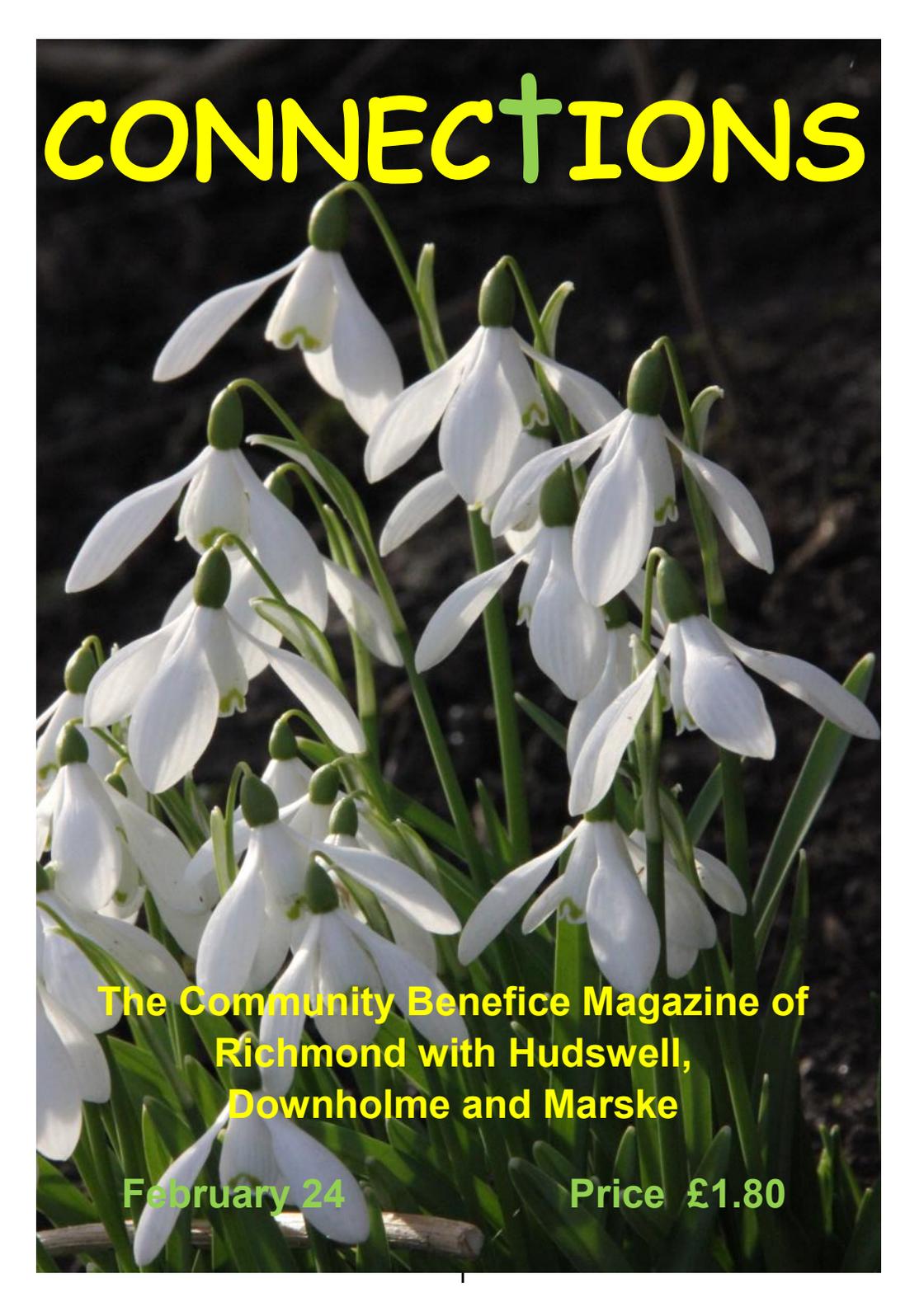


CONNECTIONS



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

February 24

Price £1.80

THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME AND MARSKE

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

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CHURCH SERVICES - St MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND with Hudswell

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Sunday
10.00 a.m.	Parish Communion Worship for All	Every Sunday apart from 1st Sunday (no communion) Every 1st 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

CHURCH SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Every Thursday

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME

CHURCH OFFICERS

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

CHURCH SERVICES AT DOWNHOLME

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

THE PARISH OF ST EDMUNDS, MARSKE

CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Warden	Ruth Tindale	(01748) 823371	Skelton Lodge, Marske
Organist	Jennifer Wallis	(01748) 822930	1 School Terrace, Marske
Treasurer	Peter Coates	(07801) 521954	Orgate Farmhouse, Marske peter.coates54@hotmail.co.uk
PCC Secretary	Jennifer Williamson	(01748) 824365	rev.jenny1@btinternet.com

CHURCH SERVICES AT MARSKE

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

In this, my first editorial, I must give a huge vote of thanks to my predecessor, Jim Jack. Over the past three years he has created a publication that is attractive, interesting and informative and is appreciated by all its readers. It is sometimes said that 'emulation is the sincerest form of flattery', so I make no apology for copying the style Jim has created and trust you will notice little difference. I'm delighted, and relieved, that Jim is going to remain on the editorial team, for, with his wide local knowledge of people and places, he is ideally placed to be our 'roving reporter'.

In this issue, we bid farewell to Paul and Jeanette and thank them most sincerely for their immense contribution to Benefice life. We knew it had to come, but nevertheless they will be sorely missed: our loss is certainly Kirbymoorside's gain and we wish them every success and happiness there. Whilst we will hear more from her in due course, Lorna, Paul's successor (who will be joining us in the Summer) briefly introduces herself.

As we approach Lent, Canon Martin provides links to an extensive range of resources and a report and reflection on the Benefice Retreat Day last November. There are contributions, too, from John Pritchard, Christine Porter, Carole McCormack, Angela Dickinson, Jane Hatcher and Liz Kluz, but we would welcome items from you, our readers, for future editions. Have you been somewhere interesting, whether locally or further afield? Perhaps you have, or had, an unusual job or a hobby that you would care to tell us about, or might like to suggest something for us to cover. Whatever it may be, we'd love to hear from you.

It's now almost 2 months since the last issue appeared and we're grateful for the support of all those of you who have signed up to receive Connections in 2024. If it has slipped your mind, and you wish to continue to receive your copy, please sign without delay so that we don't have the expense of printing too many copies. A yearly subscription at £15 is a 20% saving on the cover price of individual copies.

You may also notice that we have fewer advertisers than before. We hope that this is just because they have forgotten to confirm that they wish to continue, but we are always on the look-out for new advertisers so, if you know of a local business which would be willing to support us, please let us know. Our rates are modest compared to other local publications and we have a wide readership.

John McCormack



Martin's Message

February 2024



Thank you, Paul and Jeanette

Back in July 2020, my Message included these thoughts:

'How fortunate we are that Paul and Jeanette are joining us. They bring a wealth of experience both of church life and of life 'in the real world' that can only be a blessing to us.

'Paul will be our full-time, stipendiary Curate for the next three to four years, and they will both be immersing themselves in the life of our Benefice. At the end of their time with us Paul will move on to become responsible for a parish (or more likely several parishes!); the wider Church needs leaders like him.'

How fortunate indeed we have been in these last 3½ years. As they immersed themselves in the life of our churches and wider communities, Paul and Jeanette have truly blessed us with their presence. Paul is now eager to begin the next chapter of his ministry as Vicar of the Benefice of Kirkbymoorside with Gillamoor, Farndale, Bransdale and Edstone in the Diocese of York.

Their final Sunday with us will be 11th February and Paul will be inducted into his new role on Sunday 25th February, at All Saints' Kirkbymoorside. I suspect many of us will be there!

Thank you, Paul and Jeanette, for being *yourselves* and for giving us the opportunity to share so much with you. As you leave with our blessing, be assured of our ongoing love and support.



Report and reflections from our Benefice Retreat Day on Saturday 25th November

The day was led by the Revd Dr Rod Allon-Smith and his wife Jan. They represent ReSource, a national Anglican organisation whose vision is: 'To see churches alive in the Spirit and active in mission.'

Rod and Jan gave us time and space to connect with God's abiding presence: his unconditional love; his gentle and generous encouragement; his wise counsel; his call to each of us to life in its fulness. As the 'living stones' who *are* St Mary's church we saw afresh that Mary herself was called to do something extraordinary, to bring the Son of God into the world, and to play her part in 'magnifying' God's reign on earth. We noted in the words of her song, the Magnificat, the radical nature of that reign – and the reality that God depends on all of us to play our part in bringing it to fulfilment. After Mary's example, we each took time to recognise the 'great things he has done for us'.

We tuned in, too, to God's presence in the ordinary stuff of life, seeing how easy it is in our busy lives to overlook that presence. We took more time to 'Stop, Look and Listen': to reflect on what God might be asking us individually and as a church community to stop doing (or being), or to notice or hear.

We each placed a bulb in a planter, now located in the church porch, and were invited as we did so to think about something we would like to see grow in our own or our joint lives. And our youngest members built a cairn, which is also in the porch, they made for us a pointer to the way they would like us to go. The cairn points the way into the church and out into the community; it speaks of their desire – and ours – to see more young people joining our church family.

Finally, we connected with God's abiding presence through anointing. As the sign of the cross was made on our foreheads, accompanied by a personal prayer, we each received the assurance that we are 'the place wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling'. Come down, O love divine!

As I write, the PCC is due to review the Retreat Day in the January meeting and propose ways in which we may become more 'alive in the Spirit and active in mission.' We should be mindful of the maxim that we all too easily overestimate what can be achieved in one year, but underestimate what can

be achieved in five. We must, therefore, seek the right balance between seeking immediate results and undertaking the careful planting and nurturing required for long-term growth. More on this next month, but in the meantime please see elsewhere in this issue the personal reflection on the day entitled 'Stop, Look and Listen', written by Carole McCormack.

Resources for Lent

With Easter being early this year, Lent will begin soon: Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February. In our personal observation of this special season our overall purpose is to draw closer to God. We therefore try to make more time for prayer, reflection and study, and to support neighbours in need.

Our regular Home Groups and Book Group will continue to meet in Lent. These are led by Martin Clarke on Tuesday afternoons; Bishop John on Wednesday evenings; and Isobel Short on Thursday afternoons. Alongside these, the following resources are available:

St Mary's Lent Group: 'Alive in Christ'

Led by Martin on Tuesday evenings, 7.00pm at the Rectory, from 20th February. This 5-week course, designed by *ReSource* (who led our November Retreat Day), explores the nature of God's love. It enables us to love and forgive others and helps us become more confident about serving God as a member of the Body of Christ. For full details see: www.resourcingrenewal.org/alive-in-christ

Richmond Methodist Church Lent Groups

Details to follow.

Diocesan Resources

Lent Quiet Days

See: www.learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/lent-retreats-in-episcopal-areas

Lent Course

What does it mean to be a disciple in the world today?

A repeat of the popular 2023 Lent Course, which engages with the *Rhythm of Life* areas for deepening our commitment to Christ: resting, creating, sharing, encouraging, celebrating.

You can follow this course individually online via this link:

www.learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/rol-lent-2023

Church of England resources

See: www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/lent-resources for a range of Lent books and reflections, including:

a) Booklets on Wisdom and Hope for Lent and Life — **Watch and Pray** — for adults or children.

www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9781781404454/watch-and-pray

b) The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book — **Tarry Awhile**

www.spckpublishing.co.uk/tarry-awhile-drawing-on-the-riches-of-black-spirituality-for-the-whole-church

c) Prayers and reflections of the biblical stations of the cross - **Walking the way of the cross** —

www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715123447/walking-the-way-of-the-cross

Bible Study Guides and Reflections

a) **Bible Reading Fellowship:**

Offer a range of Bible reading notes and other resources:

www.brf.org.uk/what-we-do/living-faith

b) **Reflections for Daily Prayer:**

Daily Bible reflections based on the Lectionary readings

www.chpublishing.co.uk/products/268189/reflections-for-daily-prayer-app

c) **Lectio365:**

A free daily devotional app that helps us pray the Bible every day

www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365

d) **Christian Art:**

A free app to help us grow closer to God through the beauty of art

www.christian.art

If you would like to find out more, do please contact me (07762 440094).

With every blessing,

Martin





A final letter from Paul - Curate, not Saint



Two quotes that I have never, until now, truly understood. The first is “Every day is a school day” and the other, “Parting is such sweet sorrow”. I immediately understood the first quote on arriving in Richmond at the start of my curacy. Every day I learnt a new thing, and often many new things at once, be that from the children I met (ages ranging from 0-96 years) or from my mistakes. In my time with you, nearly four years, I have truly learned a great deal and grown through that schooling. Thank you to all who have helped in that journey.

The second of the two quotes comes from a truly harrowing point in the play, *Romeo and Juliet*. Try not to picture the beautiful Juliet as you hear these words and instead picture me, a slightly chubby, ginger, bearded Vicar. The idea of sweet sorrow was alien to many, me included, until I started the challenging journey of looking for a new job. Job hunting normally comes from a ‘want’ to move on or to better oneself. However, this job hunt was more of a ‘need’, as the end of my 4-year Curacy loomed large on the horizon.

I have been blessed by the process being relatively painless, having managed to secure an amazing opportunity to shepherd the families of five churches in the beautiful North York Moors. The churches in Kirkbymoorside, Gillamoor, Farndale, Bransdale and Edstone are to be a home for Jeanette, Ralf, Sydney and me from 11th February 2024.



Having to leave people that we have grown to love is a wrench for all four of us and that is where we feel an element of sorrow. That said, we leave for pastures new more confident in our ministry and our calling. We know that we are being sent out with love and we will forever cherish that.

This is not an end, it's a new beginning, for you as well as us. In a few months you will welcome Lorna as your new Curate. She is an amazing young woman, who I know you will love and nurture through the life-changing time that we call Curacy.



Good night, good night, parting is such sweet sorrow (I get it now!).

Paul, Jeanette, Ralf and Sydney xxxx

	<p>... and Hello from Lorna - Curate in waiting</p>	
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Hello again all! Or, if you weren't around for my announcement tour in December, hello for the first time! For those who didn't see me (and for those who have forgotten me), I am Lorna Heatley, and – God willing – I will be your curate from the 29th of June for the next three or so years.

I am 30 years old, and am in my third year of training at Cranmer Hall in Durham where I am doing a Masters in Theology having first slotted in a BA in Theology (hence the confusing graduation picture). Aside from church and church related things, I am an avid hill walker and hobby runner. Not so much a cyclist, however, as being on a bike makes me cry. I also like reading the IMDB pages of films as I'm watching the films and have a fair amount of useless general knowledge gleaned from going down Wikipedia holes when I'm trying to do something useful. Quite handy for pub quizzes, though. Before I was called to ordination, I did a degree in Broadcast Journalism and have worked at a Muslim TV station, a holiday company dealing specifically in trains, and the Diocese of York, where I was a professional Social Media person, the dream of every millennial.

I am so excited to see you all again and start serving the community. My small taste of Richmond, Hudswell, Downholme and Marske in December has increased my excitement tenfold, and I cannot wait to start helping build the Kingdom with you all!

Lorna Heatley



**We have laid to rest those
who have died and give thanks
for their lives.**



John Donald Norris	14th October
Alan Peter May	26th October
Joan Smith	30th October
David Waldie	3rd April
Heather Waggett Atkin	14th December

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)



**WARM
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visit www.warmwelcome.uk

Warm Welcome has been running since November 2022, offering a safe, warm, comfortable space in Richmond, where visitors are offered free hot drinks and light snacks. Over the winter months we were open on three

days each week, and we have relied on our rota of loyal volunteers. We continued during the summer when we have been open on Friday mornings, and now we are planning for the autumn and winter. We are now opening Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Opening hours on each day are from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Volunteers is still welcome for each session to welcome people and to provide hot drinks and snacks. This remains a wonderful opportunity to serve the local community. If you feel that you could support this project by volunteering during any of the sessions, it would be good to hear from you. **To register your interest as a volunteer please contact me as soon as possible. (Tel. 01748 818653 or by email: JohnRidley7449@aol.com).**



ADVENT REFLECTIONS



CAROLE McCORMACK's personal reflection on the impact of our Retreat Day on her life. It might be interesting to ask what other personal responses there may be in our Church family.

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN

You know sometimes when you long for something to be memorable and special? And it's really not ... a bit like my first Communion, which was significant for all the wrong reasons – the wafer got stuck to the roof of my mouth and stubbornly remained there for some time. I have always loved the season of Advent, the lights, the preparations, the present buying, the beautiful cycle of Sundays leading up to Christmas Day, the age-old carols, pure and clear which soar to the church roof timbers and swirl around with beauty and meaning sanctified by generations of worshippers. But, as is often the case with God, He really has surprised me this Advent – 2023.

It started just before our Retreat Morning, when the brilliant team from ReSource led us to reflect upon the coming season of Advent, through focussing upon the Magnificat – Mary's astonishing hymn of praise to the Lord God when she found that she was pregnant with the Christ Child by the Holy Spirit. The Retreat was skilfully structured to include personal testimony, Bible reading and silent reflection – and two optional exercises: the first, to write a thank you letter to God for all the blessings that He has given to us; the second to consider how our Christian life, and the life of our church, could be renewed through following the Green Cross Code. Sounds surprising? Well, it's not as surprising as it seems at first sight.



We were asked to **STOP** – and reflect upon our spiritual life, to consider which elements are not serving us well. Two of my personal thoughts that I am happy to share are that I do too much; and I should limit watching the News.

The next stage in this reflection was to **LOOK** – what could I look at afresh in order to reinvigorate my spiritual life and wellbeing? I had many thoughts here, ranging from considering more carefully how I

spend my late afternoons to being bold enough to set boundaries and to stick to them. I also thought that creating more opportunities to have some good old-fashioned fun might be helpful ...

Finally, we were asked to **LISTEN**, to consider how I could better 'tune in' to, or come alongside, what I am seeing and hearing. Under this section I told myself to give myself more time to absorb, enjoy, and think creatively; to discuss anything and everything with my friends; to create positive experiences to share with those I love; and something I find hard – to congratulate myself on my successes.

I found this reflective exercise extraordinarily illuminating and liberating! The most helpful precursor to Advent ever, as far as I was concerned, due to the fact that I could engage with it completely, and apply my findings practically.

We all have 'thorns in our flesh' – something or someone who constantly hurts us and makes our life uncomfortable and stressful, rendering the dead hours of the night between about 2.30am and 5.00am almost always hours of wakefulness. Through the process that this Retreat Day kick-started, I have found to my delight that God has increased the benefit of what I searched my mind for and identified, as He helps me apply it in my everyday life, thus lessening the nuisance of my own particular 'thorns'.

When you fall in love with someone, what do you want to do? Perhaps get to know their character better by talking with them; to enjoy shared experiences together; to read letters that they have written – or maybe poems, music or articles if these lie within their particular range of skills and talents. Maybe sometimes you want just to be quiet and peaceful in their company, and sometimes you want to laugh and enjoy the lighter aspects of life.

So, how shall we fall more deeply in love with God? Following the suggestions in the previous paragraph about earthly love, we can pray, and listen; we can worship with our church family; we can read God's word, or sing, or read daily devotional works. We can walk in God's glorious world and **STOP**, to **LOOK** and **LISTEN**.

Carole McCormack



Loving.
Living.
Learning.



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

TOWN HALL COFFEE MORNING – 16 December

No Prime Ministerial visits this year... but no snow and ice either like last year. The Friends turned out in force to support the running of this annual event – running stalls and serving coffee – with the raffle and tombola adding a bit of ‘chance’ to the occasion. Carols from the excellent Song Squad and a performance of handbell ringing added a seasonal touch to our pre-Christmas Saturday morning. The last hour or so was particularly busy, with the result that over £500 was added to the funds for the Step-Free Access project. Thanks to all who supported the morning so cheerfully.

ARMY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT – 19 December



What a tremendous night this proved to be! With the pews almost full a good ten minutes before the first piece was played, extra chairs were put out at the back of church, as the publicity had attracted an audience from across the Richmond and Catterick communities and beyond. Familiar pieces and rarely heard ones were carefully mixed by expert musicians, with the total involvement of the audience in ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’ bringing an extra seasonal dimension. We are indeed fortunate to have the band on our doorstep and keen to play in the church, generously giving all proceeds from the bucket collection at the end of the concert to Church funds. With the support of the Friends, who manned the refreshment point at the interval, donations from this and at the door raised over £1,000 – but crucially it was a wonderful community event enjoyed by all. Thanks to the Army Band for their contributions this year. We look forward to welcoming them back in 2024.

EVENTS FOR 2024

These dates are already booked in for 2024



Hot Foot Hall



20 ft Squid Band



Big Joe Bone

- Blues in the Pews: 23 February - featuring Hot Foot Hall
Quiz Night: 9 March - venue - Richmond Town Hall
Blues in the Pews: 5 April - featuring the 20 ft Squid Band
Blues in the Pews: 21 June - featuring Big Joe Bone
Blues in the Pews: 16 August - with Jo Carley & the Old Dry Skulls
Plant and Produce Sale: 23 August - venue - St Mary's Church

We are looking to add some social events to provide opportunities for people to meet up other than on Sundays. A repeat of last year's popular Curry Night is on the cards, together with a September Quiz Night.

PLANNED COFFEE MORNINGS

We already have our two Town Hall Coffee mornings booked in, including the Saturday before Christmas, but would also like to set up three or four of the popular 'At Home' Coffee Mornings. **CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE?** If you are willing to host one of these events at your home - or would like to know more about how to go about this and get help from the Friends, please contact Peter Trewby (Chair of the Friends – contact details at the front of the magazine) or Secretary Jim Jack (07754 283161) to make the offer or find out more. These events usually take place between 9.30 – 12.00 on a Saturday morning. Choose your date!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Friends of St Mary's needs to take place early in March – either on the first or second Sunday of the month after the main service. Full details will be provided via a special pew brochure, which will also be posted on line. This will

include the annual report and audited accounts. Nominations (including self-nominations for the committee would be most welcome and can be made to the Chair (Peter Trewby) or Secretary (Jim Jack). Please do consider joining us at an important time in the development of St Mary's. Our aim is to develop the social side of the church as well as raise fund for development.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jim Jack

Found the Note
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Hot Foot Hall

& His Band

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Drystone Blues Collective

Friday 23rd Feb

St Mary's Church Richmond

7.30pm for 8.00pm

Bar

Tickets : £10 from :

Blues Night 85, Frenchgate Richmond

and The Castlehill Bookshop

or contact :

foundthenote@yahoo.com

NOTES FROM OUR PAST

Sometimes things are so familiar that we pass them by without a second thought. Yet have you ever wondered about the background to one of the most prominent buildings in the Market Place? As usual, **JANE HATCHER'S** local knowledge and research reveals some fascinating details and may also tempt you to look closely at Newbiggin.

KINGS AND THINGS

I have felt for the clergy in recent months, having to remember to pray for King Charles III instead of our late Queen Elizabeth II. All the church prayer books, as well as those we have at home, will include 'the Queen' in the prayer, and it is so easy, when saying 'well-remembered' text, inadvertently to say something almost automatically.

And I've also been thinking about how many pub names refer to a king, often an unspecified one. Here in Richmond we are most familiar with our King's Head Hotel, hardly a pub agreed, but its title has been in use for much longer than those of many licensed premises, which do, and have, often changed their names, or inn signs as they might be more properly called.

For Richmond's King's Head has had that name since the early 18th century. It was built as the town house of the Bathurst family who mined lead in Arkengarthdale. Because the King's Head is such a large building, it must have dwarfed the properties around it in the Market Place when it was going up. And not only was it different in scale from its neighbours, but it was being constructed in a new-fangled material – brick! The bricks had to be burnt in a specially-constructed kiln in the yard behind.



As soon as building work had been completed, that yard was transformed into a pleasure garden, laid out with ornamental flower beds, walks lined with shrubs, plus a bowling green and, horror of horrors, a cock-fighting pit. The garden was called Plassendale, perhaps a variant on Pleasing Dale. But after all this effort, within a year or two of the completion of his grand enterprise, Charles Bathurst decided to move to York. The house was immediately turned into The King's Head Hotel, and here were put up many of the important visitors who came to

admire the charms of Georgian Richmond in its heyday.

Which king the hotel was named after is never specified. It is likely to have been Charles II, whose Restoration in 1660 had been greeted with enormous and extravagant celebrations in Richmond. A huge pageant was put on, with dancers and musicians, and a re-enactment of the ever-popular Robin Hood. At one time a portrait of the head of Charles II was hung outside the King's Head, along with the sculpted bunch of grapes which is still there.

You might think that King Street, being right next to the King's Head Hotel, was named after it. But as you know, I like in these pieces for *Connections* to debunk obvious inferences. And so I must state that King Street gets its name not from the King's Head, but from the King's Arms Inn which used to occupy the next-door. That's right, the King's Arms was next to the King's Head! I often smile to myself wondering where the King's missing legs and feet might have been! Though of course I jest, because obviously I know that 'arms' in this context refers to a coat of arms.

The King's Arms long pre-dated the King's Head Hotel as licensed premises, for we know it was in existence at the Restoration, when the publican, Thomas Sober, had produced a token, equivalent to a small-value coin, with the head of Charles II and the letters 'GOD SAVE THE KING' on one side, and his name and the initials of himself and his wife on the other.



Actually, it was only two thirds of what had been the King's Arms premises that were demolished, approximately one third does survive today, as Taylor's Pie Shop. The new thoroughfare, called King Street after the King's Arms, was created about 1812. Its purpose was to provide an improved access into the Market Place for the carriages of the gentry who were then coming to attend Richmond's Georgian social events.

The previous main approach for wheeled traffic had been down Frenchgate, and along The Channel, an area so called because it tended to be boggy. And it was followed by that sharp pull up into the bottom of the Market Place, that the buses still struggle with, especially in icy weather.

So old maps and drawings of the Market Place show a continuous run of buildings round that north side, without a street junction. Who was behind the change? Predictably, it was the Dundas family of Aske Hall, who paid for so many

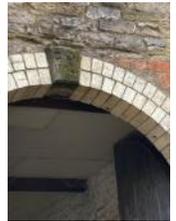
improvements for Richmond. So it was Thomas, the first Lord Dundas, who took down most of the King's Arms and its outbuildings, to create King Street. The title Zetland was not yet in use, until the Earldom was created in 1838, in the time of Thomas's son Lawrence. And it was not until 1892 that a later Lawrence was given the title of Marquess.

It's not often that a pub is named after a specific king, but there was a King William IV pub in Brompton-on-Swale until fairly recently. Queens seem rarely to receive such an accolade, although for part of the 19th century there was a Queen Catherine pub in Richmond Market Place. Perhaps it honoured Catherine of Braganza, the wife of Charles II.

Another queen did feature briefly as an inn sign in Richmond. At the end of Finkle Street, where it meets Newbiggin, there was at one time an inn called the Red Lion which occupied an old timber-framed building, a factor which was to prove significant in the story. Following Queen Victoria's golden and diamond jubilees, which were marked in Richmond by the creation of Queens Road [a continuation of King Street, mark you!] and the establishment of the Victoria Hospital [now Blenkiron's funeral parlour], the Red Lion was patriotically re-named the Hotel Victoria. Sadly, its old timber frame succumbed to a disastrous fire on 1st April 1909.



The pub was not rebuilt, and the new building on the site [now Cooper & Leatherbarrow opticians] was set back at an angle to improve the road junction onto Newbiggin. However, the tribute to Queen Victoria has not entirely been forgotten, because the stables in the yard behind the inn have been converted into cottages called Victoria Stable Yard. And if you look at the keystone in the arch in Newbiggin which leads to the



cottages, you can still just make out the initials C.D. and the date 1896. Charles Dowse was the last landlord of the Red Lion before it was renamed by his successor Mrs Jackson. If you look further up



still, you will see the cast-iron crane which lifted hay up through a loading door, for the horses recuperating in the stables from their strenuous haulage work!



Jane Hatcher

BEYOND THE BENEFICE

For many years, **JOHN PRITCHARD** has led pilgrimages to the Holy Land, capturing the peace and tranquillity that many found there. Writing of the current conflict that is on all our minds and at the forefront of the news, he offers a tough and realistic viewpoint for us to consider.

ISRAEL/PALESTINE: IS RECONCILIATION POSSIBLE?

Christians are committed to reconciliation. It's in our title deeds. 'All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation' (2 Cor. 5.18). But how is this possible in the intractable trouble-spots in our world – Ukraine/Russia, Israel/Palestine?

It would be easy to despair. In Israel/Palestine for example the balance of power is so asymmetrical that it's like a boy with a pea-shooter taking on a tank. Israel has used its huge military and civil advantages, together with its backing from the United States, to tie down the Palestinian population and put 700,000 settlers illegally onto occupied Palestinian territory, making a two-state solution seem impossible.



And the recent obliteration of Gaza and destruction of over 20,000 lives together with most of the buildings and infrastructure, idiotically instigated by Hamas' appalling actions of October 7, have made any idea of reconciliation seem even more fanciful.

And yet, in the darkest places the smallest lights shine the brightest. Christians believe in a God who knows his way out of a grave.

The cross was the darkest place; the resurrection blasted darkness into light. So we hold out hope; we work at, and encourage, reconciliation in policies and practices of any scale, small and great. The 1% Christian population of Israel/Palestine acts as leaven in the lump, the light on the hill, the mustard seed that grows phenomenally.

It could be that at last the international community will make it impossible for the Israeli government any longer to try to 'manage' the Palestinian problem by a combination of 'kettling' in Gaza and repression in the West Bank. There are huge

numbers of Israelis outside their extremist government who long for serious negotiations with Palestinians over a long-term settlement i.e. a recognised Palestinian state and equal human rights across the board.



Christians in the Holy Land and internationally will be urging the way of peace and reconciliation, as they did in post-apartheid South Africa, and in the civil rights movement in the United States. The leaven is already there in Israel/Palestine in many of the

groups I've met over the years who witness to a better way – the Parents Circle started by fathers on opposite sides of the conflict, who both lost daughters in the fighting and now witness for reconciliation; the Tent of Nations, where a Christian farm persecuted by surrounding settlers for decades has as its strap-line 'We refuse to be enemies'; 'Kids4Peace', who run three-year reconciliation programmes for Jewish, Muslim and Christian young people. And so on.

Reconciliation isn't a fluffy pink dream. It's a tough path of determined action, regularly beset by disappointment and sometimes involving non-violent resistance. It's no quick-fix. But it's the Christian way and we can provide the theological and spiritual backing such a strategy requires. We never give up.

'O pray for the peace of Jerusalem [and the Holy Land]; may they prosper who love you.' (Ps. 122 v.6)

John Pritchard



2024 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



As St Mary's representative on the group organising this ecumenical event early next month in Richmond, **CAROLE McCORMACK** provides some background and invites you to participate.

48 days, 0 hours, 26 minutes and 7 seconds

At the start time of writing this article, the above is the length of time until the 2024 World Day of Prayer, described as a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who invite you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. When I first became involved in the movement back in the 1980's, my church actually referred to the day as the *Women's World Day of Prayer*, and I am still caught out sometimes by thinking of it in these terms.

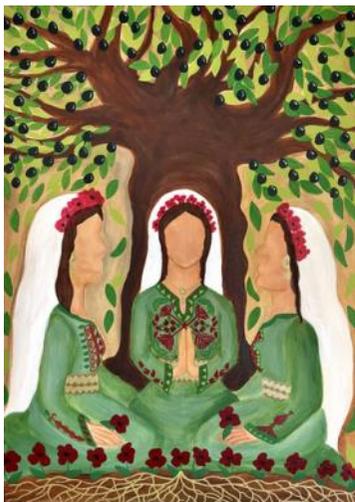
The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century, when Christian women of the United States and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world. In those days of limited action for women, the importance of the role of prayerful support behind the scenes, rather than on the front line, was emphasised. Over the decades and centuries following, the expanding emancipation and empowering of women extended the remit of the movement and the impact of its day of celebration.

The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass; persons kneeling in prayer; the Celtic cross; and the circle; representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.



Each year, the women of a worshipping community present a programme of celebration and action reflecting their own ethos and identity. The motto of the movement: *Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action* expresses its aim to seek out ways globally to act in solidarity with women and communities in need.

Heartbreakingly, this year's World Day of Prayer has been prepared by the women of Palestine.



The preparation for this began in August 2023 – months before the current devastating conflict. Perhaps God prompted the women of Palestine to pray and endeavour together to bring about a world revolution in prayer for peace in their own region. Maybe this is the only way to counter the unbelievable horrors that are currently taking place there – prayer and petition to God for His intervention to stop this injustice and to bring about peace.

So on Friday, 1st March 2024, do please join our own ecumenical community of praying women here in Richmond – this year meeting at St Joseph and St Francis Xavier Church in Newbiggin. We will take as our inspiration words from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: *"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* Ephesians 4:1-3 (NRSV)

The Service of Worship will share stories telling of the experiences of three Palestinian Christian women from three generations, who witness to the power of *bearing together in love*.

This year, together, let us all bend our prayer energies and time towards that community in Palestine, focussing upon their need before, during and following our service of support and love on this expression of our longing for peace and justice in the world.

If you feel you would like to be a part of this Day of Prayer please feel free to contact me: carolemccormack7@btinternet.com

Now only 47 days, 23 hours, 40 minutes and 42 seconds away

Carole McCormack



MY BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS

In this, our self-confessed chocolate-loving curate Paul Sunderland's final month with the Benefice, it seemed appropriate to turn our local business spotlight on the chocolate making skills and coffee shop in evidence at **MOCHA**. With two sites - one in the Market Place and the other at Aske Hall - this popular local business has grown rapidly from its inception in 2013. **ELIZABETH GRAVES**, sole owner of the business since the sad and untimely death of husband, Dennis, in 2021, shares her reflections on ten years of change and growth in difficult times in conversation with Jim Jack.

The welcoming and tempting sight of delicious chocolates combined with the distinctive aroma of Grumpy Mule coffee greet visitors to Mocha's original venue in Richmond Market Place and the more recently opened 'branch' in the grounds of Aske Hall. The journey began however not in Richmond's rolling hills but in what Elizabeth herself called 'Sunny Scunny.'

Turn back the clock just over ten years and Elizabeth was finding her work as an HR manager with the NHS in Lincolnshire as she successfully led the introduction of new contract arrangements for junior doctors a year ahead of schedule, whilst husband Dennis' quality small building firm was finding undercutting by newer, less conscientious entrants in Scunthorpe an increasing challenge. Work once enjoyed by both was becoming less rewarding and more of a grind.

Seeking a fresh start and work which was satisfying led to two decisions. A personal enjoyment of visiting coffee shops led to joint attendance on a 'Running a Coffee Shop' course, and visits to market towns in Yorkshire, including Thirsk and Skipton before alighting on Richmond as their chosen place to start their new life.

The search for suitable premises was initially daunting, with affordability being a key issue. However, the current north facing shop in the Market Place seemed to fit the bill for a take-away coffee shop. The building had previously been occupied by such traders as Liptons, a home decorating shop, an accessories shop and an independent mobile phone retailer before becoming vacant.



Although it was not ready to move in to (which retail premises are?), Dennis' building experience was invaluable in pumping out the inch deep water from the cellar area and 'waterproofing' it, then sectioning the area for usable rooms.

A visit to Grumpy Mule Coffee Roastery in Meltham in Yorkshire (‘meticulously sourced, ethically traded and deliciously grumpy’) led them to believe that both the taste and the principles underpinning that business were right for them and for their prospective customers— a commitment which has lasted to this day.

Deciding that they needed to offer something more to add to what they offered customers, their visits to Richmond suggested that quality chosen chocolates from Belgium and a tempting array of traditional sweets in jars would complement the main business. And so, in 2013, the business opened, with Dennis front of house and Elizabeth combining serving with behind the scenes catering work.



Dennis and Elizabeth ready for their new (ad)venture



Remember the jars of sweets? Long gone and replaced by seating and tables

They both enjoyed the personal contact they developed with individual customers. Talking with and, importantly, listening to what the customers were saying, quickly led to changes. As Elizabeth freely admits, ‘We were learning as we went along, wanting to provide the best service to people.’ Out went the jars of sweets to make way for orange bench seating to provide the ‘sit-in’ space which customers said they would like. It also became clear that the unique nature of the chocolate offering to the town was in demand. A visit to Belgium cemented their deeper knowledge of what was available, coupled with the advice of a trusted wholesaler.

From selling chocolates made by others, Elizabeth and Dennis took on the challenge of learning how to make their own chocolates by attending a course in Manchester.. They wanted all of the chosen flavoured fillings to be distinctive and genuine. So, for example, if a particular chocolate was to be sold as a champagne filling, it had to taste of genuine champagne. The tasting and work to get the balance right was fun, but they had a particular taste standard which they wanted to achieve and would not put anything up for sale until it met that exacting standard.

This drive for quality didn't go unnoticed by customers who continued to order on-line when Covid struck. The growing staff numbers had to be furloughed, supported by the government scheme, but production and packing went on with the Graves' working seven days a week to produce chocolates to fulfil orders, producing during the day and delivering in the late afternoons/evenings. Elizabeth says that, curiously, she enjoyed this demanding phase of Mocha's life, enjoying socially distanced conversations on doorsteps throughout our area. The fact that both of them were trained chocolatiers meant that the work was shared.

While Dennis's building skills found their place in the growing business, modifying premises as required, Elizabeth's background in HR was important as Mocha brought employment to the area (The business currently employs 22 staff, two of whom are managers). Combined with her warm personality, her knowledge of employment legislation and good practice meant that here, at least, new skills did not have to be learned. Regularly talking with staff and taking an interest in them as people also meant that staff returned to work with Mocha when Covid restrictions were lifted.



Dennis using chocolate building skills

The cafe/shop side of the business also thrived. Good, smiling personal service and a concern for quality built an expanding loyal customer base which put the inside seating space under pressure (remember the appearance of the two metal seats with tables outside on the sloping pavement?). The food offering in Richmond was also limited by the amount of kitchen space which could be created.

The big personal and business hammer blow in August 2021 was the sudden and untimely death of Dennis, a cheerful and positive 'people person', who made contributions to community organisations in addition to his work in the business. But the work had to carry on — and it did due to Elizabeth's determination and the unwavering support of a loyal and committed staff. Although fully trained as a chocolatier, she had rarely used these skills, but now she had to step up quickly to ensure that this side of the business carried on. Fortunately, a trainee, Katey, had been taken on a few months before Dennis died, so 'she carried us through until I and others were up to speed.'

It was in 2021, too, that the development of the second Mocha branch in the grounds of Aske Hall took place. A second coffee shop also housed a larger kitchen, a chocolate manufacturing area, a larger kitchen and supplies storage area.



Take your pick. A selection of Mocha hand made chocolates



Toasted cheese scone, with a bit of Yorkshire pickle on the side

Elizabeth's bereavement also emphasised that she was not only sole owner of the business but she was also the only trained chocolatier working for Mocha. Through a mix of current employees stepping up and bringing in trainees, there are now five chocolatiers employed at Mocha. Staff are supported and encouraged to listen to customers and to contribute their own ideas on development of new flavours and food offerings for the business. (The Mocha toasted cheese scones with a touch of mustard and cayenne pepper seem to be a unique part of the menu! Thousands are sold each year.) The range of artisan chocolates on offer is now over 50 individual flavours.

Whilst working for the NHS in Scunthorpe, Elizabeth had still made time to study for a degree in Nutritional Therapy. These studies have been particularly useful when looking at such things as allergens, when developing the foods and confectionery on sale. Wherever possible, Mocha sources its ingredients locally. The café menu includes Yorkshire ham and cheese; Raydale jam; meat and sausage from a Richmond butcher; guest scones – all supporting other local traders. Four legged friends even have their own menu, including Puppacino coffee and Yorkshire-made dog-friendly ice cream!



Mocha continues to try out new experiences at Aske. A Scalextrix evening and a Japanese evening are just two of the nights being advertised for this year. Courses in chocolate making are also being offered. Particularly exciting for Elizabeth and her local staff team is developing their own range of 'exclusive, single origin chocolates', enabled because they have a bigger team of chocolatiers skilled in making and shaping their own chocolate, each given time in the week to work specifically on extending the choice of locally developed and hand-made chocolates.

Other challenges which come with growth have been finding staff who have particular skills and ensuring that there is space 'behind the scenes' to do the unseen preparatory work for the snacks and light meals currently on offer, as well as making the chocolates. When asked about competition from national chains with a similar offer, Elizabeth recognised that some visitors to the town will always head for a name that they recognise, but the fact that Mocha is under pressure for space also illustrates that there is room for what Mocha offers in the town. She clearly enjoys her work.



The fact that, jointly leading with Dennis and then latterly on her own, Mocha have won a number of accolades, including the Flavour of Herriot Country Awards and Richmond Business Partnership recognition, is a significant recognition from within the business community of the quality of our locally owned, staffed and run coffee shop and chocolatier.

The lovely relationship Elizabeth has with her staff and her customers was evident during my visit. These local links are the bedrock upon which this and other local businesses thrive. For Elizabeth, staff and customer support was appreciated hugely during the hard times past and, combined with her passion for what she does, is what will no doubt carry Mocha forwards in the future as the business continues to 'hold on to that which is good' and offers new tastes, experiences and jobs in our local community.

Jim Jack



**'I know it's Lent,' said Paul to the angel,
but Maltesers hardly have any choco-
late in them at all'**



SAINT VALENTINE

(and the rise of a social phenomenon)

Where did it all begin, and how did it develop?
CHRISTINE PORTER provides some background and reveals that it is all not sweetness and light.

February has long been celebrated as a month of romance. In particular, February 14th is widely known as Valentine's Day when cards, flowers and gifts are exchanged, sometimes sent anonymously. But how many people know the origins of Valentine's Day and that Valentine was a Christian saint and February 14th his Feast Day?

Valentine's Day evolved from both pagan and Christian traditions. In ancient Rome a fertility festival Lupercalia took place on February 15th, dedicated to both Faunus, the god of agriculture, and to the city's founders Romulus and Remus. But this festival was outlawed as un-Christian in the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14th the Feast of Saint Valentine.

One legend claims that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. The Roman Emperor Claudius II had decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families and therefore had outlawed marriage for young men. Realising the injustice of this decree, Valentine defied Claudius and continued to perform secret Christian weddings for soldiers. When his actions were discovered, he was imprisoned, but while in prison he continued to minister to persecuted Christians until eventually he was beheaded.



St Valentine at Terni

Others claim that Valentine, Bishop of Terni, was the true namesake of Valentine's Day. He was arrested by Judge Asterius for evangelising, and during this time discussed his faith and the validity of Jesus with the judge. The judge tested Valentine by bringing to him his adopted blind daughter, stating that, if Valentine restored her sight, the judge would do whatever he asked. Valentine laid his hands on the child's eyes and restored her vision, so the humbled judge asked

him what he should do. Valentine replied that the idols around the judge's house should be broken, then he should fast for three days and undergo Christian baptism. The judge obeyed, brought his family and his household of forty-four members to be baptised, and also freed all Christian inmates under his authority.

Valentine was re-arrested for continuing to evangelise and was sent to Emperor Claudius II. The emperor took a liking to him until he tried to convince Claudius to convert to Christianity. The Emperor declined and ordered Valentine either to renounce his faith or be condemned to death. He refused to do so and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on 14th February, 269.

Numerous later additions to the legend of Valentine of Terni have associated him with the theme of love. According to one story, the imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first “valentine” greeting himself while awaiting execution. He allegedly fell in love with Judge Asterius’s daughter, who visited him in prison, and sent her a farewell letter before his execution, signed “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still used today.

Perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine became one of the most popular saints in England and France. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that 14th February was the beginning of birds’ mating season, and that St Valentine’s Day should be a day for romance.



The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record St Valentine’s Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem “Parliament of Foules”. Written valentines didn’t begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today, is held in the manuscript collection of the British Library in London. It is a poem written to his wife by Charles, Duke of Orleans in 1415, while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt.

In the 17th and 18th century in England, Valentine's Day grew into an occasion in which couples expressed their love for each other by presenting

flowers, offering confectionery, and sending handwritten greeting cards known as "valentines".

By 1900, printed cards had begun to replace written letters due to improvements in printing. Mass-produced cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when a show of feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings. The Penny Post, allowing anyone in England to mail an item for just one penny, was introduced on 10th January, 1840. One year later, the public sent nearly half



a million valentines. By 1871, the London post office alone processed 1.2 million cards. They were often elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colourful pictures, expressing undying love and devotion with sentiments and poems. Valentine's Day became so popular that postal carriers received special meal allowances to keep themselves running during the frenzy leading up February 14th.



Victorian valentines, however, could be mean and hostile. For those not on good terms, or who wanted to fend off an enemy or unwanted suitor, "vinegar valentines" offered a stinging alternative, the tone ranging from a gentle jab to downright aggressiveness.

Less is known about insulting valentine cards than sentimental ones, partly because very few survived. Recipients often tore them up and burned them from shame. Because they were mailed anonymously, most senders



of vinegar valentines faced few repercussions. Of the million or so cards sent in Victorian times, some estimate that nearly half were vinegar valentines. There are contemporary accounts from memoirs and newspapers recording that fist fights and court cases, suicide and attempted murder sometimes resulted. The *Pall Mall Gazette* of London published a story



in 1885 about a husband who shot his estranged wife after she sent him a vinegar valentine. As a consequence of these extreme reactions and regular letters of complaint in the press, the nastiest cards began to fall out of favour.

Valentine's Day is recognised in many countries and, after Christmas cards, is the second largest card-sending occasion of the year. Very few Valentine's cards today convey such a mean spirit as the Victorian vinegar valentines, but there is a modern-day equivalent for cruel and anonymous jibes — the social media troll!



Christine Porter



THE 200 CLUB

Recent Winners have been:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| November | - | Jonathan Roberts |
| December | - | Margaret Coombs-Tate |
| Christmas Bonus | - | John Challis |
| January | - | Pamela Wheatley |

Congratulations to all our lucky winners

I'VE OFTEN WONDERED....

We all have questions about a whole range of things. In this occasional series of articles, **JOHN PRITCHARD** considers some of those related to different aspects of church life.

.....WHY WE NEED TO WORSHIP?

Does God have a bit of an ego problem, always needing to be affirmed and praised? If God wants us to worship him isn't that a sign of some sort of neurotic narcissism? Emphatically not! But we might have wondered...

Worship is natural and human.

When the winning goal is scored in a Cup Final or there's a winning shot in a tightly fought Test match, it would be weird if the crowd was silent and motionless. When we see something extraordinary we have to respond with all we've got. So it is when we're faced with the reality and majesty of God. It's human to worship. Indeed the psychiatrist in Peter Scaffer's play *Equus* says, 'If you don't worship you'll shrink; it's as brutal as that.'

Worship is inevitable for a believer.

If we've been run down by the Hound of Heaven or our hearts have been warmed by divine love, worship is as inevitable as a tree coming into blossom in spring. Worship is love-language, but probably no more understandable to non-participants than the words of lovers across a pillow. Interestingly, the most common Greek word for worship in the New Testament is 'proskuneo' which means 'to come forward to kiss.'



Worship is good for us ...

For one thing, worship is the activity by which we interrupt our pre-occupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God. Our habitual self-absorption is so relentless that we need to interrupt ourselves regularly to remind ourselves that we're not the centre of the universe; attending to God means we enter a larger world of meaning, values and responsibilities.

... In all sorts of ways.

Worship is also a time of **learning** the ways of God, of enjoying the **fellowship** and friendship of fellow Christians, and of **commitment** to acts of compassion



and mercy. And it **restores** us when our faith has worn a bit loose during the trials of the previous week.

Our acts of worship may not be perfect, and none of us will be perfectly satisfied with how it's done, but when we seek God we're like toddlers taking on post-doctoral research. So we keep on exploring the edges of the Infinite, knowing that this is the greatest of all adventures and the richest of all possibilities.

John Pritchard



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

Each month we are invited to support a different charity, some local, some national and others involved in Mission. When there is such need in so many parts of the world, **ANGELA DICKINSON** shares why she nominated UNHCR as worthy of our help.

UNHCR — United Nations High Commission for Refugees

“What a wonderful country”, some Bhutanese Nepalis exclaimed, when John and I met them ten years or so ago in Sheffield. “It is just so amazing to be given British citizenship, when you have had nothing”. They had very recently arrived in this country and been given citizenship and accommodation, mostly in towns where there were other Asians; entitlement to benefits; schooling for their children; and English lessons for one year, after which they were expected to get a job. We spoke to one man, however, who had already managed to get a job. The reason why the Bhutanese Nepalis had no nationality was that they had been born in Bhutan of Nepali parents who had gone to work in Bhutan, but that did not qualify them for Bhutanese nationality. As they were not born in Nepal, neither did they qualify for Nepali citizenship, so they were stateless. Then, in the 1990s, there



Bhutanese Refugee camp

was a Maoist revolution in Nepal and many people were killed. The Bhutanese Government were afraid the Bhutanese Nepalis might start a revolution in Bhutan, where happiness is important, so they expelled them all from the country.

The UNHCR arranged for temporary refugee camps in Darjeeling and Nepal and sought to find countries which would take them. Britain offered to take 375; America offered to take 3000; I don't know how many Australia and other countries took.



When the war started in Syria, UNHCR set up a refugee camp in neighbouring Jordan with the hope that once the war was over the Syrians could quickly return home. David Cameron gave eye-watering sums of government money to help, rather than send in troops. But the conflict is on-going, and so is the need.

The current war in the Middle East has displaced millions of families, and UNHCR says that the need in Gaza is on a scale they have never witnessed before. As individuals, we cannot give the eye-watering sums that are needed, but, as the Tesco advert says, "Every little helps".

Canon Martin gave me a pamphlet produced by UNHCR which suggests what churches might do to help. They have Winter Survival Kits consisting of a warm jacket, sleeping mat, mattress, fleecy blanket, sleeping bag, plastic sheet for waterproofing, a solar lantern and emergency fuel. Whether in Gaza or in Ukraine, where UNHCR is also operating and where temperatures go down to minus 21°C, these are helping refugees to survive this winter.

A winter survival kit costs £82. I suppose the UN bulk buys and gets a good price. The pamphlet asks 'How many Winter Survival Kits can your church provide to help refugee families this Winter?' When the need is so great, I hope we can heed the call.



Angela Dickinson



60 SECOND INTERVIEW



Two photos for the price of one this month. Apologies to Dennis for missing his lovely visage last time, but this month it's the turn of his wife **CHRISTINE STEDMAN** to answer the questions from **John Pritchard**



First memory: Aged 2, eating raspberries from a cabbage leaf at my grandparent's allotment.



Favourite meal: Lamb chops.

Favourite music or musician: Elgar, Carly Simon, my ironing buddy.

Pet dislike: Rudeness.

Best holiday: Florence

Childhood hero: Enid Blyton for introducing me to reading.

Favourite hobbies: Croquet and singing.

Luxury on desert island: Self-charging Kindle full of books.

Recent TV you've enjoyed: The Gilded Age.

Worst fault: Talking too much.

Two best films ever: Meet Me in St Louis, Calamity Jane.

Favourite drink: Yorkshire tea



Regret: Not having met my two sisters who sadly died in infancy.

Best recent book: Any one of LJ Ross' Northumberland mystery murders.

Favourite charity: Mother's Union

Place you feel happiest: Wherever my loved ones are.

Three dinner companions: Three Dames – Mary Berry, Judi Dench, Maggie Smith.

What you pray for most: More happiness in the world.

Traditional or modern Lord's Prayer: Traditional

Epitaph: She tried to see the good in everyone.



MUSINGS FROM MARSKE

With Christmas a fading memory, **LIZ KLUZ** tells of her return to one of her great interests - perhaps one shared by a number of readers — of doing family research. Those who do will know that, in reading about family, you can be drawn into other things, like interesting local events of the past and then to wider stories - hence her fascinating early 2024 discovery trail.

Some people dread January, seeing it as a month with no redeeming features. Actually I love it because after all the pressures which come with Christmas, the lists, preparations and commitments, January is a time to pull up the drawbridge and indulge yourself. I don't mean scoffing all the Christmas chocolates and tins of biscuits; for me, it's spending a whole day doing family research on *Ancestry* or trawling through *the British Newspaper Archive* for titbits to squirrel away for future use. It was in doing this, that two recent pieces of research came together quite unexpectedly this week to provide the bones of this month's article. .

The first was a story, published by *The Leeds Mercury* on 3 February 1876, about several fatal cases of hydrophobia - or rabies - in Swaledale and Wensleydale. During a severe snowstorm in December 1875, a strange cross-bred dog attacked and bit a number of sheep belonging to John Alderson of Kexwith, near New Forest.



Dealing with a rabid dog in former days

Within a few days one of the sheep became mad and died, followed a day or two later by 12 more from the same flock. Robert Hillary of West House, New Forest also lost a number of sheep, which had been attacked by the same dog and become rabid. The centre of Swaledale was experiencing a similar problem after a calf and a quantity of sheep succumbed to the disease. At Swaledale Head, half a dozen dogs suffering from rabies had to be shot and the animal which had caused so much damage destroyed at the same time.

A notice, signed by two of the Gilling West magistrates, George Roper and the Revd. H.W. Yeoman, was issued under the Dogs Act of 1871 prohibiting all dogs from roaming at large in Arkengarthdale, Dalton, Gayles, Kirby Hill, Marrick, Marske, Muker, New Forest and Reeth. Failure to secure the dogs carried a very high penalty. A similar restriction was imposed in Wensleydale where a number of animals had also been affected. Further reports of several dogs roaming in the Rich-

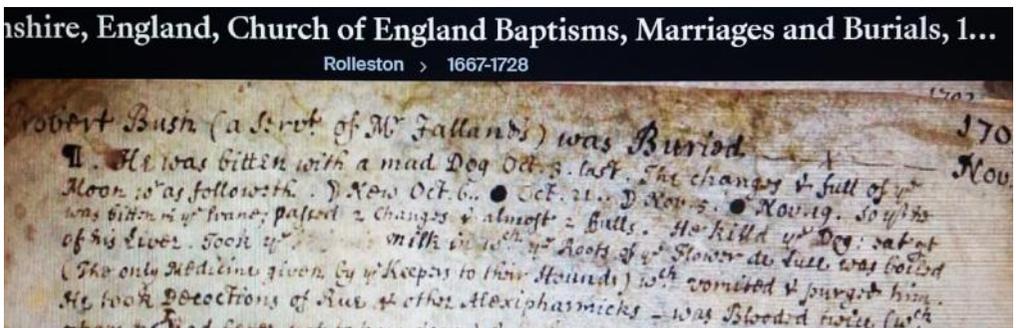
-mond area prompted a second order two weeks later stipulating that all dogs should be confined, unless under the control of someone, until 26 April.

Interestingly, there were no reports of humans being bitten or contracting rabies but that could be because the incubation period of the virus, between being attacked and the symptoms of infection becoming obvious, is typically between one and three months but can be considerably longer in some cases.

Initial symptoms include fever, headache and anxiety, sore throat and cough which may not be immediately attributed to the attack. As rabies progresses and the brain becomes inflamed, symptoms can include paralysis, confusion, agitation, paranoia, terror and hallucinations. In the later stages of the disease, the infected person may also have a fear of water - hydrophobia. Despite being thirsty they struggle to swallow and panic if presented with liquid.

Eventually delirium and coma precede death, which usually comes 2-10 days after the first symptoms. Survival is almost unknown once the symptoms have presented, even with intensive care.

The second piece of information was gleaned from Ancestry while doing some family research. It is an entry from the parish register for Rolleston in Nottinghamshire dated 20 November 1705. The vicar at that time was John Twentyman, who went over and above the usual task of noting the births, marriages and deaths by adding snippets of local news. The main entry for that day was a very full account of the last few days in the life of local lad, Robert Bush, who had been bitten by a rabid dog on 3 October. In a desperate attempt to minimise the damage caused by the bite, Robert was given milk that had been boiled with the roots of "flowers de lyss" (lilies) and rue, a medicine given by keepers to their hounds, which acted as a purge. He was also bled, but in spite of all this he still experienced "great heavings and oppression at night and had difficulty in breathing". Some six weeks later, on 15 November, the boy drank "one draught of ale, but felt so disordered that he



vowed he would never drink more". The next morning he felt well enough to do some threshing in the barn but by the following evening the symptoms were becoming obvious when he called on John Twentyman at his home and refused some small beer "as he thought only water agreed with him". He was dry but he could not drink. Returning home he "sat down by the fire and within 4 or 5 minutes he jumped up and ran to his bed crying that he was struck with death". For the next 34 hours poor Robert suffered agonies. He raved, sweated, frothed at the mouth and couldn't bear to be touched even by his beloved mother whose finger he bit. At 3 a.m. on 19 November his struggle ended and he was at peace. John Twentyman must have been present during Robert's final days and was obviously profoundly affected by the experience.

This terrifying disease is present on all continents except Antarctica with over 95% of human deaths from rabies occurring in Asia and Africa, where it accounts for 40% of deaths in 5 to 14-year-old children. Ancient civilisations wrote about the scourge of the disease, or represented it in their art, and the name of the virus responsible for the infection, lyssavirus, comes from the Greek word "lyssa" meaning fury or rage.

Over the centuries all sorts of lotions, potions and procedures were used in an attempt to save the lives of victims, but without success. In December 1880, however, biologist and chemist Louis Pasteur and his colleagues at the Ecole Normale Superieure in Paris began a rigorous study of rabies, applying some of the techniques recently developed by vet Henri Toussaint for treating cholera in fowl. By 1885, Pasteur and his team had produced what they hoped would be an effective vaccine for rabies and they were soon able to test its efficacy. On 4 July, nine-year-old Joseph Meister from Alsace was bitten 14 times by a rabid dog, sustaining deep bites to his right hand, thighs and leg. The owner of the dog heard that Pasteur had developed a prevention against rabies and he decided to take Joseph and his mother by train to Paris, arriving two days later. That evening, Joseph was injected with the first dose of the vaccine by Dr. Jacques Grancher, as Pasteur was not qualified to administer injections. Over the next 10 days, the boy received a further 12 doses of the vaccine in an attempt to beat the virus. Joseph Meister survived!



Josef Meister

Today 29 million people worldwide receive PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) preventing hundreds of thousands of rabies deaths annually. It involves the immediate and thorough cleansing of the wound and the patient is then given an anti-rabies vaccination.

A pre-exposure prophylaxis vaccine is used as a precaution against rabies and is recommended for people in high-risk occupations such as laboratory workers who handle rabies-related viruses or those who may come into contact with bats or other mammals which may be infected with rabies. It is also advised for people travelling to countries where rabies is endemic.



Dogs entering the UK have been subject to quarantine since 1897, cats were added to the list in 1928 and ferrets in 2004. There have been 24 human deaths in the UK from imported rabies since 1902, with the last indigenous animal case being reported in 1922.

Liz Kluz

How we can support Richmond's Food Bank

For readers who add to their weekly shop by buying items for the Foodbank based at the Influence Church, this is an updated list of the most useful donations:

- Tins:** meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, soup, beans, pasta, tinned meals (e.g. chilli, stew), pies, rice pudding, spaghetti
- Packets:** pasta, pasta sauce, noodles, cereal, porridge, rice, biscuits, spaghetti, flapjack
- Jars:** pasta sauce, sandwich fillings, jam, spreads, tea, coffee
- Also:** UHT milk, squash, washing-up liquid, deodorant, bars of soap, tampons, sanitary pads, nappies (0-3 mths), laundry detergent or powder, toilet rolls (4 packs), shower gel, shampoo

More information: storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk

Or please contact Suz Gregory on 01748 823161

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

Join the St Mary's Song Squad

We meet on **Mondays during term time**, 4-5pm in St Mary's Church, Richmond
As well as having lots of fun singing and learning a wide variety of songs, there will be opportunities to perform at occasional services/events and to participate in the Royal School of Church Music's highly acclaimed 'Voice for Life' Scheme.
Juice & biscuits will also be available & tea / coffee for any parents / guardians wishing to stay during the rehearsal time.

For more information or to sign up for the Song Squad

Contact Chris Denton 07817 386070



Last Sunday in every month.

Next service

27 February

For children and the young at heart.

Why not come and join us?

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

LADIES' GROUP

Meets last Friday of each month

MORRO LOUNGE

Richmond Market Place

Next Meeting:

23 February



THIRST!! (The Men's Group)

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

Next Meeting at

The Town Hall Pub & Dining, Richmond

1 February



INFORMATION POINT - ALL ARE WELCOME

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

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

AFTER THE CARDS AND VISITORS

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

Starting again on your own is even more difficult.

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

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

Please phone **Carrie Stephenson 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, martin.fletcher@leeds.anglican.org or 07762 440094; or Paul Sunderland (07989 178196) 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.*


"All are welcome
in this place."

Sudoku - Easy

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

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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*Don't forget Shrove Tuesday!
13th February*

Word Search



February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good – unless we accept it!

Valentine

Rose

Romance

Love

Present

Restau-
rant

Hearts

Kiss

hug

girlfriend

boyfriend

fiancé

worship

repent-
ance

angels

baby

temple

Mary

Candle-
mas

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

presentation

Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku—Medium

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

Wordsearch

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

Deadline March '24 edition; Saturday 10th February
To contribute letters, articles, etc
contact connections.ed24@gmail.com or 07866 033263

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Saturday 9th March

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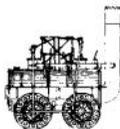




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