

Connections

The background image is a photograph of the interior of a church. It shows rows of blue upholstered chairs with wooden frames, arranged in a nave leading towards an altar. The altar area features a large, multi-paned stained glass window with colorful designs. Above the altar, there is a wooden cross. The church has a high, vaulted ceiling with blue and white painted ribs. On either side of the altar, there are tall, narrow stained glass windows. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and formal.

The Community Benefice Magazine of
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Downholme and Marske

June 2022

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martin.fletcher@leeds.anglican.org

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CHURCH OFFICERS - ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND

<u>Mayor's Warden</u>	Dr Peter Trewby	824468	24 Hurgill Road
<u>Rector's Warden</u>	Mrs Jan Jack	07725 574188	jackuk@gmail.com
<u>Warden Emeritus</u>	Mr David Frankton	823531	8 Allan's Court
<u>Director of Music</u>	Mr Chris Denton	07817 386070	chrisdenton@gmail.com
<u>Bell Captain</u>	Mrs Susan Welch	823700	8 Maple Road
<u>Head Verger</u>	Mr John Welch	823700	8 Maple Road

Parish Administrator

Colin Hicks 07498 299061 admin@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

OFFICERS OF THE PCC (AND OTHERS)

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N.B. National policy will continue to shape how we conduct public worship safely. Please respect the current practices on mask wearing, hand sanitising and distancing for the benefit of others as well as yourself. Thank you.

CHURCH SERVICES - St MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND with Hudswell

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Sunday
10.00 a.m.	Parish Communion	Every Sunday apart from 3rd Sunday
	Worship for All	(including communion) Every 3rd Sunday
4.00 p.m.	Café Church	3rd Sunday (every 2 mths—Jan, March etc)
	Fun-Key Church	Last Sunday each month
6.30 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Second Sunday each month
	Free to Be	3rd Sunday (every 2 mths—Feb, April etc)
9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Wednesday
10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Thursday Holy Trinity Chapel, Market Place

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME

CHURCH OFFICERS

<u>Reader</u>	George Alderson	68, Brompton Park, Brompton on Swale DL10 7JP	07487 257646
<u>Church Warden</u>	Mrs Jean Calvert	823001 Thorpe Farm, Reeth Road, Richmond	
<u>Organist</u>	Fionnagh Bennet		
<u>Church Treasurer</u>	Phil Ham	07920 884103	'Sundale', Reeth, DL11 6TX philip.ham@outlook.com
<u>PCC Secretary</u>	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

<u>Church Warden</u>	Mrs Ruth Tindale	823371	Skelton Lodge, Marske
<u>Organist</u>	Mrs Jennifer Wallis	822930	1 School Terrace, Marske
<u>Treasurer</u>	Mr Peter Coates	07801521954	Orgate Farmhouse, Marske peter.coates54@hotmail.co.uk
<u>PCC Secretary</u>	Rev Jennifer Williamson	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

The height of summer approaches, with the longest day towards the end of June —after which the days get shorter!! On which cheery note, let's see what this month's edition provides.

By the time you read this, our newly- elected PCCs will have spent some time thinking and praying about the direction our respective churches will take , not only for 2022-3 *but also in the years which follow*. This italicised phrase reminds us of the great responsibilities our representatives have to current worshippers and communities but also for those who follow in the faith or use our facilities for prayer, reflection, worship or social activity in years to come.

On the structural front, for example, past generations designed St Mary's Church in the light of their beliefs about the function of a church building (a lofty space for worship in awe and wonder). With no need to think about car parking, economical central heating, kitchens for coffee and tea after worship etc, the inherited space has been adapted but still leaves questions about what the church needs now and in the future for its mission in the community we serve. Currently, the box pews at St Edmunds may offer the warmest seats for morning worship!

In all of the churches, the question of how our church families work in our communities with ever-increasing contrary influences and attractions become the business of our clergy and PCC members—what we want to do, what we should do, how to do it. They will set the direction for us all and voice our aspirations.

Our PCCs need our support by passing on our views and thoughts to aid their deliberations. To use a sports analogy, we're **all** on the pitch, not just sitting in the stands, arms folded, passing judgement on what we see others doing! And our thanks and praise for work well done by them never goes amiss.

So, in this issue, whilst William takes a walking break and Jack Finney goes missing for a month, we still have welcome contributions from regulars Jane Hatcher, Liz Kluz, George Alderson, Judith MacLeod, Alexe Roberts and John Pritchard. New editorial team members—Carole McCormack and Christine Porter -share some of their life activities, past and present with us. As for the work of our PCCs, do let us know (and the members know) your thoughts on the future—the future mission of our churches and the structures to support them. With this in mind, Ian Short and I have visited some local churches to see how they have been setting up their buildings to work for worship and daily community use in the future. Ian's cover photo and a small selection of photos of what we saw appear here to aid thinking - and generate comment. If you have any thoughts or pictures, do get in touch. More next month.

Jim Jack



A Letter from Paul - Curate not Saint



I can hear the birds singing as I sit to write this message. I have long intended to make a point of learning the different song of each bird so that I can more easily identify my companions as I sit and consider what to write. One day!!

It would be easy to allow the warm sun and the bird song to lull me into that pre-snooze feeling as I take a moment to reflect on the contents of my diary. Holy Week and Easter are now behind us and we look forward to.... well, what do we look forward to?! It's too soon to be dreaming of my holiday, the caravan is still tucked up in storage. Even my most eager Christmas-loving friends have not yet put a countdown to 'Santa' on their Facebook pages, so what have we to look forward to?

As June starts, we find ourselves with two reasons to celebrate. It would be difficult for me to please everyone who reads this by trying to suggest which is the most important. However, as much as I do love our Queen, as a Christian I believe the Pentecost is of greater importance. That said, I am looking forward to the celebrations of the jubilee as our communities come together through street parties and other events.

Pentecost may be celebrated on the same weekend as the jubilee this year; however it has nothing to do with Queen Elizabeth. Pentecost was that very moment after Christ had ascended to heaven. In his earthly ministry, he had foretold his own death and resurrection and promised that although he would ultimately leave the disciples, that he would send the Holy Spirit. It was at that moment on Pentecost where the spirit came and empowered the early believers, specifically the apostles that were left, and Peter.

Peter was the one that often didn't think before he spoke. He is the one who constantly puts his foot in his mouth, constantly having to be corrected by Jesus. Yet through God's grace and mercy, he is chosen to be the one who stands up in front thousands of men, women and children, and proclaims the gospel. All this in the midst of a Hebrew celebration that was intended to remind the Hebrews of how God had always protected them.

Peter stands up and says, "let me tell you about the Messiah, who is the eternal protection for all of humanity. Let

me tell you who he is." And so, Pentecost is transformed from Jewish festival into the moment that the Church of Christ is born; a Church which has grown, starting as this little sect of believers, troublemakers, who followed a Jewish rabbi from Nazareth, a carpenter, who died and rose again, preaching a gospel of love and forgiveness.

Those of us who still find ourselves called to follow the carpenter who lived more than 2000 years ago, do so from a position of faith. Peter and the apostles did so because they knew Jesus, they witnessed the miracles, they listened to Jesus speak. These men were present when Jesus rose again, and they were ultimately filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. It's not always easy to 'keep the faith', but I would invite you to take a moment and close your eyes. Listen for the birds as they sing the morning chorus. You may not know which bird is singing, you may not be able to name it, but as you allow the song to wash over you, pray that the Holy Spirit will fill you afresh.

Through Grace and the Holy Spirit, I pray that this Pentecost will be filled with Joy and Laughter for you and those you love - and maybe a few verses of 'God Save the Queen'.

If you would like to invite the Holy Spirit into your heart, join me in this prayer:

Holy Spirit, we praise and thank You for the love lavished upon us. Holy Spirit, we seek and so earnestly crave to be in Your presence, to feel the inner work of You in our own hearts and minds. You so graciously give comfort, truth, and love. Holy Spirit, we welcome You this very day. In the Name of Christ Jesus,

Amen.

Paul



WEDDINGS



The following couples were joined together in Holy Matrimony.

30th April Catherine Saunders & Stuart Sexton

14th May Jade Jephcott & Arron Fayers

Help them to keep lit the torch of love that they now share in their hearts so that by their loving example they may pass on the light of love forever. Amen

Charity of the Month



This month, the Mothers' Union are asking us to give our support to a local charity based in North Yorkshire.

'Dementia Forward' is a leading dementia charity in North Yorkshire, providing support and information to anybody affected by dementia in our county. For over 10 years, the charity has been assisting those who become ill with dementia and those nearest to them who give the care and love needed to help the sufferer lead as normal a life as possible. Their advisors provide confidential advice and information to aid understanding, find and select services available according to need leading to informed decisions about care, treatment, wellbeing and support needs.

The charity has a helpline (Monday to Friday 9.00—16.00 on 03300 578592), has access to specialist advisers and nurses, runs well-being activities, such as singing groups, cafés, and carer education programmes and has four Community Hubs of which Garget Walker House is a local example. More information can be found on their web-site - www.dementiaforward.org.uk, through which donations can also be made. Alternatively, donate via the basket at the back of St Mary's or envelope to the Rectory.



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



17th April

Valerie Ruth Moore

May she 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)



WHAT'S ON IN JUNE?

- 31st May** Swaledale Festival Concert; The Brodsky Quartet with Laura van der Heijden starting at 7.30 p.m. Tickets from the Festival Office or on-line
- 1 June** Swaledale Festival Concert: Dame Evelyn Glennie's 'The Language of Bells'. The internationally-acclaimed remarkable Scottish deaf percussionist visits St Mary's with the Chelys Consort of viols and vocal soloists. Our own bell-ringing team will ring a quarter peal before the concert. Tickets from the Festival Office or on-line. Starts at 7.30 p.m.
- 5 June** St Mary's Rectory Garden after morning worship; Platinum Jubilee celebratory refreshments
- 5 June** Swaledale Festival Concert: Hallé Cellos—eight top cellists from the Halle Orchestra will perform works by Rossini, Wagner and Villa Lobos, Vivaldi, Solima and Gershwin. Starts at 7.30 p.m.. Tickets from the Festival Office or on-line
- 16 June** Coffee Morning Town Hall
- Advance notice:** Barbecue—Rectory Garden organised by the Friends of St Mary's
Saturday 9th July, 6.30 p.m. onwards

LOCAL FOODBANK

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

Foodbank Reminder: Essential Items

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

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

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

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

Also: UHT milk, squash

More information : storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk

Or please contact Suz Gregory on 01748 823161

LOYAL DALES VOLUNTEERS

When **CAROLE McCORMACK** moved to Richmond from Dorset with John, both of them had been very active in their own community and were seeking to offer their time to something in this historic town. Joining St Mary's (across the road from where John used to work a number of years ago) and having some involvement in the wider life of the church was at the top of their list—but what else?

We know from this series what a range of activities and services in our area spring from volunteer initiative and activity. Richmondshire Museum was one such opportunity. Founded by volunteers in the 1970s (with some St Mary's members to the fore), Carole found herself drawn into the work quite rapidly. In this article, she tells of why she joined, of some of the fascinating exhibits which we can see there and how readers may wish to be part of the future of this wonderful local resource.

Volunteering at Richmondshire Museum

‘Have you ever wondered about the essential differences between the words ‘volunteer’ and ‘employee’? I must say I hadn’t until thinking about writing this short article. My dictionary tells me that a **volunteer** is ‘a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task’ whilst an **employee is** ‘a person who is paid to work for someone else.’

This beautiful town and area in which we live is powered by volunteers – people who are motivated by the desire or wish to support something not for what is ‘in it for them’ but because they are passionate about seeing that project or entity succeed: they believe comprehensively in its unique value and importance.

Employees, on the other hand, undertake their work for personal reward – they may also be passionate about their role, but this is not always the case.

We arrived in Richmond in January 2020 – immaculate timing! The joy of discovering the richness and beauty of the Dales and the history and culture of Richmond had to be put on ice for a couple of years. But as soon as practicable, I sought out somewhere I could support and so I volunteered for Richmondshire local history museum.

I love History and I love stories – and the museum holds both. It is the local storehouse of



precious personal artefacts, given or bequeathed, so that a particular person's story can be told.

It is the repository of archaeological finds, which tell a powerful tale of the area's complex past – the astonishing Catterick Lions for example. It holds nostalgia – the surgery set of the original *All Creatures Great and Small*; the touching and beautiful embroidered postcards sent to loved ones from the front in WW1. It supports education on a school and family scale through its loan boxes containing collections of ephemera and very ordinary items – toys and games which paint a touching picture of how our children played decades ago.

A Favourite Exhibit

It's not often that something literally stops me in my tracks. Usually it's a particularly beautiful aspect of the natural world – a flower or a stunning view; occasionally an ancient building will start to tell its story of people and times past... but only once has this happened in a Museum, when quite unexpectedly, I found myself in Darrowby.



A bit like walking into Narnia, I stepped through a door ... and found myself in a 1940's Vet's surgery – the well-remembered set from the original *All Creatures Great & Small*, filmed in the 1970's and 80's and familiar as a comfortable pair of slippers.

There was the desk from which a volatile Siegfried Farnon somewhat haphazardly managed the administration of the busy practice – and where his younger brother Tristan hastily hid any trace of cigarettes and beer bottles, anxious to escape his elder brother's wrath! There was the door which must, surely, lead to the rest of Skeldale House, where Mrs Hall ruled the kitchen with a rod of iron. I could



almost hear the faint strains of the original theme music framing and completing the nostalgic vision of the series which was such an influential part of my growing up.



Alf White ('James Herriot') opens the film set exhibit

The set was opened by 'James Herriot' himself – veterinary surgeon Alf Wright – in May 1984 after the filming of the series had ended. He described it as 'very authentic' – praise indeed, since Wright personally oversaw the production of the series, checking it for accuracy.

This is one of the many delights and surprises of this 'hidden gem' of a Museum, as it has been described.

A Touch of Platinum

From past to present, a topical exhibition currently on display celebrates the ceremony which marked the beginning of the reign—the Coronation in 1953. What images does the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II conjure in my mind? Footage of the occasion, looks impossibly remote, taking place as it did in a world different in so many respects to our own. The central figure rivets the attention: tiny and resolute, steadfastly taking on unimaginable responsibilities. In terms of my own family memories, I remember a china brooch, made up of the flowers that are associated with the four countries of the United Kingdom ... a purple jig-saw puzzle of the Crown... amazing how nostalgia catches us out.



The Museum's temporary Platinum Jubilee exhibition captures this elusive nostalgia of seventy years ago in spades! Collectibles, not of intrinsic value, but of priceless sentimental worth, are showcased here: a tiny Coronation coach pulled by eight, minute horses; a lead model of Tower Bridge; playing cards with the images of a much-younger Queen and Prince Philip, horse brasses – all capture in a frozen instant of time the historical essence of the moment.



We see a child's dress, printed in the limited colour palate of the 1950's; and this is topped by a soft, felted jacket. One can almost feel the mother's pleasure in the

vivid textures as she dresses her daughter, maybe even to watch the Coronation on one of the impossibly small black and white televisions purchased especially by the nation for the occasion. The number of licenses shot up from 763,000 in 1951 to 3.2 million in 1954.

Around the child's outfit are displayed the toys of the time: tiny double-ended dolls' feeding bottles, wooden block puzzles and dolls' tea-sets.

You don't need a Harry Potter-type portal to transport you back in time – just the heady dose of nostalgia ready to be accessed at the Richmondshire Museum.



A Developing Museum

There is one salaried curator, Zoe Johnson, but the rest of the 'staff' are volunteers: they give selflessly of their time, knowledge and experience – and these are considerable. Volunteers staff the front desk, welcoming visitors, they catalogue and conserve collections, they work on PR and media presence and ensure that schools have artefacts to explore with their children, and that young families have local history-related activities to engage with during holidays and weekends. Before lockdown, the museum was attracting upwards of 4,000 visitors a year. Zoe's main focus for 2022 is to raise the profile of the museum in 2022, increasing visitor figures though improved marketing and engaging community events.

We currently have a working party which is reviewing and evaluating the role of the museum and asking the questions: '*Are we meeting the needs of our community?*' And '*Could we do better?*'

In order to move forward robustly, we need more volunteers – people who really

want to make a change in safeguarding Richmond's past whilst paving a way for its future. Please do consider whether you can give your time, skills and experience to a museum that holds such riches.

Do come and visit – you won't be disappointed. We are open April to October, most days, from 10.30 until 4.30.

If you would like to work with the Museum team, please email: admin@richmondshiremuseum.org.uk .

Carole McCormack

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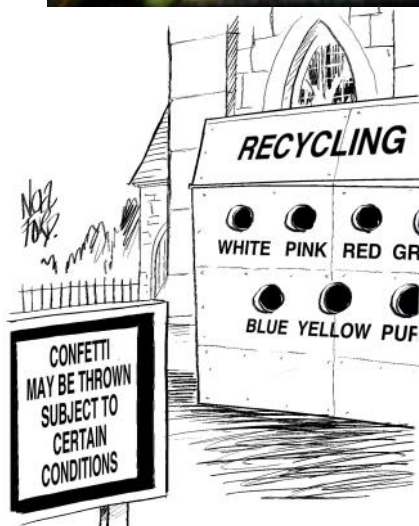
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*Heather looked radiant in white, the details
picked out subtly in gold...*



A TIME OF OUR LIVES

JOHN and CHRISTINE PORTER moved to St Mary's just at a time when lockdown began to restrict movement—and getting to know people in a new area. In this two part article (to be concluded next month), they tell us of their lives to date, particularly focussing on John's many contributions to music, including church music over 56 years before health challenges brought this work to an end.

John Porter's organ-playing career began in 1964 when he was already an accomplished pianist. As a pupil at Chorley Grammar School in Lancashire playing for school assemblies, he was known as 'Mr Music'. In his early twenties he gained a Fellowship of the London College of Music, self-taught since early teens. Looking for a new challenge, he told his fiancée, Christine, that he planned to teach himself the organ. Before long he was appointed organist and choirmaster at St. James's Church, Chorley.

When John arrived, there were six adults and four boys in the choir. The vicar was Harold Youngman Rowe (who later moved to St Agatha's church, Gilling West, in 1967). The choir grew to 12 adults and 18 children: 9 girls and 9 boys. The two teams of youngsters were led by a Head Choirlgirl and Head Choirboy, affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music, with serious rivalry and much enthusiasm among the juniors to earn RSCM medals. All the children attended Mattins and Evensong every Sunday.



**John and his first Church choir
at St James Church, Chorley**

The choir sang traditional music settings to accompany the Book of Common Prayer, with frequent choir anthems and the occasional challenge of larger works, such as Vaughan Williams' setting of Psalm 100. There were also regular Choir Sundays, when both mattins and evensong would be augmented by extra music. For example, one Evensong included both Vivaldi's *Gloria* (adult choir) and Benjamin Britten's *Psalm 150* (the children), with orchestra and soloists from the Royal Northern College of Music. An astonished Harold Rowe was lost for words afterwards.

In March 1967, Rev Edward Burns followed Harold Rowe at St James. At that time, Holy Saturday and Easter Monday were the two most popular dates for weddings, usually with two or three weddings at St James's on each day. Consequently, John and Christine's own wedding had to be fitted around John's Easter commitments. The wedding finally took place on Easter Wednesday, 29th March 1967.

Christine had her heart set on Widor's *Toccata*, which John often played. She was told that the stand-in organist wouldn't be able to cope with that piece, and it would be safer to settle for Bach's *Air on a G string*. On a bitterly cold late March day, five adult choristers and fifteen juniors turned out – much appreciated by the bride and groom..



**Christine and John Porter's wedding day, 1967,
inevitably supported by a loyal choir**

The new vicar, Eddie Burns, asked John why he never played the hymn which was sung to one of his favourite tunes: *Fulda*. Eddie and John agreed that the Victorian words of this hymn were over-sentimental and dated, so Eddie decided to write new words. It was regularly sung at St James's from then on. Some time later, a diocesan colleague suggested that Eddie should submit the hymn for publication, mentioning that a supplement to *Hymns Ancient and Modern* was being compiled. Eddie protested that he didn't think his hymn was good enough. Fortunately his colleague submitted the hymn anyway and it just made it into the 1969 supplement *One Hundred Hymns For Today* at number 98. The hymn, "**We Have A Gospel To Proclaim**" has become one of the most popular hymns sung in churches. Eddie had turned down the publisher's option of royalties, saying he didn't think his hymn would get sung much. On the contrary, its popularity soared, and it even became a regular on BBC's *Songs of Praise*.

For the junior choir, the highlight of the year was the Christmas party, organised by John and Christine, with butties and mince pies, jelly and pop, and loads of hectic party games. Every summer the junior choir had a day out when, decades before edicts on safety and safeguarding, the children were packed into John's Morris Minor and Christine's Dad's minivan. The photo shows the junior choir with John on a visit to the Royal Umpire open-air museum, Croston, in 1969.

Almost fifty years later, Eddie (now Canon Burns) contacted John to say the former head choirgirl, Anne, was living in Australia and had emailed the Blackburn Diocesan office for John's address. She was put in touch with John, and email correspondence continues to this day. Anne (now a grandmother) said that, in addition to herself, the former head choirboy and another boy chorister emigrated to Australia, and the three linked up through Friends Reunited.



They reconnected when memories were triggered by the popularity of Gareth Malone and his choir-training programmes on TV. On 30th August 2013, the former head choirgirl posted on Facebook: “John is a unique man who, in the 60s, brought together, dare I say us ‘ordinary kids’ to form a lovely choir long before the likes of ‘Britain’s got talent’ and the talented conductor, Gareth Malone. John then went on to found and conduct a successful choral society in Yorkshire until his retirement after 30+ years”.

Back to the narrative: in autumn, 1970 John was appointed Head of Science at Stokesley School and the family, now with a baby daughter, moved from the North West to the North East—to Bilsdale. During the summer holidays, Harold and Olive Rowe had invited them to spend a long weekend at St Agatha’s Vicarage in Gilling West, to get to know North Yorkshire. Harold and Olive took John and Christine around the beautiful town of Richmond, showing them its castle and spectacular waterfall.



On their first Sunday in Bilsdale, John, Christine and baby daughter arrived at St John’s Church to find the vicar John Hardcastle in an empty church, about to say Morning Prayer. Surprised to see them, the vicar said: “O good, we can have a hymn!” and John replied “I’ll play if you like”. So the vicar unlocked the organ, the three of them sang— and the baby in the pushchair la-la’d.

Afterwards the vicar, an elderly widower living alone, told them that the farming community were busy folk and normally only came to church at Easter and Christmas. The vicar added that he usually wound up the tower clock on Sundays before going home. He asked John if he could do that, because nowadays the vicar found it rather tricky. As John looked around for a staircase, the vicar pointed to an extremely high ladder propped against the west wall!

For the next few years, John and Christine were usually the only congregation, occasionally joined by one or two elderly ladies. But they always had a hymn. John would finish with an organ voluntary and then climb the precarious ladder to wind the church clock.

The vicar often went back for lunch with them. He enjoyed the toddler chatter, especially a memorable moment when she challenged the cassock-clad clergyman: “Why are you wearing your dressing gown?” John Hardcastle baptised John and Christine’s next child, a son, in July 1973. The following year the vicar retired, the post was left vacant, and the church was rarely used from then on.



**All Saints' Church,
Hutton Rudby**

Shortly afterwards, the Porter family moved to Hutton Rudby. By now John had many musical commitments on top of a busy teaching job: founder and conductor of Stokesley Choral Society, conductor of Northallerton Choral Society and of North Riding Schools Brass Band, as well as private piano pupils. He qualified with an LRAM in choral conducting. With all of these commitments, sadly John had no time to be a church organist. But the vicar of All Saints Church, Hutton Rudby, when he heard who had moved into the village, had a cunning plan.

-o0o0o-

PENTECOST

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians, Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.

(from the Parish Pump Ltd)

PATHWAYS IN PRAYER

Prayer is a relationship, not a technique, and, last month, **JOHN PRITCHARD** introduced the idea of the different dimensions of our closest relationships, starting with 'Just getting on with it.' This month—
Chatting

CHATTING

During the day Wendy and I do a fair amount of chatting. We chat about the cat, the weather, shopping, birthdays, emails, all sorts. It's an essential part of good relationships - everyday conversations that oil the wheels of daily life.



So it is in our relationship with God. Much of it is chatting. Here are some examples:

Arrow prayers shot in God's direction when we hear of someone with a problem, see someone struggling in the street, read a troubling email, set off to see an sick friend.

Trigger prayers when a situation triggers a reminder to pray. When waiting in a queue at the supermarket pray for those who are having to wait for a hospital appointment, a letter, a job interview, food. When turning on a tap pray for those who can never do that and don't have access to clean water (800 children a day die from dirty water).

News on the TV, radio, in the newspaper can leave us saddened or flummoxed, but can also give us the opportunity quickly to turn to God and hand over those situations.

A handcross in your pocket. When you find it in there it's a reminder that you belong to God. Give thanks and pray for whatever is on your mind at that moment. In the autumn I put a 'trinity' of conkers in my pocket for the same reason.



Emails and phone calls. When you sign off, you can pray for the recipient before you move on to the next task. Why not?

These are just some examples of chatting. This kind of prayer isn't about being pious; it's just referring ordinary life to God. God is always on call, instant access, 24/7. God doesn't know how to be absent.

John Pritchard

NOTES FROM OUR PAST

JANE HATCHER is well-known for her breadth and depth of knowledge of our local history. We know from her books the assiduous research upon which this body of knowledge is built. Much is from what historians call 'primary sources' e.g. original documents, records, photographs. A fascinating and absorbing example of this are parish registers which provide systematic records in England from the middle of the 16th century. In this month's article, Jane recounts the history of the parish register and highlights some of the people whose mark in the community has been recorded in these invaluable historical documents.

In the Parish Magazine for February 2022, Liz Kluz brought us some interesting information from the Marske parish registers. Marske is a large parish encompassing not only the village of Marske itself, but many outlying areas including several now-shrunken former hamlets such as Skelton, Clints, Telfit and Orgate, plus others such as Holgate and Kexwith in the 'New Forest' area. So the records for Marske had to give some indication of the place of abode of the parishioners involved, whereas in Richmond, where most residents lived fairly centrally, only occasionally are 'outliers' from places such as Applegarth and St Martin's identified.

Parish registers began to be kept following an injunction in 1538 from Thomas Cromwell, best known now as the subject of author Hilary Mantel's trilogy of bestselling books. This Cromwell was Henry VIII's Chancellor and, as a well-organised and legalistic bureaucrat, he meant such records to be a means of avoiding potential disputes, particularly about who was allowed, under canon law, to marry who. Little could he have known how they would be treasured by family historians centuries later.



Thomas Cromwell
1485 –1540

At first, parish clergy simply scribbled notes on loose sheets of paper, but these frequently got lost. So Henry's second daughter, Queen Elizabeth I, said that the loose sheets were to be bound together into a single volume, starting from the beginning of her reign in November 1558. In fact Richmond's parish registers actually predate this ruling, and start on 30 November 1556 with the baptism of "Christabell Dowson filia Johis Dowson". All the early entries are in Latin, so we have Christabell [I'm delighted to share a Christian name with this pioneering baby girl!] the daughter of John Dowson.

The first '*conjugati*' - or marriage - registered took place on 2 May 1557 between Radulphus Carter and Margaret Wilkinson, and the first '*humati et sepult*' - or burial - was of 'Anna Powley vidua' [Ann Powley widow] on 18 January 1556, though this date is what we would regard as 1557, for in those days the yearly calendar changed on Lady Day – 25 May, not 1 January as nowadays [that only goes back to 1752!]



An example of a 17th Century Parish Register from Essex

Latin was used during the whole of the first volume of the Richmond registers, which goes up to 1632, and contains all baptisms, marriages and burials together. It was only later that separate volumes were kept for each of the three events, and the details were written in English. In 1594, a further edict said that each parish was to send a copy of the each year's register entries to the diocesan bishop, and these are usually known as the Bishop's Transcripts. In the case of Richmond, this meant sending them to the Archdeacon of Richmond, who had quasi-episcopal authority in these parts.

The register entry which always affects me most is that for 9 September 1558. On that day, a very sad one for Richmond, the rector, Edward Greathead, records in that early register the burning to death at the stake of the Protestant martyr Richard Snell. This dreadful event took place in Newbiggin. The incineration was so thorough that nothing was left to be buried.



Newbiggin, Richmond, from Google. Richard Snell was burned at the stake at this end of Newbiggin

A few happier entries may provoke a wry smile. Problems arose if fathers of the same surname were living in the town, and their children needed to be differentiated. Gradually a system evolved of giving the father's occupation, but there are also

entries such as the baptism on 9 August 1612 of Grace, the daughter of John Nicholson known as 'bald John'.

As in most places, there are gaps in the Richmond records from the turbulent period of the English Civil Wars in the mid-17th century. A further complication is that from 1653-1660 marriages became civil ceremonies, at the behest of a later Cromwell, Oliver, and were performed by a registrar, Henry Jackson, on the steps of the old Market Cross, not by the rector.

In the 18th century, the registers become much fuller, both in the numbers as the population increased, and also in the details given. Babies of unmarried mothers were treated harshly, being described as for example "Michael, bastard son of Mary Clarkson and -----", or "John bastard son of Ellen Hodgson & Thomas Moor reputed father". The burials of poor people dependant on "the parish" are often described as paupers.

Occupations can produce some surprising statistics. For example the many militia soldiers, not only from North Yorkshire but also from County Durham, who married Richmond girls. Shades of Catterick Camp much later! Ages at death are sometimes given, such as labourer Thomas Moor who was stated at his burial on 16 November 1810 to have reached the age of 100, and widow Dinah Glenton buried a few months later who was 102.

The Marske registers contain many 'chatty' bits of additional information which were recorded for posterity, even down to the varieties of apple tree which the rector, Richard Horne, planted in the garden of the newly-built rectory in 1755. Although Richmond's register are mundane by comparison, there is the odd snippet of gossip. Richmond grocer William Goodburn, who lived in the 'Gothick' house in Newbiggin, was noted as having weighed 27 stones at his burial on 1 October 1798. I sincerely hope that those responsible for conveying his coffin into church and then into the churchyard, were amply rewarded by his family with several pints of ale. And victims of traffic accidents were not unknown - Thomas Lakinby, buried on 6 November 1812, had been "killed by a waggon running over him".

Parish registers ceased to be our only sources of information about people when civil registration was introduced in 1837. Parish registers had recorded the church ceremonies of baptisms, marriages and burials, which in the case of the first and last usually took place about three days after the birth or death. Now it was the actual dates of birth, marriage and death which were recorded, as we all know from our present-day lives. Accurate and consistent no doubt, but lacking some of the human details which so enliven our understanding of our predecessors. *Jane Hatcher*

FROM MELSONBY

Roman Pronyszyn, is a Ukrainian/ Irish Mancunian with a deep interest in what is happening in Ukraine and in particular the role of the Ukrainian Orthodox church.

He has written this article for the parish magazine serving Aldborough St John about the divide that now exists between the church in Ukraine and the church in Russia which is very much in the control of the state. It has been forwarded by their editor , Janet Hall, who says that Roman is very happy to share this with other parishes. It is widely accepted that Patriarch Kiril, friend of Putin and very wealthy, is also a long-standing member of the KGB from back in Communist days.)

Thank you to Roman for sharing this with us.

UNHOLY WAR

Since the recent upsurge in the Russo-Ukrainian war following the invasion on 24 February, attention has been focussed on the fighting itself, and on the atrocities committed against civilians by the Russian forces. However, one significant aspect has been consistently overlooked – the impact on the wider Orthodox Church. This has been, and continues to be seismic.

The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) has traditionally been the largest, wealthiest and (due in no small part to its close association with the state) most influential of all the Orthodox churches. However, that close association is now endangering the unity of the Church and has the potential to cause a schism.

In 2021 Vladimir Putin issued an “historical analysis” of his view of Russian and Ukrainian history. This very much reflected a nineteenth century Russian Imperial view of the world, including a clear statement that Ukrainians as a nation have no right to exist. This view has been echoed vociferously by Patriarch Kiril (head of the ROC), who has described the invasion of Ukraine as a “holy war”, and church pronouncements have described Russian soldiers as “holy warriors” with a sacred mission to destroy the Ukrainian nation”.



Patriarch Kiril with Vladimir Putin

Unsurprisingly, this has caused anger and consternation amongst Ukrainian Orthodox believers (some 78% of Ukrainians) and has resulted in an increasing number of parishes who previously were aligned to the Russian Orthodox Church moving across to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Within the ROC itself, Patriarch Onufriy of the Ukrainian branch of the ROC has criticised Kiril.



300 clerics have issued an open letter condemning Kiril's stance, and several Russian Orthodox parishes abroad have asked to be taken under the wing of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. The World Council of Churches is reported to be considering expelling the ROC.

Russian Orthodox Church's Own Stance

Patriarch Onufriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Philosophically, the ROC has set itself in opposition to the wider Orthodox church, increasingly pushing a world view wherein Russia represents a bastion of traditional spirituality in opposition to the corrupt modernism of the rest of the church.

Within the wider Orthodox Church concern has been expressed regarding the "sin of ethno-nationalism" in the ROC stance (where the teaching of the Church are regarded as subservient to the interests of the state). This has been coupled with tensions concerning the territorial encroachment of the ROC in Turkey and North Africa as well as effective schism which followed the awarding of Autocephaly (autonomy) to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church by the Ecumenical Patriarch.

The final disappearance of the ROC in Ukraine will have profound effects on the balance within the Orthodox Church. A study of religious observance in 2012 gave a figure of 41% of Russians self identifying as members of the ROC (ie 57 million). The equivalent figures in Ukraine are 78%, or 32 million adherents.

Clearly the war and associated religious crisis has a long way to run. At the very least, the collapse of the remaining ROC in Ukraine and the divisions within the ROC both within Russia and abroad will have a long term impact on the church. Observers have also speculated that the ROC may leave the Orthodox Church entirely and establish a "traditionalist" church.

Roman Pronyszyn,

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

YOUR IDEAS COUNT

The congregation at St Mary's has been given the opportunity to look at and comment upon some drawings which suggest a way in which the church building might be adapted to add capacity to house other activities and to support parish management whilst retaining its key function as a place of prayer and worship. If you haven't already done so, it would be great if you could take time to look at the drawings and add your comments.

This will help our PCC in decisions to provide for the current and future needs which St Mary's, as the parish church for the local community, will wish to lead and support. Here is a brief glimpse of what three other North Yorkshire churches have done to support their worship and their work in their communities. IAN SHORT & JIM JACK had a grand day out seeing what they did.

All Saints, Northallerton; (Grade 1 Listed; Norman & 15C features)



Northallerton has parish rooms adjacent to the church. They have recently removed the fairly modern pews, replacing with individual chairs, levelled the floor across the whole church with uniform stone flooring and installed underfloor heating.

The South Aisle is set out in café style for community breakfasts and lunches during the week and after service refreshments. North Aisle has a rollout carpet for midweek children's activities. Whole church can be cleared and seated for concerts. The chancel has retained existing altar and choir stalls whilst a side chapel on the south side has pews for small services and private meditation and prayer.



Holy Trinity, Ripon (Grade 2 listed—front cover photo also)



Alterations are at least 15 years old. Pews were removed, floor levelled and carpeted, underfloor heating installed. Offices are outside worship area and an extensive crypt below gave space for meeting rooms. Main church is used for worship and hired out for public concerts, drama and events. Alterations made to chancel. Wired for lighting & sound with permanent cabling



St Mark's, Harrogate (built 1898 ; Grade 2 listed)



Large youth congregation supported by youth worker. Wanted flexibility of space having sold off parish rooms adjacent. Fixed pews removed, moveable five seater pews installed supplemented with chairs. Can be pushed to one side to create large space. Floor levelled and carpeted; underfloor heating installed. Offices, meeting space and glassed-in meeting room in foyer

POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

GEORGE ALDERSON celebrates the contributions which people of different talents, personalities and interests collectively bring to friendships—and perhaps to wider society too.

Albert, Patrick And Me

Albert's an astronaut, I am a miner,
Patrick, our friend, is a water diviner.
Each of us sees the world from his perspective
Water, for instance, is cool and reflective
And so is Pat, who, it seems, never worries.
He is a man who's at peace, never scurries,
Treating a challenge with minimal anguish,
Claiming "There's time for a drink and a sandwich!"
Albert, by contrast, fires up like a rocket
Even when something falls out of his pocket!
Gravity isn't his favourite "invention!"
He seems to think it has hostile intention!

Me? I'm a prospector, digging for riches,
Hammering rock on my knees in my breeches,
Just as in life when I face an obstruction,
Blocking my life from my hoped-for production,
Chiselling away, though with little conviction,
Easily moved by some small contradiction!
Pieces of jigsaw are all shapes and sizes
And so it is, in this life of surprises.

Water or universe, hard rock to fashion,
Each of us works with his own depth of passion.
Calm, wild, tenacious we three come together,
Sharing our natures, we'll be friends forever!
Clearly the Lord with His infinite prudence
Made us the world and makes us merely students!

BEHIND THE HYMNS

Many readers will have hymns which are special to them—the words, the tune, special situations in which the hymn was played or sung. JUDITH MacLEOD delves into the background of some church music which has special meaning for her. Have you a favourite hymn to share? Do get in touch.

Who Would True Valour See

For those of you who have read my articles from previous months, you may already be anticipating my mother's second favourite hymn. It is 'Who would true valour see', the words of a poem from 'Pilgrim's Progress' by the seventeenth-century author, John Bunyan. You may know it as 'He who would valiant be' from a later rewording by Dr Percy Dearmer for inclusion in the English Hymnal in 1906. The words of the original are more direct. They describe the dedication required to obtain God's salvation. It is a message that is powerful in its simplicity.

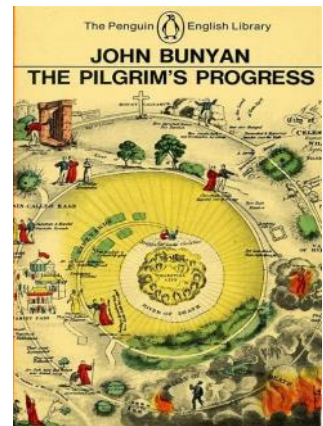
John Bunyan [1628-88] started his working life as a tinker repairing domestic vessels such as pots and pans. He also served in Cromwell's army in the English Civil War. Later, he became an itinerant preacher and was imprisoned for preaching without a licence. Bunyan probably wrote 'Pilgrim's Progress' in prison. The second part, in which the poem containing the words of the hymn is found, was published in 1684.



John Bunyan (1628—1688)

We sing the hymn to a tune known as *Monks Gate*. It is one of the 35 traditional folk songs which Ralph Vaughan Williams adapted for the English Hymnal. The name derives from a village in West Sussex where Vaughan Williams collated and recorded the songs.

The words focus on the Christian believer as a pilgrim – a believer who sets off on a journey for religious reasons. The word 'pilgrim' conjures up in my mind those of the mediaeval period with their capes and their scallop shells representing the different routes leading to the tomb of Saint James in Santiago de Compostela. A pilgrimage suggests commitment, difficulty and determination.



The first of the three verses urges us to appreciate courage and constancy. In 'Pilgrim's Progress' these qualities are invested in one of the main characters. The hymn invites us to see them in the Christian - the pilgrim. The clarity of the message derives largely from the brevity of the lines and the simple statement which ends every verse - 'To be a pilgrim'.

The message of the second verse is that, although some will try to draw us away from our purpose, the true pilgrim will have the strength to resist any adversary. The image of the pilgrim contending with lions and giants evokes the foes of children's stories. We might interpret them as anxieties which can be dispelled our Christian faith. At the same time to be pilgrim is also a privilege - 'a right'.

In the third verse, I love Bunyan's choice of words 'hobgoblin' - a mischievous spirit - and 'foul friend' to convey the idea that no follower of Satan can daunt the pilgrim. We are told that, strengthened by the spirit, at the end shall 'life inherit'. We can confidently dismiss our self doubt, bidding our 'fancies' to 'fly away'. This is reassuring us that we have nothing to fear from our what those on earth think and say. Undeterred, we will maintain our commitment to the goal of our journey which is life eternal.

Judith MacLeod

QUOTABLE QUOTES—John Bunyan

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

"In prayer, it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

"He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day"

WILLIAM'S WALKS

Having written walks for us on a monthly basis since 2020, William is taking a sabbatical to seek out new routes for people to enjoy. Thank you to William Gedye for the enjoyment given through these local journeys. We look forward to a return in the Autumn.

The weekly expeditions initially known as 'Walking for Health' - now Ramblers' Wellbeing Walks Richmondshire continue. Further information can be obtained from walk.for.health@btinternet.com or by calling William on 07710 739192.

FROM TRINITY ACADEMY

Trinity Academy is a voluntary controlled Church of England Primary School and part of a multi-academy trust. St Mary's nominates governors for the school and our Rector is also a member of the Governing Body. We are always delighted to hear news of what the children have been doing.

Mrs Lucy Hodges, Head of School, tells us of happenings since the new term began.

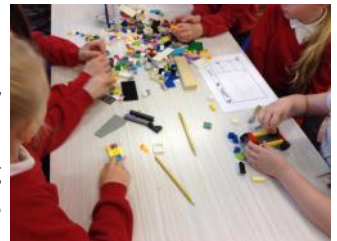
The summer term is always busy and this term is without exception. We continue to offer a range of experiences to enhance the curriculum for our children as well as the usual summer term sports events. Mrs Young and a team of parents and staff gave up another weekend to continue with developing our outdoor area. We have now relocated the school garden and hope to get it up and running soon.



Year 3 and 4 have had a visit from the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust with their 'river in a van'. They found out how a river works and what the different parts of a river are called. They also got to closely inspect some of the tiny living creatures that live in freshwater streams. KS1 and KS2 had a wonderful time working with Cummins Engineering to design, build and test Lego cars. The children showed real perseverance in completing their challenge and watching them whizz down the race track was very exciting! We were also delighted to welcome so many par-

ents and carers to join us at our Jubilee party. Each class became expert on a different decade which they enjoyed sharing with the rest of the school. The highlight was our afternoon picnic, with some fun games too. This was a great way to end a busy and challenging half term as we have been swiftly addressing the comments raised in our recent OFSTED report.

We continue to strive to improve, which we believe will be strengthened by the appointment of our new headteacher, Carys Barnett. The support from the local community these past few weeks has been overwhelming and we are pleased that so many of our parents have shared their positive views of the school.





SIXTY SECOND INTERVIEW

This month, John Pritchard turns his inquisitorial gaze towards SHEILA HARRISON, long-standing contributor to church life at St Mary's and former editor of our magazine for a number of years.

What are Sheila's instant responses to John's varied prompts?

First memory? Spying a pyramid of apples in a greengrocers and taking one from the bottom row!

Favourite meal? Pan-fried fresh salmon.

Ed Sheeran or Mozart? Mozart.

Pet dislike? Spiders with long legs.

London or Lake District? Lake District.

Best holiday? Mountains of the Moon on the Congo/Uganda border in the late 1950s.

Childhood hero? Wilson of the Antarctic (with Scott).

Luxury on desert island? Chocolate flavoured fruit bush.

East Enders or the Archers? The Archers.

Worst fault? Constantly asking where I've put my readings specs.

Last film watched? Dad's Army (film version).

Favourite drink? Good white wine or hot chocolate.

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

Last book read? The Stroud Water Canal. (Near where Sheila was brought up)

Favourite charity? Medecins Sans Frontieres

Italy or the Orkneys? The Orkneys.

Three dinner companions? David Attenborough, Yvette Cooper, Christian Fraser.

What do you pray for most? Now, the people of Ukraine; otherwise, the forgotten of Africa and the work of eg Mercy Ships.

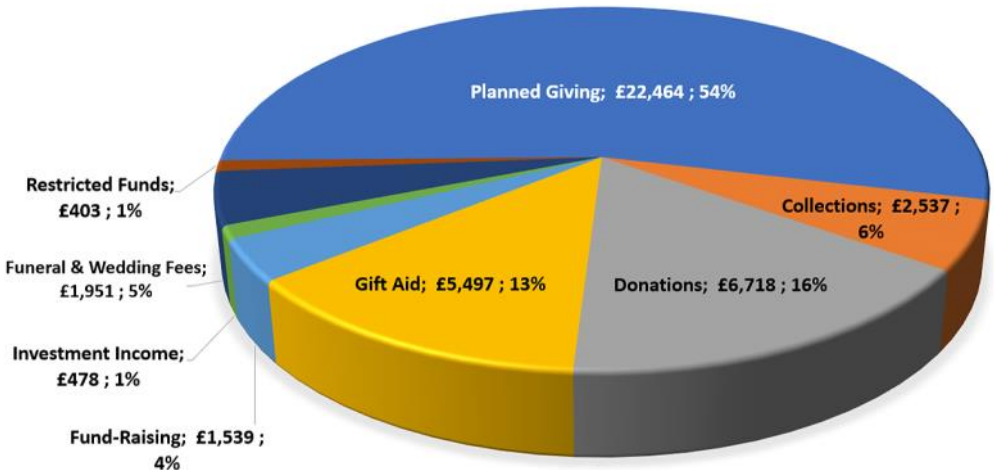
Traditional or modern Lords Prayer? Traditional.

Epitaph? She tried, and was amazingly persistent.

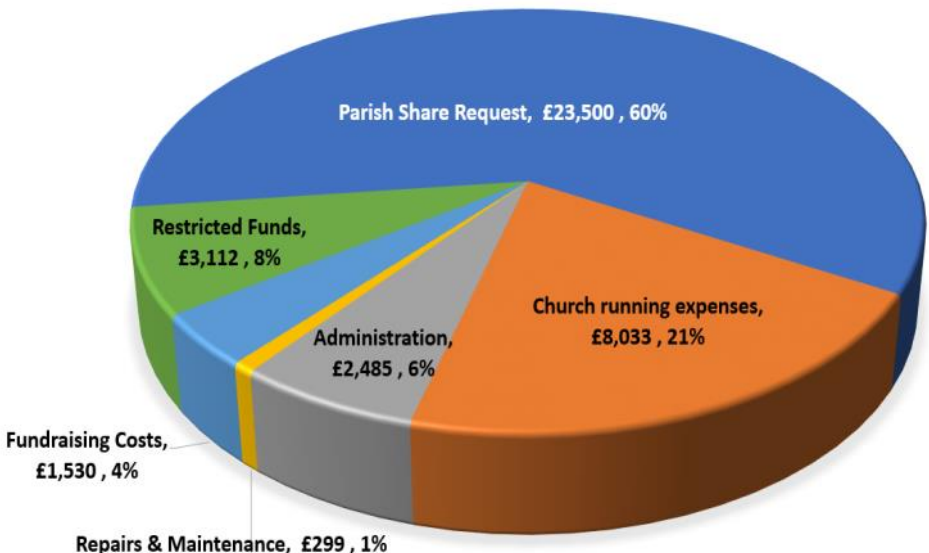
News from the Pews

Our Treasurer, Paul Carnell writes: St Mary's received a very generous donation in early April. My grateful thanks go to the donor. Our two devices for receiving contactless donations continue to be used to good effect; between them they've been tapped 132 times so far this year and have already added £703 to church funds.

ST MARY'S RECEIPTS - JANUARY TO APRIL 2022 - £41,587



ST MARY'S PAYMENTS - JANUARY TO APRIL 2022 - £38,959



News from the Pews (continued)

The just £3000 of Restricted Funds payments were mainly the cost of repositioning our audio-visual equipment from the front of St Mary's to the back of church.

We are falling behind a little in paying our Parish Share Request. If we'd been paying in equal monthly instalments, then by the end of April we would have paid £32,300. As it was, we'd only paid £23,500. A current 'shortfall' of £8,800. Hopefully we'll catch up with ourselves by the end of the year.

Paul Carnell

Mayfest

One of the many events planned for the 950th Commemorations last year which fell victim to Covid, weather etc was a Mayday Weekend Music Festival entitled, Mayfest. Designed for community enjoyment and participation, Gillian Page and Marcia McCluckie, undaunted, threw themselves into planning for 2022.

Alexe Roberts write in appreciation of their efforts.

'Hats off to Gillian Page of Trouvere fame and Marcia McCluckie for the vision, enterprise and hard work which produced Richmond's very own Mayfest. To the fore was Fourum – amazing as ever. We had Rappers, Swordsmen, Morris men, Maypole dancing and more, to help us whirl through the town and round the castle. Ceilidh band Blind Panic had us whirling across the Town Hall floor. Susanna Pell and Jacob Heringman took us on a Shakespearean journey with voice, viol and lute in the tranquil setting of Easby Abbey. What a weekend and what an achievement!'

Parishioners on the Move

Farewell to Bev and Wendy Joicey, moving to Alnwick to be closer to their daughter and former St Mary's chorister, Amelia and family– with our love and thanks. We hope that their delayed move goes smoothly and that they settle into their new home quickly. We and Richmond will miss them being around.

Welcome home to Don Hornsby, now back in his own home. Jean Coulthard is residing at Nightingale Hall – visits by pre booked appointments (phone) in a Covid safe hub.

200 CLUB— MAY DRAW

Winner of the May draw was No.180—Matthew Scrafton.
Congratulations, Matthew

Green Howards Regiment Service

What a privilege to host this service again after three years absence with the dignified lead of our Rector and the playing of Colin Hicks, himself an army veteran. Their chapel, housed in St Mary's, is a fitting remembrance to the service given by so many over the years and also offers a quiet and private space for prayer and contemplation throughout the year. It is also good to see the former members of the regiment in and around the town again.

Alexe Roberts & Editor

Christian Aid Week

Thank s to Judith Barber, Sarah Scafton and the team of volunteers who distributed envelopes in time for Christian Aid Week. We will report on the outcome in the next issue. If you haven't donated and still wish to do so, you can give via the Christian Aid webpage or use the QR code printed here.



Mothers' Union 'Christmas' Party

St Mary's Mothers' Union held their long awaited 'Christmas' party in the Town Hall on May 5th. It was lovely to be together again, we were delighted to see our members and to welcome two friends from St Anne's MU. After an opening prayer we were enjoyably entertained by Jim Jack and Sandy Still, members of Fourum . The skill on their guitars is indisputable and a pleasure to watch and listen to. Most of the songs have a local interest and there were some we could join in with. A very happy time. Every one enjoyed the tea and we had time for lots of welcome chat. It was good to have Martin and Paul with us as well as our gentlemen supporters.



Our next event to support Mothers Union projects will be an Afternoon Tea at Susan Scafton's home (14 Pilmoor Close) on Sunday July 10th We look forward to welcoming members and many friends and hope for a fine day.

Margaret Clayson

MEN'S GROUP

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

**CASTLE TAVERN,
Richmond Market Place**

This month's meeting: 2nd June

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



GRAND DAYS OUT

I'd heard of **USHAW COLLEGE** when I was a student in Durham (shortly after Joseph Swan had invented the electric light bulb!) but had never really been aware where it was or what it was. However, when our daughter recently sent us a photo by What's App of a rather grand interior of a local chapel and said 'Guess where we are today?', I don't know why but Ushaw came to mind. The guess was correct and the urge to visit proved irresistible.

Ed

USHAW COLLEGE

DISTANCE: 38 miles

ROUTE: A1(M) north to A167

A167 N to Durham (Neville's Cross)

Cross traffic lights at Neville's Cross

First left (signed Bear Park). Up the hill and through Bear Park village

Ushaw is about 1 mile past Bear Park on RHS.

SATNAV: Postcode DH7 7DW

JOURNEY TIME c 45 mins

PARKING: Ample. Shale area signed

OPEN: 11.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. daily

GROUND: level paths around grounds – all accessible

Inside building- all ground floor accessible

ADMISSION: Adults: £9 (house and gardens). £6 (gardens & grounds only)

Children (over 5) £6 / £4.

Free to members of Historic Houses Association

WEBSITE: www.ushaw.org



-oOoOo-

Ushaw—the college in disguise

Ushaw is a former Catholic College for priests and the Catholic laity which is finding a new, growing life as a centre for visits, exhibitions, music and learning. Its original foundation was as an English College in Douai in France, established to train priests for the Catholic Church. Made to feel unwelcome in the French Revolution and its aftermath, part of the college relocated temporarily to Crook Hall near Lanchester, but, under the leadership of Bishop William Gibson, building a permanent home on the 44-acre site at Ushaw Moor (about 5 miles north west of Durham) began.

As there were still heavy restrictions on Catholicism following the Glorious Revolution of 1688 which removed the Catholic James II from the throne and installed William of Orange and Mary, the location was almost secret, hidden by trees and remote. The new building (which took only four years to complete) intentionally had the appearance of a late Georgian mansion rather than an ecclesiastical seminary to avoid attracting attention.

Rapid Growth



Augustus Pugin

However, there was a steady expanding numbers of clerical and secular students which led to the construction of more buildings. This is vividly shown by the stunning site model in the first corridor we visited, just inside the main entrance. A chapel was opened in 1847, designed by Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin. We discovered that he was one of the architects responsible for early remodelling of the interior of Houses of Parliament in the 1830s following a fire. His last work before suffering a complete mental breakdown was the design for Elizabeth Tower in London (the home of Big Ben).

Other additions quickly followed – an Exhibition Hall, a Library, a Junior House designed by Peter Pugin (his son), a refectory designed by another Pugin and then a new and larger chapel which replaced Augustus Pugin's original. This new chapel was required because of the expansion of the college. The final addition was in the early 1960s with the construction of a new East wing to provide teaching rooms and single bedrooms for 75 students.



There are no less than twelve grade 2* and grade 2 listed buildings on the site. With the decline in the demand for training places, the college went into decline and finally closed in 2011. A proposal to sell the site was staved off when a consortium of Durham University (who continued to use the East wing for student accommodation) and the college Trustees, supported by English Heritage and Durham County Council, led to a new vision to preserve the buildings. Many of these were in a decayed state. The group set out to re-purpose them. So when we arrived, we were visiting a work in progress, with some stages completed (well worth seeing), some under way and some in the pipeline.

A New Life for Old Buildings – and the grounds

As we arrived, around mid-day, the lower field had clearly been in use as an outside concert venue and dismantling ('de-rigging') was well under way. The worn grass bore testimony to a well-attended event. Over to our left, some cool woodland with carpets of bluebells and other spring flowers beckoned, made all the more inviting by the meandering, but well-constructed, walkways to ease the passage of walkers and wheelchair users alike.

However, given the time, the thought of a coffee and sausage roll proved more inviting so we headed off to the main entrance in the centre of the Georgian façade, stopping briefly to sympathise with a pre-school young man in wellies who had tripped over the leg of a picnic bench in haste to catch up with the rest of his family. Had we engaged further with this passing distress, we would have discovered



that the family had left a café area serving outdoor refreshments which would have advanced the sausage roll consumption by at least 30 minutes!

We were drawn to an outdoor art information exhibition which looked at 'Dogs in Art in County Durham' which proved to be far more interesting than the title seemed to suggest. From Gainsborough to Norman Cornish and even the famous HMV dog, some intriguing facts emerged – and the sausage roll had to wait a bit longer.

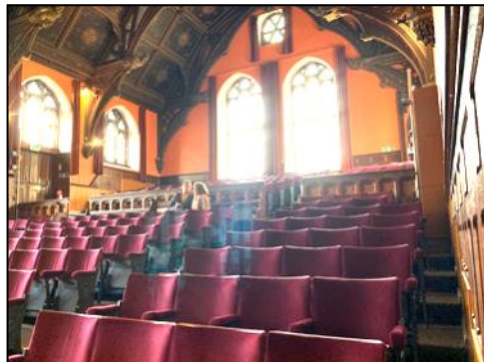


Entering the impressive foyer and greeted with a helpful map by one of the many volunteers clad in red fleece jackets, we headed off left in the general direction of the refectory, but along lofty, enclosed corridors surrounding a quadrangle, which is where we encountered the excellent and detailed site model.

As we moved towards our goal, the open doors of rooms off to the left revealed beautiful carpeting and furniture, creating a luxurious working environment for course members who were using the rooms for study. Along the walls was a photographic display about the history of the college and its alumni, together with a display of art by a local painter.

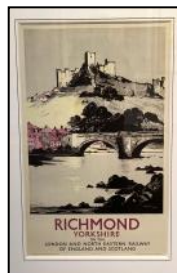
The Sausage Roll Located

Walking into the Refectory, we were confronted with a lofty room with beamed ceilings, portraits of former college leaders, wood-panelled walls and heavy refectory tables with comfortable modern chairs, each embroidered with the college badge: visually, very impressive. Sadly, the much-anticipated sausage roll was slightly less so, although the coffee and cake were splendid!



Suitably refreshed, we explored further. A two hundred seat theatre is now used for community music and plays but we were able to sit a while and watch a video presentation which showed vividly how new and purposeful life was being breathed into this vast building.

Moving back along the quadrangle, we took a detour into an exhibition room where a well-curated display of LNER railway posters was on show – including a previously unseen poster encouraging the travelling public to visit Richmond by train. (see also 'Musings from Mar-ske'). This exhibition is at Ushaw until late June. A chat with a volunteer on duty revealed that his grandson was, at that moment, eating an ice cream at the station in Richmond – a favourite visit apparently!



The route back to the grade 2* listed chapel was along slightly uneven, tiled corridors but an ornate ante-chapel was a taster for what St Cuthbert's Chapel (pictured left) offered. Gloriously decorated in the Catholic tradition, this was the centrepiece of Ushaw College in its prime. Painted wood work, great craftsmanship and a high altar focal point were counter-balanced by a simple floral display accompanying an everlasting flame and prayer station for the people of Ukraine – a stark reminder of what the world outside is experiencing.

Inside Out



Part of the derelict Junior College building

We left the building by an open side door and were immediately confronted with a clear physical statement of the massive work still to be done in the shape of the derelict, windowless and slate-less listed building which had been the Junior College. Much work to do here, but there are clear plans for its future which had been

on display on the Refectory corridor.

Outside we returned to the garden and woodland area with its clearly defined paths leading to what had been a lake, until its clay-sealed bed was broken by subsidence caused by underlying mine workings from the nearby Bear Park colliery. This problem has defied several attempts at repair. Nevertheless, the flowers bloomed brightly in the spring sunshine and trees bursting into leaf gave plenty of fresh air and outside space to explore.

Returning to the car, we spotted the café missed on the way in; and a curiously shaped wall which facilitated the playing of two games which were unique to the college and were illustrated with black and white photos of young men in flannels, shirts with rolled up sleeves and V-necked short sleeved pullovers. And the games? Well, perhaps the best way to find out is to have a grand day out yourself at Ushaw!



The curiously shaped wall.

Jim Jack



Last Sunday of Every Month !

4.00 p.m.

Why not come and join us?

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

MUSINGS FROM MARSKE

The Visitors Book at Marske is showing an increase in visitor numbers to the church from Britain and abroad, attracted here either by the Coast to Coast walk or the snacks available at the back of church! It has prompted Liz Kluz to look back at visitors to our area and how better transport and publicity has brought mixed blessings to Marske and the jewel which is Swaledale.

After the last two years of restrictions on just about every aspect of our lives the world is opening up again. How good it is to see visitors coming back to our part of the country and to read their entries in the visitors book at Marske Church. The diversity of people who call in for a moment's peace, to shelter from the rain or to buy a chocolate bar is surprising. Just this week we have had folk from Texas and Tunbridge Wells, Helsinki and Halifax, Bern and Bath, Colorado and Canterbury, Adelaide and Altrincham. I guess many of them are doing the Coast to Coast Walk, pioneered by Alfred Wainwright in 1972, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and now attracts hardy enthusiasts from all over the world.

But tourism is not a modern invention by any means. Long before the arrival of comfortable travel, brave souls endured the misery of saddle sores or bone-crunchingly long coach journeys on little more than dirt tracks. An early traveller whose curiosity and love of travel took her far and wide within our shores was the young Celia Fiennes. She was born in Salisbury on June 7th 1662, to Nathaniel Fiennes, a Colonel in Cromwell's army, and his second wife Frances. Celia rode side saddle, covering as much as six hundred miles in six weeks throughout the shires of England and into Scotland with only



Celia Fiennes (1662-1741)

one or possibly two servants to accompany her. She kept a very detailed journal of all the places she visited including Richmond, as part her Durham to Shropshire journey, in 1698. She wrote a very full description of what she saw in Richmond although she found it "a shattered town and much fallen to decay and like a disre-garded place".



Almost one hundred years later in 1797 the artist J.W. Turner made his first visit to Richmond staying at The King's Head Hotel which he described as the "finest in Richmondshire". He used the hotel as a base for exploring and sketching the town, castle and Easby Abbey. He came back to Richmond on 29th July 1816 as part of a wider tour of Yorkshire ,

which included stays at The King's Arms at Askrigg and The Green Dragon at Hardraw. The artist returned to Yorkshire throughout his life saying that he was inspired by the spirituality he found in its glorious landscapes and the atmospheric paintings he produced were proof of that love of the county. At that time the journey from London to Yorkshire by coach took at least two days.

Thank goodness things were about to change for the better. The very first steam hauled passenger train, which was to revolutionise society, ran on The Stockton and Darlington Railway on 27th September 1825. In the early days of train travel only the better off folk could afford to ride in carriages and the other option of travelling in open trucks, often behind goods wagons, was uncomfortable. However in 1844 Sir Robert Peel's government passed The Railway Regulation Act which compelled all railway companies to make provision for at least one train a day, each way, at the minimum speed of 12 m.p.h. Trains had to stop at all stations and carriages had to be provided which were protected from the weather with seats for all at a cost of no more than one penny per mile. These special trains were called Parliamentary Trains. The railway companies complied reluctantly but often scheduled them to run at inconvenient times and used uncomfortable carriages. However, despite their best efforts to avoid the regulations, accessible and affordable train travel was a success, paving the way for a revolution in the way we live.

Another problem which had to be addressed was the standardisation of time. Until the 19th century people still told the time by the position of the sun. Clocks were adjusted to the "local time" which meant that at one point there was a difference of half an hour between Whitby and Penzance. When people travelled slowly on horseback or in stage coaches the time difference didn't matter but now time had to be the same everywhere to enable the railway companies to produce timetables.

With the completion of The East Coast Main Line between London and Edinburgh in 1846 passengers were able to travel from London to Edinburgh in a matter of hours. For the first time newspapers printed in London could be read in Edinburgh on the same day as their publication and towns furthest inland from the coast could have fresh fish on the day it was caught.

In the same year, 1846, Richmond Station was opened bringing the promise of new prosperity to the town. Visitors were able to come just for the day or to spend a few days in a lodging house or an inn.

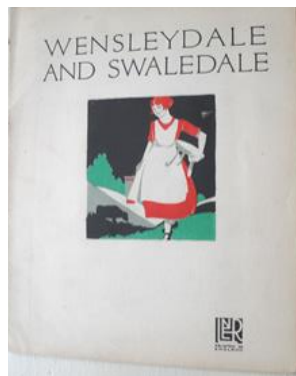


On October 12th 1889 *The Yorkshire Gazette* published a charming article written by a man who had travelled to Reeth in September with some friends for a walking holiday. They had booked into The Buck for a week and been transported there by the

Richmond carrier's cart for ninepence per passenger. At the end of the week he felt ashamed that they had not done any walking but just ambled around enjoying the local scenery and paddling in the river. The peace and lack of entertainment was what attracted them most but "kept away the ordinary holiday maker who prefers to travel in a charabanc through romantic scenery singing songs and leaving his traces on hilltops and under every green tree". Litter is not a modern day problem after all! At the end of the holiday the pals paid their bill, six or seven shillings (thirty to thirty five pence) a day for lodgings and three particularly square meals, and said goodbye with heavy hearts to the landlord, his wife and their 12 children.

On September 23rd 1910, *The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer* published an article written by a visitor to Swaledale who had been sitting on a bench at the top of Reeth green enjoying a peaceful moment when he was joined by an elderly resident. The man grumbled about lack of work in the dale and about how the price of property had risen since people from Stockton and Darlington had bought holiday homes which remained empty for half the year. He complained that the holiday makers were not using the local shops choosing instead to have their groceries sent ahead by carrier. The fact that the locals paid one penny for a pint of milk and the visitors were being charged a penny ha'penny could have had something to do with it. The man pointed to a house which had been sold as part of a settlement for £95 but, in spite of having no improvements made, had changed hands several times over a couple of years and was now for sale at £450.

In 1930 The London North Eastern Railway produced a series of stylish booklets for tourists called the "Holidays" series which covered the special attractions and characteristics of the districts served by the LNER together with a pull-out map. The booklets continued to be printed by Ben Johnson of York until 1939.



In June 1934 L.N.E.R. put an advertisement in the *Dundee Courier* promoting the attractions of Swaledale and Wensleydale for hikers and still offering the tickets at a penny a mile. Now I challenge you to find anything else that hasn't risen in price for 90 years! Day trips were within the budget of most people and business boomed in seaside resorts and beauty spots as Britain discovered the joys of travel.

The allure of the beautiful place we are lucky enough to call home is now a magnet for visitors from far and wide who come to experience the warm Yorkshire welcome and the majestic scenery..... and very welcome they are too.

All in the month of June

250 years ago, on 22nd June 1772 , the Court of King's Bench ruled that slavery was illegal in England and Wales. But it remained legal in British Overseas Territories and colonies until 1833.

100 years ago, on 10th June 1922, Judy Garland, American actress and singer, was born. Best known for her films *The Wizard of Oz* and *Meet Me in St Louis*. Died 1969.

Also 100 years ago, from 28th June 1922 to 24th May 1923, the Irish Civil War took place. Led to Pro-Treaty leading to confirmation of the Irish Free State.

80 years ago, from 4th– 7th June 1942, the Battle of Midway took place. The USA defeated Japan in the most important naval battle of the Pacific Campaign.

75 years ago, on 5th June 1947, the Marshall Plan was proposed. US Secretary of State George C Marshall offered a self-help programme to Europe that would enable countries to rebuild democratic societies and resist communism after WWII.

65 years ago, on 1st June 1957 , the first premium bond prize draw took place in Britain.

Also 65 years ago, on 27th June 1957, Britain's Medical Research Council reported that there was a cause-and-effect relationship between smoking and lung cancer.

50 years ago, on 17th June 1972, the Watergate Scandal began when five men were arrested for breaking into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington DC.

40 years ago, on 14th June 1982, the Falklands War ended. Argentine forces surrendered to the British in Port Stanley and a ceasefire was agreed. Argentine president Leopold Galtieri resigned on 17th June.

Also 40 years ago, on 21st June 1982, Prince William of Wales was born. Son of Charles and Diana, he is second-in-line to the British throne.

25 years ago, on 12th June 1997, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre opened in London. It is a reconstruction of the original theatre of 1599.

Also 25 years ago, on 26th June 1997, J K Rowling's first Harry Potter novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was published in the UK.

15 years ago, on 27th June 2007 , Gordon Brown became British Prime Minister.

Also 15 years ago, on 29th June 2007, Apple released the first iPhone.

10 years ago, on 19th June 2012, the founder of Wikileaks, Julian Assange, sought political asylum in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, to avoid extradition to the USA after publishing classified documents. He remained in the embassy for seven years, until he was arrested and imprisoned.

INFORMATION POINT- ALL ARE WELCOME.

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

AFTER THE CARDS AND VISITORS

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

Starting again on your own is even more difficult.

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

Our informal meetings resume on the first Wednesday of every month at the Fleece, starting at 1.30 p.m.

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

TELEPHONE SUPPORT IS ALSO STILL AVAILABLE.

Do please get in touch.

PASTORAL CARE— A CONTINUING SERVICE

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

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

To ask for prayer you can either telephone, email or text Rev Martin on 821241, fletcher_martin@yahoo.co.uk 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.*



Sudoku - Easy

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

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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St Mary's Groups

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

We need YOUR help and ideas.
You are automatically a Friend!

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

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

NEXT EVENT

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Word Search

Platinum Jubilee

This year Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

Celebrations will include **The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour)** on 2nd June when more than 1,400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians will come together. Beginning at Buckingham Palace, the Parade will move down The Mall to Horse Guard's Parade, joined by Members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages. The Parade will close with the traditional RAF fly-past, watched by The Queen and Members of the Royal Family from the Buckingham Palace balcony.

Platinum Jubilee Beacons: The United Kingdom's long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons will also continue. Over 1,500 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

Majesty
Queen
First
British
Monarch

Platinum
Jubilee
Seventy
Years
Service

United
Kingdom
Realms
Common-
wealth
Celebrations

Birthday
Parade
Trooping
Colour



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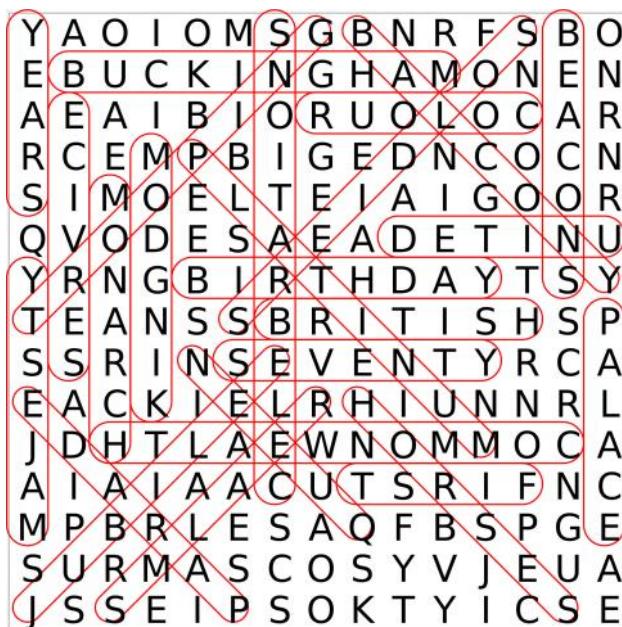
Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku—Medium

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

Wordsearch



Deadline for July edition : 15th June

Stay safe.

For letters & articles, contact stmarys.maged@gmail.com

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