

CONNECTIONS

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

June 2025



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THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME AND MARSKE

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CHURCH SERVICES — St MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND with Hudswell

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

CHURCH SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Every Thursday

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CHURCH SERVICES AT DOWNHOLME

9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Every second Sunday
9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every fourth Sunday

THE PARISH OF ST EDMUNDS, MARSKE

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CHURCH SERVICES AT MARSKE

11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Sunday except 2nd (& 5th) Sunday
11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Every 2nd (& 5th) Sunday

The recent spell of gloriously sunny weather has certainly lifted the spirits, but, at the time of writing, I suspect there are many who are now eager for a bit of refreshing rain. Wouldn't it be nice if this fell during night-time and left the days warm and sunny, but perhaps that's too much to hope for.

Our contributors have all been busy again this month, with Canon Martin looking forward to the celebration of Pentecost; the Confirmation of several candidates; and the Ordinations of Lorna, Anna and Scott. Very special occasions for all of them, so do please remember them in your prayers.

John Pritchard reflects upon the passing of Pope Francis, his life and legacy, and the election of his successor, Pope Leo XIV, and the challenges he will face. In his Bible Pointers series, he offers some suggestions about how to approach reading the Bible. He also explains what is meant by 'Ordinary time', and poses the questions for another 60 second Interview with Carole McCormack.

Carole herself, as well as supplying the picture for the front cover, has interviewed Rod Flint for the first of what we hope will be a new occasional series on 'Meet the Author', and reports on a visit to Rosslyn Chapel near Edinburgh.

Judith MacLeod shares her impressions of Wakefield Cathedral and, while she was in the city, also took the opportunity to visit the Barbara Hepworth Gallery. If you like art and architecture, this is somewhere to bear in mind.

Jim Jack contributes some personal memories of Fathers' Day and investigates its origins, and also brings us up-to-date with the 'doings' of the Friends. They have several events coming up, so please make a note of the dates and give them your support. Note particularly, the requests for the Plant & Produce Sale in August.

Finally, there are details of the Charity of the Month from Helen Rowan; poems from both George Alderson and Sally Boddy; Garden Notes from Wendy Pritchard; and information about Swaledale Festival events being held in Church. Once again, we hope you will find this issue both interesting and informative.

John McCormack

**Cover photo by Carole McCormack
Wildflower meadow near Hartforth last June**



Martin's Message

June 2025



We are all called and equipped

On **Ascension Day** (Thursday 29th May this year), we revisit the disciples' collective call by the risen Lord Jesus to continue his missionary work. But first, they were to wait – until they had been 'clothed with power from on high' (at **Pentecost**). As we were reminded on Vocations Sunday (11th May), we too are called – and equipped – both collectively and individually to play our part in building God's Kingdom. Our **10.00am Morning Worship service on 1st June** will explore how this is so.

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

There are various prayer resources available for this period, including the '**Novena**', an ancient tradition consisting of prayers repeated for nine successive days (or weeks). The nine days between Ascension Day and Pentecost, when the disciples gathered in the Upper Room to devote themselves to prayer, is often considered to be the first Novena.

A Novena written by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell can be downloaded from the Thy Kingdom Come website: [New for 2025 | Thy Kingdom Come](#) or here: [TKC Novena 2025 DIGITAL.pdf](#)

Hard copies of the 2024 Novena are also available at the back of the church.

And then at **Pentecost**, on **Sunday 8th June**, the waiting will be over and we will celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the abundance of God's grace. How fitting it is, then, that we have Confirmations and Ordinations to celebrate this month!



Confirmations and Ordinations

Please include in your on-going prayers all those to be Confirmed or Ordained this month, including from our Benefice:

[To be confirmed by Bishop Nick at Ripon Cathedral on Sunday 1st June:](#)

Junior candidates –

Arthur Kerr, Charlie Ball, Ellie Dixon, Isobelle Scrafton,

Mia Haynes, Zach Rimmer, Willow King

Adult candidates –

Andy Dalton, Josh Calder, Lucy King.

*Defend, O Lord, your servants. with your heavenly grace,
that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more,
until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.*

[To be ordained Priest by Bishop Anna at Holy Trinity, Ripon
on Saturday 21st June:](#)

Lorna Heatley

*Give, O Lord, your servant grace and power
to proclaim the gospel of your salvation
and minister the sacraments of the new covenant.
Renew her in holiness,
and give her wisdom and discipline
to work faithfully with those committed to her charge. Amen*

[To be ordained Deacon by Bishop Nick at Wakefield Cathedral
on Saturday 28th June](#)

Anna Boyce, Scott Lunn

*Give, O Lord, your servants grace and power to fulfil their ministry.
Make them faithful to serve
and constant in advancing your gospel in the world.
May they follow the example of Jesus Christ your Son,
who washed the feet of his disciples,
and set the needs of others before his own. Amen.*

Anna will then enter her curacy at Ripon Cathedral, whilst Scott will serve in the Penhill Benefice, both on a part-time basis as they continue their demanding ‘day jobs’ of child psychiatrist and maths teacher respectively.

‘Your SHAPE for God’s Service’

In supporting our Ordination candidates as they respond to God’s call, perhaps now is a good time for each of us to be considering our own God-given ‘SHAPE’ for his service:

S piritual Gifts	God’s unique gifts to you
H earth’s Desire	What motivates and excites you
A bilities	Your talents, knowledge and skills
P ersonality	Your character, personal qualities and strengths
E xperience	Your life experiences and all you have gained from them.

During July and September, Lorna and I will be running a fortnightly course over 6 sessions, entitled [‘Your SHAPE for God’s Service’](#) and designed to help us discover our unique SHAPE.

There will be alternative daytime and evening session and a Sign-Up sheet is available at the back of the church. For further information on this transformative course, please contact Martin or Lorna, or see: www.resourcingrenewal.org/shape-course

Annual Meeting Matters

The **Downholme and Marske** Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) took place on 7th May. Our sincere thanks were given to Jean Calvert, who is to step down as Churchwarden at Downholme, and to Ruth Tindale, who was re-elected as Churchwarden at Marske. Whilst we seek a worthy successor to Jean, her duties will be shared amongst us. We are extremely grateful to each and every member of these two vibrant church communities – all of whom play their part in the worship, mission and ministry of St Michael’s and St Edmund’s.

Special mention must be given to our Ministry Team of Jennifer Williamson and George Alderson, as well as our retired priests: Bishop John, Martin Clarke and Stewart Ridley. Likewise, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Treasurers, Phil Ham and Peter Coates; our PCC Secretary Andra Sison-Ham; and our organists Frank Fletcher and Jennifer Wallis.

As I write, the **Richmond with Hudswell** Annual Meeting is yet to place (on 18th May), and it will very much be a celebration of all we are doing together at St Mary’s. I will offer an update in next month’s Magazine.

With every blessing as we each play our part in building God’s Kingdom,

Martin

POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

In John's account of the Last Supper, he records Jesus giving the disciples a new commandment, that they love one another (John 13:34-35). **GEORGE ALDERSON** reflects on those words.

Jesus said, “A new command I give to you, that you love one another”

Mandatum Novum

Can we decide **not** to love those
On whom **Almighty God** bestows
His time and patience when they fall
And when best aspirations stall?
To “love the sinner, hate the sin”
Is where we know we **must** begin,
Not “**should**” or “**maybe**” or “**perhaps**”
As then our loyalties collapse,
And we become conceited, slaves
(Like everyone who misbehaves),
To further wickedness! With ease
We randomly **choose** who to please!
We, each, are siblings, borne by Him,
Since we are weak in love and limb,
So must rely on mercy too,
When doing what we ought **not** do!
We are no better than the rest
And we forget that **all** are blessed
Though there are times we need a lead
In order that we may proceed!
Will we **decide** to love those lost,
Regardless of the time and cost,
And share a journey we must take
In loving **all** for Jesus’ sake?

George Alderson



PAPAL EXCHANGE

The recent death of Pope Francis, and the election of his successor, have received much coverage in the media. **JOHN PRITCHARD** reflects upon his achievements, and the challenges facing Pope Leo XIV.

The loss of Pope Francis has been deeply felt, not only in his own Communion with its 1.3 billion Roman Catholics, but throughout the world. Here was a man of immense but humble stature, loved and listened to by governments as well as by Churches.



Pope Francis

It was his simple symbolic gestures that people loved as well as his statements on critical issues such as the environment, the dignity of the poor, and global peace. He washed the feet of prisoners; he embraced refugees; he encouraged a stage-struck little boy to come and whisper his question in his ear. He ordered free showers for the destitute in Vatican City. His first visit as Pope was to pray with migrants on the tiny island of Lampedusa. His last public words on Easter Day were to encourage the faithful

to 'cling to Christ', because he will conquer the shadows of the world.

Pope Francis made daring steps (given the Roman Catholic Church's conservatism on the issues) on divorced Catholics and the Mass; on LGBTQ matters ('Who am I to judge?'); on the place of women in the Church; and much more. Always he chose the dusty road towards the edges rather than the comfort of the centre. He set about reforming the notoriously conservative civil service (the Curia) and the safeguarding procedures that were not keeping up with best practice. Sometimes he put a foot wrong, but not often. We will miss him – prophet, pastor and priest to the poor.

Then came the wonderfully arcane process of electing a new Pope by means of a sealed chamber, a stove, and a much-watched chimney. The result is undoubtedly hopeful. Just as Pope Francis was the first pope from South America, so Pope Leo XIV is the first pope from North America. By all accounts he

is wise, calm, gentle in manner, decisive and young (69!). His decades in Peru have marked him deeply, and he chose the name Leo in reference to Leo XIII who published the first great social encyclical *Rerum Novarum* which addressed the conditions of the working classes.

On the other hand, Leo has also given a nod to traditionalists by, for example, not following Francis in appearing in simple cassock at his first appearance before the faithful: he wore formal attire but without its prissiness. He offered prayers to the Virgin Mary, which again would have appealed to conservatives. If one of his tasks is to embed the reforms that Francis made, another is to bridge the divide between conservatives and progressives that had become more visible as Francis moved ancient goalposts.



Pope Leo XIV

It looks as if the Holy Spirit, through the Cardinals, has given us a fine new pope. There will doubtless be continuity (108 of the 133 voting cardinals had been appointed by Francis), but it seems likely that there will be a steadying of the ship too; Pope Leo described himself as a ‘faithful administrator.’ He isn’t the clerical equivalent of an alpha male, but he has a proven popular touch. He encouraged priests in his diocese to spend more time with the people than on esoteric Latin Masses. He visited remote parishes and checked up on isolated priests and communities. He delivered food and blankets to Andean villages. He is said to be a man who has ‘no problem fixing a broken-down truck until it runs.’

If Leo XIII addressed the industrial revolution in his social teaching, it may be Leo XIV’s task to address the digital revolution with the enormous changes it is bringing about through AI, social media and the erosion of civil discourse. These are ‘interesting times’ for Leo XIV.

Pray for him.

John Pritchard

CELEBRATING CATHEDRALS

Having previously written about Ripon Cathedral, this month **JUDITH MacLEOD** gives her impressions of Wakefield Cathedral — one of the other cathedrals in our diocese, and the venue for the Ordination of Anna and Scott.

On a Saturday morning at the end of April I visited Wakefield Cathedral. With the other cathedrals I have written about so far, it is easy to find superlatives – the oldest crypt, the longest nave, etc., but although Wakefield has the tallest spire in Yorkshire, it is the smallest cathedral I have seen so far. Moreover, the building has only been a cathedral since 1888. In 2014 the Diocese of Wakefield was integrated with the new Diocese of Leeds, Ripon and Bradford being sister cathedrals in this new diocese. The new Bishop of Wakefield is the Venerable Malcolm Chamberlain, who was appointed in March this year and will be consecrated on 11th June.

The cathedral has a large esplanade on the south side, which is used for public gatherings such as the visit of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh for the Royal Maundy in 2005. It is in a precinct surrounded by shops and eateries, giving the impression that it is part of the town and accessible to everyone.



There has been a place of worship on the cathedral site, starting with a Saxon cross, since about 970. (The cross – now in Wakefield Museum – was found being used as a doorstep in a barber's shop in 1861!) There is also evidence of a church since at least 1000 AD. Elements of Romanesque style are visible in the north aisle, with Gothic in the south. The cathedral once had a tower over the central crossing of the nave and the transepts, but this collapsed in a fire in the 14th century.

There are 3 entrances to the building at, and adjacent to, the west end, all of which are well used by visitors. As at Ripon Cathedral, there is no entry fee. When you enter via the west tower you are looking down on the nave, and a

small information screen to your right offers a touchscreen presentation of the history of the building.

Ahead, you can see a modern labyrinth of 5 circuits on the immaculate sandstone floor. I was interested to learn that, unlike mazes, labyrinths are designed to guide you rather than to trick you. Walking the labyrinth can be a spiritual Christian exercise, and the Wakefield design is based on that in the cathedral of Bayeux which has 10 circuits. There is space for visitors to walk the labyrinth and guidance as to how to do it. You can just see it under the chairs in the nave.



The Nave, with labyrinth just visible under the chairs

In the nave, I enjoyed seeing the chandeliers and the 15th century wooden ceiling with its gilded medieval bosses. (See overleaf) The Quire beyond the rood screen (rood meaning a cross depicting the crucified Christ) has a stunning blue ceiling, also with bosses, and there are quirky medieval carvings on the misericords of the choir stalls.

The cathedral has been extended and refurbished over the centuries, particularly in the 19th century with the restoration by George Gilbert Scott, a follower of the

Gothic Revival. In the last 20 years, the building has been made watertight, the electrical system renewed, an underfloor heating system installed, and the lighting and sound system improved. Considerable thought has been given to the use of space in the nave and the new Hillstone sandstone floor replaces the old, uneven one. Regard for quality and local craftsmanship is evident in all the modern additions, including the replica of the Saxon cross made of Yorkshire stone by local artist Celia Kilner.

The cathedral has a choir consisting of girls and boys, all of whom receive scholarships. The Choir sings for Mass and evensong in Wakefield and elsewhere and has appeared regularly in live broadcasts on the BBC.

A strong sense of community emanates from the cathedral. A small van outside provides refreshments to a multicultural community. The cathedral leads a body working to improve the lives of the homeless, and every Tuesday local people bring their lunch and listen to a free concert. The people of Wakefield City and



Refreshment van outside the Cathedral



Ceiling of the Quire

District have good reason to be proud of their Cathedral.



Judith MacLeod

I'VE OFTEN WONDERED ...

Everyone is familiar with the festivals of Christmas and Easter, and even the seasons of Advent and Lent, but what is this period called 'Ordinary time'? **JOHN PRITCHARD** provides an explanation.

What is 'Ordinary Time'?

The Church's year is divided into seasons. You can recognise the different seasons by the different colours the priest wears in his or her vestments and by the colours on the altar. 'Ordinary time' is what comes between the special seasons of the year, and it's called that simply because it is 'ordinary' compared with the special seasons of Christmas and Easter etc.

There are two periods of Ordinary time, and the whole year (and the liturgical colour) looks like this: (Advent 1 — 4 means the 4 Sundays of Advent)

Advent (purple): Advent 1 — 4

Christmas (white): 1 and 2

Epiphany (white): 1 — 4 and Candlemas

Ordinary time (green): 5 before Lent — Sunday next before Lent.

Lent (purple): 1 — 5 (Passiontide begins on 5th Sunday)

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Easter (white): 1 — 6, then Ascension Day and Pentecost (red)

Ordinary time (green): Trinity 1 — All Saints Day (1st Nov)

: 4 before Advent — Christ the King



What I particularly like about Ordinary time is that there are roughly the same number of Sundays in Ordinary time as in the more specialised seasons. This suggests to me that we need a lot of time doing the ordinary stuff of Christian discipleship, and that then makes the special seasons stand out. It also means that the Christian life isn't all high days and holidays, but the ordinary graft of following Jesus in the rough and tumble of life.

As the Christian writer Evelyn Underhill wrote, 'A lot of the road to heaven has to be taken at 30 miles an hour.'

John Pritchard

WHAT MY FATHER DIDN'T TEACH ME ABOUT FATHER'S DAY!

Whilst this magazine has given some detailed coverage to Mothering Sunday (and its difference from Mother's Day) in past issues, **JIM JACK** offers some personal reflections on the lesser known and less 'celebrated' Father's Day, which falls on 19th June this year.

My father was a laid back, hard-working, humorous Congregationalist Scot, who would be seen around the house with sleeves rolled up doing the washing-up, laying fires, hoovering, and helping with the weekly washing. When we were of primary school age, he encouraged and helped my sister and I to put together gifts and cards for our mother on Mothering Sunday (not, he insisted, Mother's Day). He, and our mother, supported our schools and schooling; saw us through higher education; instilled strong standards of honesty and respect, the ability to laugh at ourselves, support others and honour commitments. He was a really good role model, but he actively discouraged us from marking Father's Day — because of Harry Baxter (* name changed to protect the innocent!)

The aforesaid Mr Baxter was a good friend of some close friends of my parents. Whatever type of person he was, in my dad's eyes Mr Baxter committed the sin of ostentatious wealth! In the mid-1950s, when our dad was working full-time as a Clerical Officer in the Civil Service and doing part-time evening work at the local greyhound track and my mother worked 5 days per week as a school clerk, Harry Baxter had become wealthy by selling — greetings cards. Now, family birthday cards, bereavement cards, wedding cards, Mothering Sunday cards my father could understand, but 'Father's Day and their ilk' cards — never! 'Pure commercialisation'. 'Jumping on a bandwagon'. It was a family joke and done with a smile — but meant, nevertheless.

And the ostentatious wealth? Well, turning up in our terraced street in a Rolls Royce was not good. My father's view was not born out of envy. My folks were quietly proud of the fact that they had saved to buy their own house in 1957; bought a TV in 1958; and their first car in 1962. Like many of their wartime

generation, and as my mother finally told my sister and I when we were well into our thirties, 'there were times when we never had two pennies to rub together, but we were never in debt. No loans, no credit, apart from a mortgage'. Harry



Baxter's money was made, as my dad saw it, not from 'proper hard work', but by selling greetings cards! So, whenever Father's Day actually was, it passed us by — and did so for years. Thus it's really from this position of writing for this magazine i.e. total ignorance, that I set out to learn a little more. Whatever the reason for my dad's antipathy towards marking Father's Day, was his refusal to recognise it justified?

When did it all start?

It appears that my dad's view, that Father's Day was purely a recent commercial excuse for selling cards and gifts, wasn't entirely correct. As early as 1508, the Catholic Church throughout Europe marked the importance of fatherhood annually on St Joseph's Day (19th March) with some, especially Spain and Portugal, specifically celebrating it as Father's Day. Joseph, husband of Mary, was honoured as *Nutritor Domini* — 'nourisher of the Lord'. The festival itself even became a public holiday in a few countries, whilst settlers from Spain and Portugal took the festival with them as they expanded their colonies.



St Joseph

Father's Day — a much delayed add-on to Mother's Day?

Whilst being a very much later addition to the annual calendar than Mothering Sunday, which has a deep and lengthy history in the Christian Church, the marking of Father's Day only post-dates marking Mother's Day by two years — although its 'formal' adoption in the USA — and the UK — shows a much longer gap.

Mother's Day arose from an initiative in the United States by Anna Jarvis. She organized the first Mother's Day service of worship and celebration at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, which still serves as the International Mother's Day Shrine today. At the time, in 1908, Anna was clear that this was a personal celebration of individual mothers, not linked to Mothering Sunday (hence the deliberate trade-marked placing of the apostrophe, to show it was to be about individual mothers).

A year before this, in December 1907, a major mining accident killed over 360 men and left over 1,000 children fatherless. This led Grace Clayton, who had lost her father earlier in the year, to ask her local pastor to honour all fathers who had passed away. He did this at a service in Fairmont, West Virginia, on 5th July 1908, but a lack of publicity and its proximity to the national Independence Day

celebrations on the 4th meant that the idea seemed to have stalled. Nevertheless, the seed had been sown

Attending Church on Mother's Day in 1908, Sonora Smart Dodd from Spokane in Washington State resolved to promote a similar day which would celebrate the role of fathers. Her father had brought up the Dodd family single-handedly since his wife had died giving birth to their sixth child. Sonora believed that people like



Sonora Smart Dodd

her father deserved similar recognition and appreciation to that accorded to mothers on Mothers' Day for their role in bringing up their children. She was very active in visiting local churches, YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to promote this idea, and Washington State celebrated its first Fathers' Day on 19th June, 1910.

Whilst Mother's Day gained national traction in the United States quite rapidly as a holiday (and also by being linked to Mothering Sunday), it took years for Father's Day to achieve similar status. In fact it was over 50 years later, when Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation designating the 3rd Sunday in June as a national holiday for Father's Day, with Richard Nixon making national observance of Father's Day permanent in 1972.

Why the delay in establishing Father's Day?

There was limited support for the idea amongst men in the early twentieth century, who felt that the traditions of the Mother's Day holiday of gift-giving and flowers did not celebrate their masculinity! Lack of male support in the States also seemed to echo my father's view that this elevation to a national holiday was simply a way for shops to commercialise another holiday and pressurise families into parting with hard-earned cash to buy unnecessary gifts. Nevertheless, a mixture of European Catholic tradition of celebrating fatherhood and the spread of the US commercial models abroad in the 20th Century has meant that the idea of a Fathers' Day has gradually taken root. It is highly likely that it is the focus on Fathers' Day in retail outlets that has led this process.

How do other countries mark Father's Day?

Over 112 countries are said to mark Fathers' Day in some way, although not on the same date (in our case Sunday 15th June this year) In France, the day is a traditionally Catholic celebration known as the Fête des Pères. It wasn't officially decreed a holiday until 1952. The pressure to do this, it is said, came from the

impact of an advertising campaign run by a cigarette lighter company, Flaminaire, whose text went, 'Our daddies told us, for Father's Day, they all want a Flaminaire'! Nowadays, it is more likely that a father will be given a red rose on the day, whilst white roses are often laid on the graves of deceased fathers.

In Thailand, 5th December is the day when everyone wears yellow, the national colour, whilst children present fathers with a Canna flower, a 'masculine' plant.

Flowers also play an integral part of Japanese Father's Day, but additional traditional gifts could be items such as hand-made beer glasses, a box of Japanese sweets, sandals or perfume. Seafood meals of crab and prawn are also a tradition.

Food features highly in Mexico (alongside special gifts — and a 21 kilometre race in Mexico City) and in Brazil, a former Portuguese colony, where much meaty feasting takes place on the festival of St Joachim, the patron saint of fathers. South Africans like to picnic on the day, sometimes fishing in the hope of catching something for the meal. In Costa Rica, they support both the 19th March (St Joseph's Day) and Father's Day (19th June).

All of these countries, and more, have the dual aim of encouraging children to show due respect and appreciation for the love and support that their fathers, and/or significant father figures, have given in their lives. They also emphasise the importance and responsibility of fathers spending quality time with their children and supporting family values. Although there was no precedent of a religious link to Father's Day in, for example the Hindu faith, they have adopted the day as a time to remember and honour deceased fathers.

And what of today?

Well, I have to say that I have followed in my father's footsteps and discouraged our children from sending any cards etc. on Father's Day. The girls disregard me on this anyway — which I have to say is rather nice, whilst our son always sends a text saying he is respecting my wishes not to send a card — but sending love and good wishes by text! And the greetings card industry seems to thrive in spite of my father's one-man protest all those years ago. I suspect that Mr Baxter kept his Rolls Royce too.



1950s Flaminaire advert

A GRAND DAY OUT

After spending some time in the Cathedral, **JUDITH MacLEOD** went on to visit the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield. As she explains, if you love Art and Architecture — and rhubarb! — you are bound to be delighted, so a visit is highly recommended.

If you like art, the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield is well worth a visit. After visiting Wakefield Cathedral in the town centre in late April, I went to the South West side of the city. You can walk or drive there.



As you approach the gallery on foot via a bridge over the River Calder, a series of several staggered volumes (an architectural term for hollow shapes) of concrete loom into view. The award-winning building was designed by the architect David Chipperfield and opened to the public in 2011. The gallery is situated in a conservation area, which protects several industrial buildings that once housed the city's cloth and grain industries.

The gallery was intended to display the works of the sculptor, Barbara Hepworth, who was born in Wakefield in 1903. It also houses other works from the former Wakefield Art Gallery and hosts temporary exhibitions. I had some knowledge of Barbara Hepworth's work from a previous visit and from seeing several sculptures in the garden of her house at St Ives in Cornwall. On those visits, however, I wasn't sure I liked them, especially the wooden ones with egg-like forms and strings cutting through the centre.

At 11.15a.m., visitors to the gallery were able to join a guided tour given by a very knowledgeable guide who explained the significance of the forms and the materials Hepworth used. This really captured my interest, because the guide compared a bronze sculpture by Henry Moore with one of Hepworth's in alabaster, informing us that Moore could afford more expensive materials since



he received big commissions earlier in his career. You can see the 2 sculptures side by side here.





I liked the one in alabaster and also this one, even with strings!

Apart from the permanent collection by other artists as well as Hepworth, the gallery can host more than one visiting exhibition at a time. I really enjoyed 'Otherworldly Vessels' – an exhibition of ceramics by contemporary artist Elizabeth Fritsch (on display until Spring 2026). After completing a music degree in piano and harp, in the mid-

1960s Fritsch taught herself to hand-build pots and went on to study ceramics at the Royal College of Art in London. The pots are displayed in groupings intended to capture movements in classical music. The work is beautifully displayed on tables set against dark walls, and I found the juxtaposition of the bluish hues against the dark brown background particularly striking.



Elizabeth Fritsch ceramics

A trip to the gallery would not be complete without a visit to the café, which is light and airy with pleasant views of the garden and river: there is even an outside terrace. A tempting array of light refreshments awaits you at the counter, and, as Wakefield is known for its champagne rhubarb which becomes available in the early springtime, I chose a rhubarb and frangipani cake to accompany the excellent coffee. It was a good choice!

The architecture of the Hepworth Gallery is designed to be enjoyed both from the outside and from the inside. As I had just come from Wakefield Cathedral on the opposite side of the city, I was delighted to catch a glimpse of it through one of Barbara Hepworth's larger sculptures.

The admission charges are £14/£12.50/free for under 18s, which include entry to all the spaces. There are also art workshops and a delightful garden with activities for children. Do note, however, that the gallery is closed on Mondays.

Judith MacLeod



A glimpse through the sculpture

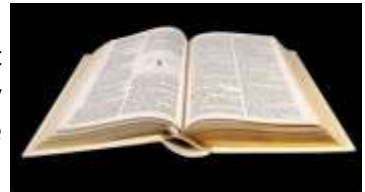
BIBLE POINTERS

The Bible may be the most published book in the world, but its very size can be off-putting for a reader. Here, **JOHN PRITCHARD** offers some guidance on how to approach it.

How to get into reading the Bible

The French philosopher Voltaire once wrote, 'A hundred years from my death, the Bible will be a museum piece.' As it happened, a hundred years after his death the French Bible Society opened its headquarters in his old home in Paris. The Bible tends to outlast its critics.

If Christians and others, however, are to benefit from the wisdom of the Bible, we have to actually read it. So how should we get into it? Here are three ways:



1. **Read a gospel and then a letter.** Don't try and read the Bible like a normal book and start at Genesis. You'll grind to a halt somewhere in Leviticus! Start with Mark's gospel and read it straight through. Get the whole picture. Then read the Acts of the Apostles more slowly to understand the life of the early church. Follow this with Paul's letter to the Philippians; and on you go – Genesis 1-12 and 1 Corinthians would be my next recommendations... After each reading of a passage, think, 'what have I learned from this, and how could I respond?' It also helps greatly to have one big overview book like the *Lion Handbook to the Bible*.
2. **Bible reading notes.** Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) publish *New Daylight* (mainstream), *Guidelines* (in-depth), *Day by Day with God* (for women). Scripture Union produce *Daily Bread* and *Encounter with God*, both also available on an App. Best of all (because I write in it...!) is *Reflections for Daily Prayer* from Church House Publishing. Other Bible notes are available – look online. Don't be legalistic about reading every day, if that is not really you. You could catch up later, or treat the readings as undated.



3. Lectio divina (holy reading). This is an ancient way of feeding and meditating, so that we read the Bible not so much for information as for personal transformation.

Read: take a passage and start to read slowly until a word or phrase captures your attention. Stop there.

Reflect: chew the phrase carefully, drawing the goodness out of it. Repeat it, question it, roll it around in your mind. Spend as much time as necessary.

Respond: pray about the thoughts and feelings that have emerged from your reflection.

Rest: you may just want to stay in silence for a while.

Repeat: you may want to carry on with the passage until the next phrase emerges.

There are other ways of opening up the Bible, of course. I wrote about Ignatian meditation in the series on prayer; it's where we use our senses to enter into a gospel event. Others respond to scripture through various art forms (poetry, painting, pottery).



As we get into this amazing book, all sorts of questions will emerge and there's a lifetime of fascination ahead and huge numbers of books and online courses to help. But undoubtedly we will be disturbed by some strange, not to say awful, passages,

particularly in the Old Testament. How are we to understand them?

That's for next month!

John Pritchard

THE 200 CLUB

Congratulations to our latest Winner

May — no: 165 — Linda Curran



60 SECOND INTERVIEW

This month it is the turn of **CAROLE McCORMACK**, one of our editorial team, to answer the questions posed by **John Pritchard**.

First memory? My great-grandmother throwing a paper on to the open fire and my getting cross because it included solutions to picture puzzles!

Favourite meal? Almost any fish – salmon, tuna and hake especially

Favourite music or musician? Bob Marley

Pet dislike? Injustice, ignorance or bigotry

Best holiday? Caribbean or India

Childhood hero? Mr Darcy from *Pride and Prejudice*

Favourite hobby? Walking with my dogs

Luxury on Desert Island? Cold, clear water

Recent TV you've enjoyed? *Call the Midwife* – all series!

Worst fault? Being over particular - OCD

2 best films ever? *A Good Year* and *Pretty Woman*

Favourite drink? Cold white wine

Regret? Not having taken up a research post in English at Bristol University

Best recent book? *The Herb of Grace* by Elizabeth Goudge

Favourite charity? The Dogs' Trust

Place you feel happiest? Surrender Mines, Arkengarthdale

Three dinner companions? Queen Elizabeth 1; St Cuthbert; my father

What do you pray for most? Peace – in the world and in my mind

Traditional or new Lord's Prayer? Really don't mind

Epitaph? She always did her best, but usually failed



Carole McCormack

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

Val and Caroline

Warmly invite you to a

Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th June

10:00 to 12:30

17 Gilling Road Richmond

DL10 5AB

Coffee, Tea ,Cakes, Raffle etc

Bring and Buy Sale

Enquires: 07791 776438 07880 567387

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

FASHION SHOW WITH 'LARCHES'

This was a resounding success, thanks to the hard work of Wendy Pritchard and friends at the Methodist Church. Held at the Town Hall on 24th April, this event was a sell-out (100 tickets) and made £872 profit for The Friends. Larches were also very happy with their sales on the night and on subsequent days. Many thanks to all the helpers – Judith Barber, Val Worley, Sharon Digan and Caroline Cope, while Peter



Trewby and Andy Lovell were invaluable supporters in helping to bring and take away everything needed for the bar. We are also grateful to everyone who donated food and drink for the raffle. A special thank you to Charlie and the rest of the Town Hall staff for their helpfulness throughout. They make life so much easier for us when we hold our events in this historic setting.

USING OUR FUNDS

Having met all of our promised financial commitments to St Mary's in connection with the Step-Free Access Project and associated car park, and thanks to you for your support for Friends events over the past 18 months, we have now been able to commit £12,000 to pay for some of the developments and improvements which have been earmarked by the PCC arising from the recent Quinquennial review. This review is a structural and engineering survey undertaken every five years, which helps the PCC to ensure that our church building is continuously maintained and upgraded and avoids dilapidation.

UP-COMING EVENTS

1. Coffee morning — Saturday, 7th June at 17 Gilling Road — 10.00-12.30



Many thanks to Val Worley for opening her home at the start of June for a summer coffee morning. Assisted by Caroline Cope, Val is once again brewing the coffee and tea to welcome us and would appreciate donations of home-baking and biscuits for sale, and raffle prizes for our delectation and delight. This is a splendid opportunity for getting together and having a chat as the high days of summer draw closer. Do come along and support, please.

2. Musicality Concert — Saturday, 21st June at 7.00 p.m.

Another first for the Friends, as one of Richmond's talented musical groups will perform a summer repertoire from different genres of music in church starting at 7.00 p.m. This successful ladies choir was formed over ten years ago and has won many admirers, as well as winning awards at local musical tournaments. Tickets cost £10.00 and are available from committee or choir members, or the Bookstop in the Market Hall. There will be a pre-performance and interval bar, with refreshments available.



3. Church Summer BBQ — Saturday, 5th July — 12.00-4.00 p.m.

Is a fine day guaranteed for another grand afternoon out in the church grounds and church, with master chef John Challis on the tongs and flippers for the meaty treats, David Frankton on the trimmings and toppings, and Jim Jack looking after the veggie BBQ? Well, no — not guaranteed, but with seating inside church, garden games, music, tea and coffee, soft drinks and good fellowship on offer all afternoon, what more can you ask? Get your £5 ready and buy your ticket to guarantee your first helping of food — after that, it's pay as you go! Make a note of the date now.



4. Town Hall Summer Coffee Morning — Thursday, 10th July — 9.00-12.00 a.m.



Another regular event in our calendar is serving coffee, tea, biscuits, home-baking and chat to the people of Richmond and beyond. Offers of help with serving and/or washing-up; baking to sell; and prizes for tombola to any committee member, please.

5. PLANT and PRODUCE Sale – Saturday, 23rd August

An early reminder to ask you to continue your excellent support for this event. Last month we asked you to hold onto those jigsaws and games which perhaps you got for Christmas, have completed and no longer need. Why not give them to us to sell? Also DVDs and CDs, if you're clearing out. And why not set aside some of your home-made jams, chutneys and marmalade, ready to give to swell the stock on our widening range of stalls? How about those things you turn your talents to in the evenings and weekends — knitwear, bookbinding, mounted photographs, artwork, jewellery, craft pieces, etc.? People love these unique items. All this in addition to the cuttings, plants and fresh fruit and veg which you generously donate for sale. You grow it, we sell it!



Or what about some distinctive non-perishable or long-dated drinks and foodstuffs to complement the fresh items which make up the very popular annual Yorkshire Hamper draw? Please continue to think ahead and be setting aside things which you can add to our storehouse of goodies to sell on 23rd August. Fffffanks!!!!

Jim Jack

TOWERING ACHIEVEMENTS



Our skilful team of bell ringers set themselves the challenge of replicating the peal of Grandsire Doubles on VE Day 2025, as carried out in 1945 and described in last month's magazine. This feat was duly achieved, including repeating two members of the team ringing 'cover' bells, although there was no councillor able to join as Councillor Todd did in 1945.

Congratulations also to John Welch and Andrew Slade, who were selected to become two of the 8 members of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire team in a Yorkshire-wide area competition. With our Richmond ringers centrally involved, their team won this competition held in late May. Well done, chaps!

Jim Jack

Friends of St Mary's Church
Present

MUSICALITY



A Summer Concert

Enjoy a musical evening jam packed with a rich mix of songs:

*Broadway Hits Pop Classics Sacred and Folk
Works by Choral Composers from Mozart to John Rutter
Refreshments and Raffle*

***St Mary's Church Richmond
Saturday 21st June at 7:00pm***

Tickets £10 from:

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

MEET THE AUTHOR

In the first of what we hope will be an occasional series, **CAROLE McCORMACK** had a conversation with **ROD FLINT**, a local writer of historical fiction, about his work.



Rod Flint

I was looking forward to talking with Rod Flint about his writing, but nothing could have prepared me for the surprising and moving story which emerged through our conversation.

From his earliest days, Rod wanted to write. He served in the army for forty years and his plan was to become an author on leaving the armed forces. In 2016, during the resettlement period between serving as an officer and entering civilian life, Rod started to put his plan into place.

The history of Rod's maternal family, the Curwens, can be traced back to the 11th Century. An account of this was published about a century ago, which follows his family lineage through Earl Gospatrick of Northumberland and Cumberland, through marriage, to Ethelred the Unready. His family is of Cumbrian border origin, and Rod's mother and grandfather were as passionate as he is concerning the preservation of this remarkable heritage. The individual history of the family weaves in and through significant and documented events in history.

When he retired from the army, Rod asked himself the question 'What legacy will I leave?' and his central motivation in writing is exactly this: to create a meaningful legacy for his family. He decided to do this through incorporating aspects of his personal family history into an historical story. Linking actual events to the experiences of the characters in his novels, he weaves an authentic narrative which brings the past alive. Rod researches meticulously, but there are periods within this era which are not documented in detail. He therefore presents fictional characters, authentically created and researched, within the time frame of the period, bringing personal family history and national history together. 'To bring to light a little moment in time, the way it might have been, and link it to my family history.' 'Everything I do, I want to tie it in to a place, season, clothing or event.' He is a true author of fiction, loving reading and 'seeing storylines everywhere'.

Rod deliberately involves the younger members of his family in his writing, asking young strong female members in particular to comment and to become involved in his work. He believes that it is crucial in the 21st Century to present such characters in order to engage his reading public and to create work that is relevant. Rod's brother – who is, of course, as well-versed in family history as Rod – is a critical friend and provides robust and healthy challenge to Rod's work.

I admire Rod's writing process. He creates a Word document, which is effectively a mind-map of his novel, and adds to and amends this as he creates his story. When running, walking, or sometimes driving, he will reflect upon his current work and characters and, when possible, makes notes on his phone, which in turn feeds back into the Word master document.



When Rod started to write his first book, *The Year 1070 - Survival*, he was unsure about how long it would be – or indeed whether it would be a novel or a short story. By the end of the first chapter, however, he realised the scale of the story he wanted to tell, and there are now five books in the series – *The Harrying of the North* – set in the Northern Dales, Cumbria and Northumberland. Together they present this turbulent period of change through the

actions and lives of fictional characters.

Rod's historical research is ongoing: he is currently working on a book set in the post-Roman period, based upon recent theories concerning 'King Arthur', which gives a northern, rather than a traditionally southern, focus to this evocative character.

Because of the intensely local connections, Rod Flint's books are available in paperback from Castle Hill bookshop and Richmondshire Museum, and can be ordered from Waterstones and Amazon, where a Kindle edition is also available.

Carole McCormack



CHARITY OF THE MONTH — JUNE

This month, **HELEN ROWAN** invites our support for **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)**, a UK-based charity that supports people to become debt free, find work, and escape poverty.

Set up in Bradford in 1996 by John Kirkby and now operating UK-wide, CAP describes its vision in the following short phrases:

“Transformed lives. Thriving churches. An end to UK poverty.”

But what does this mean in practice, and how does CAP spend the money given by its supporters?

CAP’s latest figures on its website shows that 78% of its income goes towards its charitable activities.

If anyone needs help from CAP, there are four key areas in which they offer support:

Debt centres: CAP can help you to understand your options (in relation to the many different routes to get out of debt) and to choose the best route for you to become debt free. *CAP supported over 10,000 individuals in this way between January 2023 and March 2024.*

Job clubs: CAP’s local job clubs meet weekly. The clubs run an 8-week course to give you all the tools you need to find work, including CV writing and interview skills. *CAP supported nearly 1,000 people in this way between January 2023 and March 2024.*

Life skills groups: CAP’s life-skills groups are designed to give you the confidence and decision-making skills you need to live on a low income. This includes learning practical money-saving techniques, such as cooking on a budget and making money go further. *CAP supported nearly 1,000 people in this way in the same period.*

Money coaching: CAP’s free service money management course is designed to empower you with the knowledge, budgeting skills and confidence to better manage your finances. *Around 750 churches now deliver money coaching in their community.*

For those without a CAP centre on their doorstep, there are also lots of useful

Face it. Fight it.
End poverty **together.**

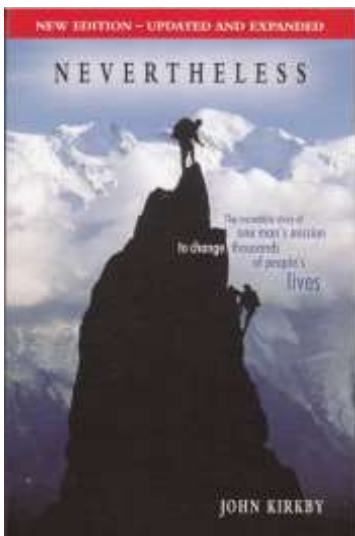
practical resources and advice on their website: capuk.org.

A key goal for CAP is to raise awareness of poverty (alongside its goals of relieving poverty in the UK, providing financial education, advancing the Christian faith and collaborating with others). Their Policy and Research team pulls together evidence and research, undertakes consultations and publishes reports to help decision-makers develop and shape policy. Check out CAP's website if you would like to find out more.

Reflecting on CAP's mission, I am often reminded of the well-known verse from Isaiah 61:

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners." NRSV

When I have heard CAP's clients speak, they often tell of the despair (or oppression) that came with being in debt; the gratitude that someone would help; and the dignity and hope that has come from having mastered the skills to live differently. Many also celebrate the new community, fellowship and faith they have found in their local church.



So I commend CAP to you for June's Charity of the Month. It is a charity that offers immediate support to people in crisis, then provides them with skills to help them get back on their own two feet — and also offers many the chance to find new hope in Christ.

If you wish to know more about how it all came about, the inspiring story of CAP's founder, John Kirkby, can be read in the book **Nevertheless**.

Helen Rowan

HISTORY AND MYTH

Rosslyn Chapel, just outside Edinburgh, is something to behold, for every surface seems to be covered with ornate carvings. While admiring the skill and imagination of the mediaeval masons, **CAROLE McCORMACK** found the overall effect quite disturbing.



Rosslyn Chapel — from the south

My first encounter with Rosslyn Chapel was entirely fictitious:

*"The Holy Grail 'neath ancient Roslin waits.
The blade and chalice guarding o'er Her gates.
Adorned in masters' loving art, She lies.
She rests at last beneath the starry skies."*

In Dan Brown's novel, *The da Vinci Code*, (2003), this small mediaeval chapel is suddenly catapulted into fame. Whatever one's opinion of the novel's literary merit, it is incontrovertible that Brown lifted the chapel from history into mythology. In his story, Brown links the chapel into the hero's quest for the Holy Grail and, having visited on our trip to Edinburgh a month or so ago, I can understand why the author gave Rosslyn such a dramatic place in his narrative.

Although there is questionable historical truth to link the chapel to the Knights Templar, or to the Grail quest, what we found was, quite simply, unique.

Rosslyn is situated about seven miles from Edinburgh, and we caught the bus to Penicuik, at the cost of £2.20 per person – somewhat cheaper than the three or more figure sums paid by some very pleasant American visitors, who were simply ‘blown away’ by the experience. Visitors are not allowed to take photographs inside the Chapel – and the only original one (above) is an external view which I took. Images below are from the Chapel’s publicity material.

Rosslyn Chapel, formally known as the Collegiate Chapel of St Matthew, was established in 1446 by Sir William St Clair, the 1st Earl of Caithness. The chapel was intended as a place of worship for a college of canons and was built on a small hill above Roslin Glen in Midlothian, Scotland. The situation, on the outskirts of the village of Rosslyn, is beautiful. Construction began in 1456, but the chapel was left incomplete upon St Clair's death in 1484. His son, Sir Oliver St Clair, completed the roof but did not finish the original design.

I have visited a range of ornate Gothic and Baroque buildings, but I have never seen anything like the ornamentation of Rosslyn Chapel. Every surface and, it appears, every square centimetre, is covered with intricate carvings, of both Christian and pagan origin. Legends have grown up around some of these and the guide shared one concerning the Apprentice Pillar, which is linked with a master mason who killed his apprentice out of jealousy, because it is more ornate than his own work. There are representations of flowers and animals and a range of symbols which beckoned Dan Brown to weave them into his narrative. Because we have no key to the significance of the ornamentation, interpretation can roam free!



The Apprentice Pillar

Following the Scottish Reformation in 1560, Rosslyn Chapel fell into disrepair and was largely abandoned. It suffered further damage during the 1650s, when Oliver Cromwell's troops used it as a stable. The chapel was re-dedicated in 1862 after a visit from Queen Victoria, leading to a period of restoration.

Our guide pointed out that, in the 1950's, in an attempt to preserve the erosion of the stonework, a cement wash was applied over the stone carvings. Sadly, this did considerable damage retrospectively, as stone needs to be allowed to 'breathe' naturally, and the wash merely sealed in damp and created greater erosion. It also 'softened' the crispness of the finely detailed carvings, so they are no longer as sharply defined as they would have been.



Angel playing the bagpipes!

A heavy lead canopy was also applied over the roof, which at least was successful in preventing a continuation of the ingress of rain and damp to the building.

It was very busy when we visited on a non-school-holiday in April, and, because of the intense popularity of the site, timed tickets had to be bought. Quite honestly, I could have sat and gazed for hours. Here is the work of a man who, in its design, wished to glorify God and His works in all their opulence and diversity. And viewing this is a unique experience indeed.

Carole McCormack

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

John Wooden

The ideals which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been kindness, beauty, and truth.

Albert Einstein

Character: The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Martin Luther King Jr.

God doesn't just call people who are qualified; he calls people who are willing and then qualifies them.

Unknown.

A rumour may not have a leg to stand on, but it will manage to get around despite this.

Unknown.

from ACE Ideas Forum

POET'S CORNER

One of the harbingers of Spring and early Summer is the humble daisy. Dormant for many months, it appears in profusion when warmer weather arrives, and inspired **SALLY BODDY** to pen the poem below.

Daisy

*You keep your radiance hidden
behind lightly pinked lashes.
Laying low,
waiting for the warmth to wake you.*

*You feel the touch of the sun
like a mother's hand, stroking.
Rousing you.
Opening your eye, iris yellow.*

*And then you sit.
Smiling, waiting.
Not shouting or waving
but gently calling the chain makers
and the hopeful.
He loves me;
he loves me not.*

*You are the constant.
The quiet, lawn adorer.
The day's eye.*

Sally Boddy

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

Easily mistaken at first for a daisy or weed, the subject of **WENDY PRITCHARD'S** article this month may be rather plain at first, but becomes more attractive as it matures.

In the old medieval font at the top of the path into church, there are two plants with daisy-like flowers which go by the wonderful name of *Erigeron karvinskianus*. They should spill over the sides of the font as they grow during the summer, giving a soft, frothy feel. The other names for this remarkable plant are not nearly so pleasing – who would choose the hot, itchy ‘Mexican fleabane’?

Erigeron karvinskianus was named after the Bavarian plant hunter who discovered it growing in Mexico in the 1820's – Wilhelm Friedrich Karwinsky von Karwin. Just think how much this plant would have missed if he's been called Joe Bloggs!



The flowers start off looking like white daisies, but turn pink as they age, giving a lovely two-tone effect. Insects love these simple flowers and the easily accessible nectar. The flowers are the only part of this plant that bears any resemblance to a daisy, so it must feel really insulted to be called a ‘Santa Barbara Daisy’ – one of its other names.

It's one of the very few perennial plants that will flower continuously from May to October, thriving in full sun and coping with drought. I found a seedling in our greenhouse that had flourished in a pot which hadn't been watered from October to April! But *erigeron karvinskianus* will also cope with a little shade, and is generally only unhappy if left cold and soggy over winter.

It has a long central root which can anchor it to walls or search out moisture in cracks between paving stones. If you're trying to transplant it, only move very young plants, as it hates having its main root broken and will often just give up trying to recover. The plant forms a mound about a foot high and about two feet across. A light trim to get rid of last year's growth and dead flowers can tidy it up in Spring, but only do this when you can see some new growth at ground level. If it has died-off over winter, it happily seeds itself, so look out for replacement babies.

Erigeron karvinskianus is easily raised from seed, either in a container indoors or on a spare patch of soil. Since this plant is happy growing in inhospitable places, the seeds can be scattered in the cracks between paving stones or mixed with a little clay and pressed into hollowed out mortar joints in walls. It was used to colonise the concrete terraces of the Estadio Azteca football stadium, built in Mexico City for the 1970 World Cup!



So, if you're ever asked 'If you were a flower, what flower would you be?' try the answer 'erigeron karvinskianus' and amaze your friends with your knowledge and resilience!

Wendy Pritchard



A CHAMPION VICAR

Letter to **The Times**, noticed by Bob Hill when it was re-printed in the **The Week** - 9th May 2020

Sir,

As a parish priest in the Church of England, may I make a plea for the Rev John Thorneycroft Hartley as the greatest men's player at Wimbledon.

He was the Vicar of Burneston in North Yorkshire from 1874 to 1919, and twice men's singles champion, in 1879 and 1880. In 1879 the final was played on a Monday, and Hartley took all his church services on the Sunday. He tended a gravely ill parishioner through the night, and then rode to Thirsk Station to catch the train to Kings Cross. A cab took him to Waterloo for the Wimbledon train, as he changed into his tennis kit. He arrived in the nick of time to play Vere St Leger Goold and won three sets to love.

The Rev Canon Michael Burgess, Lymm, Cheshire

SWALEDALE FESTIVAL



St Mary's Church Richmond



Manchester Baroque: Handel and Corelli

Tuesday 27 May 2025 19:30 - 21:30

Handel's celebrated Water Music, overtures and arias from his operas, and Corelli's Concerto Grosso op.6 no.7 feature in this elegant programme from the splendid Manchester Baroque, reconstructing with artistic flair a chamber-orchestra concert that took place in the city in May 1745.

Adult £25; Under 25 £3

Orchestra Exchange: Richmond and Bammental

Tuesday 03 June 2025 16:00 - 18:00

Two brilliant school orchestras unite across Europe! Richmond School Orchestra from North Yorkshire and Bammental School Symphony Orchestra from south Germany perform a joint concert, led by their dynamic conductors Stephen Boyd and Ingo Schlüchtermann. Don't miss it!

Adult £10; Under 25 £3



Shiva Feshareki's Liquid Ziggurat

Thursday 05 June 2025 19:30 - 21:30

Indefinable surround-sound performance feat. turntables and organ. An unmissable surround-sound performance especially curated for our festival by award-winning turntablist and composer Shiva Feshareki alongside improvised organ music and multi-talented young artists from Wensleydale. The project is inspired by the ancient architecture of Shiva's Persian roots in which everything is connected and multilayered. Words and music, sound and feeling, movement and stillness ebb and flow in a wave of constantly evolving variations.

Adult £22; Under 25 £3

**Please book your tickets online
www.swalefest.org**

WORD SEARCH

Pentecost

The story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2. After the Ascension of Jesus, the disciples had obeyed His command to stay in Jerusalem and to 'wait for the promise from the Father'. Jesus said this would be the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit', but the disciples had no idea what that meant. They soon found out! Acts tells us that at about 9 o'clock one morning, a sound like a rushing wind from heaven suddenly filled the house, and divided tongues, as if of fire, rested on each one of them. The Holy Spirit had come down and filled them with His divine power! Praise, preaching and witnessing followed that morning – and the Church was born.

Pentecost

Trinity

Jerusalem

Disciples

Praying

Tongues

Power

High

Fires

Flames

Languages

Praise

Drunk

Wine

Nine

Morning

Glory

Waiting

Place

Wind

Father

Son

Holy

Spirit

Eternal



Sudoku - Easy

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

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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"Well, no, I'm not dressing like this to create common ground with today's youth culture - I've always worn a hoody."



We are very strict about confetti in the churchyard.

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

Join the St Mary's Song Squad

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

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

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

For more information or to sign up for the Song Squad

Contact Chris Denton 07817 386070



Usually last Sunday in every month

Next service — **29th June '25**

For children and the young at heart.

Why not come and join us?

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

LOUNGERS!

(The Ladies' Group)

Usually, last Friday of each month

From 7.30pm in the MORRO LOUNGE

Richmond Market Place

Next meeting:

27th June '25



THIRST!

(The Men's Group)

Meets first Thursday of every month from

7.00 p.m.

Next Meeting at

The Town Hall Pub & Dining, Richmond

5th June '25



Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku — Medium

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

Wordsearch



Deadline for July/August '25 edition; Monday 16th June.
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



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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



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Dundas Street Entrance

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Wednesday: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Friday: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Free hot drinks and snacks



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

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

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

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

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

01748 818653

or johnridley7449@aol.com.

TIME TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AT RICHMONDSHIRE MUSEUM



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