

# CONNECTIONS



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

**August 2022**

**£1.00**

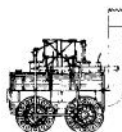
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[www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk](http://www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk)

**MINISTRY TEAM**

**RECTOR**

Revd. Martin Fletcher    The Rectory, Church Wynd    07762 440094 or 821421  
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**ASSISTANT CURATE**

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**HONORARY CLERGY**

Bishop John Pritchard · Revd. Jennifer Williamson - Revd Pauline Shepherd  
Revd Martin Clarke

**READER**

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**PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

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**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)

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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 Worship for All	Every Sunday apart from 3rd Sunday (including communion) Every 3rd Sunday
4.00 p.m.	Café Church Fun-Key Church	3rd Sunday (every 2 mths—Jan, March etc) Last Sunday each month
6.30 p.m.	Choral Evensong Free to Be	Second Sunday each month 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**

<b>9.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Every second</b> Sunday
<b>9.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Every fourth</b> 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**

<b>11.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Every Sunday except 2nd (&amp; 5th) Sunday</b>
<b>11.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Every 2nd ( &amp; 5th) Sunday</b>

Well, I thought long and hard about last month's editorial but never thought it would affect our PM so much. (If you've forgotten the contents, you'll have to look back!).

The excessive heat which hit us in late July is a salutary reminder of not dealing with climate issues internationally now to avoid giving the generations who follow us an increasingly uninhabitable world. With the national holiday period upon us, it is no doubt a blessing that the weather has been warm but one of the pleasures of the British climate has always been its variety—and a reminder that we need a mix of everything to make life 'work.

Looking behind things to see what we need to think of is a theme underlying a number of our articles this month. The lives of seafarers who bring us our wants as well as needs, inviting people of other lands to share our living spaces, listening properly to others, the size of our parish share all seem to me to have this underlying theme. Articles from Alexe Roberts, Daphne Clarke, reflections of our Listeners, Sheila Harrison and Jennifer Patrick, and the thoughts of a number of people on the Parish share may all help to consider this theme.

We also feature two individuals moving on from our immediate church community as Chris Denton and Gillian Lunn move beyond our walls to pastures new. Within these same walls of St.Mary's however, the brass eagle is still in place—literally almost immovable; but where did it come from? Jane Hatcher reveals its history. George Alderson tells us of different weathering in verse; John Pritchard continues his Pathways in Prayer series whilst finding sixty seconds to chat to Andy Lovell, our Publicity Officer .

The breaks from writing in August taken by Liz Kluz, William Gedye and Mister Jack Finney (what IS he up to now?) are more than covered by Friends of St Mary's business, parish news and an information piece about the founding of the Mothers' Union. I also shamelessly grasp the opportunity of Judith MacLeod's summer break by looking at a favourite hymn of mine ( what are yours, please?). Thanks to all have contributed as well as those taking a well earned break.

And talking of looking harder at what we see in front of us, Ian Short offers these thoughts about his cover photo of the natural wonders which surround us.

“High on Marske Moor in August, the heather is in purple bloom, but also the golden grasses are another glorious plant of the uplands.

The moor is quiet in August; many of the moorland birds have bred and left for lower ground. Red grouse call to let you know that they are still around -'go-back, go-back, go back-back-back.'

But if you feel in contemplative frame of mind, then a visit to St Edmund's Church in the village or a quiet resting place on the moor amongst the golden grasses is perfect.”

*Jim Jack*



## A Letter from Paul - Curate not Saint



Hallelujah! It's that time of the year when many create some time to recharge their batteries by taking a holiday. This doesn't have to mean travelling vast distances or braving the turbulence of an aeroplane, it can simply mean changing what you do.

I will be spending some time on the beach in Cornwall as I recharge from the challenges of ministry. I hope to return invigorated, not by the cold sea, but with renewed energy for the tasks ahead. I am truly 'Living the Dream' in Richmond and in my role as Assistant Curate, and I believe in dreaming big! Winston Churchill is quoted as saying; "To Improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often". I don't believe that perfection exists, but I do agree that we, our communities, families, and Church must continue to evolve and change where change is needed.

Throughout the past few years, we have lived our lives in a realm of uneasy change, much of which has been thrust upon us without much consultation. Our government, our doctors and many others have made decisions on our behalf which has taken away choice and even freedom. We are now slowly emerging from this epidemic, albeit not yet finished, and we are living in a world where we can move from a re-active approach, to one of being pro-active and looking to what needs to change and what can get back to some normality.

Normality in Richmond would see events, concerts, organ recitals, BBQ's, garden parties, coffee mornings and the flow of the weekly services. We have seen all the above recently and more to come. Don't miss our August Plant and Produce Fair! Most recently we have had the pleasure of welcoming pets large and small to our Pet Service. This challenged our church wardens with buckets and poo bags, and challenged me with how to welcome mice, rats (one of whom decided to wee on my shorts), a tortoise (who did not want to come out to play) and a fluffy pink flamingo amongst others furry friends, not forgetting Ralf. It was great fun and definitely one to repeat next year.

A much less hectic, but no less exciting service was held on 6 July when we welcomed two candidates for Baptism and sixteen candidates for Confirmation. Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley led a service which saw a church packed with supporters as we welcomed these individuals into our family of faith.



It was my great personal pleasure to be a small part of their journey. Just another reason that I love being a Curate!

After all that, I trust you wouldn't deny me my annual holiday, and I will pray that you allow yourself the break also. Some of us will see this time away from the office simply as an opportunity to change our surroundings, as will I when I swap my clerical collar for a wet suit. However, as I rest, I will be looking forward to my return and some exciting changes which are set to stir up the Church. I'd like you to be the first to hear about this, and I hope that you will support St Mary's Church in this venture.

The aim is to reinvigorate the All-Age Worship slot within our services. We are looking for a more informal Church service, a service where nobody will feel out a place. A service where it doesn't matter if you do or do not know the correct etiquette for when to stand and when to sit down. A service where all feel welcome. This is a service that we want you to own.

What we know so far is that we would like to offer a non-Eucharistic service once a month which focuses on welcome and worship. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends who may not normally feel comfortable coming to the more formal church services. The joy of such an informal approach is that it won't always need to be planned or delivered by a member of the clergy, so you truly do have the opportunity to 'own' this service.

The full details of what the service will look like are still being worked through, and that is where you come in. We would love to hear your thoughts, suggestions, both positive and constructive. We would also love you to be involved. Are you a singer? Do you play an instrument? Do you have a passion for technology? Are you great at planning/praying/preparing refreshments?

The only way that this will work is with YOU!

So, as you sip a cocktail on a beach, or on the Batts (only mocktails allowed on the Batts), please start mulling over what YOU want to see from this new service and what YOU can do to make it a success. If we all invited just one extra person to join us in worship, the whole of Richmond, Hudswell, Downholme and Marske would hear our praise!

Please email comments/suggestions to [paul.sunderland@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:paul.sunderland@leeds.anglican.org) or catch me in church or when I'm out and about in town.

*Paul*





## Money, Money, Money

Every other month, our excellent Treasurer, Paul Carnell, provides us with an outline statement of where St Mary's stands with regards to our finances. The pie chart headings summarise the income (receipts) for the financial year and the expenditure (payments) within the same period.

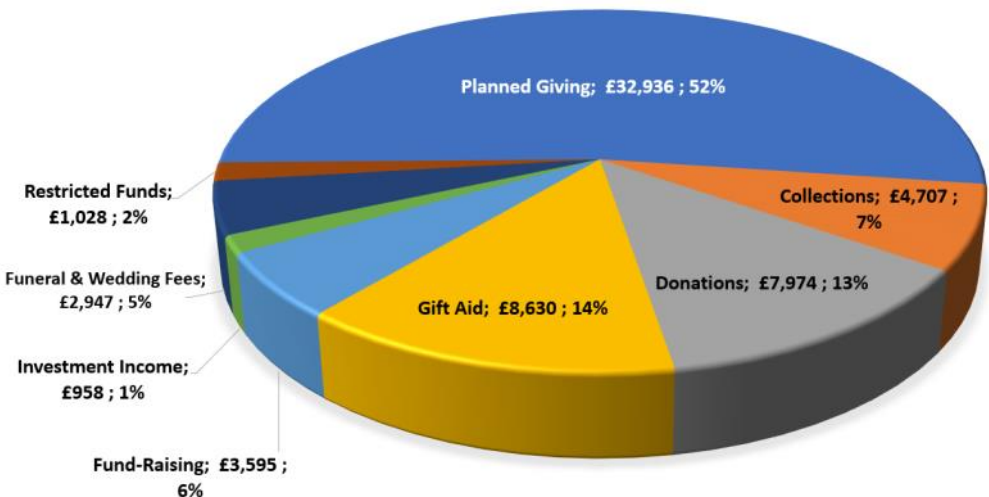
The pie charts themselves give a breakdown of our receipts and payments over the period in terms of figures (in the text) and picture of that breakdown. You will always note that a significant proportion of income is always planned giving; the largest proportion of spending is on the parish share.

A number of people have been interested in more detail about what the parish share (paid to the diocese) is for and its significance, so, in addition to the update on the year's 'business' so far, we are also providing a bit more information on our situation regarding our parish share

### St Mary's—the current position 2022 Financial year

Up to the end of April St Mary's experienced a financial 'surplus' of £2,600 and at the halfway point in the year the picture was very much the same with a figure of £2,547. However, at the same point in time we were just over 10% short of paying half of our Parish Share Request.

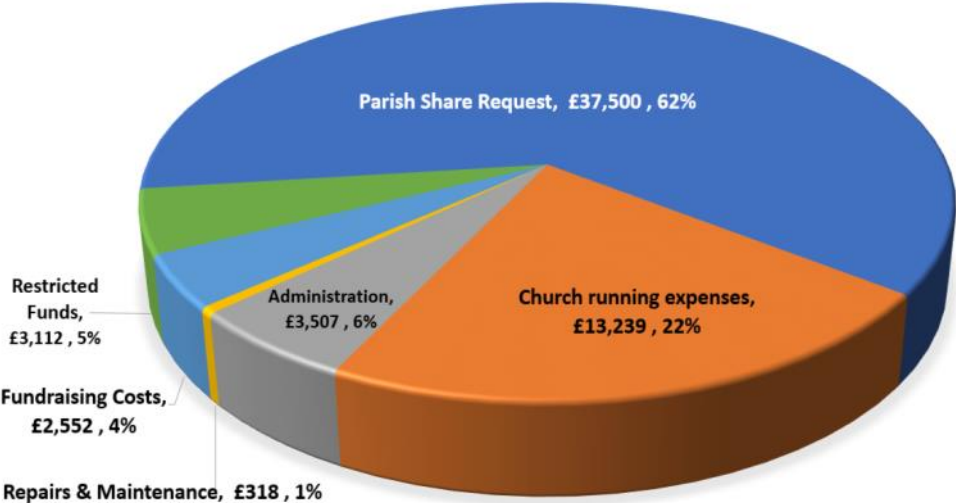
#### ST MARY'S RECEIPTS - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022 - £62,775



We're fortunate to have a large number of people in our Planned Giving scheme and a high proportion of them are paying sufficient tax for me to be able to claim

Gift-Aid on their donations which has accounted for a not-inconsiderable 14% of our total income so far this year. However, if anyone should cease to pay tax or suspects that the amount of tax they are paying has dropped below the threshold – e.g. someone giving St Mary’s £50 a month or £600 a year must be paying a minimum of £150 of tax in a single tax year for me to be able to claim on their donations throughout the year – please do let me ( Paul Carnell) know.

**ST MARY’S PAYMENTS - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022 - £60,228**



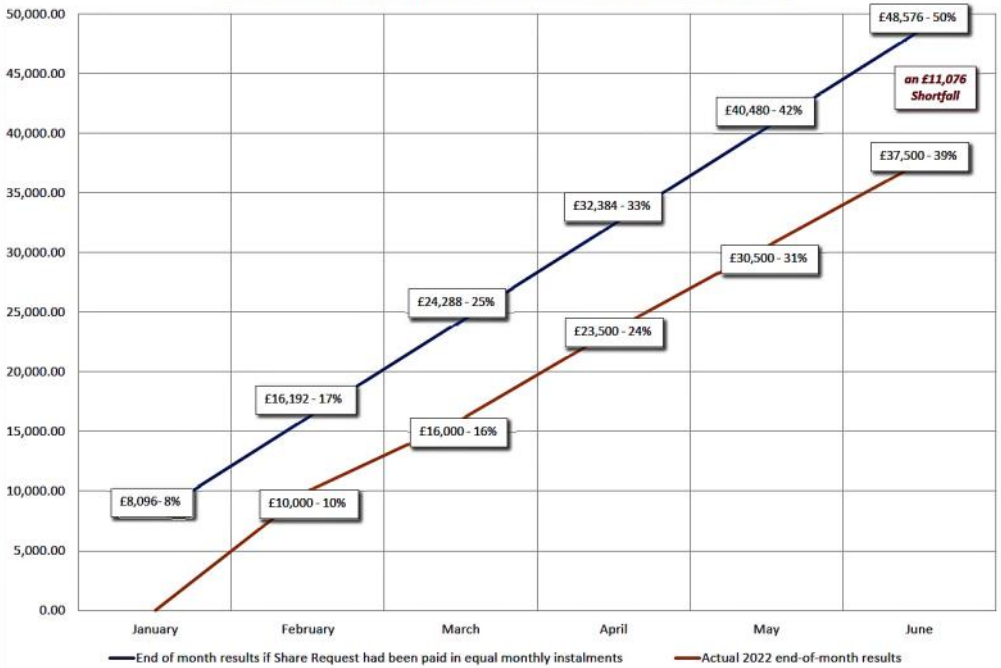
**The Parish share—What’s it for? Why so big?**

The Parish Share is the way in which each church community participates in the financial costs of ministry, according to their ability, *throughout the Diocese*. In this way, ministry may be sustained in poorer communities where otherwise this would not be possible.

Thanks to the generosity of churches like St Mary’s, the Diocese of Leeds is hoping to receive £13.6m in Parish Share in 2022 which will go towards the £15.8m it will cost to pay for 312 clergy, curates and their homes.

Every pound that they receive in Parish Share (£97,159 has been requested from St Mary’s) is used to pay for mission and ministry, ensuring that Christ is known and God’s Kingdom is built in every corner of the Diocese.

**RICHMOND with HUDSWELL PCC - 2022 PARISH SHARE REQUEST PAYMENTS**



## St Mary’s Share of the Parish Share—view from a pew

It’s August but not as we know it. The cost of living is sky high, petrol and diesel at eye watering prices, Covid doing the rounds again, a Government in turmoil, examination results awaited, NHS under stress..... we thought 2020 and 2021 were dark days and 2022 would be a re-emergence, which of course it is- but at a price. The price WE have to pay is to resource the superlative dedication and commitment of our clergy team in leading, fostering and nurturing our church family.

The practical implication on us who are that church family is the payment of our Share. We scraped home in 2021 with 100%. This year, the Diocese seeks £97,159 as our contribution to the costs of the Diocese—which, as is explained above, includes supporting our own clergy. Our Finance Team, amazing Treasurer Paul Carnell, and the PCC, took the decision to try to achieve 80% of that. In simple terms, we’re slightly behind the 80% target at this half way point of the year (see the graph above). The graph shows that we are just over £11,000 off where we should be to achieve the full parish share, but also marginally behind the 80% target set by the Finance Team.

The Share pays stipends and pensions, ensures accommodation – in other words, secures the future of the clergy and the churches in which they serve across the

whole Diocese, not just St Mary's or indeed the wider benefice. Ultimately and logically, no Parish Share equals no clergy, no churches, no church family.

Within our Diocese, there are vital ministries where income is low, where sometimes public transport is minimal but where our churches are key parts of the communities they serve. They, too, are part of our church family and need to be "safely gathered in" supported by the strength of others to underpin THEIR financial security.

Remember "Dig for Victory"? What about "Dig Deeper for Share"? Can we help our Finance Team hit 100% again this year instead of postponing our debt for the future and, in doing so, support our own church and others in the Diocese?

Please think, pray, and , if you are able, commit. Thank you.



## Future Church—Confirmation Candidates



( Left to right) Jay Chapman, Tegan Wainwright, Robert Sturdy, Leo Martin, Laurence Denton, Isaac Scrafton, Alfie Richardson-Pugh, Caitlin Sisson, Eddie Alford, Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, Bethany Alford, Caitlin Ryal, Florence Dixon, Declan Wainwright, Jade Fayers, Thomas Partington, Ashleigh Barker.. Jade and Thomas were also baptised.

## Charity of the Month



Our charity of the Month this month is the local organisation 'Just the Job'. Featured in the February 2022 edition of this magazine, this locally run charity gives work opportunities to local people who

would otherwise find it difficult to enter the world of work. Since February, the organisation has attracted sufficient funding to begin work on their major project to establish and expand their base in the Gallowfields Road area of Richmond.

Their work is often environmental and practical in nature and one of St Mary's congregation, Sam Watson, is part of their working team.

Donations for 'Just the Job' can be made in the usual way—by leaving gifts in the baskets provided at the back of church, putting a donation in an envelope through the Rectory door, of gifting directly to the organisation through their website [www.just-the-job.org.uk](http://www.just-the-job.org.uk). You can also support them by buying logs or employing the team for gardening related projects. See website for details.



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



7 June  
21 June

Patricia Short  
William Overall

***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)

## Chris Denton- Thank you for the music

The pull of Scandinavia (though not Abba!) has proved irresistible for our accomplished but self-effacing Director of Music, Chris Denton. As organist and choirmaster, he has given time selflessly to bringing fine organ playing and choral work to St Mary's. Alongside this essentially part-time role, he has taught piano and organ as a private tutor and also done some supply work in local schools.

In his church role, in addition to his skills and versatility on our fine Harrison organ (one of the best of its type in the country), he has also managed to insert contemporary musical phrases into standard works to the amusement and delight of those who recognise them. We also wonder whether his burgeoning fame as he is shown on screen playing at the end of services has led to international acclaim! Certainly watching him mastering the intricacies of complex music played on a bank of three keyboards with multiple stops and bass accompaniment provided by the dancing feet on bass pedals has brought home how truly special the ability to master the instrument really is.

He has also brought the distinctive sense of humour heard in his improvisations on the organ to his work with robed choirs and 'scratch' choirs alike. This had added to the enjoyment of practice time whilst setting out to achieve the best as both a lead and support for worship.

Having worked in Norway previously, Chris is returning to that beautiful country as a speaker of the language. He is taking up a full time, pensionable post as a Church Organist—initially for a trial period of six months. This will be a big change for the whole family as wife, Camilla, is also changing careers whilst remaining in the area with three lively, growing boys. The family are now living in Skeeby, with their new home there as the base. Colin Hicks, Parish Administrator and organist(1999-2002 and 2006-15) will cover for Chris' trial period, for which we are very grateful.

We wish Chris and the whole Denton family—Camilla, Ben, Lawrence and Chad— every blessing as they embark on this next stage of their lives.



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."



## Our Four Organists

**Roger Orr** (2002-2006)

**Andrew Christer**

(1999—present—organist at special services and Evensong);

**Colin Hicks** ( 1999-2002; 2006 –2015; August 2022—?)

**Chris Denton** (2015 to July 2022; ?)

This unique photograph was taken between rehearsal and performance of Stainer’s Crucifixion at St Mary’s at Evensong on 10 April 2022. Chris conducted the augmented St Mary’s choir, with Andrew Christer playing the organ and Roger Orr and Colin Hicks taking solo singing parts.

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## 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

## LOYAL DALES VOLUNTEERS

In this series of articles, we have been looking at volunteer organisations which serve our local or national community. The work is carried out largely by volunteers. Many of the organisations we have written about have one or more members of one of the congregations in our benefice as volunteers.

But a moment or two spent scanning pages 4 and 5 of this magazine will highlight the number of volunteers who offer service within our own churches, without whose work and dedication our worshipping communities would be the poorer or even struggle to exist. This month, the spotlight is turned on listening services which the churches provide, particularly the Acorn Christian Listening scheme which Jennifer Patrick and Sheila Harrisson offer.

### The Listeners

It is some years now since St Mary's decided to launch the Acorn Christian Listening Scheme in the church. Whilst the church had its own clergy and some pastoral work by individual members of the congregation, it was perceived that an addition of a listening service which used people trained as listeners as opposed to people who seem to be 'good listeners' would be of considerable benefit.



**Acorn Christian  
Healing Foundation  
logo**

In its original form, the Acorn scheme itself was based upon the principle that good listening is a starting point for ministry. Essential to living in harmony, to understand what causes others pain, hurt or anger—and equally joy, laughter and excitement-, the ability to listen well helps the listener to understand but, more importantly, should help the person being listened to understand themselves more. At one level, the listening process should be therapeutic—enabling people to 'get things off the chest' - but enables the process of personal understanding, change, 'healing' to begin and grow.

Over the years, the Acorn scheme has grown to become the Acorn Academy, devoted to training members of a congregation in a ministry of healing, taking it beyond its early stages of better listening. Nowadays, the Acorn Academy sets out to offer comprehensive teaching on significant areas of the Christian ministry. Participants learn, practice and receive prayer ministry. Central to the scheme, however, is still the importance of good, regular 'listening'.

Having heard of the early scheme, the current listeners—Jennifer Patrick and Sheila Harrisson—committed to enrolling on a course to develop their listening skills as part of the ministry of the church.



## Learning to Listen

As naturally 'good' listeners in many ways, Sheila and Jennifer both took encouragement from those parts of the course which confirmed those skills. However, as Jennifer says, 'I recognised that I unwittingly had some bad (i.e. unhelpful) habits which could actually get in the way of good listening.'

Any of you who have been the leaders or recipients of course inputs on listening will recognise some of the things which this course alerted our church listeners to. 'For a start,' said Sheila, 'if we were meeting together, we would never sit like this.' I became aware quickly that, although at a distance, we were face to face. She pointed out that it has been shown that sitting at an angle of about 90° allows people to choose to talk and listen face to face, but also to 'think out loud' whilst looking in the direction of something other than the listener.



Jennifer went on to point out other 'non-verbal' signals which can get in the way of a valuable session. Facial expressions, gestures, body 'language' signals, perhaps unintentional, on the part of the listener can affect the comfort of the speaker. In a sense, the speaker is 'listening with their eyes and ears as they speak.'

One of the easiest traps to fall into as a listener, both Sheila and Jennifer observed, was to start mirroring the speaker's story with the 'I know what you mean. I remember that I/my friend/ my aunt etc had the same experience.' This is actually not helpful to the speaker. As with remarks like 'I know how you feel'. Do any of us really know how someone else is feeling?

The other skills which both Sheila and Jennifer either learned or had reinforced was not to give people solutions, but simply use the skills of listening to support the speaker to continue to talk and then reflect on what had been said. Different questioning styles, ways of encouraging people to be comfortable to say more were all useful parts of the course and ones which constantly come back whenever they are listening to anyone. 'Not just as a Christian listener, but in everyday life.'

### **Not Counsellors—Just a Supportive Listening Ear**

Both Sheila and Jennifer stressed that this is not a counselling service in the accurate sense of the phrase. It is an open opportunity for someone who feels that they want to talk about something in their lives to do so with someone who will listen

with the Christian faith underpinning the service they offer. It can be at times of emotional pressure and stress, such as sickness, bereavement, grief, family pressure, feelings of loneliness or isolation, recent incidents in people's lives. It is at such times that people have taken up the offer of a listening ear in the past. And there are a number of people who live on their own and have no-one immediately available in their homes to simply share their thoughts with—concerns, uncertainties about what to do, who to speak to, joys and excitements which have come into their lives.



The COVID outbreak has certainly not made the listening service easy to offer—although sometimes the telephone can be a helpful listening medium. What does seem to be clear is that those who have taken up the invitation to talk to Sheila or Jennifer have found benefit in the process. It is not a heavily used service, but it is there, with time aplenty for those who take up the offer.

The listening service is a Christian service in the sense that it is offered by people who are members of the church and whose approach is guided by their faith and their trust in that faith which shapes how they listen. It is by no means an evangelising service. In that sense, anyone can approach one of the listeners in the secure knowledge that they will not be 'preached at'! Whilst it was the link with Acorn which established the work at St Mary's, the service offered is not now linked with the Acorn Foundation although their basic materials were instrumental in establishing the scheme.

The voluntary work done by Jennifer and Sheila is part of the pastoral care offering of the church, just as is the work of the pastoral team members and Carrie Stephenson's group whose bereavement support is offered though the route described towards the end of the magazine.

Jennifer and Sheila can also offer some time to share their knowledge of how listening can be made to work. *If anyone is interested in knowing more, do give one of them a call.* Some of the learning materials are DVD based and can provide helpful insights about effective listening whether people want to become formal 'listeners' or not.

Certainly, as a church community, to know that Sheila and Jennifer, alongside our pastoral teams, are around to listen is a blessing. If you want them, please do contact them. If you want to help, please get in touch.

*J&J*

## A TIME OF OUR LIVES

Following the fascinating article by Sue and John Young last month about hosting students from other countries for short stays, often during vacations, when they can't get home, **DAPHNE CLARKE** got in touch to tell of the experiences she and husband, Peter, have had when offering a place to live to people from overseas studying or working in the UK. Daphne and Peter live in Richmond and worship at the United Reform Church in Low Row. Not only did the Youngs' article remind Daphne of their experiences but also prompted discrepancies between Christ's teachings and how they are—or are not- lived out. And sometimes how 'doing things right' conflicts with 'doing the right( lawful) thing.'

I am writing this on Racial Justice Day having listened to the Morning Service from a church I know well, St. Nicholas in Durham. My Congregational Church was 100 yards away and we shared many occasions. We're still in touch with the then rector and his wife...George and Eileen Carey. And I recall that, in our Youth Club, we loved having youngsters from many different backgrounds as the accommodation for mature Overseas Students was further up the hill.

Here, in the heart of Swaledale, we seldom meet people from other ethnic groups...apart from the other side of the Pennines! But I do recall with delight, the day we welcomed a family from West Africa. I volunteered to take the small boy for a walk in his buggy which I thoroughly enjoyed, pointing out things as we went along, only to discover that the family was from a French-speaking country and he'd not understood a word !

Jesus had time for everyone:- Greek, Roman, Samaritan. North African. The story in Acts 8 reminds us powerfully of the inclusivity of the Gospel message. The Ethiopian eunuch, an official in the Queen's court, was reading Isaiah 53 about the Suffering Servant and was confused. God sent Philip to him who used the encounter to speak about Jesus, His message, His Crucifixion, His Resurrection. On spotting an oasis, the Ethiopian asked to be baptized, which Philip willingly did. Was he thus, the first foreigner to become a Christian?



**St Nicholas' Church, Durham. George Carey (later Archbishop of Canterbury) was vicar there 1975-82**

Jesus' injunction to 'Love your neighbour' has no limitations whatsoever: in our little church in Low Row, we welcome all people. I recall how proud I was of everyone when, at a Church Meeting, I asked if we would welcome to worship a friend of mine recently released from prison. There was unanimous agreement... apart from the minister who pointed out that, as he was on the sex-offenders register, he couldn't agree. Didn't Jesus have a special heart for sinners?

I am currently rather troubled by the way the Prayer Book I use each evening constantly asks if I welcome people of all races to my church: do we have an 'open' Communion Table?

When we moved to Durham in 1966, we asked the British Council for an overseas student lodger. Frederic Randriamamonji was a delight: an academic with degrees from Madagascar and the Sorbonne ... and was a Congregationalist! He joined our church and also spoke at other churches round the District. I've just recalled an incident when I was teaching young men in Durham Prison and the question of racial equality came up. They were typically bigoted and dismissive so I told them about Fred. and his achievements. One lad grinned at me slyly saying, 'An educated spear-chucker', Miss!'



Just after our first child was born, we were asked if we could give a vacation-time home to a Nigerian boy coming to an English boarding school. We loved the idea that Anna would grow up in a mixed-race family, so Kehinde joined our family. Two years later, Peter came home asking if we could cope with a technician from his lab. So Bill from Sierra Leone arrived. Having left small children at home, he was delighted to be allowed to help with Edward...I've often wondered how old Ed. was before he worked out who was actually his Dad ! Bill too, was a Christian and came to church with us, as did the Arab Headteacher from Morocco, Glen from the Philippines and the two Kenyan policemen whom we also hosted in later years.

It is a sad reflection on our society that, even today, in many parts of the world, people are judged, not on their character, but on the colour of their skin.

*Daphne Clarke*

## MISSION TO SEAFARERS

An article published in July 2020 drew attention to how our ability to have just a simple cup of coffee relies upon the labours of many people throughout the world who go unnoticed as we take our refreshment.

The blockage of the Suez Canal by the container ship 'Ever Given' in March 2021 forced us to realise how much of what we consume in the UK relies on international shipping, with raw materials and goods held on vessels queuing to use the canal. But little media focus was given to the impact on the individuals who crew these vessels, a significant number of whom live in poor conditions for extended periods of time on little pay.

Following Sea Sunday (10 July and the topic of last month's word search) **ALEXE ROBERTS** writes of the work of the mission from the starting point of the parable of the Good Samaritan.

People hear the words of the parable of the Good Samaritan and immediately understand the example of kindness. Two thousand years ago, this would have sent shock waves through the leading and ruling religious élite, putting Jesus into direct opposition to them.

Here was Jesus' reply to a challenge by an expert in religious law, almost goading him with "Who is my neighbour?". The parable answers the question but at the same time the story would have confounded the audience – what was that stranger doing on the Jericho road and what on earth was



he thinking of to travel on it? He was asking for trouble. We do not know his reasons, but we do know the reactions of those who passed by – and we hear that phrase again in Stainer's work, "The Crucifixion", albeit in another context – "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?". Those devout Jews listening would have been very disturbed, brought up as they were with the fundamental tenet of the protection of life. The priest and the Levite failed. The Good Samaritan did not.

The three of them had a choice and only one of them exercised it for good. He took a risk; he knew he was despised by both Jew and Roman and he could have been walking into a trap. He put his own objectives to one side.

### Samaritans on the Tees

90% of the UK's goods arrive by sea, with a goodly amount through the Tees, both sides of the river, and on our doorstep here.

We don't always know why seafarers go to sea – but we do know that we benefit from it. Conversely they need us to visit them; support them; deliver what they need – practically, pastorally and psychologically – fight injustice; and not leave them stranded.



At the Mission to Seafarers at South Tees, we have a voluntary team which runs the Centre. We do not pay anybody, we give our time freely so our finances go directly to help others. Every vessel has a crew and every crew member is entitled – by law – to come ashore. That's where we come in. We have transport and a Centre and we collect crew from ships, bring them to the Centre

(or the supermarket!) and allow them some free time - TV, pool, darts, a quiet space, and, most importantly, free wi fi and phone cards so they can communicate with their families.

### **When things go Wrong**

And when “bad things” happen, we need to be there too, night or day. Last week, a seafarer presented with a fractured eye socket as a result of a fall, and the port's harbour police took him to hospital. When he was discharged, he did not wish to return to his vessel, a small fishing boat crewed by Ghanaians, and at Hartlepool Docks. That raised alarm bells – Border Force, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the Police all being involved. Being a fishing boat, the agent was notoriously hard to contact. The clock ticked and by the time it had been decided that the gentleman should stay in the UK for two weeks, until fully fit, and then be repatriated, there was no agency on hand to answer calls and provide accommodation. That's where our voluntary team stepped in, telephoning local hotels, finding – and paying for – accommodation, dinner and breakfast, so the gentleman was warm, fed, and safe. Other team members brought clothes, toiletries, a SIM card for his phone, and some chocolates. Better than a park bench or a police cell overnight until other agencies answered the telephone again. Our industry is 24/7/365.

Covid meant that crew have not left their vessels or gone home for TWO YEARS. The Centre was closed, but we delivered goods to the gangway every day to every ship, working with *Stella Maris*, the Catholic seafarers' welfare association. Now we

are open again but we need to re open fully– seven nights each week, 1900 hrs-2230 hrs, with a driver and two people in the Centre to look after the crew. That’s 21 people a week. We are recruiting hard among the local marine community.

It is truly amazing to work with crew, learn about their lives, and do something to make them feel better when they leave the Tees for their next port of call, to be that “Good Samaritan”.



*Alexe Roberts*



[www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org) is the Mission to Seafarers website if you would like to know more or make a donation. To support the local branch, contact Alexe whose contact details are below;

[alexe@harbourmanagementsolutions.co.uk](mailto:alexe@harbourmanagementsolutions.co.uk)

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### **The ecumenical dimension of a crisis**

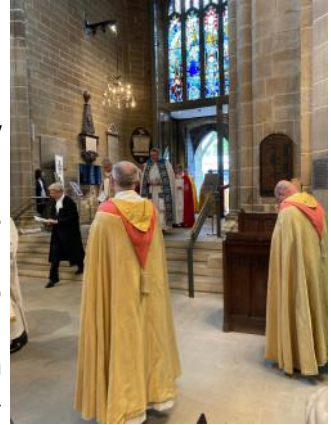
During a recent ecumenical gathering, a secretary rushed in shouting, “The building is on fire!”

- ◆ The Methodists gathered in the corner and prayed.
- ◆ The Baptists cried, “Where is the water?”
- ◆ The Anglicans formed a procession and marched out.
- ◆ The Quakers quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings.
- ◆ The Lutherans posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil.
- ◆ The Roman Catholics passed the plate to cover the damage.
- ◆ The Jews posted symbols on the door hoping the fire would pass over.
- ◆ The Congregationalists shouted, “Every man for himself!”
- ◆ The Fundamentalists proclaimed, “It’s the vengeance of God!”
- ◆ The Charismatics praised God for another falling of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ The Christian Scientists concluded that, actually, there was no fire.
- ◆ The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report.

The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out. (from ‘The Parish Pump’)

## Thank You from Gillian

Well, I can hardly believe it, but by the time you read this, it will be about a month since a group of us were in Wakefield and a group watching in St Mary's Church, for the ordination of deacons service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.



There had been a long build up to it, what with 2 years mixed mode training at Cranmer Hall in Durham based at St Mary's Church Barnard Castle and travelling to Durham (which as well as all the training resulted in a BA Hons in Theology Ministry and Mission!!), then a gap when college finished during which it was wonderful to back with friends at St Mary's Church, and even preach!

Then it was a bit of a busy and slower few days what with the final interview with Bishop Nick, a BBQ at Headingley at Bishop Nick's house, the ordination rehearsal at Wakefield, and then three quiet days at Mirfield. The ordination rehearsal was a serious moment, but the tension was released when a fellow ordinand discovered the hanger that she was missing was up her sleeve of her new cassock - it had been there the whole way through the rehearsal. She had wondered why she was so uncomfortable but had put it down to new robes and nervousness. The Church of England is safe!!

While all this was happening, Scott was left manning the fort and co-ordinating things from Richmond (and Middleham where the curacy house is) - what an amazing man he is.



All of a sudden it was the Saturday and the service, with a huge sense of being held in prayer and love by so many. It was a very moving service, with promises made, and prayers and blessings said, and very moving to see people who had travelled to Wakefield from Richmond, Barnard Castle, and even Scotland just to be there.



It was also lovely to know that the church family was watching on YouTube at Church and at home. (Thank you, Jeanette, for screening it at church - that was just fantastic)

A huge thank you to Andrew Slade, Jan Jack, Helen Lunn, John and Susan Welch for ringing the bells at Wakefield for the service. It was amazing to wander outside the cathedral before the service ( we weren't meant to but I escaped!) and know they were up there and had made it happen. Someone said that they had not had bells at their wedding so this was the next best thing.



**Gillian with proud Dad, John Bell**

The following day we were welcomed as a family to Leyburn and Bellerby with a joint service followed by an amazing feast! It was again wonderful to have church family friends there and have Dad playing the organ. In the afternoon, Stephen (vicar of Leyburn and Bellerby) and I took the opportunity for me to go and meet people by visiting Bellerby Open Gardens. It was a beautiful afternoon, and we even bumped into more Richmond friends.

As I write this, I have been a curate for a week and a half, and can honestly say I am loving it. Stephen is thoughtful and caring and has lots planned for the next few weeks as we explore Leyburn and Bellerby and all that is going on. I am getting used to being a lot more visible with a dog collar on and people coming up and saying 'oh, you must be the new curate. Gillian, isn't it!' I preached last Sunday (with the rookie error of not checking the height of the book board in the pulpit...they saw the top of my head!!!). So far, along with spaces just to breathe and be, I have been to Zoom Morning Prayers, Morning and Evening Prayers in Bellerby, Toddler group, the market, the Methodist Coffee morning, a deanery BBQ, an Archdeacon's visitation to Hawes, a quick trip to Church House in Leeds, a visit to Wensleydale School, a meeting with the Methodist Circuit minister at Tennants and a conversation with Mr Tennant, Soup 'n' Pud, supervision, study time, and so many cups of tea and so many names. People are very kind and warm, and I've been made to feel so welcome.



I do want to take this opportunity to say thank you - thank you to our friends at Richmond, Hudswell, Downholme and Marske, for all your support and love and encouragement and patience and prayers and kindness, not just this last couple of months or years, but for all the

time we've been at St Mary's. I may not be there in person, but as my sending church, you have such a special place in my heart and in my prayers.

I am mostly living in Middleham in the curacy house, with Scott and the family sometimes in Richmond and sometimes in Middleham, and we would love to see friends at our curacy home if you fancy a trip out. (Benji is loving it as it has a garden and four bedrooms from which he can choose a bed to lie on!)

There is lots to learn, and many changes for the family to get used to. There is also much to look forward to and it is exciting times. Our mantra is 'go with the flow', but more than that, we are trusting that God's in charge, and therefore, we can, as a family, together, go for it!

*Gillian x*



**The Lunn Family**  
(L-R) Helen, Andrew, Gillian, Scott, James



**A private moment—in public**



**Full Revs**  
(L-R) Martin Fletcher, Stephen Hanscombe, Gillian, Alec Harding (Barnard Castle)



**Gillian with Stephen Hanscombe**  
(Vicar of Leyburn with Bellerby)



**The Sending Parishioners**



**The wider Lunn family— Richmond Lunn with Scott's mum (seated); long-time family friend 'Aunty' Sheila Galbraith and Gillian's dad, John (standing)**

## NOTES FROM OUR PAST

This month, **JANE HATCHER** brings us back inside St Mary's Church to tell the story of a feature which we cannot miss when facing the front of the church. Chained to the radiator ( although moving its heavy weight is a health hazzard) is the brass eagle which forms the distinctive lectern.

### The Eagle's Rector

Many churches have a Victorian lectern, made of brass, in the form of an eagle, the symbol of St John the Evangelist, the bird's wings being outstretched into a shape which can support the Bible or other material for the reading of the 'Word'. Our lectern in St Mary's is a particularly fine Victorian example, and was installed as a memorial to a much-loved, and long-serving, Rector, Revd Richard Earnshaw Roberts (1810-1889).



The previous Rector, Revd Laurence Ottley, had died in London in 1861 at the age of only 53, perhaps worn out by the onerous task of overseeing the major restoration scheme carried out under the supervision of the well-known

Victorian architect, Sir George Gilbert Scott. The scale of works was so great that the church had had to be closed from June 1858 until April 1860, and it must have placed a heavy burden on Revd Ottley's shoulders. However, it meant that Revd Roberts must have taken over what was largely a new and up-to-date church.

Richard Earnshaw Roberts was a West Riding man, the eldest son of a gentleman called Joseph Roberts of Almondbury, a small ancient town in the hills above Huddersfield, and was born on 30 April 1810. After graduating from Oxford's St Edmund Hall, one of the university's most ancient colleges, he was ordained, and spent most of his ministry at St George's Church in Barnsley.

This was a church serving a growing industrialised area of Barnsley, and here Revd Roberts campaigned against women and children working underground in coal mines. The post was only that of a perpetual curate, it was not well paid, but doubtless he was able to draw on his comfortable background in order to subsidise his

work. St George's still exists, as a thriving evangelical church, now in a modern building, not the one that Revd Roberts would have known. After more than a quarter of a century at St George's, Revd Roberts, by now a man of over 50, moved north to Richmond, perhaps finding our historic town more reminiscent of his Almondbury roots. It would seem from contemporary evidence that he had a warm personality, perhaps nurtured by his origin and previous pastoral work in the West Riding .



The highly successful Richmond writer of Victorian times, Anne Bowman, was a stalwart member of St Mary's congregation. A devout Anglican, she always gives a brief critique in her diaries of the merits, or otherwise, of sermons she heard, either in Richmond or elsewhere on her travels. Of Revd Roberts she makes such comments as "To Church: Mr Roberts on the Communion"; "the Rector preached a good though too wordy a Sermon on the church of Smyrna and St Polycarp"; "a good Sermon from the Rector – 'Go preach the Gospel – everywhere'"; or "Sermon for the Pastoral Aid Society by the Rector – dreary", and "the Rector's Anniversary Sermon, good but too long"! And there are also diary entries about a heated dispute the Rector had with members of the choir!

Anne Bowman is, however, much more positive about Revd Roberts' gift for his comforting house calls, especially if she has been poorly, or there were problems with family members. He did, of course, have much more time than present-day parish clergy to carry out such pastoral duties, having the assistance of a succession of curates, of whom there were usually at least two at any one time. And he rarely had to take a service at Trinity Chapel, which had weekly services, usually taken by clergymen on the staff of Richmond Grammar School, it also being the School Chapel at that time.

Revd Roberts arrived in Richmond with his wife Phoebe (1810-1867). She sadly died at the age of 56 on 14 March 1867, and was buried in St Mary's Churchyard, where Revd Roberts erected a tombstone to her. A little over a year later, on 30 July 1868, in St Mary's, he remarried. He was by now in his later 60s, and his second wife, Mary Pattison, was in her late 50s.

Mary would have known Richmond from her youth, for her grandfather, Francis Winn

(1742-1809), a wealthy banker, lived at Prior House on Quaker Lane. There is a wall monument to Francis Winn and his wife Jane near the tower of St Mary's. But their granddaughter Mary's early life must have been very unhappy, and it is comforting to think that in Revd Roberts she found happiness, not only by living in Richmond, but also being the wife of, as far as one can tell, a good man.

So why had Mary's early life been so fraught? It was not due to poverty, which afflicted so many people at that time, far from it. Francis and Jane Winn had had only one child, a daughter, also called Jane, who was thus a wealthy heiress. But at the tender age of 19 she married a man who turned out to be an extremely difficult husband and father, despite being a Church of England clergyman. Revd Mark James Pattison (1788-1865), who became the Rector of Hauxwell, sadly suffered from mental instability, and acted as a tyrant to his wife Jane and the 12 children she bore in rapid succession. Mary, born in 1819, was their third daughter. Her much younger sister, Dorothy Pattison, would later become famous as 'Sister Dora', who pioneered modern hospital nursing in Walsall in Staffordshire.

The family of 12 children included 10 daughters. They suffered particularly harshly from their father's controlling nature, and were not allowed to marry, or branch out into any form of independent life, while he lived. He finally died in 1865, and Mary could now finally contemplate marriage. Hence her wedding to Revd Roberts taking place in 1868. The wedding ceremony was performed by Mary's older brother, Revd Mark Pattison, the scholarly Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford.



Revd Roberts, who like many Rectors of Richmond before and since his time, had also become a Canon of Ripon Cathedral. He died on 10 December 1889, at the age of 79. He was not commemorated on the tombstone he had erected in Richmond churchyard in memory of Phoebe. Instead his widow Mary paid for a new tombstone, and had it inscribed: *Richard Earnshaw Roberts, XXVIII YEARS Rector of Richmond, born April 30<sup>th</sup> 1810, died December 10<sup>th</sup> 1889. "After he had served his own generation by the Will of God he fell on sleep."* Perhaps the rather strange tribute alludes to his having rescued Mary from her past sorrow.

Mary lived on in Richmond until her death just into the new century, 1900, and added a second tombstone to this later grave. It is inscribed: *In memory of Mary Roberts, widow of the late Revd. Richard Earnshaw Roberts, Rector of Richmond, and daughter of the late Revd. Mark James Pattison, Rector of Hauxwell, born June 13<sup>th</sup> 1819, died January 1<sup>st</sup> 1900.* So, even in death, she acknowledged her eccentric father. *Jane Hatcher*

## PATHWAYS IN PRAYER

We've been exploring prayer as a relationship more than a technique, and drawing a comparison with how we relate to our closest family and friends. So far that's involved 'just getting on with it,' 'chatting,' and 'talking.' This month **JOHN PRITCHARD** turns the focus onto 'Intimacy.'

### Intimacy

A good relationship with a life partner goes beyond mere words. It encompasses intimacy in the form of silence, smiles, touch, love-making, the gentle experience of simply being together. Often this is the deepest level of relationship where words are unnecessary and may even get in the way.



So it is in our relationship with God. Ultimately they're not necessary and can feel inadequate to the task of expressing our enjoyment, love, and desire for God.

There are two ways to go. **Meditation** is quiet thinking in the direction of God. **Contemplation** is quiet looking in the direction of God. We'll look in more detail at these practices in later months but for time being it may help to have a 'map' of different ways of doing these things.

**Meditation** (quiet thinking in the direction of God).

**Lectio divina** (holy reading) is a simple way of letting a small section of scripture feed us at a deeper level as we chew it, suck the goodness out of it, 'dwell' with it, rather than simply reading it. The steps are: Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest. More later.

**Examen** ('examination of conscience'). This is a well-tried Jesuit practice that allows us to reflect on where and how God has been present in the good moments and the less positive moments of the last day. It's a very simple way of recognising the God who is always present in our lives. More later.

**Ignatian meditation.** This is a way of entering gospel stories by imagining ourselves to be present at the event. We go through the story slowly using our senses – looking, listening, touching, smelling, tasting – and then talking with Jesus about what happened ie praying. More later.

**Contemplation** (quiet looking in the direction of God).

**Encountering nature.** Our first two Pathways gave examples of this.

**Centring prayer.** This is settling down in stillness and giving ourselves space simply to be with God. It's 'abiding' in God, not looking for any spiritual feelings, but letting God be God instead of trying to control him. All we need is a 'centring' word to anchor us and bring us back to base. It's as easy as it's difficult! More later.

*John Pritchard*

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## Baptism



3 July


Alfie George Gill

'Lord, surround Alfie with goodness, lead him in Your light each day.  
Help him on the path You've chosen, guide him on Your way;  
Teach him Lord to trust Your wisdom, grant faith from up above,  
Keep him from all harm and bless him always with Your grace a love.'

(adapted from a verse by B J Hoff)


### How prayer reaches God

An anxious mother confided in her minister: "My 10-year-old daughter says her prayers every night, but I am not sure they are reaching heaven."

Touched by her worry, the minister spent some time explaining to her about God's  omnipresence. But still, the mother looked worried. So finally he asked the mother why she thought her daughter's prayers would NOT be heard by God.

She explained: "Because when my daughter finishes, instead of saying 'amen', she says 'click, send'."

### Wrong water

A dad was watching his four-year-old son playing in a small plastic pool half-filled with water. The boy walked back and forth with an expression of great concentration on his face, while making big splashes. Suddenly, with a look of disgust, the  little boy stepped out of the pool and began to scoop the water out with a bucket. "What's wrong, ?" called the father.

"On Sunday the minister said Jesus walked on water, but this water doesn't work," he replied.



### Baptism

In a church, at the font, a small boy was being christened.

His older sister whispered: "Behind his ears, too, Reverend Smyth."



### Gillian's Ordination as Deacon

Saturday 2nd July saw a small convoy of vehicles from Richmond descended upon Wakefield to attend the service at Wakefield Cathedral at which Gillian Lunn and a eight other candidates were ordained Deacon.

Whilst the spire of the Cathedral was easily identifiable from a distance, its location in a pedestrian precinct baffled many a sat-nav system but early departures enabled the Richmond 'sending parish' contingent to be seated in plenty of time for the service. They—and the rest of the congregation— were greeted by the sound of bells chiming out across the city. The enterprising Helen, on hearing that nothing was planned for the service and knowing that the Cathedral has an impressive 10 bell offering, gathered a small contingent from our tower to go and ring. Mum deserved nothing less!

This initiative then brought in another five local ringers so an impressive peal was offered to a full church as well as local shoppers— as well as our own curate, Paul, who arrived on his flame orange motorbike having experienced a dousing of rain on the motorway.

Another last-minute arrangement, promoted by St Mary's congregation used to streaming after lockdown, was the ability of those who could not benefit from the limited ticket supply to watch from home. The location of the camera also brought into shot a section of your editor's advancing forehead from time to time as the congregation was invited to stand!

It was indeed a happy occasion, with the great and good of the diocese in full regalia, a warm address, appropriate solemnity and meaningful hymn singing. The 'choreography' unfortunately located Gillian next to a tall, bearded candidate who unwittingly hid her from congregational view at the laying on of hands by the Bishop and, later, when the newly ordained deacons were invited to stand and face the warm applause from the congregation. Our Gillian was initially obscured from the public gaze and, in particular, the view of her Dad John, Aunty Sheila , Scott and her family. Not to be denied, we suddenly were treated to a cheerful and happy face peeping from behind her human shield to greet her own supporters in church and on-line.

Another procession, lots of photos , and a takeover of the cathedral café afterwards completed a joyful morning, marking the end of one journey for Gillian and the start of the next leg of her own calling into the ministry. Truly a 'Grand Day Out.'

### Christian Aid Week 2022



Our Richmond (North Yorkshire) group of three churches collected a total of **£1823. 37**. This includes the online 'Just Giving' page and all the Gift Aid to be reclaimed. In **2021** the total was **£1604.62** so we have increased this by 13.63% – well above inflation as Martin Clarke, our treasurer, points out! Envelopes delivered by St Mary's volunteers this year resulted in the sum of £866.42 so a heartfelt thank you to all who helped'

**While it is still fresh in everyone's mind, I would like to give you some food for thought.**

Next year, we may look at two methods of collecting:

1. The house to house collecting we have done in the past
2. The "Delivery Only" envelopes which we used this year.

There are advantages and disadvantages with both methods:

House to house collecting results in a higher percentage of envelopes returned, therefore more money overall – Usually £3,000 - £4,000. BUT not everyone is keen on knocking on doors.

Delivery Only results in a higher percentage of Gift Aided donations – perhaps because people have time to think about their donation? BUT a much lower percentage of envelopes was returned.

More envelopes were returned if the "drop-off" address was actually in their own street – perhaps because they know the people they are posting the envelopes back to or perhaps it's just more convenient? We therefore need more people willing to let their homes be the "Drop-off" addresses, even if they would rather not deliver envelopes.



**What is your opinion? Your feedback would be most welcome so that we can plan an even more successful collection next year. Contact me on [judithbarber8@gmail.com](mailto:judithbarber8@gmail.com)**

## New Discussion Group On Offer

In last month's magazine the hope was expressed that St Mary's would expand its range of study or discussion groups. We would be very happy to host such a home group – thinking in terms of **meeting fortnightly** on a **Tuesday afternoons (2.00pm – 3.30pm)**.

If you might be interested in joining in, please have a word with either of us – in church, in the street, by phone (07982 658991), or via email ([poshbothy2@gmail.com](mailto:poshbothy2@gmail.com)).

*Anne & Martin Clarke*

## Coffee Morning



The Friends of St Mary's are holding another 'At Home' Coffee Morning on **Saturday 6th August**. Carole and John McCormack have kindly offered to host this at their house on Saturday 6th August **between 9.30 and 12.30**. The address is **10 Castlefields** - just off the Washton Road, nearly opposite the Racecourse Car Park. 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 and enjoy the views which Castlefields provides. Our thanks go to Carole and John for opening their doors on that day.



*Weeks after the Pet's Service, nobody had claimed the monkey*

## 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



Find us on  
**Facebook**

## News from the Pews (continued)



### The Famous Annual Mothers' Union Afternoon Tea - A Big Thank You

To all who attended and to all who worked so hard thank you so much, it was a wonderful afternoon and thank you for the cards and telephone thanks we have received, we raised a massive £625.

Bless you all. Thank you

*Susan Scrafton*

*And a big thank you from the Church too, to Susan, Margaret Clayson, Christine Stedman and the rest of the MU team who not only raised funds for the organisation but also gave us a great opportunity to meet, to greet and to eat on a fine day in a lovely garden. Whilst I was unable to attend due to a previous commitment, Jan and I were able to avail ourselves of the 'Boxed Afternoon Tea' service— taken away and enjoyed in the evening sunshine. I know that those who were there enjoyed it hugely and are probably already waiting for next year's treat!!*

**JEJ**

### 200 CLUB—JULY DRAW

**The July winner was No 111—Eileen Rawson. Congratulations, Eileen!**

Whilst we are all pleased for Eileen, this was also a lost opportunity for someone as the first number drawn out was unallocated and available for subscription. Why not contact Jonathan Roberts to get your potential passport to untold wealth—well, the £50 monthly prize!!



**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: 4th August

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



# FRIENDS OF ST MARYS

## ANNUAL PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE

After a highly successful return last year with a great response from members of the congregation and many community visitors, the Plant and Produce Sale makes its return on **Saturday 27th August starting at 10.00 a.m.** As well as being a major fund-raising event for the church, it's a great day for all. We look forward to your support once more, please, - and your help!

### **Calling all gardeners and bakers, jam and jelly makers**

People love to buy your produce! If you need empty jars or plant pots, there are plenty at the back of Churchat St Mary's. Please take what you need and return them when full or planted up!

Produce from greenhouses, allotments and freshly baked cakes and biscuits will be gratefully received on Friday 26th August from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 pm-ish.

### **What about non-perishables?**

**Yes please!** If you can provide books, jigsaws (preferably complete!) and/or DVDs for re-sale, please leave them in Church from now onwards.

### **What else is happening?**

**The Belles Café** will be operating throughout the day

### **Prizes, please!**

We are also trusting in your continued generosity in providing prizes for the raffle and for the tombola stall. These can be left in Church or handed to any member of the Friends of St Mary's Committee.

**Any queries?** Please contact **Susan Scrafton (01748) 824106** (on holiday 29 July—16 August) or a member of the committee; Peter Trewby, John Challis, Wendy Pritchard, Jeanette Sunderland, Andy Lovell, David Frankton, Jim Jack.

Please support this event in any way you can; also the 'At Home' coffee morning on Saturday 6 August at 10 Castlefields (details on p. 35.) Thank you.



## POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

### Weathering Brain Storms by George Alderson

It's strange what passes through the mind,  
The thoughts that trouble, or are kind,  
Some, best forgotten, left behind,  
While others, hopelessly entwined,  
                    Confused as to the path to take,  
                    To make the body still or shake,  
                    To help the spirit sleep or wake,  
                    To reconstruct or else to break.

This traffic carries on and on.

It shines a light where there were none,  
Or else brings shadows, whereupon  
It moves, but yet is never gone.

                    If only we could regulate  
                    The thoughts we love and those we hate  
                    Then, like a level crossing gate,  
                    We might control this passing freight.

Yet nothing seems to change the speed  
Of what we think and what we need  
To separate the bloom from weed!  
Will we be able to succeed?

                    It seems, if left to outside force,  
                    There is an instant change to course,  
                    And woe betide us when a source  
                    Of infamy, a Trojan Horse,

Innocuous, so it may seem,  
Becomes a toxic, Hellish dream,  
For every torrent starts as stream,  
Until it drowns the loudest scream!

                    Can we identify the road  
                    Where minds of all can cede their load  
                    In language which is not in code  
                    And does not slight, confuse or goad?

There is no animosity  
Between my "enemy" and me!  
The minds of evil do not see  
That all all wish is to be free.

                    Let us not lose that simple thought  
                    Before our minds are cluttered, fraught,  
                    And patience withers, soon too short  
                    To stop the move which leads to nought.

## BEHIND THE HYMNS

With Judith MacLeod taking a summer break, your editor uses the opportunity to offer the background to a particular favourite hymn which found its roots in the foundation of the Methodist church and was one of the first in a lifetime of writing over 6,000 hymns by Charles Wesley. It's now in the Songs of Praise top ten at number six!

### And Can it Be..?

Having been born in Lanarkshire, Scotland and baptised into the Congregational Church there, our family moved to Newcastle upon Tyne when I was about one year old. At the age of 7, my sister and I were introduced to Christian worship briefly in an Anglican Sunday School before a move to the north of the city and going to a gospel Sunday School on an adjacent estate with the singing of simple choruses (anyone remember 'Hear the Pennies Dropping, Listen while they fall, Every one for Jesus, He shall have them all.' as the collection was taken?).

A brand new Methodist church was being built on our new council estate and we transferred there. This was a good compromise as my father had grown up as a Congregationalist in the 30s and 40s in an area of Scotland where they still worked on Christmas Day and felt uncomfortable with the Anglican form of worship. By contrast, my mother has been confirmed in an Anglican Church in Durham.

Another move four years later and we were attending Sunday School and then church at Heaton Methodist Church, also in Newcastle. The memory which binds all of these experiences into one was the importance of music, of singing with some passion, as a central part of worship. My dad, in particular, exemplified this.

The deep claret-covered, somewhat battered, Methodist hymn book used at Heaton began its introduction with the words 'Methodism was born in song.' The inspirational Charles Wesley hymn 'And can it be,' epitomized this in a number of ways. As a 10 and 11 year old soprano who enjoyed singing and had been introduced to choral singing at secondary school, the first impact was simply the congregational singing of this hymn in church. People singing in a way which said they knew what they were singing and why—and, using the tune *Sagina* which is always associated with the hymn today, a congregation which spontaneously broke into part singing as the last



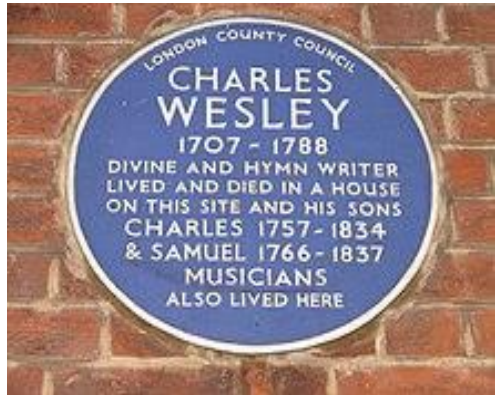
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

two lines at the end of each verse were repeated. 'My chains (sopranos)....(My chains fell off ( tenors and basses) etc.). It felt good. And , I suppose, when the voice broke, being able to join the tenors and basses was a sign of 'growing up!

However, what also hit home was how the words seeped into the memory without any particular effort to learn them, so that the hymn book wasn't needed. Not being bound by the book led to a confidence to 'sing out' but also a desire to understand what we were singing—initially so that it could be sung 'properly' and 'with meaning' ( school choral training) but almost immediately 'Well, what DO these words mean? What are they saying? What am I saying when I sing them?' It was then that the power of the words really hit home and from that, an understanding of the feeling and passion with which the hymn—words and tune combined— could be sung.

### Why was it written?

The next stage of understanding was to look into the writer, Charles Wesley, and his motivation. It was here that the phrase 'Methodism was born in song' became clear. Its most prolific hymn writer was moved to write his first two hymns(of which this is one) on his conversion experience. This proved to be the birth of the music which became a central part of the Methodist movement.



The hymn itself was written after Charles Wesley's conversion which he identifies as happening on 21 May 1738. On that day, Pentecost Sunday, Charles lay in bed, seriously ill. Friends were reading to him and amongst the readings were Martin Luther's comments on Galatians ch 2 ('no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.') It is said that at that point, Wesley felt a deep awakening of Christ within him.

Both of the Wesley brothers, John and Charles, knew their bible well. They were two of the 18 children born to Revd. Samuel Wesley and wife Susanna at Epworth Rectory. However, neither of the boys had felt a calling in their hearts until Charles' experience. It was closely followed by John at a meeting in



Epworth Old Rectory today



Aldersgate Street three days later. ‘My heart was strangely warmed’ said John after that meeting. It is believed that either ‘And can it be’ or ‘Where should my Wond’ring Soul begin?’ - the other early hymn by Charles—was sung at this Aldersgate meeting, though not to the tune with which it is now inextricably linked.

The hymn is autobiographical. In the first verse, Charles talks of the mystery that the same mankind who caused Jesus’ death should now benefit from it. Verse 2 makes a call for adoration of the inexplicable nature of this sacrifice, given in love and in mercy. The hymn moves on to recount the ‘grace and mercy of Christ’s love and humility in the incarnation, death and finding in lost sinners’ in verse 3 before the magnificent and moving imagery in verses 4 & 5.

Phrases like ‘ I woke, the dungeon flamed with light. My chains fell of, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee. No condemnation now I dread....Alive in me, the living head and clothed in righteousness divine. Bold I approach the eternal throne ‘ I find most powerful in their imagery. Especially, when they are matched, as now, with the tune *Sagina*, they provide a strong, heartfelt and confident proclamation of a faith acquired and lived.

### Music to Match

The hymn was set to a variety of tunes over the first hundred years of its existence (‘Surrey’, ‘Crucifixion’ and in 1786, ‘Birmingham’) . ‘Sagina’ (named after a small flowering plant, sometimes called pearlwort) was originally written by Yorkshireman Thomas Campbell in 1825 for a John Wesley translation of a German hymn. It was only in 1933 that it was paired with Charles’ hymn in the Methodist hymn book—in my mind, an inspired choice which adds power to Wesley’s conversion-inspired words. I understand that the Australian Hymn Book warns that the hymn ‘ should be sung in accordance with the progress of the meaning of the words and not with unrelenting heartiness’!



**Sagina—the plant**

Although Charles Wesley is commonly identified as a Methodist hymn writer, he never left the fold of the Church of England, however much he disagreed with some of its pomp, ceremony and customs. On his death in 1788, he was buried in Marylebone churchyard. This choice grieved brother John who wanted him to be buried in the burial ground of the City Road Methodist Chapel, where he had earmarked a grave for himself. Charles said, ‘I have lived, and I die , in the Communion of the Church of England and I will be buried in the yard of my parish church.’ He left a legacy of a vast number of hymns, a remarkable number of which still support worship today. I find this particular hymn outstanding in that regard - a work of sacred poetry , complemented by fine and appropriate music. Top Ten? Yes!

## SIXTY SECOND INTERVIEW



This month, JOHN PRITCHARD invites ANDY LOVELL, our church publicity officer and talented musician, to share instant replies to John's brief prompts.

Andy has produced a series of beautiful cards which are on sale at the back of church, the proceeds from which he generously donates to church funds.

**First memory?** Sitting in the Pram outside our house. My mother used to put me out there in all weathers.

**Favourite meal?** Chicken Madras Sag (with spinach) and nan bread.

**Favourite music or musician?** Classical orchestral and Big Band Jazz

**Pet dislike?** Not fond of crocodiles or snakes.

**Best holiday?** Going to Scarborough as a child on the train with my parents for our annual weeks holiday. It was always sunny !

**Childhood hero?** Gervais De Peyer who was the clarinet player whom my clarinet teacher Cedric Ewart said I had to listen to when I was starting to learn the clarinet.

**Two favourite hobbies?** Flying my drones and walking.

**Luxury on Desert Island?** Laptop with wifi connection.

**Recent TV you've enjoyed?** Don't watch much TV but re-run of Hi-De-Hi.

**Worst fault?** Not knowing when to say "No".

**2 best films ever?** "Round Midnight" with Dexter Gordon on sax.

**Favourite drink?** Beer.

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

**Best recent book?** Haven't read a book for years.

**Favourite charity?** Sightsavers.

**Place you feel happiest?** Skeeby.

**Three dinner companions?** Any three of my musician colleagues.

**What do you pray for most?** Patience for me and good health for my friends.

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

**Epitaph?** Can't think of a suitable epitaph but if it was changed to a toast, I would say "Let this be the worst of our times."

## The Mothers' Union

Active in our church—but how was the organisation founded? Read on.

The Mothers' Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

## All in the month of August

**200 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1822**, William Herschel, German-born British astronomer died. He discovered the planet Uranus and infrared radiation, conducted the first deep sky surveys, and was the first president of the Royal Astronomical Society.

**125 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1897**, Enid Blyton was born. She is among the world's bestselling writers, selling more than 600 million copies of her books. She sometimes wrote 50 books a year.

**100 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1922**, Alexander Graham Bell died. This Scottish-born American audiologist and inventor is credited with developing the first practical telephone.

**Also 100 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1922**, Philip Larkin, one of Britain's most famous post-war poets, was born. One of his most famous poems is 'MCMXIV'. Larkin was often called 'England's other Poet Laureate'. (Died 1985)

**90 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1932**, Roy Castle, TV presenter, singer, dancer, comedian, actor and musician was born. Best known for presenting the children's TV series *Record Breakers*, he broke nine world records himself while presenting it. (Died 1994.)

**80 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1942**, the world premiere of Walt Disney's animated film *Bambi* was held in London.

**Also 80 years ago, from 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1942 to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1943**, the Battle of Stalingrad took place. Soviet victory was the turning point of the war in Europe. Regarded as the largest and bloodiest battle in the history of warfare.

**75 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947**, first Pakistan and then India gained their independence from the UK.

**Also 75 years ago, from 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 11<sup>th</sup> September 1947**, the first Edinburgh Festival was held in Scotland.

**50 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1972**, the *Washington Post* newspaper published the first article that exposed US President Richard Nixon's involvement in the Watergate scandal.

**30 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1992**, the German racing driver Michael Schumacher won the Belgian Grand Prix – the first of his record 91 Formula One wins.

**25 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1997**, Diana, Princess of Wales, her companion Dodi Fayed and their driver, died in a car crash in the Place de l'Alma underpass in Paris.

**10 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2012**, Neil Armstrong, American astronaut (Apollo 11) died. He was the first person to walk on the Moon.

## INFORMATION POINT- ALL ARE WELCOME.

More groups are resuming in-person meetings as time moves on. The latest to re-start is the invaluable support given by Carrie Stephenson and her group to those who are suffering the pain and sadness following bereavement.

### 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.*



## Sudoku - Easy

## Sudoku - Medium

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

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

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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 EVENTS**

### 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

### John the Baptist

This month, on the 29<sup>th</sup>, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.

John

Baptist

Rough

Obscurity

Desert

Bugs

Camel

Heat

Sun

Challenge

Muddy

Jordan

Arrested

Dungeon

Head

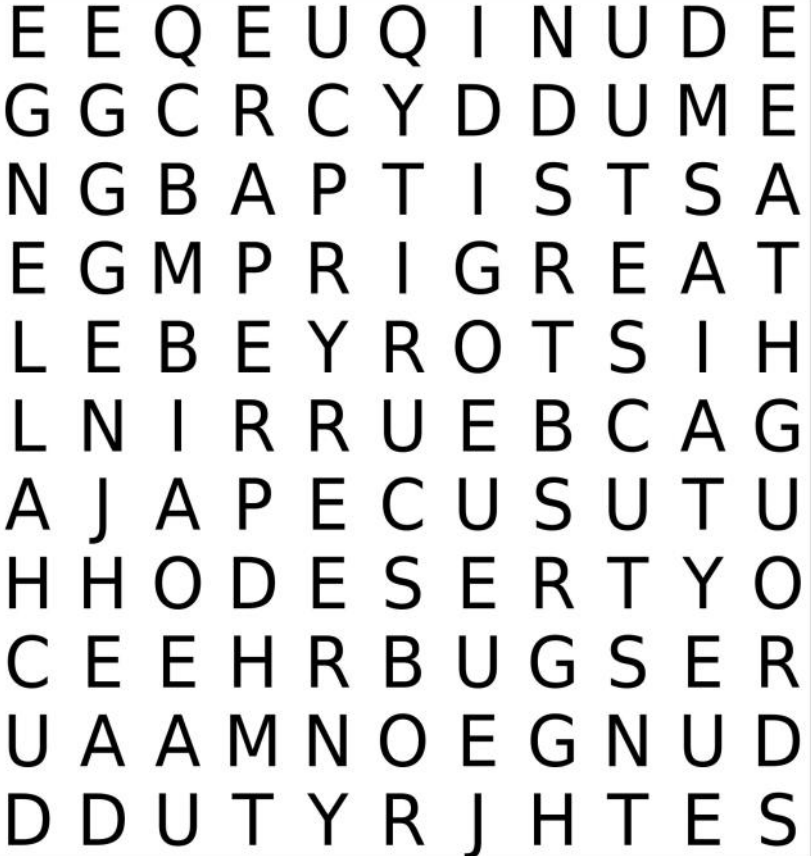
Cut

History

Great

Unique

prepare



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## Puzzle Solutions

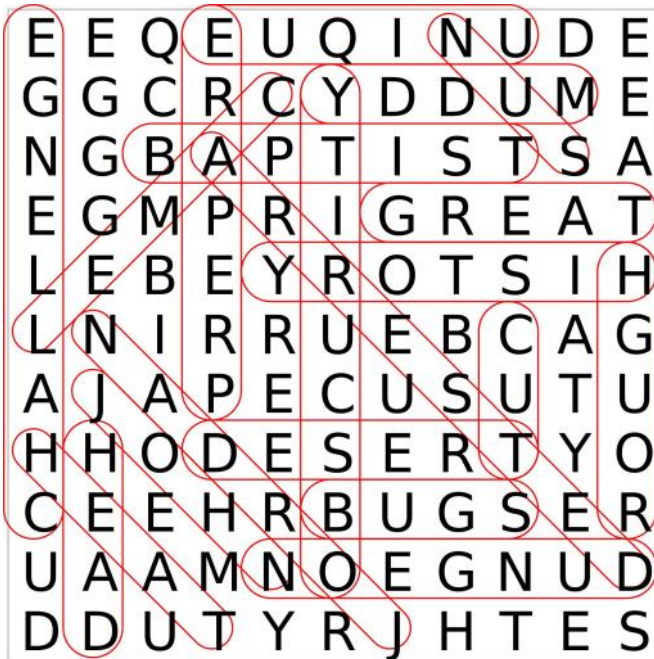
### Sudoku — Easy

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

### Sudoku—Medium

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

### Wordsearch



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

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**For letters & articles, contact [stmarys.maged@gmail.com](mailto:stmarys.maged@gmail.com)**

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