

# CONNECTIONS

A photograph of a stone cross on a roof against a blue sky. The cross is made of weathered stone and is mounted on a square stone base. The roof is made of dark wooden beams. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

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

**September 2022**

**£1.00**

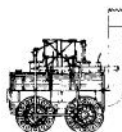
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**MINISTRY TEAM**

**RECTOR**

Revd. Martin Fletcher    The Rectory, Church Wynd    07762 440094 or 821421  
[martin.fletcher@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:martin.fletcher@leeds.anglican.org)

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**HONORARY CLERGY**

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Revd Martin Clarke

**READER**

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**PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

Jennifer Patrick    (01748) 850693    1 Roper Court, Richmond

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Jennifer Patrick    (01748) 850693    Sheila Harrisson    (01748) 822059

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

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**CHURCH OFFICERS - ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND**

Mayor's Warden	Peter Trewby	(01748) 824468	24 Hurgill Road, Richmond
Rector's Warden	Jan Jack	(07725) 574188	<a href="mailto:jjackuk@gmail.com">jjackuk@gmail.com</a>
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**

Colin Hicks    (07498) 299061    [admin@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk)

**OFFICERS OF THE PCC (AND OTHERS)**

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Please respect the current practices on mask wearing, hand sanitising and distancing for the benefit of others as well as yourself. Thank you.

### 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 3rd Sunday
	Worship for All	(including communion) Every 3rd 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
	Free to Be	3rd Sunday (every 2 mths—Feb, April etc)
9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Wednesday
10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Thursday Holy Trinity Chapel, Market Place

### PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME

#### CHURCH OFFICERS

Reader	George Alderson	68, Brompton Park, Brompton on Swale DL10 7JP	(07487) 257646
Church Warden	Jean Calvert	(07902) 753246	Home Farm, Downholme, Richmond DL11 6AE
Organist	Fionnagh Bennet		
Church Treasurer	Phil Ham	07920 884103	'Sundale', Reeth, DL11 6TX <a href="mailto:philip.ham@outlook.com">philip.ham@outlook.com</a>
PCC Secretary	Rev Jennifer Williamson	824365	<a href="mailto:rev.jenny1@btinternet.com">rev.jenny1@btinternet.com</a>

#### 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 <a href="mailto:peter.coates54@hotmail.co.uk">peter.coates54@hotmail.co.uk</a>
PCC Secretary	Jennifer Williamson	(01748)82436	<a href="mailto:ev.jenny1@btinternet.com">ev.jenny1@btinternet.com</a>

#### 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

Welcome to the new edition of Connections. September is usually a month of change and re-start for many—a new school term, a fresh start after a Summer break, universities preparing to start their new years. This year sees us moving towards Autumn with many uncertainties—energy costs, the war in Ukraine, a new Prime Minister in the offing, not to mention a general rise in prices in shops. The support of our own networks of friends and families, perhaps of work colleagues and not least, our own church community and the faith are all avenues of support and pleasure. I hope you enjoy the reports of church community activity and support which have taken place over the summer months—a barbecue, coffee mornings, the Plant and Produce sale to mention a few—which all help us to get to know each other a little better through shared activities.

In this month's magazine, John Pritchard summarises the range of groups which operate in our benefice as well as offering his monthly swift grilling of a member of the congregation of likes and times which have made an impact on them. We look at the work done by our churchwardens in keeping our churches running and recording events, whilst Jane Hatcher shows the historic value of the work of wardens and vicars in the past through her findings in reading through old registers at Easby. Carole McCormack alerts us to a grand day out on our doorstep and also shares her own learning in faith gained through caring for a flock of sheep on a sheep farm in Nidderdale. There are reports on events past which show how activity in our churches is returning to a new, cautious busy-ness since Covid, and dates to note for the future as we approach the darker nights of Autumn. George contributes more verse whilst John and Mark B-P write more about prayer and worship.

Jack Finney's whereabouts remain a mystery although there may have been a sighting in Cornwall, notified via a message received from congregation members on holiday—speaking of which, I do love hearing from you and receiving your ideas and contributions. Please get in touch via the email address above or the phone contacts on p4.

To encourage this, we are not revealing the location of Ian Short's cover photo this month—suffice it to say it is local—but where? If you think you know the answer, please get in touch. A bottle of wine awaits the winner—more than one correct entry will result in 'names in a hat' to identify the lucky winner. Needless to say, Ian, Isobel and the editor's family cannot enter!

Next month, your growing editorial team of Carole McCormack, John Pritchard, Christine Porter and I will be making some adjustments to layout and will welcome your comments in October. The PCC would also welcome hearing from you about other changes on-going or proposed—service formats, possible changes to the St Mary's building to enable us to meet the challenges of the future. Interesting times—do be part of them, please.



## Martin's Message September 2022



Congratulations to Scott!

Back in July, we congratulated Gillian Lunn upon her ordination as deacon. This month, Scott will begin his ordination training: the fulfilment of a long discernment process. He will be continuing his 'day job' at Richmond School – but on reduced hours to give time for study at Cranmer Hall in Durham. And I am delighted to say that for the time being at least he will be remaining with this Benefice. The focus of his ministry as a Reader will shift, however: as his 'placement' will be with us, we must enable him to gain the breadth of experience he requires.

Both Scott and Gillian can be assured that they will continue to receive our prayerful and practical support as their new ministries take shape.

Welcome to Colin

It was with great sadness that we said farewell last month to our inspirational Director of Music, Chris Denton. However, in common with Scott and Gillian, Chris and his family will receive our on-going support as he takes up his new position in Norway. Meanwhile, we are delighted to welcome Chris' predecessor Colin Hicks as his successor! Colin possesses a deep knowledge of St Mary's, our 'Rolls-Royce' church organ, and the strong musical tradition here, and so we are in safe hands. Welcome back, Colin.

Priorities, priorities

In his Letter last month, Paul mentioned how much he was looking forward to his holidays, also expressing the wish – as do I – that you will have a chance this summer to take a break. No doubt in the weeks to come, we will hear more about Paul and Jeanette's Cornish sojourn, and rumour has it that, having set off with one dog, they will be returning with two!

Paul also mentioned our aim at St Mary's to refresh our 'all-age' worship. You will recall from my Message in July, when I summarised the recent PCC Away Day, that three main priority areas were identified for us as a church in the months ahead:

1. grow spiritually
2. extend our community engagement
3. secure our viability by increasing our income.



I also mentioned that this in turn will require strengthening further our lay leadership and our publicity, making our buildings, including the Holy Trinity Chapel, fully fit for purpose, and attracting more young families to church life.

The need to refresh our All-Age Worship is directly linked both to the latter point and to the first priority area. As our Worship and Prayer Team and PCC consider this further, the forthcoming Harvest Festival (on 2 October at 10 a.m.) will offer a good opportunity to try something new. The aim of this informal service will be to appeal to our current congregation and to newcomers alike: that is, to be fully inclusive.

As a church family we know how to welcome newcomers: this service will be an occasion for us all to do just that and for newcomers to see that all are welcome to join the 'extended family' of St Mary's. As Paul said, do please be considering who you could invite along – as well as what part you could play in the service.

And rather than being a 'one-off' we could consider making this new service the first of a short series over a trial period of a few months. In that case, we as a church family would be in a good position to review how we feel about it and then agree together what our next steps should be.

In putting together an overall structure of the service, it would be important to consider both how to include the option of Holy Communion and how the service would fit within a wider pattern of services and events (including Fun-Key Church) to attract newcomers to St Mary's – and to Church overall.

On other fronts, also with regard our priority to grow spiritually, it is good to see how popular the launch this month of Martin and Anne Clarke's new Home Group has been. As for extending our community engagement, the arrival this month of new Head Teachers at Trinity Academy and SFX is giving us an opportunity to reach out to and through our church schools. And increasing our income is being addressed in various ways. These include improving access to both St Mary's and Holy Trinity Chapel (as part of a programme to enable our buildings to be used more as a community resource). And in seeking to grow in numbers as well as spiritually, we come back to where I began: the need to refresh our all-age worship...

Do please let myself or Paul, our Churchwardens, or any member of the PCC know your thoughts on any of these things.

With every blessing as we ease in to Autumn,

*Martin*





## Charity of the Month



PARTNERS IN  
GLOBAL MISSION

We return once more to support the United Society Partners in the Gospel this month in their world wide mission to re-think mission, energise the Church and champion Justice as set out on their website ([www.uspg.org.uk](http://www.uspg.org.uk)). Donations can be made in the usual ways - through baskets placed at the back of St Mary's each Sunday, envelopes left at the Rectory with cash or cheque donations or by visiting the website.

### Weddings



18 July Gabrielle Magat and William James Robertson



*We pray for Gabrielle and William and wish them every happiness and blessing in the years ahead.*



### We have laid to rest those who have died.



22 June

23 June

1 July

8 July

13 July

20 July

25 July

June Hodges

Evelyn Cartwright

Major William Albert Laws

Marjorie Phyllis Henderson

David William Masterman

Trevor Pickersgill

Phyllis Margaret Jameson

### ***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*

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

## LOYAL DALES VOLUNTEERS

Last month, we moved the volunteering spotlight onto our own churches, looking at the voluntary work undertaken by members of the congregations within their own churches to ensure that the work of the church can continue. Many members do things voluntarily; a smaller number take the extra step of taking on a formal responsibility within the church.

Such tasks have their own 'job descriptions' which set out the work which is to be offered to the churches they serve. Having looked at the Christian Listener service offered by Jennifer Patrick and Sheila Harrisson last month, this September issue focusses on the work of our churchwardens.

### CALL FOR A WARDEN!

As the seasons turn, so does the church year—and, at each Annual Parish Meeting, congregations ( or at least those on the Electoral Roll) vote for individuals nominated to carry out roles within their church communities. When the call goes out for people willing to be nominated, there's rarely a rush and when someone allows their name to be put forward, hands shoot up like moles in a Whackamole fairground game to confirm people in post and with a collective sigh of relief that someone (else) is prepared to do it! What is often forgotten is that, in the Church of England, some of these roles are defined and required in order for the church community to take responsibility for its own 'governance'. Whilst some voluntary roles enhance what we have, others are essential, though often unseen, in order for our churches to exist. Being a Churchwarden is one such role.



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?"

The ordination procession at Gillian's recent ceremony at Wakefield demonstrated quietly but graphically the role which ecclesiastical law plays in the Anglican Communion. In amongst the ornate garments moving towards the altar was a single individual in black robes and a legal wig. All ordinands made undertakings in front of this individual which are legally binding in church law—a reminder too that the Church of England has legal roots in the state.

Churchwardens, too, are required to make a formal declaration following election to uphold ecclesiastical law at a special service. Whilst the reality of the work

undertaken may feel mundane, the tasks required are rooted in these undertakings.

### **Wardens—Our Representatives**

The wardens have a duty to represent the lay members of their churches and to support and co-operate with the 'incumbent' - in our case, Martin— in the running of the benefice churches. A key duty is to set a good example to parishioners and to 'encourage unity and peace.' When Jan, my wife, took on the role in 2020, I asked what the job involved. On the surface, it seemed to be carrying out routine but essential tasks - sharing in the rota for locking and unlocking the church to give public access, attending services on Sundays to carry out duties attached to the worship and also to share in the work of being 'on duty' at baptisms, weddings and funerals (hatch 'em , match 'em and dispatch 'em). The essence of the role is thus to support the Rector in his work in the benefice by attending to the routine tasks which ensure that our churches are available for worship. But the underpinning importance is as support for the Rector in general terms—sharing views, giving feedback, acting as a sounding board. In this way our wardens are representing us, the 'laity' of the churches on an on-going basis.

To this end, the wardens and the rector meet formally every two months to consider all sorts of matters pertaining to the churches. This can range from the worship planned, the fabric of the church, checking that members of the churches feel supported by the clergy and other church members—in short, everything which seeks to maintain an active and caring church community. In the months between the churchwardens meetings with the benefice clergy, the PCC will meet ( see report on page 28) to act as a 'governing body' for the benefice churches. The PCC, representing the congregations and members, will set and monitor the 'policies and plans' for the benefice.



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden

### **Housekeeping**

It is easy to forget to think of those who prepare the church buildings for worship on a Sunday. From the 'dressing' of the altar and communion table, preparing the 'equipment' needed for communion, checking the candles etc —everything to making sure that the church is ready to receive us- the wardens share the duties. This also means, of course, 'dismantling' when each service is over. As noted above, these duties extend to other services held at other times—baptisms, funerals,

special services during weekdays. At St Mary's, there are three churchwardens sharing the work. David Frankton, as Churchwarden Emeritus, Peter Trewby as Mayor's Warden and Jan Jack as Rector's Warden. The churchwarden duties are carried out by Jean Calvert at Downholme and Ruth Tindale at Marske.

As highlighted earlier, the role of churchwarden also has a legal side to it. In addition to being responsible for the property and moveable goods belonging to the parish church, they have a duty under ecclesiastical law to keep an up-to-date inventory of the 'valuables' and, if applicable, a 'terrier of the property'. The thought of having to take responsibility for a small dog, especially if it is Jack Finney's faithful hound, Lucky, concerned me greatly (not to mention Maverick, the Fletcher family cat) until I discovered that this 'terrier' is an ancient word for a listing and/or map of the church's lands known as the glebe.

If work is authorised on the church buildings, a 'faculty' (permission to proceed) must be obtained from the diocese and the work recorded in the parish logbook. This must be presented with the inventory for periodic inspection by the diocese.

### Warden—an Arresting Role

Two other ancient duties apply. One is responsibility to maintain 'order and peace in the church and churchyard at all times and especially during services' - although these tasks can be devolved to 'sidesmen.' (As St Mary's Churchyard is owned and maintained by the Town Council, is this why we have a Mayor's warden, I wonder?).

A fine of up to £200 may be levied in a magistrate's court for 'riotous, violent or indecent behaviour' in a churchyard at any time or for 'molesting, disturbing, vexing or troubling or by any other lawful means, disquieting or misusing any preacher authorised to preach therein or any clergyman in holy orders ministering or celebrating any sacrament.... In any churchyard.' A churchwarden may apprehend a person committing such an offence and take them before a magistrate's court, using a citizen's arrest until police arrive—although caution is suggested in the use of this power and calling a constable immediately is advised!

The other important duty is to ensure that worship can take place. This is relevant in an inter-regnum when the wardens are usually



"Looks like no one was available to fill in for the vicar's annual holiday again."

appointed by the bishop as ‘sequestrators.’ Their job is to ensure that a minimum number of services continue to be held in the parish and , in particular, that the Eucharist continues to be served every Sunday as well as on every principal Feast day. The fact that this happened, for example, after John Chambers left and before Martin arrived, was due to our wardens discharging that responsibility through ensuring that a rota of non-stipendary ministers and retired clergy was maintained across the benefice. Wardens are also consulted by the bishop in the appointment of new clergy.

Wardens can officiate at morning and evening prayer if a priest or licensed lay person is not available but clearly this does not involve the distribution of communion, preaching or absolution. Indeed, the one area of church life where wardens have no authority is music and liturgy. This authority rests exclusively with the priest.

So there you have it. A wide ranging voluntary role which requires time and commitment, a role from which we all benefit. It is an on-going commitment, although the exercising of duties is not as onerous as it may sound when actually carrying out the role. Nevertheless, it is a regular and ongoing commitment—a commitment for which we are all grateful.

We can support our wardens and our rector by being willing to take on the role for a period of time—or being willing to assist our volunteers in sharing in some of the delegate duties e.g. checking and locking up church once a week as Pamela Holland does at St Mary’s. The wardens are responsible **for ensuring** things happen but not that they must **do everything** needed to make thing happen.

A big ‘thank you’ is therefore due to the wardens past, present and future of our benefice churches and to all others who give time freely and willingly in taking on support roles in our churches.

The revelation of the legal responsibilities also re-inforces the fact that we must continue to behave ourselves in and around the church! The wardens have quite enough to do without having to do a lot of chasing and arresting! It’s the magistrates court that gets the fine not the PCC so no advantage to funding of the Parish Share!



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED—AN APPEAL

Dementia Forward provide day services known as Hub Clubs for people with dementia at Garget Walker House in Richmond on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The team are looking for friendly, caring volunteers who can chat and offer a listening ear, support with activities and generally join in with the fun. There are morning, afternoon and full day sessions available and there is no obligation to do every week - any time you can offer would be appreciated. No experience is necessary, and Dementia Forward will provide training.



Contact [debby.lennox@dementiaforward.org.uk](mailto:debby.lennox@dementiaforward.org.uk) or call 03300 578592 to find out more. Please also call this number if you would like free, confidential support and advice around dementia or would like to register your interest for the Hub Clubs

## LOCAL FOODBANK

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

### Foodbank Reminder: Essential Items

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

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

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

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

**Also:** UHT milk, squash

More information :[storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk](mailto:storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk)

Or please contact Suz Gregory on 01748 823161

## GRAND DAYS OUT

A recent article by Chris Lloyd in the D & S Times drew attention to the fact that we can often overlook or neglect the many good things we have on our doorsteps by feeling we need to jump on a train or plane to seek out places of enjoyment and interest. Having recently moved into the area, CAROLE McCORMACK echoes this theme. This particular 'Grand Day Out' encounters nostalgic reminders of the first series of 'All Creatures Great and Small'. It combines a shady riverside walk in Langthwaite and delicious refreshments at Ellerton Grange, or Mrs Pumphrey's Tearooms.

## ON OUR DOORSTEPS

The small village of Langthwaite is about 13 miles from Richmond and the route is as delightful as the destination: following the valley of the Swale along the B6270 to Reeth, then turning right by the Buck Inn along the unfenced moorland road which leads into Arkengarthdale. Langthwaite is a couple of miles outside Reeth and there is a small pay and display car park on the right-hand side at the start of the village. Costs are £1.50 for one hour, £2.50 for two hours and £3.50 up to four hours.

Toilets are signposted a couple of hundred yards along the road, but can also be found at the Red Lion Inn, situated just over the bridge on the left-hand side.

The narrow stone bridge is featured in the opening sequence of the original series of *All Creatures Great and Small* and people regularly photograph more modern cars as they follow in the tracks of the vintage vehicle driven by Siegfried Farnon. Sometimes people photograph dogs and their owners standing there too!



There are tables (and bowls of water for dogs) outside the Inn and the bar is full of photos of the original cast of the television series who used to frequent the hostelry during filming. Arkengarthdale was a lead-mining centre and an original nineteenth-

century wagon is sited next to an information board on the main road, just after the right turn to the bridge. There is evidence that lead was mined in the Yorkshire Dales in Roman times, and in 1656 the mines in Arkengarthdale were bought by Dr John Bathurst, physician to Oliver Cromwell. The mining tradition was carried on by his son, Theodore, and grandson, Charles, who formed the CB Company. The nearby CB Inn preserves this name. But it wasn't until the early eighteenth century that mining on a commercial basis started.

A relatively level track, mainly good, but a little rough for a short stretch, leads alongside Arkle Beck. This is accessed to the right, immediately after crossing the bridge, opposite the Red Lion Inn. The walk is beautiful and contrasts views of the gentle river valley with the majesty of the hills surrounding the dale, clearly still showing vestiges of lead mining history.





The length of the walk along this path is a matter of personal choice: it can be a gentle wander for a mile or so; a longer gentle wander; or a much longer, circular route. Even on the gentlest of these options, there are interesting mining relics: metal rails – no doubt for the heavy wagons displayed back in the village to run along, tunnels and a picturesque mill and mill pond.

Having walked by the Arkle Beck – and maybe called into the Red Lion for liquid refreshment – an ideal place to stop on the way back to Richmond, and to encounter yet more seventies nostalgia, is Ellerton Grange, otherwise known as *Mrs Pumphrey's Tearooms*, clearly signed on the left of the B6270. It is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the summer months and has an antique showroom, literally packed with a range of artefacts.

### Ellerton Grange

The exterior of the Grange and the gardens were filmed as the home of Tricky Woo, the pampered Pekingese, and today is very well run as a tearshop. The food is excellent, and the welcoming hosts certainly go the second mile in terms of the quality and presentation of their food. Light lunches and breakfasts are served as well as cakes, scones and a good range of drinks at competitive prices.



I'd never had a milkshake that looked so much *fun*, nor seen a cream tea garnished with fresh fruit – delicious! And all this whilst sitting overlooking the picturesque ruins of Ellerton Abbey.

Ellerton Grange, the ruined Abbey and the surrounding land is part of the Drax estate and it is interesting that the original grant of lands was as a result of the family supporting Henry VIII.



**Ellerton Abbey**

Finally, if more James Herriot nostalgia is needed, a visit to the Richmondshire Museum will reveal the original set for the Farnon and Herriot veterinary surgery, preserved intact when the filming of this first series had finished.



**All Creatures Great and Small set at Richmondshire Museum**

Slightly different from previous Grand Days Out, these suggested activities offer a bit of a contrast: a day that comprises walking, delightful food and local history, all within beautiful Swaledale and its subsidiary, Arkengarthdale. *Carole McCormack*



**-o0o0o-**

**Technology**



After ringing mobile phones disrupted the flow of a service, one minister laid down the law in the following week's pew-sheet: "Let's turn off the technology and turn on each other."

## PATHWAYS IN PRAYER

So far we've looked at praying outdoors with the senses and at a map of prayer involving 'Just getting on with it,' 'chatting,' 'talking,' and 'intimacy.' This month, JOHN PRITCHARD looks at some particular ways of praying, starting with Intercession

### INTERCESSION

Intercession is praying for people and situations. It's where most of us start in prayer (and where many of us end) but it can easily become a chore, simply repeating the same old list and we lose heart.

Here are some ways to refresh our intercession.

**Keep a list in the back of the Bible.** But keep it shortish and renew it seasonally. Or have a check list; e.g. Monday: Church friends and needs. Tuesday: Neighbours (visualise them as you pray). Wednesday: Community needs. Thursday: Global issues. Friday: Charities you support. Every day: Family and special needs.

**Post-it notes with names on.** Stick them around the kitchen. Or a prayer bowl in which you put names, taking out three a day to pray for especially. Or place small stones in the bowl to represent those three (or five) people.

**Photos of family and friends.** Have a small pile and turn up a new one each day to focus on. My father did the same with Christmas cards, five a day.

**Handful of prayer.** Choose five (or ten) people or situations to pray for especially, each finger representing a person who you can place 'in the palm of God's hand' anytime, anywhere in the day.

**Prayer tree.** I have one made of metal to which I attach name cards, but it could be a good branch from the woods or one painted on a large card to use with post it notes.

**Candle.** When a special need crops up it can be helpful to light a candle and let the flame represent your continuing prayer and concern. Or use a number of night-lights together for a family or a group of people in need of God's love.



Let your imagination roll on!

*John Pritchard*

## JOURNEY IN FAITH

### THE SHEPHERD WHO LEARNED FROM THE SHEEP

The experience of running a small sheep farm in Nidderdale would, on the face of it, appear an unlikely milestone in my personal journey in faith. More obvious headlines in my faith journey, include: sharing in the wonderful teaching and ministry at Ashburnham Christian Conference Centre in Sussex in the eighties; being headteacher in a Church school; working as adviser and subsequently deputy director of education for Salisbury Diocese; and being a worship leader in my last church. The faith steps implicit in these more conventional 'headlines' are pretty self-evident – but why were the three short years on a remote hill farm above the 'snow line' so significant in my development as a Christian?

I arrived in Nidderdale in 1989 with two small children, two labradors and two kittens – and with no experience whatsoever of caring for livestock. But the expectation was that I should become shepherd, literally overnight, to around 40 ewes and a singularly unfriendly tup. I set about attending courses on sheep husbandry and lambing so that I would not let down the incurious woolly creatures that grazed here and there on the small farm. I sat up late after the children were asleep, poring over my course notes and shepherding reference books. I observed how the animals now in my care behaved and I chatted to experienced shepherds. Thankfully, my acquisition of knowledge was successful and I felt that I cared for the small flock – which annually rose to over a hundred after lambing – as well as I could.

#### What are they thinking?

What soon struck me was that a sheep is the walking embodiment of helplessness and, left to their own devices, they consistently make the wrong decision. Without effective shepherding, sheep die: it's as simple as that. A very elderly farmer nodded sagely to me very soon after I arrived on the farm, and muttered, 'Aye, sheep are born to die.' So true, and true of human beings as well as animals. When Jesus says, 'I am the Good Shepherd', he is pointing out the truth that, without him guiding us, we will make the wrong choices and we will die –



spiritually as well as physically. There was no need for me to lie across the entrance of my purpose-built barn in order to protect my flock from wolves and other predators, nor to be self-sacrificial for my flock, ('the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep') but the animals almost had co-priority with my daughters – not because they clamoured for attention, but because of their vulnerability. During lambing time, my alarm was set for midnight, 3am and 6am and more often than not it was in the quiet of the night that the ewes decided to lamb. There was no question of ignoring the mute suffering of the ewes – whatever the time, I was there with them, watching to make sure that mothers and lambs were safe. I made many a morning school run filthy and bleary-eyed!



### Lost sheep

My hill farm was well-walled but, because ovine decision-making is random and inevitably misled, occasionally a sheep decided to clamber over the drystone wall and escape. I knew all my ewes – some of them even had names – and it was obvious when one was missing. There was no conscious decision making, but I was off after the missing animal, sometimes with a small child excitedly in tow, and searched until I found her. When our flock was complete again, the sense of rightness was overwhelming and I was 'happier about that one sheep than about' those 'that did not wander off.'

I didn't have a sheep dog – labradors just don't get the point of herding animals! But when I called my sheep, for feeding, dagging, hoof-trimming, drenching – all the routine aspects of flock care – they came running because they knew my voice. We can all think of occasions when something that a friend says, or something that we hear at church, rings true. We hear Jesus' voice and respond: '...his sheep know him, because they know his voice.'

I will never forget the night when I delivered my first lamb. It was so small, so perfect, so innocent and beautiful – without blemish or stain. Who would not have been reminded of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who



has willingly carried our sins. And who would not be horrified at the thought of that innocent perfection sullied and hurt by things that we have done. Looking at animal ‘perfection’, the horror of sin is shocking indeed.



The lessons I learnt go on and on. Sheep hated being shorn, or dipped, but without these disciplines they would overheat and be invaded by parasites – and would meet an untimely end. So the shepherd cajoles and forces them to undergo procedures that seem cruel, but are absolutely necessary for the health of the animal. (‘The Lord disciplines those he loves’).

### Letting go

I would never voluntarily have given up the farm I loved, but life circumstances meant that I had to do so. Fortunately I managed to sell my working flock to a local farmer who I knew would take good care of them. On the afternoon when they were due to be collected by my neighbour, I went into the small field where I had gathered the sheep and said goodbye to them all. They hadn’t a clue that they were going to be shepherded by someone infinitely more experienced than I, in a larger farm higher up Nidderdale. In that wonderful way that animals have of accepting life in the moment, not being anxious about what is to come, or regretful of what is passed, they milled haphazardly around me, then started to do what came naturally – grazing and going about their simple lives.

But I was broken-hearted. I had loved having care of those vulnerable creatures with their total dependency upon me. They might not have remembered the previous three years, but, thirty years later, the lessons I learnt through working with them remain as clear as on the days I learnt them.

*Carole McCormack*

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Deliver us



A parent had been teaching their four-year-old daughter the Lord’s Prayer. Then one evening at bedtime she attempted it solo. Listening with pride, the little one was heard to carefully enunciate each word, right up to the end of the prayer. “And lead us not into temptation,” she prayed, “but deliver us some e-mail. Amen”

## NOTES FROM OUR PAST

One of the main sources of social history with the longest time span of coverage is the parish register. First introduced formally in England and Wales in 1538 shortly after the split with Rome in 1534 by an injunction from Thomas Cromwell acting as Vicar General, it required all parishes to keep a formal register of baptisms marriages and burials. Although not always assiduously kept, the registers do provide much information stretching back over nearly 500 years. JANE HATCHER reveals some fascinating findings about our area from her review of Easby registers

### More thoughts on parish registers

Many a History essay or exam question I had to attempt to answer began “Compare and Contrast X and Y....” I was reminded of that formula recently as I studied the parish registers of Easby. Although Easby and Richmond are adjoining parishes, I am surprised how different their registers are. That is only partially explained by Richmond being mainly an urban parish, covering a built-up area, and Easby being a large rural area including several villages and hamlets and scattered farms.

As I explained in June’s *Connections*, the Richmond registers rarely include a place-name, but those covering largely rural parishes such as Marske usually did give at least a vague address. As well as the settlement of Easby itself, the parish of Easby included the larger villages of Brompton-on-Swale [almost always called “Brumpton”] and Skeeby, plus various places along the old A1 including Catterick Bridge and the intriguingly named Citadilla, and extended further afield even to Aske.

Before the days when clergy were paid on standardised salary scales, the income of incumbents varied enormously, and Easby was one of the poorly-paid parishes. It did not even have a Vicarage until 1868, so the vicar had to live elsewhere. Several lived in Richmond, and combined the position with some other local paid work, such as being Master of the Grammar School. Others lived further away, and relied on even more poorly-paid curates to



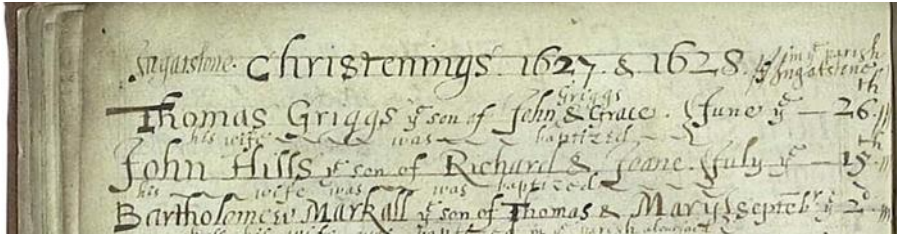
St Agatha's Church, Easby

do most of the parish work. Many entries in the Easby registers are very badly written - they were not always entered up by well-educated hands.

Why was I interested in studying Easby's registers? Well, mainly because so many Richmond folk appear in them, that some entries tie up with other documentary material I have accumulated. But parish registers usually produce some surprising information, and Easby's are no exception.

One of the strange things I found is that the parish produced an extraordinary number of twins! Between 1670 and 1794, a total of 25 pairs of twins were baptised!

Twelve pairs at least were non-identical, being a boy and a girl. Of the eight pairs where both were boys, and five pairs where both were girls, we have no way of



Extract from a 17th Century parish register of baptisms

knowing whether they were identical or non-identical. Perhaps the exceptional number of twins may be attributed to the Well of St Osyth, the patron saint of wells, from which the village of Skeeby is said to have got its name!

Nowadays, Easby Church is a popular place for weddings due to its picturesque setting, but another odd thing to emerge from the Easby registers is that it was just that for several hundreds of years, long before the days of photography! And many of the people getting married there had absolutely no connection with the parish! An example is the marriage at Easby on 18 August 1677 of John Jem and Anne Buckton, "both of the parish of Marske".

I thought at first that maybe a vicar turned a blind eye to following the normal requirements for either bride or bridegroom to be parishioners, or even took 'back-handers', which might have been tempting to a poorly-paid incumbent. But it continued over several generations and incumbents. These 'outsiders' had to obtain a special licence to be married away from the home parish of either bride or groom, so the Easby registers record an exceptional number of marriages '*per licentiam*'.

I am always intrigued by how difficult the logistics must have sometimes been of getting to the parish church from the outlying areas of a widely spread parish such as Easby. In the past, babies were baptised when a few days old, so were light to carry. But in the depths of winter it must have been quite a challenge to struggle to Easby Church through snow or mud from, say, Coalsgarth and keep a newborn warm. Especially if it was not very well, because in that case there was intense



pressure to make sure babies were baptised in case they died. And who carried those little bundles? Mothers were presumably 'lying-in' for some time, and wouldn't enter a church before being 'churched'. Did fathers have to cope? Grandmas? Aunts? Big sisters?

Burials must also have posed a challenge. We know that corpses from Upper Swaledale were carried long distances in baskets down to Grinton Church for burial, but it must have been almost as difficult to reach Easby from some of the outlying farms. Richmond with its cobbled streets must have made life easier, perhaps even hand-carts could be used.



**Painting of a Michaelmas Hiring Fair at Bedale by Joseph Appleyard for his book 'Riding through the Ridings' published in 1947**

And talking of farms. Another thing I noticed in the Easby registers was the noticeable use of short-term agricultural workers known as husbandmen in the late-18<sup>th</sup> and early-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Often hired at Martinmas Fairs, just for a year, they must frequently have had to upsticks and move their family to take up a position at another farm. Many of their names occur in the registers just once, as they were only in the

*Jane Hatcher*

area long enough for the arrival of one child.

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### **First Day Back—a Lesson for All?**



It was the first day of school. As the new Head made his rounds, he heard a terrible commotion coming from one of the classrooms. He rushed in and spotted one boy, taller than the others, who seemed to be making the most noise. He seized the lad, dragged him to the hall, and despite his protests, told him to wait there until he was excused.

Returning to the classroom, the Head restored order and lectured the class about the importance of good behaviour. "Now," he said, "are there any questions?"

One girl stood up timidly. "Please sir," she asked, "May we have our new teacher back?"

## Chris Denton—Thank you for the Music

Late July and early August saw a flurry of activity and 'lasts' as Chris prepared to move on to his new post in Norway. Two evening recitals in June and July showed off his skills and the qualities of the 'almost unique' Harrison and Harrison organ at St Mary's, alongside some beautiful singing by his wife, Camilla. A formal 'thank you' and presentation on behalf of the whole church community was led by our rector, Martin. It took place towards the end of morning worship on 14 August, with Chris receiving an inscribed piece of slate marking his time at St Mary's and a cheque.

It is a time of great change for the whole family, with a move into a new family home in Skeeby, a new job for Camilla and Chris working away from home for periods of time with monthly returns to Richmond. During the initial period of six months to see if the whole new arrangement is working for all parties, Parish Administrator Colin Hicks will once more take up the reins of Musical Director.

We wish the whole Denton family well in this time of great change and, of course, with Camilla and the boys still in the area, contact will continue. With Chris returning on a regular basis, it's more of an 'Au revoir' than a goodbye, but the whole benefice is grateful for the warmth, talent and self-deprecating humour which Chris has brought to the role. The photos which follow capture in small part the 'leaving events' of the past few weeks. Thank you, Chris.



Chris as seen on 'YouTube' playing his final piece and pulling out some, if not all, of the stops.



**Chris receives a mystery 'goody' bag from the rector as a thank you from all**



**A few words of thanks from Chris**



**..... and so to the Rectory Gardens after the service with the sun beating down on some social time for refreshment, cake , and reminiscences.**

## WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE PCC?

Here's a brief summary of some of the items discussed at the meeting on 13 July.

**Premises:** Very sadly our church architect, Richard Crooks, has died suddenly. This will slow down progress on the re-ordering of St Mary's. Floodlighting of the tower is at faculty and planning permission stage and could be completed by the end of the year. Our thoughts and prayers are with Richard's family for their sudden loss.

Discussions are taking place on developing Holy Trinity chapel as a resource in the town centre.

**Worship:** There was a discussion on St Mary's emergence from Covid-19 with the decision that we continue to proceed slowly, giving options for how congregants can receive communion in one kind, in two kinds with intinction, and in two kinds with cup.

**Finance:** Our Parish Share request is over £97K. Our budget commits us to at least 80% of this. At present we have paid 77%. *Connections* magazine makes a loss as costs have gone up from 87p to £1.45 per copy with some subscriptions still outstanding. Discussion on how this can be managed.

**Fundraising** has brought in £3K so far this year with coffee mornings being successful and other events planned.

**Strategy:** It was agreed at the PCC Awayday that we are financially sustainable and want to be more confident in mission and discipleship, and to grow spiritually. We are wanting to extend our styles of worship (starting with Harvest in October), our usage of the church, community events and lay leadership, as well as our income streams.

**Children and young people:** It was a delight to see 16 (mainly) young people confirmed in July. Paul is getting into SFX more often but needs a team to consult and work with the pupils. Katharine Perry is now a governor. The Little Angels Toddler Group, organised at and with the Methodist church, needs volunteers.

*John Pritchard*

## LITTLE ANGELS

This mother and toddler group is a joint venture between Richmond Methodist Church and St Mary's, and has enabled volunteers from both churches to work together and get to know each other whilst drinking tea (in suitable child-friendly, non-spill mugs) and munching biscuits, or playing with train sets and toy kitchens stocked with plastic food!

## News from the Pews (continued)

Little Angels is free, although donations are gratefully accepted. Its purpose is to provide a safe and comfortable opportunity for mums, dads, grannies, childminders and carers to meet together, to chat and to let their children play and socialise together, with a range of varied toys and other equipment (carefully sanitised after each session).

We have had varying numbers of adults and children at each of the handful of sessions that we ran before the end of the summer term. What we hope is that a regular group of adults and children may start to attend regularly, so that we can tailor more closely what we provide to meet the needs of the group. But, quite honestly, if just one child and carer attend, the occasion is a welcome opportunity to enjoy one of the most positive aspects of our challenging world: the fun of watching a child enjoy her or himself.

Little Angels will start again from the beginning of September, each Thursday morning during term time, from 9.00 until around 12.00 or 12.30. The first session will probably be 8<sup>th</sup> September, although this will be confirmed after the team has met to evaluate the success of our June and July sessions.

**Volunteers are needed!** So if you would like to work with us, please do flag up your interest to myself, or Rachel Pinkney of the Methodist Church. A standard part of working with children is to be DBS cleared, but Rachel will happily help with the more tedious, but necessary, aspects of form-filling.

*Carole McCormack*

### **Administrator ✓ Organist ✓ Vicar ??**

Is this yet another role in the church for the talented Colin Hicks? Vicar? Well, not quite. However, one of the fascinating aspects of his multi-faceted life is as a film extra. His latest epic to hit the big screen is the forthcoming release of 'Emily' by Warner Brothers in October in which he plays one of four Victorian vicars in a biographical film about the short life of Emily Brontë and her 'transformative, exhilarating and uplifting journey to womanhood.'

Starring alongside Colin (!) is Emma Mackey as Emma. The film also features Adrian Dunbar. Colin has promised an exclusive (!) article for *Connections* about this unusual aspect of his life in the future. For the present, check out <https://youtu.be/xaL90SMAzBY> to view the official trailer. The film will go on general release on October 14th. It will be on Station Cinema's list.



*JEJ*

## Ralph Robinson –special times ahead

Collectors of this magazine can flip back two years to early editions which featured choir member Ralph Robinson's introduction to choral music in church in 1942 at Blackburn Cathedral. His commitment to church music carries on to his day. In the month of his 90th birthday, Ralph will look back over this 80 years in church music in conversation with John Pritchard at Café Church (18 September at 4.00 p.m. ) The Choral Evensong in October will also be a celebratory occasion so please mark both in your diaries. If anyone has sung in the choir in the past and would like to re-join to celebrate this contribution of Ralph's as a 'one-off', Colin Hicks would be delighted to hear from you. His contact details are on p4 of this magazine.

*JEJ*

## Jack Finney's Whereabouts

Regular readers will also be aware that MISTER Jack Finney has been conspicuous by his absence for a couple of months. I was aware that, as the years move on, he has become increasingly interested in researching his own family tree and its roots. He seems to think that he is distantly related to Robert Willance, whose family home abuts the graveyard at St Mary's and an unfortunate fire in his garden shed (see next month's gripping edition) has given him time to travel in pursuit of his research. However, I was becoming rather worried that I had not even had a post card from him to let me know how he is progressing. Many thanks therefore to the vigilance of the Scrafton family whilst on holiday in Cornwall for taking a snap of him furtling with his trock in the Lost gardens of Heligon. To find those missing gardens was an achievement in itself. To spot Jack on the wander, gathering cuttings was a real blessing. Thank you, Susan, for sending this comforting and rare image of our unlikely gardening hero - the Monty Don of Richmond.



**MISTER Jack Finney in holiday garb?**

*JEJ*

## 200 CLUB-AUGUST DRAW

**The winner of the August draw was Hannah Rafferty—no.89.  
Congratulations, Hannah!**

## Coffee Morning



The Friends of St Mary's are holding another 'At Home' Coffee Morning on **Saturday 17th September**. **Jeanette and Paul Sunderland** have offered to host this at their house on **between 9.30 and 12.30**. The address is 1 Wathcote Place in Richmond. Please support by coming along, perhaps providing some home baking, preserves or raffle prizes. It's a great opportunity to meet up over a great cup of coffee. Our thanks go to Jeanette and Paul for opening their doors on that day.

## Why not join the Station Singers this September?

A number of members of our congregation, past and present, have been members of this excellent organisation and have found their way into enjoying making music with others through one of the three choirs which meet separately, but have some common repertoires which enable a member of any of the three choirs to join the massed choir which has regularly (Covid permitting) given concerts for local charities twice a year.



Founded at the Station and led by Carole Gedye, the singers have been enjoying making music at rehearsals and regular charity concerts for over fifteen years. The St Mary's 'stake' in the organisation is further established through the piano accompaniment supplied by Brett Overin.

The Station Singers comprises three community choirs, two of which are based at The Station, Richmond on Wednesday mornings and the third at the Town Hall on Thursday evening. The new term starts on 14th and 15th September. True to its founding principles of an open door to musical enjoyment, there is no audition and anyone who likes to sing is welcome to join. The music chosen is well known and fun to sing. Christmas Concert will be on Saturday 10th Dec.2022 in aid of local charities.

Platform 1 - Wed. 14th Sept. from 9.30 until 11.00 at The Station

Platform 2 - Wed. 14th Sept. from 11.30 until 13.00 at The Station

Branch Line - Thurs. 15th Sept. from 20.00 until 21.30 at Town Hall

Just turn up for a taster session (£5) and we hope that you will become part of our community. The autumn term fee is £60. 50% bursaries are available on application. Visit [www.richmondstationsingers.co.uk](http://www.richmondstationsingers.co.uk) for further details.

## News from the Pews (continued)

### Next Mother's Union Meeting



A date for your diaries for members and anyone interested in joining. The next meeting will take place in the Town Hall on Thursday 29th September starting at 2.00 p.m. The plans for meetings in the remainder of 2022 and 2023 will be discussed and refreshments will, as ever, be available. Do come along to support, help and enjoy.

*Margaret Clayton*



**Last Sunday of Every Month !**

**4.00 p.m.**

**Why not come and join us?**

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

### MEN'S GROUP

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

**CASTLE TAVERN,  
Richmond Market Place**

This month's meeting: 1st September

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



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."

### Reverend Matthew Hutchinson's Charity

Do you live in:

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

You may be eligible for a small grant towards:  
educational courses  
necessary medical equipment  
household appliances  
and many other expenses

For further information please contact:

Mrs M Morris (Clerk to the Hutchinson Charities), Stonehaven, Hutton Magna, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7HQ



# FRIENDS OF ST MARYS

## Social—Not Just Fund Raising

The months of July and August illustrated well that The Friends of St Mary's is not just a fund-raising arm of the church. Our purpose is equally to provide opportunities and occasions where members of the church can meet socially beyond the after service coffee on a Sunday morning—an important way of widening the fellowship of the church community.

The coffee mornings organised by John and Alice Challis in July and Carole and John McCormack in August were both well-attended and involved not only church members but also friends and neighbours of the families organising the events. Cheerful conversation and stories were the touchstone of both events and we are grateful for the hospitality offered on each occasion. So it's off to the Sunderland's house on 17th September for the next in the series. (see page 34 for details).



Each of these occasions did incidentally raise money for church development projects—about £180 in each case—but the social nature of the mornings were to the fore, with a heartfelt thank you to those who opened up their homes for the morning.

## Barbecue

Thanks, too, to those who organised and attended the barbecue in the Rectory Gardens in late July. The resumption of the annual barbecue saw some changes from the past which seemed to be appreciated and point a way forward for next year. An earlier start (4.00 p.m. instead of 6.30), the push to welcome families and also providing garden games, face painting and cake decoration all went down well and we were blessed with a dry and warm summer afternoon. Over 60 people attended, with head chef, John Challis and his bearded assistant, Paul Sunderland wielding the tongs. All enjoyed the occasion and were well fed. Thanks to the committee members who organised and ran the occasion and particularly to John for co-ordinating the 'logistics.'

## Plant and Produce Sale—28 August

Planning is well under way at the time of writing and we trust that, with Susan Scrafton's enthusiastic and energetic leadership, this will be another memorable occasion. A full report will appear in next month's *ConnecTions*.



## Forthcoming Events

**Thursday 15th September:** The church is once again delighted to be hosting a concert by the Army band on Thursday 15 September starting at 7.30 p.m. Admission is free although there will be a retring collection for donatiosn to st Mary's. The Friends and the Belles will be providing interval refreshments. Full details will be announced via the website and pew sheets. Do earmark this date. The concert earlier in the year was a superb evening of varied music hugely appreciated by a good-sized audience. Let's go for a full house—both to enjoy the music and appreciate the generosity of the band in offering their time in support of our church.



The Army Band on Official Duty



**Saturday 17 September;** 'At Home' Coffee Morning at 1 Wathcote Place hosted by Jeanette and Paul Sunderland. Please come along, bring friends—and perhaps a food offering for the Bring and Buy Stall.

**Saturday 8 October;** a reprise for the hugely successful pre-Covid Wine Tasting Evening, hosted by connoisseur and expert, Jamie Harrison. The evening is being organised by Wendy Pritchard and tickets will be on sale shortly. Another occasion for you to organise a table of guests—or just come as you are- for a fun-packed, flavour-filled evening of vintage delight! The evening starts at 7.30 p.m. at St Mary's Church. Tickets cost £10.



**Saturday 12 November**— Curry Night—watch out for details

### Friends AGM

The date and time of the next AGM will be announced shortly and all members of the worshipping community at St Mary's are members as of right. Your current committee is Peter Trewby( chair); Graham Barber (Treasurer); Jim Jack (Secretary); Susan Scrafton; David Frankton; Andy Lovell; John Challlis; Jeanette Sunderland; Wendy Pritchard. If you are willing to offer some time to serve on the committee, please contact one of the above.

*pp Peter Trewby (Chair)*

## POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

As each week in our lives passes, we may look to the future for new opportunities and look to the past at opportunities lost. GEORGE ALDERSON looks at the lessons from both in this month's offering.

### A Life In The Week

One more week has gone, forever!  
Was it marked by great endeavour?  
Will the outcome proffer, ever?  
Is it best to save or sever?  
Was there any revelation  
Which may cause a celebration?  
Given time, will jubilation  
Be the upshot? Real elation?  
Was the graft and planning wasted?  
Was achievement truly tasted?  
Will the poster now be pasted  
“There was challenge. You outpaced it!”  
Seven days within existence.  
Maybe met with some resistance,  
But with faith and some persistence  
There can be a real insistence  
Life has grown a little clearer,  
Distances are slightly nearer.  
We are living in an era  
When they call us “an adherer”.  
Labels are applied too freely,  
Often wrongly, yet sincerely.  
Just one week can cost us dearly  
If we are not thinking clearly.  
Worth enfolding and caressing  
Whether silent or confessing,  
Either knowing or just guessing,  
Every minute is a blessing.  
More may come, though always pending,  
So it's best, perhaps, now, mending  
Where there's rotting, ruin, rending  
Ready for a quiet ending?

*George Alderson*

## HUDSWELL HAPPENINGS

First there was a community-run hostelry in Hudswell; now, some years later, plans for a community-run hostel have taken shape which would bring St Michael's and All Angels back into use in the village. **MARTIN BOOTH** provides an update on the progress so far and the challenges which lie ahead.

### **A few steps near to our vision of St Michael's Church**

St Michael and All Angels Church in Hudswell remains closed and unused, but we are edging closer to seeing it reopened and given a new purpose which we believe will be compatible with its former role as a place of worship. The current church was built in 1895 and was used for over 125 years until, in 2015 regular worship ceased. It was formally closed as a church last year. It is a listed building with important architectural and heritage features. It replaced an earlier medieval church, believed to date from 1250. This may have replaced an even earlier building as Hudswell is recorded as a settlement in the Domesday Book completed in 1086. Therefore, this site may have been at the centre of village life in Hudswell for the past 1000 years. We want to keep it in the ownership of the local community, retain public access to it and recognise and celebrate its historical significance. To open it as a hostel for walkers and cyclists would achieve this.

### **Low Impact Conversion Ambition**

In June this year, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority granted planning permission and listed building consent for it to be converted into a hostel. On the 8<sup>th</sup> August, the Church Commissioners published a scheme to transfer the church to the ownership of Hudswell Community Charity, for conversion to a hostel. This was followed by a 6-week consultation period, a necessary step prior to transfer taking place. The planning permission has many conditions attached to it, all of which we are keen to comply with. We want this to be a low impact conversion, with little or no changes to the external appearance of the church, or the cemetery and, in the interior, we are keen to conserve all its historic features. The hostel will provide 16/18 beds in six rooms, by inserting a mezzanine floor on the nave, although this will not stretch right across, so views will be possible up to the ceiling and, in the chancel, the residents lounge will retain the



**Interior, St Michael and All Angels**

high wooden roof and full high window. These plans are now well advanced, and we also have a business plan in place which demonstrates that the hostel will be a viable and sustainable business. This has been boosted by the recent announcement that the Coast-to-Coast route is to become a national trail as this passes nearby the hostel and should bring extra customers who are walking the route. In



**Camino Way Marker**

addition to this the hostel will be a stopping point on the Camino Ingles. This is a new long-distance pilgrimage route being developed from Finchale Priory in County Durham to Durham, Ripon and York Cathedrals, then on to the south of England to join the ancient Camino Ingles route from A Coruna or Ferrol on the northern coast of Galicia – then to Santiago. This will also provide additional customers as we believe that staying in a former church on a pilgrimage route will be attractive to many pilgrims.

### **Raising The Funds—the Next Challenge**

Our big challenge now it to raise the necessary funds to pay for the conversion work. Providing a high-quality hostel within a listed building is not going to be cheap and our quantity surveyor has estimated the conversion cost to be around £970,000. When you add on the cost of purchase, legal and professional fees and the cost of furniture and fittings, we think we are going to have to raise almost £1.1 million. This sounds a lot, but we have a funding strategy in place and are busy writing funding bids. We have committed to £25,000 from our own reserves and are talking to the Charity Bank about a £120,000 loan.



### **Would you be interested in helping?**

We also hope to raise at least £25,000 from donations from individuals who want to support our aim to preserve the church and its important features for future generations to appreciate. Perhaps you were married or baptised there, or your relatives may be buried in the cemetery that surrounds the church, or you may simply want to support this worthwhile cause. Your name (though not the level of your donation) will be displayed with the restored building and the trustees of Hudswell Community Charity, and the wider village will be grateful to you. If you want to know more about our project or feel that you can help in some other way, please get on touch with us via our website [daleshostel.com](http://daleshostel.com)

*Martin Booth*

Secretary Hudswell Hostel @ St Michaels

## BEHIND THE HYMNS

**JUDITH MacLEOD** offers us some further insights into hymns which are often sung. Here, she explains the backdrop against which a favourite hymn of the sea was written. The personal link between the subject matter of the hymn and her own family history gives added meaning to this expression of the Christian faith in words and music.

### ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE

My choice of hymn for September, 'Eternal Father, strong to save' [number 413 in our Common Praise] is a plea for God's mercy towards all 'in peril on the sea'. It is known as the sailors' hymn and is often sung on board ships. I would have chosen it sooner, had it not seemed unseasonal. However, after singing it at morning Eucharist in early August, I saw no reason to wait.

It reminds me of my maternal grandfather who was a skipper on a trawler in the North Sea. The words were written by William Whiting in 1860. Whiting, the son of a London grocer, was educated at Winchester Training Institution, a college for teachers. He became master of the Quiristers of Winchester College where he remained for 36 years.



**William Whiting**  
(1825-1878)

He is thought to have written the hymn for one of his Winchester quiristers who was about to sail for America. It has traditionally been sung at Sunday services on liners crossing the Atlantic.

- 1. Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.*
- 2. O Christ, whose voice the waters heard  
And hushed their raging at thy word,  
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,  
And calm amid the storm didst sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.*



3. *O Holy Spirit, who didst brood  
Upon the waters dark and rude,  
And bid their angry tumult cease,  
And give, for wild confusion, peace:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.*
  
4. *O Trinity of love and power,  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go:  
Thus evermore shall rise to thee  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.*

These words are based on psalm 107 verses 23-30:

- 23 *They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;*
- 24 *These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.*
- 25 *For he commandeth and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.*
- 26 *They mount up to the heaven, they go down again in the depths; their soul melteth away because of trouble.*
- 27 *They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.*
- 28 *Then they cry unto to the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. [O hear us when we cry to thee]*
- 29 *He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.*
- 30 *Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be.*

The hymn is one of the best expressions of the central Christian doctrine of the Trinity to be found in a hymn - with its verses delineating the 3 persons - God, the Father, God the Son and God, the Holy Spirit.

**Verse 1** asks God to contain the forces of the sea in order to protect those in danger. Christ is remembered in **verse 2** as having quelled the storm

In **verse 3**, 'whose voice the waters heard and hushed their raging' [Matthew 14:22-36]. The Holy Spirit brings peace to 'wild confusion'.

At the end of **verse 4**, the word 'glad' conveys our confidence in the power of the Trinity to answer our cry.



**John Bacchus Dykes**  
(1823 –1878)

The tune is universally associated with the hymn tune, *Melita*, by the Reverend John Bacchus Dykes. The name ‘Melita’ is taken from St Paul’s journey from Caesarea to Rome. Acts 28.1 records that after a shipwreck Paul and his fellow prisoners were able to swim to the island of Melita, as Malta was then known.

You can feel the rhythm of the waves in the words and the tune.

*Judith MacLeod*

-o0o0o-

## FOR ALL THE SAINTS

On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1997, Mother Teresa of Calcutta died. An Albanian nun born Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in what is now Skopje, North Macedonia, she spent most of her life in India, founding and running the Missionaries of Charity. She was winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.



Mother Teresa, who took Indian citizenship, received several honours. She was beatified in 2003 and canonised on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The anniversary of her death is her feast day. At the time of her death, the Missionaries of Charity had over 4000 sisters. By 2020, it had grown to 5167.

Anjezë became convinced she should live a religious life by the age of 12. She left home six years later to join the Sisters of Loreto in Dublin. She saw neither her mother nor her sister again. By 1929 she was in India, beginning her novitiate in Darjeeling, in the Himalayas. She took the name of Teresa after Thérèse de Lisieux, the patron saint of missionaries.

She then moved to Calcutta, where for 20 years she was a teacher and head teacher. She became concerned for “the poorest of the poor” and in 1952 opened her first hospice – an abandoned Hindu temple – with help from Calcutta officials and from a group of young women assistants. The aim was to help people die “a beautiful death” with dignity, whatever their faith.

Mother Teresa, who was fluent in five languages, was widely admired but also came in for criticism, partly for her views on abortion and contraception. She said: “By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus.”



## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

**MARK BERESFORD-PEIRSE** reflects upon life and the nature and impact of an appreciation of the gifts around us on our worship—and its own impact on how we live our lives.

### Hoorays and Hallelujahs

It's an odd thing, worship, isn't it ! You can't put a finger on any results from it , and anyway , why should God want us to make a fuss of him or sing hymns to his glory ? He isn't an egotistical dictator needing our subservience. Yet Jesus backs up the traditional command to love and worship the one God, and only him. It's surely to do with what we value and focus on in life . What does our heart treasure for its loveliness and lasting value ? Our true well-being seems to hang on this question . There are probably many things we treasure, most of them good things , and , of course , it's often people that we treasure. Our fulfilment, though, is in finding the One above all else to worship and to put our hope and trust in. Our hearts are restless until they find their rest , their home, in him. We belong to the One who loves us eternally .

A beautiful morning, when " everything's going my way " , makes us naturally full of praise . Deeper things , such as the birth of a child , a glimpse of the wonder of the natural world or universe , or the experience



of help at a difficult time, can fill us with wonder, awe and thankfulness and can turn into worship. It may not be "productive " , but worship affects us and shapes our character . What we admire and value helps to make us what we are ; perhaps we even grow more like the things or people we treasure. (Don't people grow like their pets?!) At least it's worth watching where our attention tends to be fixed.

One more thought! Though worship seems very different from action, the two are meant to go hand in hand ; worshipping the Father of all should mean we care for those of his children we have the chance to serve . If worship is about responding joyfully to God's love , it naturally leads us into all sorts of ways of trying to live in mutual love in the nitty-gritty of here and now.



## SIXTY SECOND INTERVIEW

This month, **NEIL STEVENSON** willingly tackles John Pritchard's short, sharp questions with the required quick-fire answers. Although he lists 'procrastination' as his own worst fault, there was little delay in supplying the responses. Thanks, Neil.

**First memory?** Picnics with my mum and dad on the North Yorks Moors.

**Favourite meal?** Moussaka, particularly when in Greece.

**Favourite music or musician?** Steely Dan, Coldplay and Rura (Scottish Folk Band).

**Pet dislike?** Poor punctuation. I'm very much in the Lynne Truss camp.

**Best holiday?** Travelling through Israel after finishing work on a kibbutz as a student.

**Childhood hero?** Geoff Boycott. Still my hero.

**Favourite hobby?** Tennis.

**Luxury on Desert Island?** Unlimited supply of paper and pens. I can then write that novel.

**Recent TV you've enjoyed?** The Split. After all, I am a lawyer!

**Worst fault?** Procrastination.

**2 best films ever?** *Dr Zhivago* and *American Graffiti*. Anything directed by David Lean really.

**Favourite drink?** Magners cider.

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

**Best recent book?** *Hotel du Lac* by Anita Brookner.

**Favourite charity?** Salvation Army.

**Place you feel happiest?** Edinburgh, for the Festival Fringe.

**Three dinner companions?** George Orwell (Eric Blair), Nelson Mandela, Christopher Marlowe.

**What do you pray for most?** For oppressed minorities throughout the world, especially in the Middle East.

**Traditional or new Lord's Prayer?** Traditional.

**Epitaph?** In his own quiet way, he tried to get things done.

*John Pritchard*

## All in the month of September

**1900 years ago**, from 13<sup>th</sup> September 122 to 128, Hadrian's Wall was built in northern England. It ran for 80 miles from coast to coast and marked the northern limit of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, wanted to separate the Romans from 'the barbarians.'



**200 years ago**, on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1822, the Catholic Church admitted that the 16<sup>th</sup> century astronomer Galileo Galilei might have been right about the Earth orbiting the Sun. The College of Cardinals reversed the Church's condemnation of his ideas. Galileo had spent the last nine years of his life under house arrest for publishing his work on the subject. He died in 1642.

**100 years ago**, on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1922, the highest temperature ever recorded in the world was reported to be 57.7° Centigrade (136° Fahrenheit) in Al'Aziziyah in Libya. (Unofficial record)

**90 years ago**, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1932, Saudi Arabia was founded when the Kingdoms of Hejaz and Najd were unified.

**70 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1952**, the Farnborough Air Show crash took place in Hampshire. A de Havilland fighter jet broke apart and fell into the crowd, killing 31 people. Stringent safety measures were introduced to ensure it could never happen again.

**65 years ago**, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1957, the Everly Brothers best-known song 'Wake up Little Susie' was released.



**50 years ago**, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1972, Palestinian terrorists invaded the Olympic Village in Munich, West Germany during the 1972 Olympic Games and took 11 members of the Israeli team hostage. All the hostages were killed, as well as five of the eight terrorists and a German police officer, when a rescue attempt failed.

**30 years ago**, on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1992, the Black Wednesday sterling crisis took place. The UK crashed out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), raised interest rates from 10% to 15% and spent billions of pounds buying up sterling that was being frantically disposed of on international markets.

**25 years ago**, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1997, Mother Teresa, Macedonian-born/Albanian India nun and humanitarian died. She founded the Missionaries of Charity and was winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. She was beatified in October 2003.

**Also 25 years ago**, on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1997, Sinn Fein formally renounced violence and committed itself to resolving the troubles of Northern Ireland through peaceful means. This eventually led to the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998.

**Also 25 years ago**, on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1997, the people of Scotland voted in a referendum to establish their own parliament. (Opened 1<sup>st</sup> July 1999.)

## SMALL GROUPS FOR CHRISTIAN NURTURE

It's well known that meeting in small groups for discussion and prayer is one of the best ways of growing in our faith. It's where we learn, ask questions, express doubts, search the scriptures and find ourselves accepted and cared for in genuine fellowship. **JOHN PRITCHARD** offers a very helpful summary of what's on offer currently. As church life picks up do consider if any of these groups appeal. We all need to grow!

At St Mary's before the pandemic we had two home groups that did this excellently. After that traumatic watershed the scene has changed and there are a number of small groups happening for anyone to consider.

### The Discussion Group.

What this group does is written on the tin. It meets monthly in the evening and moves gently from one subject to another. Very democratic, very open-ended.

**Contact: Anna Boyce: boycead11@gmail.com**

### The Book Group.

This daytime group meets in church monthly to discuss a Christian book. Discussion roams widely! **Contact: Isobel Short: ishort1998@aol.com**

### Home Group.

This group is just getting going, hoping to meet fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon at Martin and Anne Clarke's house for Bible study and discussion. **Contact them on poshbothy2@gmail.com**

### Poetry and Puds.

Members of this group bring three poems they enjoy and a pudding! The aim isn't directly Christian nurture but often drifts in that direction. Meets on the first Tuesday evening of the month at John and Wendy Pritchard's. **Contact: johnlpritchard@btinternet.com**

### Exploring Faith.

This excellent ecumenical group meets on occasional Saturday mornings at the Rokeby Inn on the A66 for coffee, pastries and a good speaker on an important theme of Christian concern or ministry. Deans, professors, prison and hospital chaplains, even defunct bishops, have been amongst the speakers but the style is always accessible. Next meeting 24 September. Highly recommended and the brain child of Keith Miller, who needs to know who's coming for catering. **Contact: kshmillier32@gmail.com**

## OTHER ST MARY'S GROUPS OFFERING SUPPORT

### 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 Fleece, starting at 1.30 p.m.***

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

TELEPHONE SUPPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

Do please get in touch.

### PASTORAL CARE— A CONTINUING SERVICE

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

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

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

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



### HAPPY BODGERS

**Keith Robson is looking to re-start this service, offering help with small DIY jobs. Look out for more information next month.**

## Sudoku - Easy

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

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## Sudoku - Medium

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

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## St Mary's Groups

### FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

We need YOUR help and ideas.

You are automatically a Friend!

Could you please consider giving some time to get things going again?

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

#### NEXT EVENT

17 September At Home Coffee Morning at 2 Wathcote Place

### KNIT & NATTER

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

**Every Friday  
9.30am to 11.30 a.m.**

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

Everyone is welcome

Contact Anne Clarke 07982 658991

## Word Search

### The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13.24-30)

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

Kingdom  
Heaven  
Good  
Seed  
Field  
Sleeping  
Grain  
Weeds  
Enemy  
Servants  
Master  
Sow  
Gather  
Reap  
Root  
Let  
Grow  
Together  
Harvest  
Bundles  
Barn  
Burned

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

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## Puzzle Solutions

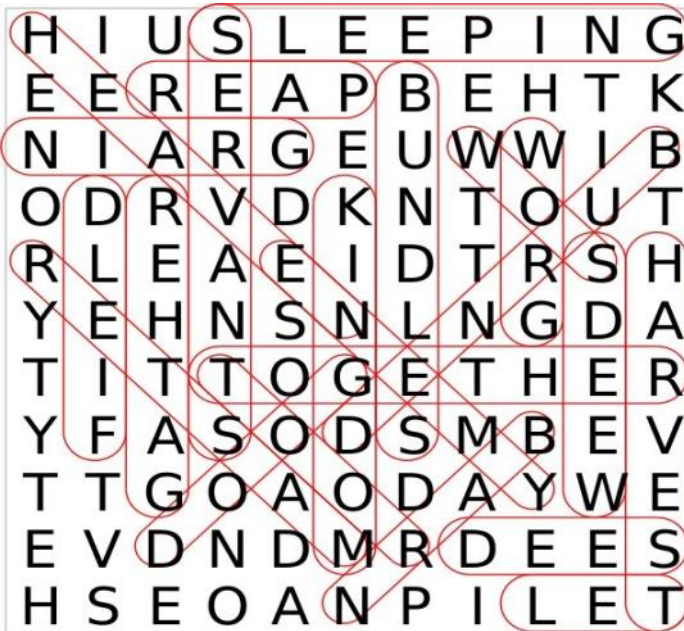
### Sudoku — Easy

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

### Sudoku—Medium

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

### Wordsearch



**Deadline for September edition : 15th September**

To contribute letters, articles, etc.,

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