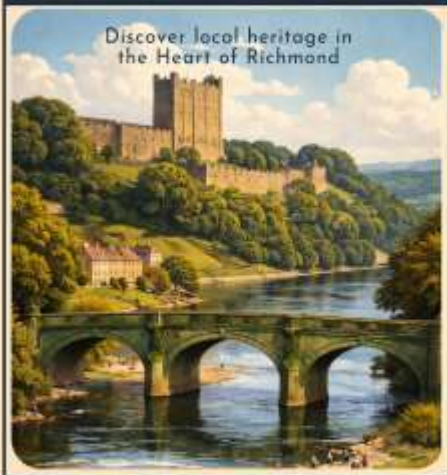
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For more information, contact:
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Dru Yoga teacher
Tel: 07791 776438
Email: corevalueyoga@yahoo.co.uk



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