

# CONNECTIONS

The background of the entire cover is a close-up photograph of two vibrant yellow daffodils. The flowers are in full bloom, showing their characteristic six petals and a central corona with a ruffled edge. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the petals. The background is a dark, out-of-focus green and brown, suggesting a garden setting.

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

March 24

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**THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME  
AND MARSKE**

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

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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
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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	Second Sunday each month
9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Wednesday

### **CHURCH SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL, MARKET PLACE , RICHMOND**

**10.30 a.m. Holy Communion                      Every Thursday**

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

#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

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

#### **CHURCH SERVICES AT DOWNHOLME**

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

### **THE PARISH OF ST EDMUNDS, MARSKE**

#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

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

#### **CHURCH SERVICES AT MARSKE**

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

As an erstwhile chorister, I remember looking forward to the Easter Sunday morning service, when the music from the organ was supplemented by a small ensemble of drums and trumpets – or ‘buns and crumpets’ as we choir boys called them! What a sound! Perhaps that’s why I also love daffodils and chose one for this month’s cover picture. They really ‘trumpet’ the glorious Good News of Easter and, hopefully, the arrival of Spring after a dull, damp and dreary Winter. Let’s hope so.

In this issue we have the usual eclectic mix of church and community news and information, coupled with interesting pieces about people and places from our regular contributors. John Pritchard shares his wisdom about a question pertaining to Holy Week, while Wendy looks forward to getting into her garden again. Christine Porter’s beautiful Family Bible yields fascinating information, and Jane Hatcher’s research into Walford Hall will satisfy those who are curious whenever they drive past. Carole McCormack ventures over the border into Co Durham for her Grand Day Out and also discovers some beautiful artefacts in Richmondshire Museum. Jim Jack has been finding out about another local business; the Friends have some interesting events coming up; and a Café Church Special this month is something to look forward to. George Alderson has contributed another poem and, in another of our ‘Time of My Life’ series, Neil Stevenson shares with us a memorable experience from his youth. Do please let us know if there is anything you would like us to cover or, better still, provide us with some material to print. We’d love to hear from you.

We’re most grateful to all of you who have kindly subscribed to Connections for 2024, but we still don’t appear to have heard from everyone on our circulation list. Our apologies if your response has gone astray, but, if you receive a reminder with this magazine, please attend to it straight away if you still wish your magazine to be delivered. I’m sure you will appreciate the need to keep our costs under control, so we’ll be reviewing our delivery list at the end of this month. A few copies will still be available to purchase in Church.

*John McCormack*



## Martin's Message

### March 2024



### An ending, a middle and a new beginning

I am writing this on the day before Paul and Jeanette's final Sunday with us. There is a feeling of great sadness as we prepare to bid them farewell: we are all going to miss them. But we are also very pleased for them: as they prepare to begin a new chapter in Kirkbymoorside, they leave with our blessing. Many of us will be there with them on 25<sup>th</sup> February as Paul is inducted as Vicar of Kirkbymoorside with Gillamoor, Farndale, Bransdale and Edstone, and they can be assured of our ongoing prayerful support. We will be keeping in touch.

The seasons of Lent and Eastertide now stretch before us, concluding with the great festival of Pentecost – the 'birthday of the Church' – on 19<sup>th</sup> May. A few weeks after that our new curate, **Lorna Heatley**, will be ordained and her first Sunday with us will be 30<sup>th</sup> June. We look forward to welcoming Lorna and beginning a new chapter together. In the coming months, as we remember Paul and Jeanette in our prayers, do please remember Lorna, too.

That middle period – when we will be 'between curates' – will be challenging for us. As I have said, we will all be missing Paul and Jeanette and the vibrancy of their presence amongst us. Inevitably, my workload will increase and there are some aspects of ministry that I will not be able to maintain. So, I ask for your understanding – and your support.

Indeed, since Scott Lunn's departure last summer we have been aware of the need to develop and extend the number of people involved in ministry across our Benefice – and the prospect of Paul's departure concentrated our minds!

In January, it was a joy to see **Paul Perry** commissioned as an Occasional Preacher, having completed an online Diocesan course. Paul's experience and creativity as a worship leader, as well as a preacher, will be invaluable in the coming months and beyond – and he and Katharine will be leading our all-age Morning Worship service in April.

Similarly, **Jan Jack, Sharon O'Connor and Graham Pearson** are all currently undertaking a Diocesan Pastoral Assistants' course and we look forward to commissioning them later this month. They will join Jennifer Patrick and Sharon Digan as members of our Pastoral Care Team. The Team meets regularly with me to make sure no-one is slipping through the net.

Commissioned or otherwise, however, we are *all* 'Pastoral Assistants': we all care. Our church communities are inclusive and welcoming to newcomers and instinctively and discreetly we look after each other. This underlines how we are all involved in ministry, some formally, some informally: we are members together of one Body and as such we all depend upon each other.

If you would like to know more about training for any aspect of ministry – or would like to explore our faith more deeply this Lent – please visit the Diocesan Digital Learning Platform: [Courses – Diocese of Leeds Learning \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org/courses) or speak to me.

And do please speak to me if there is any part of church life in which you would like to become involved. This could be joining the Sunday readers' or intercessors' rota; becoming a Welcomer; or helping us set up and maintain weekly provision for children – an urgent need! It could be joining the PCC; helping to maintain or improve our buildings; or helping to extend our community engagement – including our presence in the schools.

In short, your church needs you! And our communities need active, growing churches.

So, as we journey through Lent and into Holy Week, and as the events of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day unfold, we see that what may seem to be an ending may in fact lead to an uncertain middle, which then opens out into a new beginning – full of life.

## Holy Week and Easter

With Easter arriving early this year, we will be celebrating the Resurrection *this* month (31<sup>st</sup> March). On **Palm Sunday (24<sup>th</sup>)**, Paul Perry will be co-ordinating a dramatic reading of the Passion narrative at St Mary's (a role Scott Lunn fulfilled with such creativity for many years). Bishop John will be at Downholme and Marske.

Then, on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, there will be at St Mary's a 7.00pm Reflection followed by Compline. On **Maundy Thursday** there will be a 7.00pm Eucharist of the Last Supper followed by a Watch of Prayer.

On **Good Friday** there will be a **Walk of Witness** starting at the Catholic Church at 10am, and concluding with hot cross buns at the Methodist Church. Camilla Campling-Denton will be leading an all-age '**Whistle-Stop Tour Through Lent**' at St Mary's, 12.00noon-1.00pm. At 2.00pm there will be a **Meditation for the Last Hour** in St Mary's, a shortened form of the traditional Three Hours' service held in previous years. The day will conclude with a 7.00pm Sung Meditation, **William Lloyd Webber's 'The Saviour'**.

Our first Easter Service this year will not be our usual Service of Light on Easter Eve. Instead, all are welcome to join an **Easter Day Dawn Service** at Easby Abbey: at 6:30am Revd Julia Reid will be leading a Service of Prayer and Praise, when Christians of all denominations will join together to proclaim the Resurrection.

**Easter Day** services at St Mary's will be 8.00am Holy Communion and 10.00am Parish Communion, whilst at Downholme and Marske Jennifer Williamson will be leading services of Holy Communion at 9:30am and 11.00am.

## Receiving Holy Communion

At each of our churches we are seeking – in common with most other churches – to return to our pre-pandemic practice of receiving Communion whilst kneeling at the altar rail. Anyone preferring to stand at the altar rail will be welcome to do so.

We have already entered the first stage in this process. We have therefore stopped the practice of the minister intincting the wafer of those who prefer not to share the common cup. Instead, these communicants receive in 'one kind' (which, as with the *Spiritual Communion* of the Pandemic, is to receive *in full* (see for example [reception-of-communion.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](https://www.churchofengland.org/reception-of-communion.pdf))). Please note that, for hygiene reasons, it is not permissible for a communicant to intinct their own wafer.

In this first stage, communicants – as has been the case since the end of Lockdown – stand before the president to receive the Body of Christ (or a blessing). Those who prefer not to share the common cup then return to their place. Communicants then receive the Blood of Christ either by moving to a Chalice Assistant standing nearby or, if the president is alone, wait for him/her to offer the chalice.

In the second stage, which will be introduced this month, communicants will kneel (or stand) along the altar rail. Those who prefer not to share the common cup will return to their place after receiving the Body of Christ (or a blessing). Those who wish to share the common cup will remain in place.

For the sake of clarity, I have tried to be concise here! We will all learn by doing, and it may take us a few weeks before this feels 'normal'. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or suggestions, do please let me know.

With every blessing,

Martin





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



Doreen Allmayer Rucroft  
Lynne Susan Hayward

6th January  
21st January

***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)

## **CHANGE OF SERVICE PATTERN AT ST MARY'S**

**Please note:**

As Mothering Sunday falls on the 2nd Sunday of March (10th),  
this will be an All-age Family Communion.

This month only, the 1st Sunday (3rd March) will be a  
Normal Parish Communion

## **THE 200 CLUB**

The Winner in February was:

Pauline Dowse

Congratulations to our lucky winner

## I'VE OFTEN WONDERED...

In this occasional series of articles, **JOHN PRITCHARD** considers some of the questions related to different aspects of church life. His focus this month, as we approach Easter, is on what might be one of the most perplexing misnomers in the Christian calendar.

### WHY DO WE CALL GOOD FRIDAY 'GOOD'?

Each year we face this weird fact – we call the most disastrous day of the year for Christians 'good' Friday. How can the barbarous destruction of the most beautiful man who ever lived be anything but 'bad'? It was 'Bad Friday,' surely. But, against all the odds, Christians have resolutely called this day 'Good Friday'.

The question merges into a deeper one: *What was really going on that day?* The answer is that love was on trial and was about to win a stunning victory. People have had all sorts of theories about what was going on there, some more acceptable than others. For example, I find the idea that an angry God 'upstairs' was making an innocent son 'downstairs' pay the price for other people's (our) guilt, completely immoral. All the 'theories of the atonement' fail. The cross isn't a problem to solve; it's a mystery to enter.



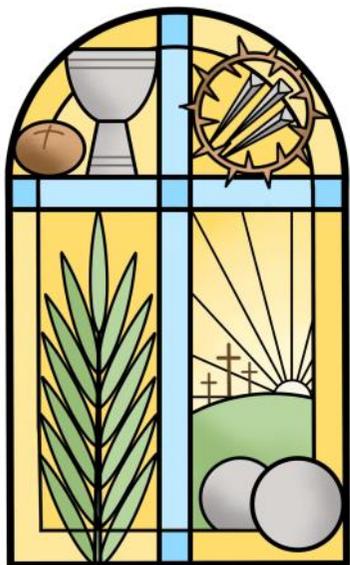
And I would maintain that it's a mystery we can only enter through the doorway named 'love.' It was love that took Jesus to the cross, and love that won the day. People have often said that 'Jesus came to die for us.' It would be much more accurate to say that 'Jesus came to live for us,' to reveal and embody the reign (or Kingdom) of God. He came to show us how to live fully, up to the hilt, or 'pressed down and running over' as he once put it. Life in all its fullness. The trouble is that, if you live too much like that, people can't stand it; it shows them up. If you live like that you run into a wall, or in Jesus' case, a cross.

But Jesus refused to compromise on living a life of abundance, of love, compassion, peace and justice. Nothing would stop him, whatever was ranged against him as he entered Jerusalem. And make no mistake, all the powers of darkness

were ranged against him by then. He confronted political power in the shape of Pilate; religious power in the shape of an establishment elite with much to lose; cultural power in the shape of a well-tuned system centred on the Temple; economic power in the hands of the wealthy deal-makers; spiritual power represented by the 'devil', who had tracked him ever since the Temptations. Jesus stood against these forces and refused to accept their authority; only his Father had authority, and that was the authority of love.

Jesus entered the world of these powerful forces and ultimately disarmed them by remaining true to himself, to his Father, and to his calling to live only the way of love. One writer puts it this way: 'Jesus took away the sin of the world by taking in hatred and giving back love; by taking in anger and giving back graciousness; by taking in envy and giving back blessing; by taking in bitterness and giving back warmth; by taking in chaos and giving back peace; by taking in sin and giving back forgiveness.'

Jesus overcame evil with good. It was the victory of love. God in Christ absorbed the world's mess and darkness, and didn't give it back. He held it, took it into himself and drained it of its power, rather as a parent does when she holds a furious, struggling two-year-old in her arms and only lets go when all passion is spent and victory is won.



It was the way of Jesus throughout his life and he carried it on to his death. He wouldn't give up on the reign of God, the way of love. He remained true to himself and his calling, testing it to destruction, and was gloriously vindicated on Easter Day.

And that's why we call this day 'good.'

*John Pritchard*





## TIME OF MY LIFE

Almost 50 years ago, **Neil Stevenson** was able to fulfil an ambition he had held since much younger. It was quite an experience, and has left a lasting impression upon him.

### A Kibbutz Summer – 1975

Scripture lessons at school. Remember them? The teacher, Mr Moody, a tall man who doubled-up as the Scout master, and who I recall had a particular fondness for the use of the strap, was my inspiration. To start, he would draw a rudimentary map of the Holy Land, consisting of two lakes, one small and a larger one to the south, connected by a long wiggly line. The western coast was represented by a curved line with a small kink to the north in the Haifa region. That was it: the map was complete.

The Biblical tales then flowed. It was the weekly lesson I looked forward to most, and I resolved as a 10 year-old boy to visit the Holy Land one day. The opportunity finally arrived whilst I was at University in Sheffield. I had come across an organisation known as Project 67 which took small parties to work on a variety of kibbutzim in Israel, and I quickly signed up, having reassured my parents that all was now calm after the 1973 War!

We had a short briefing in Leeds before we set off on the flight to Tel Aviv with about 30 others, mostly around my own age. I'm not sure if this still happens now, but a rousing version of Hava Nagila was played on the El Al plane as we touched down at the airport! We then waited to be allocated to our kibbutz. I was relieved not to be posted to one at Kiryat Shmona, just south of the border with Lebanon, but was told that I would be going to kibbutz Kfar Hanassi. This was located about 35km north of the Sea of Galilee, and the nearest village was Rosh Pinna, about 6km to the west. It looked ominously close to the Golan Heights to the east as well. Whilst writing this article, I have discovered that Boris Johnson volunteered at this kibbutz in 1984!



A foretaste of life on the kibbutz greeted us on our arrival. We were all issued with a wafer-thin mattress and a large alarm clock; the type with two big bells on the top. As I soon discovered, these demonstrated that we would have to get up very early in the morning and that we would be so tired at night after working that we didn't need a soft mattress! We slept in small prefabricated huts, three to a room. The volunteers came from all over the world, and I made friends with Australians, New Zealanders, and one from Zimbabwe.



We were, of course, there to work. For my part I was sent to work in the orchards, picking apples. Some of the later volunteers were not so lucky and ended up in the fibreglass factory, which I was glad to avoid. We woke in the dark at 5a.m. and walked over to the dining room for a quick cup of coffee and slice of bread. Then we clambered into a tractor trailer and headed off to the orchards. It was always a magnificent and memorable journey, watching the dawn breaking over the Golan Heights. We worked for about two hours, by which time it was light, and then made our way back to the dining room for a proper hearty breakfast to fortify us for the rest of the morning.



It was hard work in the sun, picking the apples from the trees and loading them into buckets. We were monitored and had to work quickly. We picked Jonathan apples, and I still think they are the sweetest ones I have ever tasted! I must have impressed someone and was soon promoted. Along with my new friend Simon, I was asked to operate a cherry picker, driving up and down between the rows of apple trees and picking the

fruit from the upper branches. We loaded these into a sack at the front of the cherry picker and then had to gently unload these from quite a height into a container without bruising any of them. No mean feat!

The teams of cherry pickers operated in shifts. We often got the midday shift, which meant that we could have a lie in, and a leisurely breakfast. It also meant, however, that we had to work during the hottest part of the day. Fortunately, each cherry picker had a large water container fixed to the back of the cab.

The kibbutz had its own swimming pool so, after work was finished, we could head down there to relax. We would swim, sunbathe and talk to new friends. Entertain-

ment was largely self-made, and I became quite an expert in backgammon, or shesh pesh, as the locals called it. There was also an open-air cinema that showed films at least once a week.

The Israeli kibbutzniks were very proud of their heritage and keen to educate us about their history and military prowess, particularly so soon after the 1973 war, so we were invited to attend a number of lectures and illustrated talks about the birth of Israel in 1948 and subsequent conflicts.

I recall that security was much in evidence on the kibbutz. All of the adult kibbutz residents would have done their military service, and there were armed guards at the entrance to the kibbutz. On one occasion we went on an organised walk down from the kibbutz for a picnic by the Jordan river, with armed guards front and rear.

We had one day off for the Sabbath. It was possible to leave the kibbutz, but you had to get away before darkness fell on a Friday so it wasn't easy. Most of us who did try had to rely on hitchhiking and we always found that the soldiers were picked up first! As a result of this, I was keen to explore the country after I had worked for about five weeks. Most of the volunteers I was with went travelling at the same time, and I teamed up with Simon. Luckily for us he had a cousin called Eric Silver who, at the time, was The Guardian's correspondent in Jerusalem. We stayed with him and his family in his flat, and Eric took us to the Old City, and the Western (Wailing) Wall).



**Western wall, Jerusalem, with The Dome of the Rock in the background.**



**Neil — with hair — outside the Al-Aqsa Mosque**

He also negotiated our safe entry to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Eric had travelled widely, and on one occasion vividly recounted his trip to Saint Catherine's Monastery in Sinai, where he slept under the stars. I will always be grateful to Eric, and also for introducing me to the delights of the felafel!

After leaving Jerusalem, we travelled using a combination of hitch-hiking and Egged buses, staying mostly in youth hostels. First stop was Nazareth, then Bethlehem and on to the waterfalls at Ein Gedi, pausing briefly by the Dead Sea. Then it was on to Masada. We stayed overnight at the youth hostel and were up early to climb to the top of the mountain before the sun rose. From the plateau on the mountain, you could still see the outlines of the Roman encampments which were used to lay siege to the mountain fortress in 73 AD. We had an exhilarating ride across the Negev Desert, complete with pillars of salt, on the back of a pick-up truck, and then to our last stop at Eilat on the tip of the Gulf of Aqaba. The coral reefs were best viewed from a glass-bottomed boat. At that time Sharm-El-Sheik was still occupied by Israel, but too far to travel at the time.



**Looking up at Masada**

All of this took place many years ago, but it made such an impression on me that my memories of it are just as strong and clear as ever.

*Neil Stevenson*

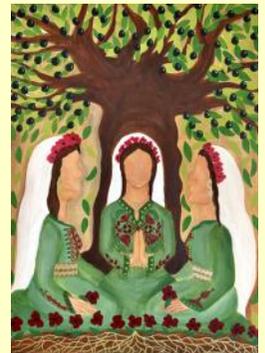


**The Knesset, Jerusalem**



**JUST A REMINDER**  
**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
**FRIDAY, 1st MARCH '24**

**Service to be held at**  
**ST MARY'S CHURCH — 2.00pm**  
**ALL WELCOME**



## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

### QUIZ NIGHT—SATURDAY 9 MARCH

Following two highly successful sell-out quiz nights last year — both socially and financially — there will be another Quiz Night on **Saturday 9 March** starting at **7.00 p.m.** With the ticket price held at £10.00 per person and hosted once more by the inimitable and hugely popular Dave Tucker, the charge includes a pie and pea supper (vegetarian option available) and the enjoyable 'Play Your Cards Right' towards the end of the evening.



There are cash prizes for the three best teams, the winners taking home £50, and also for the Play Your Cards Right winner. A bar will be running throughout the evening. Once again, Richmond Town Hall is the venue with a seating limit of 100, so get your tickets early from Castle Hill Books, Andy Lovell or committee members.

**NOTE:** Dave Tucker will return to the Town Hall in April to run a quiz as a fundraising venture to help two young Ukrainian badminton players join a European tour later in the year. Also to support Richmond student Tom MacRae, who is being sponsored to run a marathon raising money for blood cancer research, following the death of his father, Richmond resident, Alastair MacRae, who died from the disease in July 2020 at the age of 52.

### FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AGM—Sunday 17th March 11.00a.m.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mary's will take place immediately after the morning service at St Mary's Church. All members of the worshipping community, regular or occasional, on-line or in person, of St Mary's are regarded as Friends, so all are welcome to attend. We would love you to come and show your support for the work the Friends are doing to develop the social life of the church and raise money for the Step-Free Access and other improvement projects.

There are also two vacancies on the committee: please consider volunteering for a year or two to help out leading and planning our events or social occasions. Please contact Peter Trewby (Chair—contact details at the front of the magazine), Jim Jack (07754 283161) or any committee member to learn more or offer your services.

The Annual report and accounts will be available in church from 25 February onwards. The year's programme will appear in the next magazine.

*Jim Jack (Secretary)*

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

# Quiz Night

**Town Hall Richmond**

**Sat 9th March**

**7:00 pm**

**With Top Quizmaster**

**Dave Tucker**

**Bar, Raffle,**

**Play Your Cards Right**

**Tickets £10 including**

**Pie and Pea Supper**

**(Vegetarian Option)**

**Tickets available in advance from :**

**Castlehill Bookshop,**

**Prizes (Top Prize £50)**

**Call 07974766020 for Details**

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

## NOTES FROM OUR PAST

This month **JANE HATCHER** delves into the history of an intriguing building in the parish of Downholme, and tells us more about its occupants over the centuries.

### WALBURN HALL

Most people driving from Richmond to Leyburn, certainly from my part of the town, would head up past the Holly Hill Inn and over the moor road. Then along the straight moor road, perhaps wondering how on earth William Wordsworth managed to find, in such a desolate location, the then-famous Hartleap Well about which he wrote a popular poem. Nowadays one is more likely to spot a platoon of trainee soldiers undergoing some damp exercise!

Then one drops down to Halfpenny House, which I wrote about for the earlier incarnation of the Parish Magazine, many moons ago. But if you rely on public transport, the bus journey from Richmond to Leyburn also takes you to the junction near Halfpenny House, but by a very different route. Shortly before reaching the junction, the bus has to negotiate a Z-bend, and here is one of the most remarkable houses in Richmondshire, the historic Walburn Hall, which lies in Downholme Parish.

Walburn Hall is a Grade I Listed Building, built as a fortified manor house, perhaps in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The bus takes you past its old arched entranceway set in a battlemented wall. Behind the battlements is a walkway from which bowmen could have defended the place, but its only recorded part in warfare was when it was defended for King Charles I during the English Civil War.



Once upon a time, Walburn Hall was a much larger complex than it is now. Parts of its ancient buildings have been out of use for many centuries. But a lot of early work survives, especially from the time of improvements made by its owners in the time of the first Queen Elizabeth. Since then, Walburn Hall has survived, not as a manor house, but as a working farmhouse, passing through a succession of

landowners, including the Huttons of Marske.

In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Walburn Hall belonged to Timothy Hutton of Clifton Castle, and he undertook considerable restoration of the old fabric, and improved the farmhouse. Timothy's strong affection for Walburn, as its squire, meant that he and his wife Elizabeth chose to be buried in Downholme Church, not at Thornton Watlass, in which parish their residence at Clifton Castle lay.



Walburn Hall now belongs to the Ministry of Defence, for its lands were taken over as a training ground for what was then called Catterick Camp, since re-named Catterick Garrison, as befits the British army's largest military base. But Walburn Hall continued in use as a farmhouse, and

the lands immediately surrounding it have continued to represent a more peaceful use of Yorkshire's traditional landscape heritage, a working farm where champion Limousin cattle are raised, and Swaledale sheep graze the surrounding pastures.

We know a lot about its tenants in the time of Timothy Hutton through his detailed diaries. The Hall's land must always have been very good for raising cattle, for even in Timothy's time, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, he bought from his tenant there, Ralph Wilkinson, a fine cow which Timothy named 'Wilkinson' in honour of its breeder. Ralph Wilkinson died in 1820 at the age of 55, and was buried at Downholme. Timothy held him in such regard that he was the executor for Ralph Wilkinson's Will.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the farmer is named as Henry Storey, and then there were several Cleminsons, until a nephew, David Greenwood, took over in the 1960s. Many members of Richmond congregations will still remember David Greenwood, the congenial churchwarden of Downholme Church for 50 years. The farm is now in the capable hands of David and Diana Greenwood's son, Bruce, and grandson Dan.

If the light is right as the bus rounds those bends near Walburn Hall, you can still

see in the surrounding fields the historic ‘corduroy’ pattern left behind by the ‘ridge-and-furrow’ system of ancient arable cultivation. For when the land was ploughed by teams of oxen turning the soil to one side as they toiled in one direction, and then to the other side as they made the return journey, over time it created a series of parallel shallow mounds, or ridges, and depressions, or furrows.



Such fields were worked communally, villagers growing food for the landowner plus their own families. It was usual to have three fields, organised around a system of crop rotation. Taking the first field as an example, in

the first year it would be sown with a ‘hungry’ crop, such as oats or beans, followed the next year by a crop less ‘hungry’, such as rye. In the third year, the field was allowed to rest without a crop – this was the fallow year. The other fields in the settlement would follow a similar pattern, always with one fallow year. After crops had been harvested, stock were turned out to graze on the stubble, thus conveniently manuring the land while they did so.

Where such evidence of this type of ancient field systems survives, it indicates that here was once a well-organised manorial village. Although nowadays there is no village as such as Walburn, it has been identified as a Deserted Medieval Village, and scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Archaeologists have used surveying techniques to plot the village layout. It is thought the original village became depopulated after a series of devastating Scottish raids in the early-14<sup>th</sup> century.

Not far from Walburn Hall is another farm which now belongs to the Ministry of Defence, Boston Farm. This was once a favourite retreat of Timothy Hutton’s, and he spent a lot of money converting the house into a shooting lodge suitable for gentlemanly occupation. Here, Timothy and his wife came each August for the grouse shooting season.

Timothy’s tenant at Boston was Anthony Croft, who combined farming with looking after the house for the large part of the year during which the Huttons were

not in residence. Anthony Croft seems to have also been the churchwarden of Downholme Church, for in 1841 Timothy met with him there to discuss the repairs being required of him, as squire, by the then Archdeacon of Richmond, the Venerable John Headlam.

Anthony Croft died in 1850 aged 80, and Aaron March took over Boston Farm. But Timothy let Anthony Croft's elderly widow, Margaret, who had acted as his housekeeper when the Huttons were in residence, stay on at Boston, looked after by a manservant called Solomon Coates, and a girl housemaid, 16-year-old Susanna Spence. Timothy paid Margaret a pension until she died aged 84 in 1861.

*Jane Hatcher*

### BEYOND THE BENEFICE

The Post Office scandal has been much in the news of late and, in particular, the role of its past-Chief Executive, Paula Vennells, who also happens to be an ordained Church of England priest. **JOHN PRITCHARD** recently shared with us a letter published in The Times in January from one of his friends, Rt Rev David Wilbourne, another retired Bishop. It deserves another airing.

Sir,

Anyone familiar with the history of the Church of England should not be surprised that Paula Vennells almost became Bishop of London in 2017. In 1724, Lancelot Blackburne was appointed Archbishop of York, despite having been a pirate in the Caribbean. From 1732 until his death in office in 1743, no ordinations whatsoever took place. Performing a rare confirmation at St Mary's Nottingham he was ejected by the Vicar, who took exception to the bored Archbishop attempting to light a pipe and down a pint during the service. When previously Dean of Exeter, he had dug a tunnel from his deanery to a nearby canon's house so that he could desport with his wife. As the satirist William Donaldson quipped: "His behaviour was seldom of the standard expected of a cleric; in fact it was seldom of the standard expected of a pirate."

## GRAND DAY OUT

Probably one of the most impressive buildings in the area, even though it is just over the border in Co. Durham, the Bowes Museum is a 'must-see' for you and your visitors. To give you a taste of what can be found there, let **CAROLE McCORMACK** tempt you with what she discovered.

### Bowes Museum & Egglestone Abbey

As newcomers to Richmond in 2020, one of our first visits after being released from the various Covid lockdowns was to the Bowes Museum. But nothing prepares you for the magnificence of the building, nor the philanthropy of Josephine and John Bowes – not to mention the eclectic collections curated.



The benefactors designed the building as a French chateau – and it is difficult to believe that it was never inhabited as a house, but was built, and has remained, as a museum. It opened in 1895, poignantly after the death of both John and Josephine Bowes and it houses diverse collections: porcelain and paintings; furniture; and a recently re-designed fashion and fabric gallery. But its most famous artefact is the Silver Swan automaton. At the end of the nineteenth century, this was regarded as a complete marvel and there are touching contemporary accounts of peoples' astonishment and wonder at paying a very small sum of money to watch the operation of the skilfully-articulated model.



Today it remains a beautiful item, whose naturalistic movements are enhanced by the accompanying music. Last year, after a major fund-raising campaign, it was dismantled for cleaning and restoration, but it has now returned and is fully operational once again.

Bowes Museum is a magical place and transports the visitor to a time when personal gain was not everything, but passion to share beautiful and rare items with those who could never dream to encounter them dominated the lives of the two selfless benefactors.

Entry is not cheap but lasts for thirteen months. For local people it costs £13.50 for a single person, and £27 for joint entry.

Apart from the formal gardens and pond which lie in front of the Museum, there are more extensive wooded grounds and a small adventure playground. There is also a café (and loos!) that it is possible to visit without paying to enter the Museum – also a very tempting gift shop! At just 11 miles from Richmond, clearly signed off the A66, it really is a grand day out in its own right, but becomes even ‘grander’ when combined with a visit to Egglestone Abbey, which one drives past en route to the Bowes Museum.

Egglestone Abbey is dedicated to St Mary and St John the Baptist and was founded between 1195 and 1198 for Premonstratensian canons (the same order that lived and worshipped at Easby). St Norbert founded the Premonstratensian Order at

Prémontré in France in 1121, adopting the rule of St Augustine and borrowing from the stricter Cistercians. The endowment of Egglestone was so small that early in the 13th century the Abbot of Prémontré deputed three of his English abbots to hold an inquiry to decide if the status of the abbey should be reduced to that of a priory. It remained an abbey, but poverty beset the canons throughout their history. They suffered particularly when the Scots ravaged Yorkshire in 1315 and at other times of war, receiving frequent remissions of taxes to maintain them.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the site was granted to Robert Strelley in 1548. He converted the east and north ranges into a mansion and installed a kitchen in the west range, and this almost homely and domestic appearance of this part of the ruins is what first struck me. It was helped by the low setting sun which brought the ruin alive, giving the appearance of a cosy warmth and light behind the empty windows.



As is the case with Easby Abbey, access to Egglestone is free and I have never known it to be closed to the public. There is a convenient car park adjacent to the monument with level access via a pedestrian gate.

If one is accompanied by dogs, there is the bonus of a good walk (on leads only, for safety reasons) along the banks of the River Tees, accessed beside the road bridge a short distance (approximately 150 metres) from the Abbey.

## MY BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS

For the third in this series, Jim Jack talks with **STUART HAMILTON** about the family butcher's business which he and his wife, Becky, have owned and run in Rosemary Lane since 2000.

Stuart Hamilton's time in the profession began not in 2000, but as a 12-year-old, one of three children. He was already working in Stablers Newsagents (now Co-op Funeral Care), sorting and delivering newspapers before school started, when a friend asked him to cover a shift at the butcher's shop, then owned and run by Arthur Barker. 'One-off shift' completed, he was asked if he could come back next week, thus starting a relationship with the building and the business which has lasted to this day.



**The Rosemary Lane premises before it became Barker's butcher's (moved from Tolbooth 1947)**

Under a new owner, David Andrews, Stuart found himself working pre-school and post-school shifts, carrying out general duties and, as time went on, spells of serving behind the counter — although he recalls that a number of customers refused to be served by this youngster, wanting to be served by 'a proper butcher!' As soon as he could leave school, he was working for David Andrews full-time.

### **Learning the Trade and Serving the Customers**

Stuart learned the skills involved — boning meat properly; preparing the end-product ready for sale; knowing the cuts; and being able to use this knowledge to advise customers to name but some — initially by watching and then by doing. He remembers, however, that if, for example, he was set on to bone some meat and got it wrong, it was some time before he was allowed another 'go'. He did enjoy the work and continues to do so to this day — mixing the behind-the-scenes preparation and then meeting and talking with customers when the doors are open. When David Andrews decided to retire in 2000, it was a natural progression for Stuart and Becky to take on the business, which they have done with cheerful smiles until this day.

Experience of working in Andrew's 'traditional butchers' and listening to customers had taught Stuart and Becky that some tweaks to the business in line with changing times and tastes would help. Widening the range of burgers and

sausages (all made on the premises by Stuart) felt like a big step — but the new ranges worked and so further choices were added. With Stuart also interested in baking, an offer of a box of chopped dates in 2012 led him to make a batch of date slices as a ‘one off’. 12 years later, this ‘new line’ is still going strong.



**Stuart outside his own business**

‘Mr Hamilton’s Home Cooked Gammon joints’ proved to be another winner — so much so that people have been known to travel from as far as Manchester and Hull to collect a couple. The record order was from Sheffield, when someone took eighteen away for friends and family. Needless to say, such customers phone their orders ahead to avoid disappointment. Regular holidaymakers also return for preserves, baking, fresh and cooked meats.

### **Early starters**

A typical day has Stuart rising at 3.00a.m and arriving at the shop by 3.45. The doors open at 5.00a.m, by which time the pies and bakery items have already been put into the ovens upstairs, before the work begins to set up the window display . All is then ready for action at 5.00a.m.

Is it busy? ‘You’d be surprised,’ says Stuart. HGV drivers and others setting off for work away from home; delivery drivers on early shifts; early dog-walkers in the lighter months — and even the slightly worse for wear party-goer on their way home after a good night out (‘generally amenable’ Stuart observes). Demand for warm pies, sausage rolls, and perhaps some early shoppers for meat, gets the Hamiltons’ day off to a steady start.

As much as possible, like other local independents, the Hamiltons try to source as much of their stock as locally as possible. Locally reared meat comes via wholesalers in Ripon and Leeds, abattoir requirements tending to concentrate availability through bigger major centres. Stuart also pointed out that a number of small local providers have gone out of business, either through owner retirement or through rising costs which, because they were local, they are reluctant to keep passing on to their consumer ‘neighbours’. As well as rising transport and energy costs, we discussed the effect of such things as national minimum wage,

where those in the business ‘chain’ are left with meeting the costs of implementing a national decision. Pass on the cost; try to absorb, which cuts owner income; or shed jobs to reduce total costs? No easy answers here.

### **All in the family**

Hamilton’s is a genuine family business — Stuart, his wife Becky, his sister Jackie and daughters all work full-time or part-time in the business. Stuart’s eldest daughter, Lisa, started working in the shop, too, but sought a warmer job after a few years. Jackie wasn’t daunted by the cold, so took over from Lisa and has stayed to this day.



Their other children have come in on a part-time basis, making pies on Saturdays or helping out in the shop at busy times or during school holidays. When the children were younger, Becky would take them away for the first part of a holiday, while Stuart ran the shop, after which they switched roles. Otherwise, it was six days per week, initially 5.00a.m.—5.00p.m, with Saturday evenings given over to book-keeping and paying the bills.

One of the good things about Covid was that they learned that they could close the shop for a summer break and that customers understood — as they do when the shop now closes at 2.00p.m. As with other local businesses who get to know their clientele, customers understand the owners’ needs too.

### **The Challenge of Covid**

Covid meant a different way of working. Even though supermarkets were still open, Stuart anticipated that people would return to smaller shops to avoid the contact with lots of people, which supermarket shopping involved. He also expected that there would be some bulk-buying by customers, in order for them to cut down their own contact time with others. As a result, the Hamiltons increased their wholesaler orders of a number of products, and from the onset of lockdown, these larger orders meant that the shop was always stocked to meet the anticipated demand. Indeed, throughout their time of ownership, and in spite of not having run their own business before, even in Covid times they seemed to get quantities ‘in stock’ about right, with very little waste.

Although only two customers were allowed in the shop at any one time, the Hamiltons were serving hundreds of people each day — some queuing outside at 5.00 a.m. when the doors were opened. Closing at 2.00p.m. allowed the demands of their burgeoning home-delivery order book to be fully supplied. Instead of their usual single van, they were now running three. Driving through deserted streets in Richmond and beyond, socially-distanced ‘thumbs up’ and letters of appreciation from customers — even from Rishi Sunak! — all stick in the mind when looking back on that ‘surreal’ period — an example of the personal service which our local businesses provide.

### **Hot pies—but not as usual**

Another challenge occurred when, on walking to work early one Saturday morning in June 2015, Stuart noticed a slight haze over part of the town. Looking out of his back door, smoke and a small fire were in evidence. The Fire Brigade was duly called, but what had seemed to be a small problem proved to be the trigger for a major blaze affecting roof voids in the whole block. Being advised to leave quickly, Stuart did so, grabbing a tray of baked pies as he left. Although extremely busy extinguishing the blaze, the nearby firemen were still calm enough to realise the availability of a snack — so the pies didn’t go to waste! Whilst the fire itself left the Hamilton’s shop largely unaffected, water damage had led to the loss of power to fridges and freezers. Fire extinguished and safety checks (particularly electrical) completed, the Hamilton family set to, removing unusable stock, giving the shop and food preparation areas a thorough cleaning down on the Sunday — and, as usual, at 3.45a.m. on the Monday morning, Stuart arrived to set up, ready to open the doors on time at 5.00a.m.



**Firemen tackle blaze 6 June 2015**

Through all of these times, as employee and then as owners, Stuart and Becky are grateful to their customer base for their support and for the good health which has enabled them, holidays excepted, to offer a continuous, very locally-focussed service. The old delivery bike outside has never been used for deliveries, but it stands as a symbol of the enduring qualities of traditional service which make our local businesses, such as Hamilton’s, special.

*Jim Jack*



## 60 SECOND INTERVIEW

This month **John Pritchard** has a chat with **MARGARET BERESFORD-PEIRSE**, a long standing member of our congregation who, since her husband's retirement from active ministry, now enjoys being able to sit beside him in church.

**First memory?** Aged 2, on ship to Nigeria and worried the ship might be demolished before we disembarked.

**Favourite meal?** Salmon and new potatoes.

**Favourite music or musician?** Peter, Paul and Mary.

**Pet dislike?** Snobbery.

**Best holiday?** Family holidays with daughters on Solway coast.

**Childhood hero?** Richard Todd.

**Favourite hobby?** Listening to music and reading.

**Luxury on Desert Island?** Solar panel with coffee machine and lifetime supply of coffee.

**Recent TV you've enjoyed?** Planet Earth.

**Worst fault?** Worrying we'll miss the train.

**2 best films ever?** Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid; Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

**Favourite drink?** Pinot Grigio.

**Regret?** Never having been to Machu Picchu.

**Best recent book?** How to Raise an Elephant by Alexander McCall Smith.

**Favourite charity?** Childline.

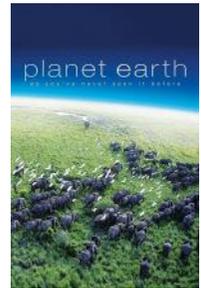
**Place you feel happiest?** Sandyhills beach, Dumfries and Galloway.

**Three dinner companions?** David Attenborough, Aled Jones, Maggie Aderin-Pocock.

**What do you pray for most?** Peace and equality.

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

**Epitaph?** She was a great wife, mother and grandmother





## CAFÉ CHURCH SPECIAL

**SUNDAY, 17th MARCH**

**3.45 for 4.00pm**

**in St MARY'S CHURCH**

Kenneth Wilson — otherwise known as 'Highway Cello' — is making a welcome return to St Mary's this month. Instead of the usual Café Church format, his visit will be a Meditative Performance appropriate to the season of Lent. His programme will consist of meditative poems on the Seven Last Words of Christ, with the poems alternating with Sarabandes from the Bach Cello Suites.

For those who do not know of him, Kenneth describes himself as 'an ex-vicar, failed property developer, and reformed vegetarian, who once ran an India travel company.' He lives in Hexham and, in 2022, cycled with his cello from Hadrian's Wall to Rome, performing every day en route. If you would like to know more, he has written a book about this adventure — *Highway Cello* published by City Village.

There is no admission charge for this performance, but half the proceeds of a retiring collection will be given to St Mary's Church.



A photograph of a man wearing a red beret and a dark jacket, playing a cello. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with trees. The text is overlaid on the image in white.

# Highway Cello

Welcome return of

## Kenneth Wilson and his Cello

Kenneth will be playing Sarabandes  
from the Bach Cello Suites  
with meditative poems on the  
Seven Last Words of Christ.

Free entry. Donations invited.

St. Mary's Church, Richmond  
Sun 17th March 4.00pm

See further details on his website :

[www.kennethwilsoncello.com](http://www.kennethwilsoncello.com)

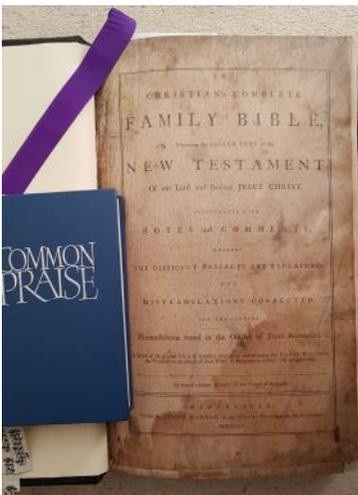
## FAMILY BIBLES

Long before the days of *Ancestry* and *Find My Past*, and often in the absence of Church records, Family Bibles were the only sources of information about our ancestors. **CHRISTINE PORTER** shares with us what she has discovered from a Bible she inherited and restored.

According to Guinness World Records, as of 1995 the Bible is the best selling book of all time with an estimated 5 billion copies sold. Before the invention of the printing press, bibles were rare and meticulously hand-written - like the wonderful Lindisfarne Gospels - and, even in the early days of printing, bibles were so valuable that they were frequently chained to church pulpits.

As mass printing of books developed, there also developed a monopoly by a few presses (the English and Scottish royal printers, and Oxford and Cambridge university presses) for printing the Authorised Version of the bible. This monopoly greatly restricted the distribution of bibles in England. Many printers got round this by publishing Family Bibles. These usually included illustrations, maps and commentaries, and were presented as educational materials, designed for family bible study. Many were large and heavy, and often recorded family marriages, births and deaths. For women and children in particular, who were often neglected in public records, the Family Bible would be one of the few places recording them. For this reason, Family Bibles could prove a relationship, and historically courts used them as evidence to award inheritances.

The first Family Bible was printed by William Rayner in 1739, and by the end of the 19th century an increasing number had appeared. They were particularly common



in urban Northern England. Historically, the Family Bible is passed down through the matriarchal side of the family, normally given as a gift to the eldest daughter. However, my husband John ended up with his Mother's Family Bible because he was an only child.

When we inherited this heirloom it was showing its age, falling apart and stained with damp, with the wooden end boards detached, the pages ragged and loose - and spineless. Understandable really, since it was well over two centuries old and had been passed down through working class homes, lacking the central heating and dry interiors that we

now take for granted. This precious tome was badly in need of professional conservation, to preserve it for future generations. As a former university librarian, I was able to draw up a detailed spec for: repair and restitching, full binding in Moroccan goatskin, spine lettering in gold leaf, and a slip case. With the ragged pages trimmed all round, the Bible still measures 18 inches high and weighs a whopping 17 pounds! Published in MDCCLXV (1765), the title page reads:

*“THE CHRISTIAN’S COMPLETE FAMILY BIBLE, Containing the SACRED TEXT of the  
NEW TESTAMENT*

*Of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST.*

*ILLUSTRATED WITH NOTES AND COMMENTS; WHEREBY THE DIFFICULT PASSAGES  
ARE EXPLAINED;*

*THE MISTRANSLATIONS CORRECTED;*

*AND THE SEEMING*

*Contradictions found in the Oracles of Truth are Reconciled.*

*A Work of the greatest Use in all Families desirous of understanding the SACRED  
WRITINGS,*

*the Foundations on which all their Hopes of Happiness in a future Life are grounded.*

*By several eminent DIVINES of the Church of England.*

*MANCHESTER; Printed by JOSEPH HARROP, at the PRINTING PRESS opposite the  
EXCHANGE. MDCCLXV.”*

The Church of England’s “eminent DIVINES” certainly augmented the biblical text. With a lengthy “Argument” preceding each Book and copious commentaries and footnotes on each page, these explanations are double or triple the length of the main text itself!

The Bible originally belonged to Edward and Sarah Fairclough, our own children’s great-great-great-great Grandparents. Inside the back cover are recorded, in one handwriting, Edward and Sarah’s eleven children, with day, month and year of birth:

*Ann 1789, Mary 1794, Margaret 1796, Jane 1798, Alice Sarah 1800, William 1802,  
Edward 1804, William 1805, Ellen 1808, Henrietta 1810, Charlotte 1812.* Followed by: *“Ann wife of John Rothwell died March 17th 1813”,* presumably the eldest sibling, who would then have been 24 (did she die in childbirth - who knows?) and *“William Fairclough the Younger died August 4th 1813”,* when he was 9.

The entries continue in a different handwriting, recording the parents themselves:

*“Edward Fairclough born September 10th 1769; Jane wife of E Fairclough born July 6th 1768;*

*Edward Fairclough died 30th July 1817 aged 48 years;*

*Jane wife of the above Edward Fairclough died July 25th aged 80 years and was interred July 30th 1848.”*

This hand also annotated two earlier records: for Alice Sarah **“died October 10th 1816”** (age 16), and for William the firstborn son **“died September 2nd 1805”**. This explains why there had been two Williams: when 3-year old William died on September 2nd, Sarah was already pregnant with her eighth child, and when he was born a few months later on December 29th he was given the same name. Intriguingly, the same handwriting also added to Charlotte’s entry the time of her birth: **“Charlotte Fairclough born November 8th 3 o’clock 1812 Morning”**. In the days of home births, when the entire household was indoors and abed, it’s not surprising that someone, possibly all of them, remembered the hour of little Lottie’s arrival.

We can visualise the family gathered round to study their Bible, led by Edward and Sarah, the smallest ones anticipating the next picture - maybe a scary one like SOLOMON’S JUDGMENT - the younger scholars learning their letters and words, the older scholars reading passages aloud to everyone.

Charlotte, the last of Edward and Jane’s children, was born when Jane was 44. Edward died less than five years later, but



Sarah lived to the ripe old age of 80. She outlived at least four of her children. One of Sarah’s grandchildren, a girl born in 1836, eventually gave birth to Thomas, my husband’s grandfather. Thomas clearly remembered his cousins the Faircloughs, descended from Edward and Sarah’s sole surviving son, also Edward. They all lived on Park Road, Chorley, Lancashire. Like the Faircloughs who’d gone before, they’d all been baptised at St Lawrence’s Church ... where many decades later my husband John became a chorister. Their names live on in the Family Bible, now proudly displayed with our own “Victorian studio” family photos of 1983 and (adding son-in-law) 2006.

*Christine Porter*



## CHARITY OF THE MONTH

This month we are invited to support a local charity

— our own **MOTHERS' UNION** —



with background kindly provided by **MARGARET CLAYSON**

The Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement helping the world's hardest to reach communities to transform their lives. According to the MU website, it has been providing support for families since 1876 and now has about 4 million members in 84 countries. With kindness, courage, compassionate action, and always with prayer, members are working with people of all faiths and helping them towards a future free of violence, poverty and injustice.

Our own branch, St Mary's Mothers' Union, works to maintain these Christian ethics in Richmond, and needs funds to be able to do so. Our members now include men, clergy and women, who may or may not be mothers, but all are dedicated to the values of family life. We have services for Advent and Lady Day, as well as input into the Mothering Sunday Service, for which we provide pots of primulas for the congregations of Richmond, Downholme and Marske. We also meet socially several times each year; raise funds with small raffles, cake stalls etc.; always support Mothers' Union National events such as 'Make a Mother's Day' and 'Summer of Hope'; and help with Diocesan events.



Locally, we have supported the residents of The Beacon with Christmas and Easter cards and gifts and have contributed to the AFIA (Away From It All) appeal, which provides week-long holidays at Primrose Valley holiday park for families who otherwise would not be able to afford to go. A local family has benefitted from this and we have also helped with the purchase and upkeep of two caravans owned by the Leeds Diocese, as well as supporting Marrick Priory. We have helped a Richmond family coming out of a



**Marrick Priory**

refuge to set up home and have given toys and goods to the local Women's Refuge. The Warm Hub in the Methodist church has been supported once again this Winter, and one of our members is a regular volunteer there. Our current efforts are being directed towards providing two more chairs for the 'tech station' in church, so that our original chairs can go back to the Mothers' Union Votive Candle Stand and prayer station.

In 2017, when raising money for the Church bells, Peter Trewby called us The Belles of St Mary's: we can next be seen after the Mothering Sunday Service on 10<sup>th</sup> March, when we shall be hosting a Bake Stall. We hope you will support us, so please bring some cash with you on that day.

*Margaret Clayson*



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](mailto:JohnRidley7449@aol.com)).**



## NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

March is definitely a month with Spring in the air, so no doubt many people will be starting to think about their gardens and what they will be growing this year. Rather than just going to a garden centre and buying — possibly expensive — plants, **WENDY PRITCHARD** offers some tips on growing-your-own for a much more modest outlay — and often with satisfying results.

There are some garden tasks which I don't look forward to - cutting the hedge and turning the compost heap, to name just two. But a job that I really like is raising little plants indoors from seed, and March is a good time to get started. I still remember the thrill of growing tiny cacti from seed when I was a girl — watching these little miniatures start to slowly develop was so much better than buying them fully grown! Now I grow tomatoes, cosmos, French beans (which can go in pots) and so on.

Whatever the weather, this small miracle of growth just needs a warm window-sill out of constant direct sun to get started. It's a good way to use recycled plastic tubs (with holes poked in the bottom for drainage), but don't be tempted to re-purpose some garden soil or your cherished seedling could well turn out to be a weed! Put some of your bought potting compost in a big container — a bucket would do — and give it a good slop of water. Mix this up so all the compost is damp but not soggy. Then transfer it carefully to your containers and push it down gently.

Sow the seeds as directed on the packet, with each sort of seed having its own container. Space the seeds out if you can, remembering that you don't need to use every seed in the packet if there are several hundred! If you're using the trays of little square pots joined together, it's a good idea to put just a few seeds spaced apart in each pot, then keep the strongest seedling. (Be strong, this can feel like murder!)

You can cover the seeds with a thin layer of vermiculite instead of potting compost. This is a very light material which really helps the seeds to get started; it's available from anywhere



that sells garden products. Then cover the container with a see-through lid (again, recycling can come in handy, or use a plastic bag) and label each pot with what's in it.

And now it's the exciting time, when you can look at the pots every day, despairing of anything happening, until all at once little green shoots start to appear. It's almost like giving birth, but without the pain or the sleepless nights to follow! When a few seedlings have emerged, take the lid off and water very gently whenever the soil looks dry, but don't overdo this.

After the seedlings have some of their proper leaves, you can carefully transfer them to bigger pots, ('pricking out'), before planting out in the garden when the frost danger is over. And then feel very proud and defensive of your babies! No slugs allowed!



### **MOTHERING SUNDAY— 10th MARCH**

When the shops of today are full of mass-produced cards for Mothers' Day, **CAROLE McCORMACK** takes a look at some which were made and sent over 100 years ago in far less happier times.

### **EXPRESSING LOVE IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES**

Some of the smallest and most fragile artefacts held by Richmondshire Museum are to do with the expression of love – postcards sent home from the front in WWI to loved ones. They are a poignant reminder that, although more than a century has passed since these postcards were written, the bonds of love that bind family together haven't changed.

These embroidered postcards from the First World War are sometimes called 'WWI silks'. Because censorship prohibited long messages from the front being sent home to loved ones, these became a popular and effective way for soldiers to communicate with their families and friends. In 1917 it is thought that some two million letters and postcards per day were handled by British post offices.



The postcards were mainly embroidered by French and Belgian women in need of earning extra money when they had lost their homes, or had been displaced by allied troops. Sometimes, older people, children, or injured soldiers also embroidered the

cards. Their method of production was hand embroidery on long strips of silk mesh – with up to twenty-five designs being made on a single strip. The strips were then sent to factories for cutting and making into postcards.

The word ‘Mother’ was frequently included in the designs; and beautiful or patriotic designs were common. So too were images of good luck; and images of flowers which reflected the still-popular ‘Language of Flowers’ beloved of Victorians. Although expensive, the ‘silks’ became a fashionable item for a soldier to send to a loved family member or friend.

Sometimes, as in the photos here, the post card was a single piece of embroidery; but others were made to resemble an envelope, with a pocket which contained a tiny message.

When the age of these artefacts is considered, their state of preservation is quite remarkable. This is due to the fact that they were put into envelopes and sent home as military mail, at no charge to the sender. I wonder how many were sent for Mother’s Day?



*Carole McCormack*



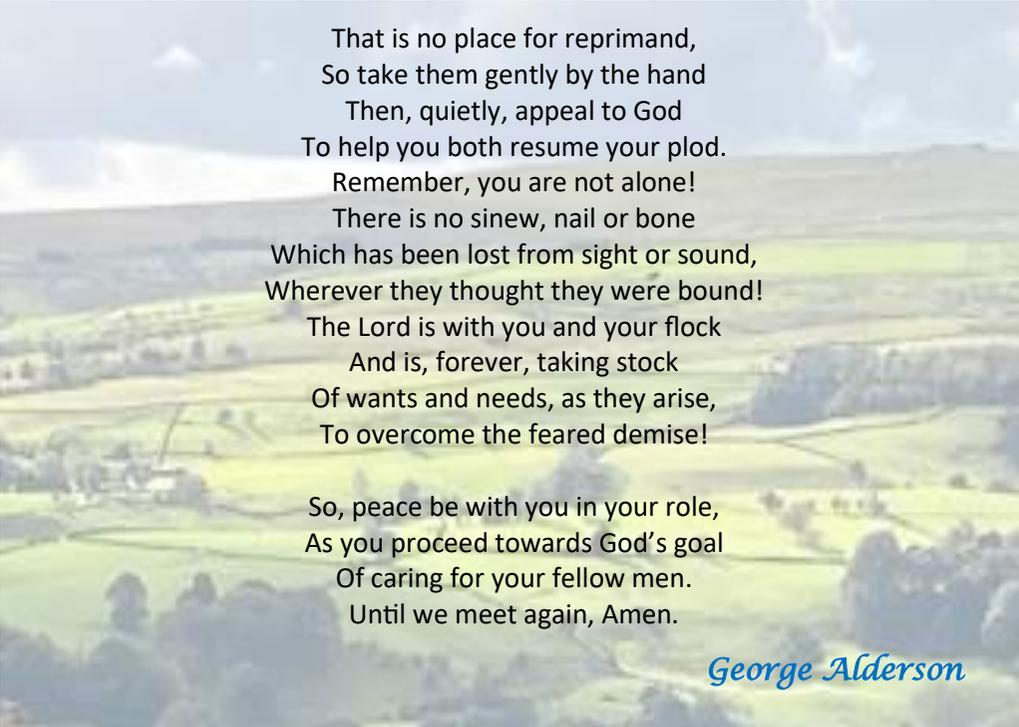
## POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

As the Lent courses draw to a close, some with implications for our own lives in the coming months, **GEORGE ALDERSON** offers some of his thoughts in a poem about how we can lead by our own actions.

### The Priest By The Moor

Unrecognised as saint – so far –  
There's little wrong with what you are!  
As long as you maintain the peace  
Which you exude, good will increase!  
When people wonder what to do or say,  
You'll have an answer "Let US pray!"  
Like everyone, you'll need to learn  
Which matters are of "great concern!"  
To some, they may appear a wall,  
As Christ himself appeared to Paul,  
Who, for a moment, was struck blind,  
Then God Almighty helped him find  
The way to overcome his blight  
And then restored his absent sight!

Now you, my friend, are steps ahead!  
Your flock awaits and, gently led,  
You'll move together – God knows where –  
You all have skills that you can share  
To fight the challenges you'll face.  
With Satan snubbed, you'll find a space  
For others who have learned of you  
And wish to join the growing crew!  
Of course, all this will take a while –  
The journey's not a single mile –  
So take your time, though stay alert,  
Ensuring that no one is hurt  
By losing faith when things are tough  
And think that "I have had enough!"



That is no place for reprimand,  
So take them gently by the hand  
Then, quietly, appeal to God  
To help you both resume your plod.  
Remember, you are not alone!  
There is no sinew, nail or bone  
Which has been lost from sight or sound,  
Wherever they thought they were bound!  
The Lord is with you and your flock  
And is, forever, taking stock  
Of wants and needs, as they arise,  
To overcome the feared demise!

So, peace be with you in your role,  
As you proceed towards God's goal  
Of caring for your fellow men.  
Until we meet again, Amen.

*George Alderson*

### **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](mailto:storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk)

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

## Join the St Mary's Song Squad

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

**For more information or to sign up for the Song Squad**

**Contact Chris Denton 07817 386070**



**Usually last Sunday in every month,  
but not in March as Easter Day  
Next service — 28 April  
For children and the young at heart.  
Why not come and join us?  
[www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk](http://www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk)**

## LADIES' GROUP

**Meets last Friday of each month**

**MORRO LOUNGE  
Richmond Market Place  
Next Meeting:**

**NB: 22 March this month**



## **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  
7 March**



## Word Search

### Love and serve one another

On Maundy Thursday we recall the final command that Jesus gave to His disciples before His death. After the Last Supper, He rose and washed His disciples' feet. This was astonishing for a 'teacher' to do, but He had a firm purpose in mind: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The 'washing of the feet' ceremony was an important part of the medieval church's liturgy, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

Maundy  
Thursday  
Final  
Command  
Jesus  
Disciples  
Death  
Last  
Supper  
Washed  
Feet  
Astonishing  
Purpose  
Teacher  
As  
Loved  
you  
Must  
One  
Another  
Service  
Domination



Ceremony

Medieval

Humility

Latin

Obedience

## Sudoku - Easy

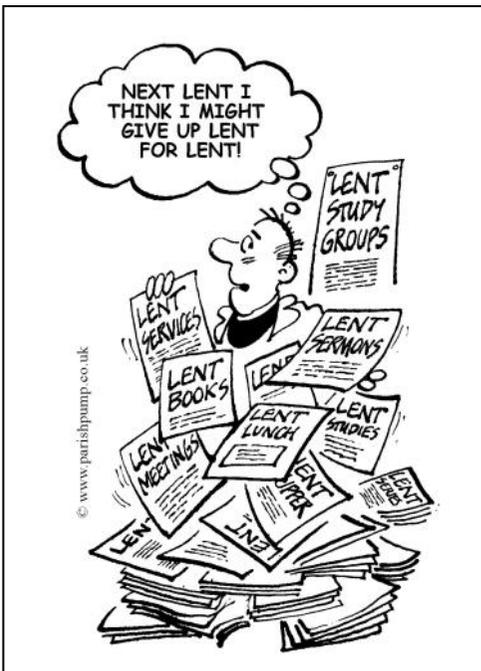
			5	6	7	1		4
				9	1	2		
1			4			5	8	6
	3				6			9
4	5						6	1
6			9				5	
8	2	3			9			5
			4	6	3			
9		5	2	8	4			

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## Sudoku - Medium

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

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## INFORMATION POINT — ALL ARE WELCOME

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

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

## AFTER THE CARDS AND VISITORS

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

Starting again on your own is even more difficult.

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

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

Please phone **Carrie Stephenson (01748) 850103** if you would welcome any more information. The approach is very informal and relaxed

TELEPHONE SUPPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

Do please get in touch.

## PASTORAL CARE — A CONTINUING SERVICE

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

We are refreshing the **Prayer Circle**, an email-based anonymous group of church members who commit to pray when specific prayer requests are made, usually for named people. These can be relatives, friends or acquaintances, who may not even live in the area, but who would appreciate confidential prayer. No prayer request is ever too small or trivial. Whatever you wish to share, in confidence, we will support you in prayer.

If you would like prayer (or to be a pray-er), please contact **Anna** via [pray@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk](mailto:pray@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk) or text her on 07394 907924.



"All are welcome  
in this place."

## Puzzle Solutions

### Sudoku — Easy

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

### Sudoku — Medium

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

### Wordsearch

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

**Deadline April '24 edition; Monday 11th March**

**To contribute letters, articles, etc**

**contact [connections.ed24@gmail.com](mailto:connections.ed24@gmail.com) or 07866 033263**

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friday 5th April**

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**foundthenote@yahoo.com**

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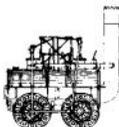




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