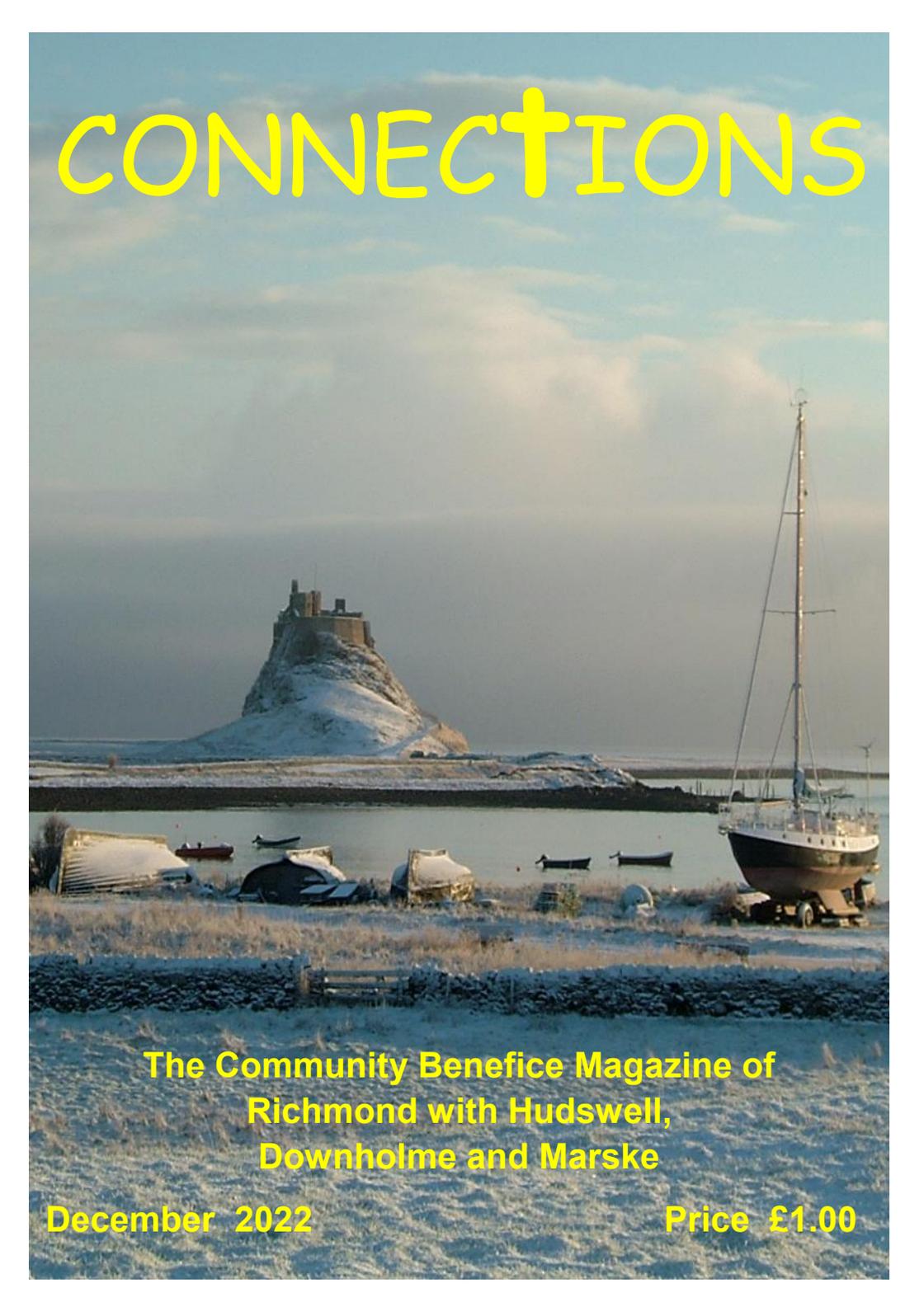


CONNECTIONS



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

December 2022

Price £1.00

THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME AND MARSKE

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

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

CHURCH SERVICES - St MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND with Hudswell

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Sunday
10.00 a.m.	Parish Communion Worship for All	Every Sunday apart from 1st Sunday (no communion) Every 1st Sunday
4.00 p.m.	Café Church Fun-Key Church	3rd Sunday (every 2 mths—Jan, March etc) Last Sunday each month
6.30 p.m.	Choral Evensong Free to Be	Second Sunday each month 3rd Sunday (every 2 mths—Feb, April etc)
9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Wednesday
10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Every Thursday Holy Trinity Chapel, Market Place

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME

CHURCH OFFICERS

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

CHURCH SERVICES AT DOWNHOLME

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

THE PARISH OF ST EDMUNDS, MARSKE

CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Warden	Ruth Tindale (01748) 823371	Skelton Lodge, Marske
Organist	Jennifer Wallis (01748) 822930	1 School Terrace, Marske
Treasurer	Peter Coates (07801) 521954	Orgate Farmhouse, Marske peter.coates54@hotmail.co.uk
PCC Secretary	Jennifer Williamson (01748)82436	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



And so the years roll on! I find it hard to believe that we're already approaching the shortest day of the year and, by the time this magazine's time period expires, the nights will be getting lighter once more.

Times are getting harder for many; it is good that the Warm Places initiative is going ahead and support for the Storehouse foodbank is always welcome. The multiple difficulties at present certainly seem to be making many people examine their lives and spending more carefully. It's how we support each other now is key.

This month's magazine acts as a reference point for events in our churches and within our town as Christmas approaches. One two part story ends—Christine Porter's family account of the longer term impact of war - and another begins—Rod Hall's account of his first experience as a lighthouse keeper on a rock light in Wales at Christmas. The life of St Francis Xavier whose feast day falls in December is described, whilst Jane Hatcher echoes the theme of community support by telling us of the history of alms houses in the town.

George Alderson's poem from Downholme also looks at the needs of others and Judith MacLeod selects an Advent hymn as a particular favourite for this time of year. John Pritchard turns his swift inquisitorial gaze on Howard Walker, requiring short, brisk answers and also, separately, offers ideas on praying whilst walking.

Talking of walks, we are saying goodbye and 'thank you' to William Gedye's monthly walking suggestions. I know of a number of people who have used these guides for ideas of places to explore and have appreciated them hugely. But William has exhausted his supply for the present. He finishes this three year series with our thanks and in the knowledge that any of us can join the *Wellbeing Walk Richmondshire* 'expeditions' together with a number of people from the benefice who either lead or participate in these walks. Details in the 'William's Walks' section.

Carole McCormack offers a different view of our outdoors with another grand day out which is do-able at any time of year - perhaps without the Brymor ice cream in winter, and Jennifer Williamson brings the Marske dimension to this publication.

Finally, all good wishes to John Welch, our Verger, who sustained a badly broken upper arm after a fall. We wish him a speedy recovery.

And that's about it for this year. The future path of this magazine in 2023 is outlined on page 17 and I hope you can stay with us next year and perhaps encourage others to subscribe. For the present, have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.

Jim Jack



A Letter from Paul — Curate not Saint



Ho Ho....Oh! it's nearly Christmas! Where has the year gone? It feels like its only a few weeks since the sun was shining and temperatures hitting 37 degrees whilst I holidayed in Cornwall. Jeanette, Ralf (2 year old Vizsla) and I collected our newest puppy, Sydney (also a Vizsla) from Devon en route. If you fancy a challenge, I would recommend picking up a ten week old puppy at the start of a two week caravan holiday in a heat wave. These are all distant memories now though, and I've just started Christmas Shopping!!!! Baaahhhh Humbug!

I dared to share one of my darkest secrets in last December's issue of this magazine (this can be read on our website if you don't keep back copies). I admitted to not liking Christmas Carols. As Christmas is the season of sharing, I would like to offer you another little bit of an insight into my likes and dislikes. My favourite book of all time is....'A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens' (after The Bible, I am a vicar!). I love the book, the movie, and even the version where we see Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy playing the lead characters. I love it so much; we named our previous dogs 'Jacob' and 'Marley'.

I have no doubt that we will all know that one person who reminds us of Ebenezer Scrooge. Someone who seems to enjoy being grumpy. Someone who pinches every penny. Someone who likes to be alone in the world. However, as with Scrooge, when you dig a little deeper, there are often many layers to the mood.

Christmas brings out a great deal of emotions. As we start to see adverts for everything ranging from perfume to the perfect sofa, I am reminded that for many, Christmas will simply bring with it heartache and disappointment.

We are living in a time when there are more and more people who must choose between heating and eating. In Richmond we have seen an increase in those who are becoming reliant on food banks, and we have churches, businesses and council buildings open with the simple offer of a Warm Welcome. This is not another fancy slogan used to get people through the door. This is simply a space where people can escape the burden of choosing 'heating or eating,' and spend a few hours in the company of others, in a space which is guaranteed to be warm and offer a truly genuine welcome.

*"All are welcome
in this place."*

It is a disgrace that, in 2022 Britain, we find ourselves in this position. However, as with our amazing communities coming together through Covid, we are again seeing determination from many in and around Richmond, Hudswell, Downholme and Marske, a determination which embodies a true Christmas spirit. It is that very 'spirit' that will see the new year in, and, we pray, a brighter year ahead.

I hope it's not too saccharine a picture to paint when I say that the people from all backgrounds that find their place in the church buildings of Richmond, Downholme and Marske, also find within those walls a 'Family'.

Ebenezer Scrooge, following his epiphany, found, in those days of Christmas, a family of his own. With that family he found a greater appreciation of the good things in life. These things very often do not cost money. We are told in the book that; "There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour."

That frightfully grumpy, inwardly focused loner, whose name has become synonymous with those who hate, well, everything, found a joy in life by reflecting upon his past, his present and his future. He concluded; "I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach."

All are Welcome at church at the festive season. As I look upon the puppy snoring beside me, I am reminded that, just like these two bundles of fun, wrapped up in a furry coat, church too is for life, not just for Christmas.

As I close this year's final; 'Letter from Paul (Curate, not Saint), I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from myself, Jeanette, Ralf, Sydney, Ebenezer and leaving the final word to Tiny Tim; "God bless us every one.'

Paul

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

Wednesday 7 December	7.00 p.m.	Town Council Carol Concert
Sunday 11 December	6.30 p.m.	Seasonal Music and Readings
Thursday 15 December	6.00 p.m.	Richmond School Carol Service
Sunday 18 December	6.30 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols
Saturday 24 December	4.00 p.m.	Crib Service; Children's group participation
	5.30 p.m.	Traditional Crib Service
	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass
Sunday 25th December	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10.00 a.m.	Christmas Communion





WOMEN'S REFUGE IN DARLINGTON

Elsewhere in the magazine (page 20), there is information about the Mothers' Union support for the United Nations global focus on Gender Base Violence and the 16 days of action across the globe to create pressure to seek improvement. It is timely that our chosen charity for December is one which supports women and children who are currently the victims of this abhorrent behaviour.



The refuges offer a safe place for the victims of domestic abuse and other forms of gender based violence to find secure accommodation, advice and help to deal with the situation in which they find themselves. Small charities like the refuge are finding life especially difficult at the moment because the service they offer is largely funded by grants and donations. In seeking help, they are competing for cash to stay operational against other very worthy causes. If you feel that you want to donate, you can do so in the usual way—the baskets at the back of church or via web-site donation buttons.



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



28 October
4 November
9 November
17 November
18 November

John Ashton
Pauline Holland
Vi Platt
Brian Macey
Don Hornsby

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)

A TIME OF MY LIFE (part 2)



Last month, using the imagined words of Henrietta Waterworth, her grandmother, **CHRISTINE PORTER** drew attention to the long term effects of war on those who returned, especially on Henrietta's husband, Ben. The effects of PTSD lived with him for the rest of his life and probably shortened it. In part 2, Henrietta has outlived her treasured husband by 21 years. She reflects on that time of her life which itself, she senses, is drawing to a peaceful close.

Memories of Family and Wars

Froom Street, Chorley, Lancashire, Saturday 13 October 1962:

"I'm Henrietta Waterworth and I'm sitting here in bed, ready for sleep. I've had to sleep sitting up for donkeys' years now, with my bronchitis. Dr Holden says it's with years in the cotton mill when I was a girl. He's seen a few mill girls like me, with a bad chest. You had to suck up hard on the shuttle, to get a new yarn threaded through. One mill girl I knew, Elsie, got a cancer in her throat. She was in her 60s before it finally caught up with her.

Every winter when my breathing gets bad and I can't manage on my own, Irene brings me here to her house for a few weeks. She puts up a bed in the front room, by the window. I can see the hills and Chorley Nab, where we used to play as youngsters, where Ben and I would go and watch cricket at White Coppice.

"Now I'm waiting to see Ben again. I just feel wonderful. I know I'll see him soon and I'm holding his Silver War Badge in my hand. I'm truly thankful that I've had a good life. I've not wanted for anything. God delivered Ben back to me after the Great War, and this is his War Badge, for 'Services Rendered'. We had 23 happy years together, and now 21 years a widow. I'm ready, it's my time.



"My son Stanley came back too, from World War 2. Like his Dad, a changed man. Came home with a shocking stammer. But he went back to work the next Monday, like they were all expected to. Only the lads that had worked on The Railway were sent off to a convalescent home, to get well again.

Stanley was a bag of nerves, but we all said: it will do you good, going back to

work. So he went straight back to the joiners shop. Next thing we knew, the circular saw had accidentally taken two of his fingers off. He must have taken his mind off the job, poor lad. All those years in the Army, and he goes and gets wounded at work of all places.

“Afterwards he seemed unsettled, at a bit of a loose end. So I told him: ‘Get yourself a wife, Stanley’. He met Edith at St James’s Church Amateur Dramatics. She usually took a leading role, was really good at it. Stanley used to help backstage, with making the scenery. Straight away, they got on like a house on fire.



Uncle Stanley’s wedding—Christine is front

“We had a bit of a to-do, though, at the start of the wedding. Edith came up the aisle with her two bridesmaids, her own niece and Stanley’s - our Christine. The bride’s music had stopped, and the Vicar was just about to get going, when little Christine piped up at the top of her voice: ‘Uncle Stanley! UNCLE STANLEY!! Look at my NEW SHOES!’ There was no shutting her up ‘til he turned round and had a look.

That was the second time she’d yelled in church and brought things to a halt. The year before, she’d shoved her head through the carving on the front pew and got it fast. The more she tugged and pulled back, the more her ears got wedged, and Irene had a right carry-on to get her head out.

“How time flies. Christine’s in the next room now, doing her homework. She’s a clever girl and passed her Scholarship for the Grammar School. When her mother passed her Scholarship all those years back, we couldn’t afford to send her to the Grammar School.

“Christine always has her head in a book. Too much book-learning’s not good for you, I always say. She never knows when to stop. Still, we were all really proud when she got her Queen’s Guide, the first one ever in Chorley. Her picture was on the front of the *Chorley*



Christine with Grandma

Guardian, in the *Lancashire Evening Post* too. She worked hard for that, all those badges.

“One Sunday evening a couple of months back, her school friend Hazel took her along to the Youth For Christ, at the Baptist Church in town, and now she won’t miss a week. I think she’s met someone there. She’s been going on about the pianist. She goes round the house humming these catchy little choruses they sing. Nothing like church hymns, more like the singing when Billy Graham came to Manchester last year. Anyway, she’s got that look in her eye. We haven’t found out his name yet. Irene tells her: she doesn’t go to Youth For Christ on Sundays unless she’s got all her homework done by Saturday night.



There’s just me and Christine at home today. It turned out nice this morning. So all the others have gone for a day out, to Cleveleys. Straight after dinner, I found the strength to get out of bed and go and ask for a glass of water. I’m feeling ... well, so unburdened and contented that I giggled when I asked for water. Christine looked puzzled, surprised to see me on my feet. I wanted to tell her, but couldn’t bring myself to. So I just said I was going for a sleep, and she said she would bring my tea in at 5 o’clock, a sandwich and a cup of tea.

“I hope she’s not frightened when she brings the tray in and finds me. She’ll understand. I feel so peaceful. And sleepy. I’m holding Ben’s Silver War Badge in my hand, and feel overjoyed. I’m about to meet my Maker, and be reunited with Ben.”

Postscripts:

My Grandma, Henrietta, is buried in Chorley Cemetery alongside Grandad.

In loving memory of Benjamin Waterworth

Who died 23rd May 1941

Aged 53 years

The Master Called

Also Henrietta his beloved wife

Who died 13th October 1962 aged 74 years

Re-united

And whatever became of the Youth For Christ pianist? Well, barely 18 months after my Grandma died, he was appointed organist and choirmaster at the aforementioned St. James’s Church, Chorley. And ... Reader, I married him.

Christine Porter

A TIME OF MY LIFE

In 2021, readers were fascinated to learn of **ROD HALL's** Christmas 1967 experiences as a lighthouse keeper on the wind battered and sea washed rock lighthouse called Wolf Rock. His first posting at the age of 18 was at Christmas to another rock light called South Stack off the north-west coast of Anglesey. Unlike 'the Wolf', this lighthouse was connected to the mainland by a precarious rope and wooden slatted bridge. Here, Rod describes his first experience of a posting as an assistant keeper. The tenuous connection with the mainland also almost led to it being his final experience

Trinitas in Unitate

The wooden suspension bridge swayed alarmingly in the strengthening force seven north –westerly as I stepped warily onto the wooden planks. Three hundred and sixty five steps down from the cliff, the bridge offered the only access to South Stack lighthouse, off the coast of Anglesey.

I was glad of my Trinity House issue greatcoat that reached below my knees but, contrary to regulations, my hat was jammed firmly onto my pocket. It would not have lasted a second on my head in such a wind.

It was Christmas Eve 1964, and I was making my way to the light to take up my first appointment as a Supernumerary Assistant Keeper with Trinity House. On my shoulder was my kitbag, on my back my guitar and my free hand clutched desperately to the three inch hawsers that secured the bridge from the mainland to the rock where the light stood. I was eighteen years old with a grown-up's job to do.

Eventually, I reached the end of the bridge and thankfully stepped off onto solid rock. Behind me, the rope bridge cavorted in the gale, as if trying to shake off a troublesome, invisible keeper.

I looked up at the lighthouse and the attendant building housing the engine room and the keepers' accommodation and thought what a jolly place it would be to spend Christmas. One thing was certain; I couldn't imagine Father Christmas attempting the crossing.

Officially, lighthouse keepers had to have attained the age of twenty one before being



TRINITY HOUSE



Steps down to modern visitor bridge today

considered for service by Trinity House, but after leaving grammar school in Liverpool, I had spent two years as a junior officer on a cargo boat and had gained my Able Seaman's Certificate. The Brethren 'of the most glorious and undivided Trinity and of St. Clement in the Parish of Deptford Strond' (better known as Trinity House) considered that I knew enough knots, splices and signalling skills to be a keeper and I was sent to Harwich



The new footbridge to South Stack (non-swaying)

to train as a Supernumerary Lighthouse Keeper. South Stack was my first 'light'. I had been sent to replace a sick keeper on 'the Stack.'

I made my way to the lee of the building and found the main door. I put my shoulder to it and shoved hard to open it. However, it opened easily and I just about fell into the living room. The warmth was almost immediate and I was aware of two men in armchairs by the range.



South Stack Lighthouse today

One of them raised an eyebrow. "Thought you was John Jack Jones," he said in a broad Irish accent (more of Mr Jones later.) This was Mick—decidedly Irish— and he introduced me to Bryn who decidedly Welsh. They both jumped up and suggested that a quick tour of the station would

be wise—and right away, for some reason. Ten minutes later, we were back by the range and they were suspiciously effusive. "Sit down, boy, let's have a cuppa. Kettle's boiled."

I was even more suspicious when a packet of biscuits appeared and they looked on approvingly as I worked my way through them. And then it came. " Actually, we got a little favour to ask you, boy," said Bryn. "Haven't we, Mick?"

Mick smiled beatifically and nodded. Bryn went on. " You see, we both got girls in Holyhead and we'd like to see them over Christmas..." his voice faded out..."and, as nothing much ever happens here, we wondered if you would like to hold the fort 'til we get back?"

I tried not to look shocked. "Nothing much ever happens here," he'd said!! South Stack was only the most important light in the Irish Sea. Ships plying to and from

Liverpool used its position to guide them in and out of Liverpool Bay—and, back in 1964, there were no satellite fixes. Navigation was done with dividers, parallel rulers, charts and—yes, the position of lighthouses—each identified at night by its unique pattern of flashes of light from the beam atop the tower. But it took me less than a millisecond to reply. ‘Yes, sure. I’ll be fine; have a good time.’



They both sighed with relief, although I was piqued to notice that their bags were already packed as they seized them and headed for the door! Bryn nipped back to grab what remained of the packet of biscuits and Mick shouted something about ‘a bell’ before the wind took away the rest of his words. The door slammed and I was well and truly alone.

What a lark! Boy’s Own magazine stuff! Christmas alone on a lighthouse is something out of adventure comics. Maybe the bridge would blow down and I would be stranded? I could see the headlines ; ‘Plucky young keeper maintains the light through the storm!’ - so I bolted the vast wooden door, filled the stove and whistling happily, settled down for my first watch.

On the remote rock lights like Wolf Rock, furniture is sparse and chairs are spartan. Being close to shore and with more space, the chairs were old but comfy and I made myself at home, putting my guitar on Mick’s chair and sitting in Bryn’s. When the time came to ‘put the light in’, with youthful vigour and exuberance, I scampered up the spiral staircase to the lantern at the top to attend to my duties. Great feeling. What could possibly go wrong?



(to be concluded next month)

Rodney Hall



IT HAPPENED IN DECEMBER



200 years ago, on 27 December 1822 , Louis Pasteur, French biologist, microbiologist, and chemist was born. One of the fathers of germ theory, he was best known for the pasteurisation process, which is named in his honour.

100 years ago, on 8 December 1922 , Lucian Freud, German-born British figurative artist and draughtsman was born. One of the leading portrait artists of the 20th century.

Also 100 years ago, on 14 December 1922, John Reith (later Lord Reith) was appointed as General Manager of the BBC.

Also 100 years ago, on 30 December 1922 , the Soviet Union was founded. Officially known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), it was dissolved in 1991.

90 years ago, on 25 December 1932, the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham.

80 years ago, on 1 December 1942, the British Government published the Beveridge Report, which formed the basis of the welfare state.

Also 80 years ago, on 17 December 1942, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the House of Commons about the mass executions of Jews by the Nazis in occupied Europe. Ministers and Members of Parliament condemned the massacres and held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the victims.

65 years ago, on 25 December 1957, Queen Elizabeth II's Christmas message was televised for the first time.

40 years ago, on 12 December 1982, 30,000 women joined hands around the Greenham Common RAF base in Berkshire to protest against the siting of US Cruise missiles there.

25 years ago, on 11^t December 1997, Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams met Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street – the first Irish Republican leader to do so since Michael Collins in 1921.

Also 25 years ago, on 11 December 1997, the Kyoto Protocol, aimed at reducing greenhouse gases and combating global warming, was adopted at a conference in Japan. More than 190 countries have signed the agreement, which came into effect in February 2005.

20 years ago, on 7 December 2002, Iraq submitted a weapons declaration to the United Nations in which it said it had no weapons of mass destruction. This was part of the prelude to the March 2003 Invasion of Iraq.

POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME



GEORGE ALDERSON's poetic musings reflect the season upon us. His thoughts act as a reminder of what many have that others have not and a Christian duty to keep the needs of others foremost in our thinking. After the poem there follows an invitation to help the Warm Spaces initiative and the reminder list of the particular items welcome for the food-bank in Richmond

All They Want for Christmas...

I have a roof above my head
And under me I have a bed,
I have a fire to keep me warm,
Strong walls to subjugate a storm.
And, letting in the light of day,
(Whenever there's a fleeting ray,
I'm blessed with windows in each room
Which help avert potential gloom.
I have a cupboard, filled with food
To help alleviate my mood.

Should I be thirsty, in a blink
I have the means to pour a drink.
I have more clothes than I can wear,
I'm never lost to find a spare!
A bath have I to soak my limbs,
It's soothing warmth froths as it brims.
I have my health, some happiness,
And time to let my thoughts digress.
What of the folk who have no home
And so are left outside to roam?

They have no mattress, eiderdown,
So have no need of dressing gown.
They stay wrapped up in simple wear,
Tough often worn until threadbare.
Their shoes no longer have a sole
With blistered feet as black as coal.
Perhaps they eat once in a while,
Though not enough to stay mobile.
If I should make a Christmas list
Of things that ought not to be missed.
Help me help them so they succeed

Then let me think of others first
Whose life seems nothing less than cursed.
If I do nothing else but pray,
May others be for whom I say
“Remind me, Lord, when I forget
The many people I have met
Who have much less than is their need.

George Alderson

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WARM WELCOME SPACE—HELP WANTED, PLEASE



It's starting to get cold outside—and inside without the heating on—and we are all no doubt aware of the costs of home heating this winter will force a number in our community to make some hard choices. As was announced in last month's magazine and from the benedictine pulpits, a number of Richmond businesses and organisations are looking to create spaces which are open to all to stay warm during the day. Richmond Methodist Church has opened its rooms to all as a Warm Welcome Space and St Mary's is pleased to be partnering with them in helping to ensure that those who visit receive a warm welcome when they come to this free to use space in our town.

The help needed is to make sure the word gets out that the space is available to anyone—including yourself as a reader of this magazine. People are also needed to make a warming cup of tea or coffee and to chat to anyone visiting who would welcome the contact.

If you would like to be put in touch with the relevant people, **please contact Paul Sunderland or Martin Fletcher. (see page 2 for details).** Other organisations have been working to fill the gaps which the Methodist rooms cannot. CAN YOU HELP? It doesn't have to be every day or even every week—just enough people to ensure that the space is 'staffed' with welcoming faces and voices.



**Richmond Methodist Church
Dundas Street Entrance**

Monday: 10.00am – 1.00pm

Wednesday: 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Friday: 10.00am – 1.00pm

(Weekly from Monday 7th November)



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 (September 2022) 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

YOUR MAGAZINE IN 2023

As with so many other things in life, the cost of producing this magazine has risen sharply in 2022. The PCC has been considering carefully how best to proceed in 2023 and have decided unanimously that they would like to continuation of the publication of our benefice magazine in its present form.

We are grateful for your support and interest in this publication and delighted that many of you pass your magazine on to others after you have read it. We know this because of conversations which have been had with people who have read it but have no connection with our churches –other than through our magazine.

Your help would be appreciated by continuing this support and by finding a way of paying direct into the church bank account if at all possible. Cash and cheque payments will of course be welcome but keeping track of payments this year has been difficult since COVID stopped direct collection by your deliverer.

The price will have to go up next year and £1.50 per issue is the likely figure. However, using the direct payment method, it should be possible to set up a monthly standing order to spread the cost over the year rather than pay a lump sum in the tight months of January/February. This price will not cover the whole cost of production. The aim is to raise the balance through advertising and/or sponsorship.

The details of this are being worked on at present and will appear in the next issue. Please continue to support, get others to subscribe and encourage advertisers. Thank you—and happy Christmas!

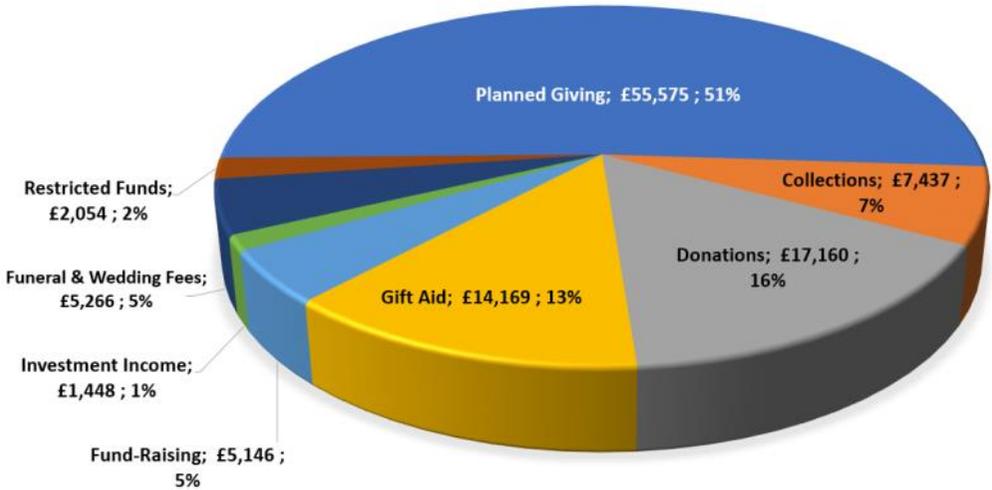
Jim Jack (Editor)



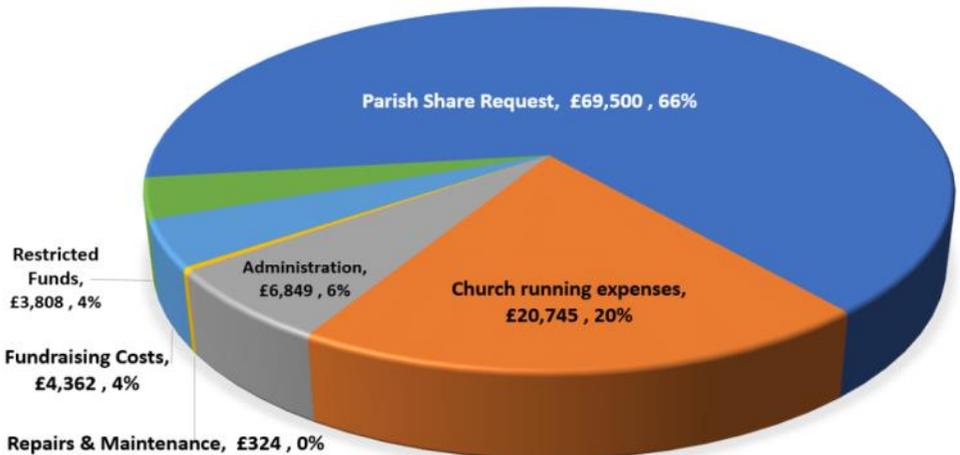
Parish Share for St Mary's

The pie charts show total Receipts of £108,254 and total payments of £105,588, so we are showing a modest surplus of £2,666 for the year. However, as the graph on the following page shows, we are looking at being 11% short of the amount required to pay our parish share in full this year.

ST MARY'S RECEIPTS - JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2022 - £108,254



ST MARY'S PAYMENTS - JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2022 - £105,588



News from the Pews (cont)

I'm not sure if it's ever happened before, but the 2023 Share Request is actually lower than this year's – it's £95,280 which is down by £1,879.

Paul Carnell (Treasurer)



AND NOW .. A NEW LADIES GROUP

Following the successful formation of the monthly Men's Group, now called Thirst, a new Ladies' Group is to be launched, meeting on the last Friday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the new Morro Bar (formerly the HSBC branch in Richmond). It doesn't have a name yet (ThirstyHER is the current working title but final naming to be decided) but if you would like more information, please contact Jeanette Sunderland, Helen Rowan or Susan Scrafton—or Paul Sunderland. The last Friday in the month will be 30 December so listen for confirmation of this arrangement nearer the time





MOTHERS' UNION SUPPORTS UNITED NATIONS CAMPAIGN

On 25 November, the United Nations began an international 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, acting as a focal point for diverse organisations across the globe to plan awareness raising activities in their own communities, secure in the knowledge that they are working in harmony with others.

The Mothers' Union in our own country targeted 26 November as its own focal day to raise awareness of and focus on those who are the victims of violence and abuse. Gender-based violence is one of the most widespread violations of human rights, with the possibility of affecting anyone at any time. In some societies, it is even part of cultural norms. In all societies it can be hidden behind closed doors..

Having supported the national day of action on 26 November to raise awareness, our own MU asks for the support and prayers of the benefice at least up to 10 December (International Human Rights Day) when the UN 16 day campaign draws to a close. Each day has its own theme. For example, 27 November draws attention to the impact on children of gender-based violence whilst other days focus on such things as the disabled community, elder abuse, coercive control, trafficking, child marriage and tying all together on 10 December under the umbrella of international Human Rights Day.

The website www.mothersunion.org has a wealth of interesting material , supportive readings and prayers for anyone who wants to follow the 16 days through with our own MU members.

ARMY BAND CONCERT RE-ARRANGED for 13 DECEMBER

It is a delight to know that we will be hearing from the army band soon, with their original concert having to be postponed due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

They will be playing in church on Tuesday 13 December starting at 7.00 p.m, presenting a mixed entertaining programme of music and featuring the particular skills of different members of this talented group of musicians. Admission will be free, although there will be a donations bucket available at the end—and refreshments too.





'It was on a Starry Night' - Sunday 11 December @ 6.30 p.m.

Following last year's much appreciated 'God Bless Us Everyone,' the same group offers another seasonal selection of readings, music and songs of Advent and Christmas accompanied by images on the big screen at St Mary's and refreshments. As last year, this replaces Evensong. Retiring collection.

RICHMOND AT CHRISTMAS

Every year, volunteers from our town make a special seasonal effort to bring good cheer to the town at Christmas. The Warm Spaces initiative is a new contribution, but other regulars will be around.



Christmas Lights—Friday 2 December—will be turned on again this year. The key moment is in the Friary Gardens from 6.30 p.m. followed by Christmas Specials in the Market Place—including free mince pies in the Town Hall - for the rest of the evening. Thank you to the Town Council and the Duck Club for bringing this lovely event bringing the community together each year.

Christmas Market—Sunday 4 December in the Town Centre 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 .p.m. Stalls, entertainment, ice rink (plastic ice not real—booking via website required), Festive 5K run and Father Christmas all there on the day. See www.richmondtownchristmasmarket.co.uk



Richmond Shilling —Saturday 10 December ; distribution to over 60s resident in the town. This will take place in the Mayor's Parlour in the Town Hall from 10.30 a.m. until mid-day (see 'Notes from our Past' p28)

'A Celebration of Carols': by the Station Singers Saturday 10 December starting at 6.30 p.m. (doors open at 6.00) in our own church , St Mary's. In aid of Colburn Community Support. Tickets in advance £10 (£11.00 on the door) from Richmond Information Centre or www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-station-singers





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The formal meeting took place after morning worship on Sunday 16th October when acting chair, Peter Trewby, presented the annual report and highlighted the work of the committee and members of the church in running a series of social events with some fund-raising attached across the year. 'At Home' coffee mornings had been a particularly well-attended events .

Treasurer Graham Barber was able to report that, at the end of financial year 2021, our two accounts stood at a combined total of £6089.43. As fund raising had added a further £6000 to this amount with minimal spend since the start of 2022, the current figure as of October 2022 stands at over £12,000—money which is available for church development and improvement work.

The meeting accepted both of these reports and also the fixing of a change of the cycle of meetings to bring the AGM more closely in line with the end of the previous financial year was agreed. The whole committee was re-elected to serve from the 16th October to the new AGM date which is likely to be mid-end of February 2022. Some offers of help were made after the meeting which were gratefully received.

CURRY NIGHT—12 November

Saturday 12 November was celebrated in great style with the first event to be held in The Operatic Society Hall on Bargate. We managed to seat almost 60 guests, and served them all a three course curry dinner. We were entertained by “ The Drystone Wall Collective”, (without any charge) a trio of Bass, Harmonica and the amazing John Meara who planned the music for us with almost military precision.



Our donation bar was kept very busy all evening and with the help of our godson Elliott's hard work on the raffle, helped us to raise in excess of £600 towards The Friends of St Marys, the fund-raising arm of the church.

The evening ended with tables being moved aside to enjoy the music with some dancing that could have been seen on “Strictly”.

We would like to thank everybody involved for all the great work to make the evening such a success.

Alice and John Challis

A big 'THANK YOU ' to Alice and John and the Friends team who worked tirelessly to make this trial off-site event successful.

OCTOBER EVENTS

On Sunday 23 October, Colin Hicks arranged and led an evening of church music featuring St Mary's excellent Harrison and Harrison organ. Colin's playing showed off the organ's quality in full and an appreciative audience was there to hear his work. Colin is planning a number of similar events over the coming months—well worth marking in your diary when they are announced. Colin offered to organise this to support the work of the Friends of St Mary's in creating a fund to support the development of the church. We are extremely grateful for his generosity of time and talent and look forward to the next recital.

Friday 28 October saw the Friends host a public talk by General Nick Houghton—Baron Houghton of Richmond GCB,CBE, DL who introduced the topical subject 'What is War?' His talk stimulated questions and discussion from an audience of nearly 70 people, leading to a thought-provoking evening. General Houghton gave his time free of charge and asked that the donations collected at the end of the evening—totalling over £300—should go to UNHCR. The Friends will be looking to arrange similar feature talks open to all in 2023. If there are any speakers you know of and could recommend, please let the editor know.

TOWN HALL COFFEE MORNING—Saturday 17 December.

The church has secured its annual prime spot for a town centre coffee morning once more. It will be taking place on Saturday 17th December with Susan Scrafton and David Frankton organising the production of coffee and biscuits. It is hoped that the choir will be able to offer their usual contribution of Christmas music which makes it such a special occasion in the town's calendar. Offers of help and of prizes for the tombola and raffle would be welcome. Please contact Susan, David or any of the committee if you can contribute to the occasion.



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

Andy Lovell has once again produced some beautiful Christmas Cards for sale, the profits from which will go towards Church development. They are available at the back of church at St Mary's



GRAND DAYS OUT



Although the coldest parts of the year are now upon us, there are still a number of sheltered places of interest which can be visited on the brighter days of winter—and Jervaulx Abbey is one such place.

CAROLE McCORMACK offers this Grand Day Out which combines historical interest, easy walking around peaceful abbey ruins, and an exceptional place to enjoy refreshments and entertain children. An offering which works in winter but also this piece can be cut out and kept for a grand day out in the brighter days which surely lie ahead.

Grand Days Out: Jervaulx Abbey and Brymor, High Jervaulx

It's very easy to drive past Jervaulx Abbey, situated as it is on level ground, set back from the A6108, some 10 miles from Richmond. Other abbeys, such as Easby or Egglestone, built on rising ground can be viewed from a distance, but Jervaulx shelters modestly in its tranquil and beautiful setting.

Privately owned, the grade 1 listed Cistercian abbey was built in 1156 and was dedicated to St Mary. The name Jervaulx first appears in 1145, when it is spelt *Jorvalle* – a Norman French equivalent for the *Ure Valley*, now of course called Wensleydale. After a somewhat mixed start, when the monastic community became settled



Jervaulx Abbey from the air

(You Tube)

at East Witton, the abbey owned half of the valley and became renowned for breeding horses, a tradition that remains today in Middleham. It was also the original home of Wensleydale cheese, which originally was made with ewes' milk.

The abbey was valued at £455.10s 5d at its dissolution in the 16th century; and its last abbot, Adam Sedburgh, who joined the Pilgrimage of Grace, was hanged at Tyburn in June 1537, when the abbey was forfeited to the king.

The standing remains of the abbey are not as grandiose or stunning as, for example, Fountains Abbey. But they are tranquil and beautiful, given over to the gentle

effects of nature and home to wild flowers which surround it and have taken root on its walls. Its more modest scale invites a closer relationship: the visitor wishes to stop and enjoy the peace; or to sit and be lost in the beautiful surroundings. There is space for all: it is never crowded, as many miss this hidden gem.

Preserved artefacts from the fabric of the abbey includes the Jervaulx pulpitum (now at St Andrew's church, Aysgarth) a decorative stone or timber screen that divides the choir from the main part of the church.



St Gregory's Church Bedale houses the other remaining item from Jervaulx: part of a window in the Lady Chapel.

After the Dissolution of the monasteries, the adjacent Jervaulx Hall and estate passed from family to family, and so did the abbey ruins, which for years were regarded as part of the beautiful and romantic setting. In 1971 the estate passed to the Burdon family who have sensitively developed the site as an unspoiled and uncommercialised historic monument, which receives no funding apart from that given by visitors either via the honesty boxes or online via the donations page.

The car park is on the opposite side of the road to the abbey, which is open from dawn to dusk every day of the year, apart from dates on which private



wedding functions take place there. The abbey website lists these, so it's worth checking before visiting. The whole enterprise relies upon honesty boxes: £1 for parking; a suggested £5 per adult for visiting the abbey. Access from the car park to the abbey entrance is level and paths are finished in fine gravel. Dogs are welcome but should be kept on leads. From 1994 until 2021 the family ran tearooms, next to the car park, but these were closed due to Covid and the family decided to concentrate on their wedding business. The result is, of course, that there are no refreshment facilities, or public toilets, at the abbey.

BUT, this brings me to the second part of this particular Grand Day Out: Brymor Ice Cream Parlour. To be honest, I have lost count of the many times I have driven past Brymor Farm at High Jervaulx, just 1.5 miles from the abbey along the A6108, in the direction of Masham. I thought it was just an ice cream parlour but, when looking for a suitable place for lunch with my granddaughter, discovered it is so much more—a complete delight for children and adults alike!

The tearooms, which also house a gift shop, are spotless and the food is excellent and very reasonable. I especially appreciated the high-quality ingredients offered for a children's lunch option. But the real bonus is that there are many items of play equipment (also spotless) inside the tearooms, suitable for toddlers and children under 5: a ball pit, soft play, a toy kitchen and contents, drawing materials and books are just some of these.



The tea room at Brymor Farm

Obviously, the child's enjoyment and engagement in the toys means that adults can eat and drink in relative peace whilst closely supervising their children. Outside is a heated play barn for older children, an adventure playground, ducks – and a model cow which fascinated my granddaughter! Opposite to the tearooms are toilets and parking is free. There is even a dog-walking field – so no member of the family needs to be excluded.

Putting together these two venues proved to be unexpectedly successful – and the time one can spend in both could vary from a couple of hours to much, much longer.

Carole McCormack



PATHWAYS IN PRAYER

JOHN PRITCHARD's helpful series to support personal prayer continues this month with thoughts on outdoor opportunities to engage in prayer, however short, as we go about our daily lives.

MOBILE PRAYERS

For the last few months I've been concentrating on the praying we do at home in our own space, so let's get outside again, as we did at the start of this series when we looked at praying with the senses and praying with a square yard of nature.

WALKING PRAYER

Many of us do some of our praying when we're out and about.

1. 'Walking the dog'. When we leave home to do one of our regular tasks (walking the dog, walking to the shops, walking to meet a friend), we can use that space to pray because we only have the one thing to do and our head is likely to be clearer of the multiple tasks that besiege us in the house. We can talk with God 'as with a friend' – (Moses in Exodus 33). Just chat with whatever is on your mind.



2. Prayer for the community. As we walk we might pass shops, schools, banks (if we're lucky!), pubs, the police station etc. Think of the people inside, known and unknown, the tasks they have, the issues they face – and pray for them. It makes the walk much more interesting! Pray too for people you pass; you don't know what they're facing at that moment – but God does...



3. Prayer for the street. We can pay particular attention to the people who live in our street. As we walk down the road we can simply ask for God's blessing on each household. Or if we know more about the occupants we can be more specific.



Simple!



NOTES FROM OUR PAST



In this month's look back at Richmond's past, **JANE HATCHER** starts by describing the history of a local customs observed at this time of year. Care of the poor and needy and provision of shelter has also been a local concern for centuries as evidenced by the provision of almshouses and latterly, sheltered accommodation. All is set out below.

Christmas-tide and the Poor of Richmond

As December comes round again, we find the churches of Richmond not only planning festive services, and operating the ongoing Food Bank, but now also providing Warm Welcome Spaces. What activities other than Christmas services took place in times past?

On Saturday 10 December 2022, between 10.30am and 12 noon, the Town Mayor of Richmond will be giving out to any Richmond resident over the age of 60, who present themselves in the Mayor's Parlour of the Town Hall, a 'Richmond Shilling'. This annual distribution is the modern form of a very ancient tradition called 'Audit Money'.

The original details of this tradition are now somewhat difficult to untangle or explain, but the story certainly goes back into medieval times. From one of the town's early charters, Richmond had to pay the Crown an annual 'Fee Farm Rent' for the privilege of holding some of its land. In the time of Queen Elizabeth I, if not before, it had become the custom for the Crown to return that sum to the town, in order for it to be distributed as charity to the poor. Such help would be much needed in the days before the state provided a small pension for the retired from 1909, although it was not until 1946 that widows' pensions were introduced.

The Fee Farm Rent is still paid by the present Town Council, and it is still returned, but the form of distribution has changed. Into the 20th century, that sum, along with other small charitable sums, such as 10/- contributions for coal, and tea for widows, were given to those in need just before Christmas.

In 1986 the Town Council decided that, in the modern era of somewhat improved state benefits, and the unrealistic purchasing power of a 50p piece, it would use capital, from ancient and outdated charities in its keeping, to have a commemorative 'coin' struck. It is this which has been dubbed the 'Richmond Shilling'. Rather than trying to identify the 'poor', this coin would be offered to all men and women over the age of 60 living within the boundary of the old Borough of Richmond.



The coin, which is not currency, has on one side of it a view of Richmond Castle and the River Swale, and the inscription 'Mayors Audit Money, Richmond North Yorkshire', and on the other side the town's coat of arms and the inscription 'Mater omnium Richmundiarum [Mother of all the Richmonds] Elizabeth Regina 1576'. This date is that of the town's Elizabethan charter.

When recipients sign their names as having been given a Richmond Shilling, they are adding to records of such charitable disbursements going back into the 16th century. And so this is one of the many long-established traditions of the town, including the First Fruits ceremony each September, and the seven-yearly Boundary Riding, all of which have evolved over time and been amended as changing circumstances have required.

Housing for the Poor

Another erstwhile charitable function of the town was to oversee some housing provision for the poor. Various charities were set up over the centuries to found almshouses, usually for widows, some of which survive today.

Many almshouses [houses for those in receipt of alms] were established in the Tudor period, when benevolent well-to-do folks sought to try to remedy the alms provision previously provided by the religious houses, and which had been totally wiped out by the Dissolution of the monasteries.

Richmond's earliest almshouse was founded in 1607 by Eleanor Bowes of Aske Hall, which lies within the parish of Easby. She herself had been a widow for over 30 years by the time she died in 1623, but it was obviously something she felt strongly about much earlier in her widowhood. Eleanor's charity was to house three widows, two from Richmond, and one from Easby. The Easby parish registers contain many entries of burials of such elderly women, describing them as being 'of the hospital at

Richmond'. The word 'hospital' in those days described an almshouse, rather than a place for medical treatment.

An existing building had been converted to become the Bowes Hospital, what in 1607 was the disused medieval chapel of St Edmund King and Martyr in Aldbiggin. It is still there, next to the petrol station on Darlington Road, and it is still used as an almshouse, but only for one person nowadays.

At the end of the 17th century, Richmond acquired a second almshouse, when in 1699 George Pinckney founded his 'hospital'. Again it was for three widows. The original building was in the 'Channel' area of Frenchgate, but in 1825 new premises were built in Tower Street. The building bears a large inscription, and is still in use as housing for three retired people, although not in the original configuration.

An almshouse which has recently ceased to exist was on Castle Hill. It was founded in the 18th century by William Thompson, for four widows of tailors, and came under the auspices of St



31 Castle Hill—a former almshouse gifted by William Thompson

(photo by Ray Wallace Thompson ARPS, FRSA, AIIPC)

Mary's, rather than the Corporation. Later converted into two flats, one on each floor, the sloping site caused severe structural problems, and the building was sold. It has since been expensively stabilised and is a private house.

In more recent times, local authorities erected small bungalows for retired people, and Richmond Corporation built some on Millgate and Tower Street. At local government reorganisation in 1974, these passed to Richmondshire District Council, and the following year this new authority built Queens Court flatlets. All of these will presumably pass to the new North Yorkshire Council in April 2023. In 1987 the Bradford-based charity Anchor Homes built Ryders Court flats, and Richmond's sheltered housing stock was further augmented when the Greyfriars complex opened in 2011.

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic



What do you call Santa's helpers? – Subordinate Clauses



In May 2018 this letter arrived for the clerk to the Marske and New Forest Parish Council. When the clerk read it, it made little sense so it was passed to me with the hope that it might mean something to St Edmund's Church Council. And it did.



For many years prior to 2018, a Men's Group from St Faith's Church in Great Crosby in Merseyside had made a residential visit to Marske, staying in David's House in Clints and joining the congregation for worship in St Edmund's on Sunday morning where we greatly appreciated their singing. After each visit they would write a report for their church magazine about the time they had spent in Marske, illustrating it with some photographs including one taken in the baptistry.



The baptistry was created for the millennium, making an organ loft above the font. The plaque in the photo (left) was created on the ceiling above the font. And it was this inscription that had attracted the letter which eventually came to me.

The wording is a Greek Palindrome, reading the same forwards as backwards. The translation is "Wash my sins and not my face only" John's Gospel 13:9

Michel Petit, who wrote asking for a photograph of the font, has collected examples of the palindrome in France, Greece, Cyprus, Crete, Turkey, England, Germany, USA and Barbados. We were very glad to be able to send a photograph to help him complete his collection.

The font in St Edmund's Church, Marske and the font in St Michael and All Angels in Downholme stand by the main entrance to the churches. This was the traditional site for fonts as their purpose is to hold the water for baptism, the sacrament of admission to the Christian church.

The font in Marske bears the initials of the donor, Timothy Hutton of Leeds, and the date 1663. The base on which it stands are said to be part of a Saxon cross though this is controversial. The font in Downholme was probably re-cut from the plain cylindrical design illustrated in Whittaker's 1823 *History of Richmondshire*.

The various coats of arms are those of Lord Bolton, T. Hutton Esq., S.T.S. Scrope and J.S.W.S.E Drax who were the Lords of the Manors comprising Downholme parish.



The font at St Edmunds with the Greek palindrome set in stone above the font.



The font at St Michael And All Angels, Downholme

Marske Churchyard and Cemetery To everyone who helps care for them in any way,

The responsibility for the upkeep of St Edmund's Churchyard and the Cemetery extension falls to the Churchwarden and to the St Edmund's Parochial Church Council (PCC). The grass in the churchyard is regularly cut by a contractor but to date all attempts to find a contractor to cut the cemetery have proved fruitless. The PCC is therefore very grateful to all those volunteers who give their time and energy to helping with the care of the churchyard and the cemetery so that those who visit it find them places of reflection and tranquillity.

The volunteers keep the cemetery cut and the hedges and shrubs in both churchyard and cemetery trimmed. Sometimes there has not been enough time for volunteers to cut, clear and dispose of all the trimmings. The hedge cutting and clearing is

heavy, time-consuming work and those undertaking it have been disappointed on occasion about leaving the cemetery untidy for visitors until they were able to go back to complete the clearing and disposal of all the cuttings.

The garden round the war memorial is tended and the steps regularly swept and this year they were treated to prevent them from becoming slippery.

As well as the regular trimming of grass and hedges the work of maintenance in the churchyard has also in the last year or so included weeding the paths, re-edging the main path, spreading fresh gravel along the front of the porch and down the path and the repainting of the gates and handrails. The overgrown bramble and nettle patch was also cleared and the boundary wall next to the gardens repaired and re-pointed. All of this work was done by volunteers.

My first intention in this letter was to thank by name all those who help tend the churchyard and cemetery but you all know who you are and I would not want to embarrass those who would rather remain anonymous nor would I want to hurt anyone by accidentally missing out a name.

To all of you, the PCC says a grateful thanks.

Jennifer Williamson,

Secretary to the PCC



Baptisms



The following have taken place in Downholme in 2022

27 February 2022

Nancy Robyn Dixon
Thomas James Dixon

21st December 2019
14th July 2021

The following have taken place in Marske in 2022

6 February 2022
4 July 2022
23 Oct 2022

Daisy Sophia Jackson
Bee Willow Zephyr Roberts
Stephanie Jayne Lilian Coates

6th October 2021
4th July 2021
Adult Baptism

*You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.*

Loving.
Living.
Learning.

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

HOLD ON
TO THAT
WHICH
IS GOOD

NEWS FROM TRINITY ACADEMY

Whatever the ever-changing demands of National Curriculum and other developments which schools are asked to undertake, **LUCY HODGES'** notes for December remind us of the thankfully unchanging activities which form part of every primary school Christmas. Nevertheless, there are valuable new initiatives for schools to adopt and Lucy tells of some which will help children develop growing confidence in themselves. All of this and a new Head too!

Planning for Christmas is well underway in school and we are enjoying this magical time with our children. All of the children will be involved in some way, with carol concerts, nativities and Christmas songs. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to share this with parents.

As ever, we will enjoy seeing the wonderful performance of Pinocchio at the Georgian Theatre and our younger children will have had a travelling theatre company in school performing for them, which we know will be hugely enjoyed by our children and their families. Both of these events are being funded by our incredible PTA who dedicate so much of their time to fundraising for the school. It is also an honour to be invited to be part of the Mayor's Christmas Concert in St Mary's Church and a great opportunity for our children.



As well as all the fun of Christmas, children are participating in some exciting learning in the classroom. Forest school sessions have been inspired by the fallen leaves, using them in some very imaginative ways!

Our Key Stage 1 children have been having a great time, listening to different pieces of music and having a go at playing some of the instruments that they can hear.



A group of KS2 children represented the school in a Basketball competition at Richmond School, as always we were incredibly proud of the way they conducted themselves and the success they had as a team.

We are also delighted that some of our

older children will be participating in the National Younger Leadership Groups, formed out of a partnership between the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award Team and the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership. The focus is hearing young people's voices, developing student leadership and growing faith amongst young people and are every excited to see what our children will achieve.



We will welcome back Mr Simon Robson as our headteacher in the New Year. Mr Robson supported the school in the Spring and Summer Term last year. We will be starting the new term with the launch of OPAL, Outdoor Play and Learning, looking at ways to enhance and improve our outdoor area.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas from us all at Trinity Academy Richmond. We hope that you enjoy this time with family and friends.

Lucy Hodges

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."



**Do you have a house to clear?
Are you downsizing?
Have you got a collection you
want to give a new home?**

The team from STV Studios, who brought you the heart-warming series *The Yorkshire Auction House*, fronted by Auctioneer Angus Ashworth, are making an exciting new series and want to hear from you.

Every clearance can uncover treasures, and anything of value could be carefully packed up to go under the gavel.

You might make a bit of cash along the way!

Get in touch by email Takepart@theauctionhouse.tv
Or call or text 07816 084062

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60 SECOND INTERVIEW

JOHN PRITCHARD conjures up another set of short, sharp questions to test the mental reflexes and powers of recall of another member of St Mary's congregation.

HOWARD WALKER was willing to take on the challenge of offering insights into his life and thoughts through his quickfire responses. What would your answers be?



First memory? Death of King George VI

Favourite meal? Anything except porridge

Favourite music or musician? English Art Song

Pet dislike? People who take credit for other people's work

Best holiday? The next one

Childhood hero? Grandfather

Favourite hobby? Restoring old cars

Luxury on Desert Island? Razor blades and books of poetry

Recent TV you've enjoyed? Mortimer and Whitehouse Go Fishing

Worst fault? Starting too many things

2 best films ever? *Went the Day Well*; *The Shawshank Redemption*

Favourite drink? Tea

Gardening or sitting in the garden? Both

Best recent book? *The Scapegoat* by Steve R. Dunn

Favourite charity? Salvation Army

Place you feel happiest? Home

Three dinner companions? Grayson Perry, Stephen Cottrell, Mary Beard

What do you pray for most? A just and contented society

Traditional or new Lord's Prayer? New

Epitaph? He was all right

John Pritchard

BEHIND THE HYMNS



JUDITH MacLEOD looks to the wealth of church music related to Advent for her choice of hymn for December. The spotlight falls not on the familiar 'Hills of the North, Rejoice' but on the lesser known 'Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling', with Judith looking into the inspiration behind the verses written nearly five hundred years ago but still relevant today.

My choice for the December edition of the magazine is a rousing hymn for Advent. There are several well-known hymns for Advent in 'Common Praise'. At first I was undecided about which one to choose. One of my favourites is 'Hills of the North Rejoice' [no.29] because of the grandeur of its words and music. Another is 'People, look East. The time is near' with its dancing 6/8 time and joyful lyrics by Eleanor Farjeon.

My final choice, 'Wake, O Wake! With tidings thrilling' [no.39] is also well loved. The words were written in the late sixteenth century by a German Lutheran, Philipp Nikolai, in the town of Unna in Westphalia in northwest Germany where he was pastor. They appear in a book of meditations called 'A Mirror of Joy' written during a period of despair caused by the plague of 1597-98.

The message of the hymn is that we should be alert for the arrival of salvation which is coming with the advent of Christ. There is pageantry: 'raise high your torches bright', energy, light, colour and expectancy.



The call to wake up directed at the night watchmen in the first and second verses is taken from Isaiah 52.8: 'The voice of thy watchmen, they lift up the voice, together do they sing; for they shall see, eye to eye, when the Lord returneth to Zion.'. The watchmen, in turn, are calling the wise virgins to greet 'The Bridegroom'. The image is taken from the parable of the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 25. 1-13 in which the wise virgins filled up their lamps with oil and were therefore ready to greet Jesus.

1 Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling
The watchmen all the air are filling,
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! No more delaying,
"The hour has come!" we hear them saying,
"Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
Raise high your torches bright!
Alleluia!
The wedding song swells loud and strong:
Go forth and join the festal throng.

2 Zion hears the watchmen shouting,
Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
She stands and waits with eager eyes;
See her Friend from heaven descending,
Adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son!
Alleluia!
Let us prepare to follow there,
Where in thy supper we may share.

In verse 2 the eternal world meets the temporal world as Zion, the kingdom of heaven, waits joyfully for Jesus to descend from heaven. We are invited to follow him in the last 2 lines: 'Let us prepare to follow there, where in thy supper we may share.'. Although not stated, some will make the connection with the Church as bride meeting the Bridegroom as in Revelation 21:1-2: 'I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.'.

Revelation is also a source of imagery for verse 3: 'And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: each one of several gates was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.' [Revelation 21.21]. We can picture the angelic voices around God's throne. We have the assurance that we can enjoy God's presence which 'never more shall leave us,.'. Heavenly bliss is greater than earthly happiness.

3 Every soul in thee rejoices;
From earth and from angelic voices
Be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
Thy presence never more shall leave us,
We stand with angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
The bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluia!
Grant us to raise, to length of days,
The triumph-chorus of thy praise.

Nikolai himself composed the music for the hymn which was later adapted and harmonized by J.S. Bach in one his best-known cantatas, no. 140. It was first performed in Leipzig in 1731. 'Wachet Auf', has become a favourite of wedding couples for processional or recessional music because of its joyful liveliness and beauty.

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel demanded.



Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two big men standing by the door and glaring at you? They're hushers."

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

The preface to last month's article about activity at Trinity Academy pointed out that St Mary's appoints three Foundation Governors to the school as well as the incumbent rector having an ex officio position on the Governing Body.

When the new St Francis Xavier school was built on Darlington Road, the Church of England was invited to contribute to the costs and set up the school as a joint Roman Catholic/Church of England foundation for a voluntary aided school. So St Mary's appoints a governor to that school. The rector has an ex officio place on that board too. But who was St Francis Xavier, the anniversary of whose death falls in this month?

ST FRANCIS XAVIER—EARLY MISSIONARY TO ASIA

Francis de Jasso y Azpilicueta was born on 7 April 1506 into an influential noble family, the youngest son of the president of the Royal Council of the Kingdom of Navarre and his wife who was the sole heiress to the castle at Javier (Xavier in old Spanish.) Within six years, the kingdom was at war, trying to repel an invasion from the neighbouring Spanish kingdom of Aragon, a war destined to last eighteen years and in which his older brothers took part. (His father died when Francis was 9).



Castle at Xavier as it is today

This family participation led to the victorious invaders confiscating the family lands, demolishing most of the defences of their home, the castle of Xavier, and leaving only the family residence within the castle habitable. So in 1525, the young Francis left to study in Paris, living there for eleven years. Four years after arriving in Paris, Francis began sharing lodgings with a friend, Pierre Favre, and together they invited a third student, the 38 year old Ignatius of Loyola, to room with them.

Pierre was convinced to become a priest by Ignatius but Francis initially saw him as not to be taken seriously and in fact became downright sarcastic about Ignatius and his beliefs. However, Francis' resistance began to break down, but he still was set upon worldly careers. After gaining his degree in 1530, he went onto teach philosophy.

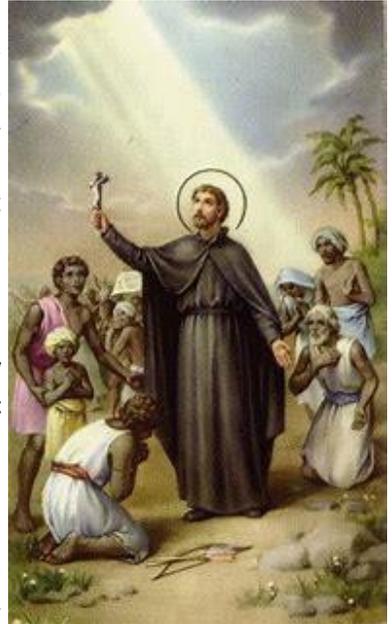
Nevertheless, in 1534, Francis, Ignatius and five other students took private vows of poverty, chastity and obedience to the Pope and vowed to go to the Holy Land to convert people. This meeting eventually led to Ignatius setting up the framework of an organisation he called the Society of Jesus, which we know now as the Jesuits. Francis, meanwhile, had studied theology from 1534 and became a priest in 1537

The new order was approved by the pope in 1540, the same year as the King of Portugal asked for Jesuit missionaries to go to his newly acquired territories in India—the area we now know as Goa—not to convert the native population but to maintain Christian values amongst the Portuguese settlers which he felt were being eroded. When the person chosen fell ill, Francis was asked to go in his place.

So Francis' lifelong missionary work in Asia began, almost by accident. Leaving Lisbon in on his birthday in 1541 with the pope's appointment as apostolic nuncio to the East fresh in his thoughts, he headed to Goa via Mozambique, also Portuguese territory

Arriving in Goa, he found that the Portuguese settlers had indeed strayed somewhat from the ways of Christ—perhaps not surprising as it is believed that the majority of the settlers were from the lower and less disciplined orders of society. Many were from the prison population or from a different stratum of society, nobles who had fallen out with the king. In the 30 years since the colony was founded, a number had formed relationships with local women and adopted their culture, whilst promoting Christianity was not top of the agenda of the sailors, soldiers and merchants who came to Goa.

Francis' approach was to focus on the Portuguese themselves, particularly teaching of children. He spent much time in the hospitals, looking to the needs of the sick and went out into the town, bringing people into his teaching sessions. He wanted to build up a group of local preachers who might in turn become priests. Hearing that there was a community of people who had been baptised earlier but received no formal teaching further down the coast, he set sail with some of his newly trained Goan clerics and spent almost three years converting many in what we now know as India and Sri Lanka, building over forty churches on the way. Whilst he won over many of the poorer people, he met with strong opposition from the wealthy castes but pressed on with his mission.





Francis Xavier and entourage in Japan (part of a panel of folding screen in Rijkmuseum

Having strengthened the base in Goa, Francis moved on to South East Asia in 1547, visiting other Portuguese colonies. His fame went before him and soon he was persuaded to visit Japan by a Japanese man, Anjiro, who became the first Japanese Christian. Armed with gifts and the friendship of Anjiro, he arrived in Japan in 1549. Although he received a friendly reception, a number of obstacles confronted him. An edict from the King threatened the death penalty for anyone who converted to Christianity; visiting areas where there had been no Portuguese influence meant that his language was totally foreign to the natives so work had to be done with pictures and sign language. Also he discovered that his approach from a position of poverty did not sit well with existing cultures.

The established religions were Buddhism or Shinto. Coming at his teachings from this background, the Japanese could not believe the Christian God was good if he created everything including evil. They also didn't like the thought of their ancestors living in Hell. And so, much as the Christian missionaries in Britain used existing customs, practices and beliefs and modified them as a platform for the Christian message, so did Francis in Japan. The result was that people were converted, congregations increased and he left behind people who would continue to work as priests and preachers.

From Japan it was back to Goa and then on to China where his papal credentials

counted for nothing and he was held up on his journey. On 3 December 1552, he died from fever at Shangchuan, still waiting for a boat to take him to mainland China to continue his work there.

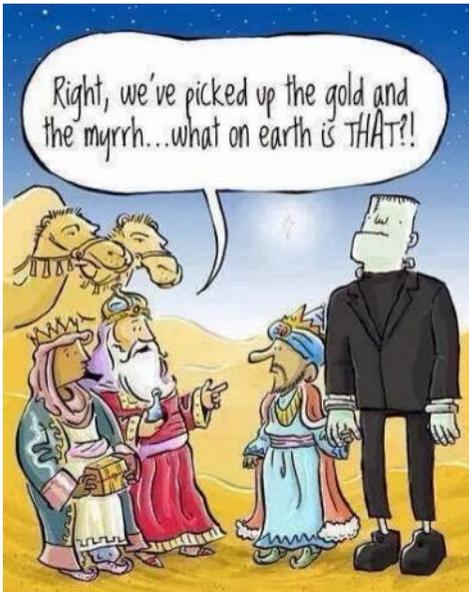


He was widely noted for his missionary work and is said to have converted more people than anyone since Paul. He was very effective as an organiser, always teaching, preaching, converting and leaving behind a strong team of priests to carry on his work as he moved on to his next challenge. Francis is also seen as a key figure in the development of the Jesuit movement and is much venerated in Spain.

He was beatified in 1619 and canonised at the same time as his mentor, Ignatius of Loyola in 1662. Christian communities he converted survived oppression after he had left and he became known as the 'Apostle of the Indies'. Some of his practices (e.g. forcing converts to take Portuguese names and dress in Portuguese style clothing, setting up an Inquisition system in Goa) have received criticism but as a missionary and preacher, St Francis Xavier had few equals.

JEJ

'Give me the child at seven and I will give you the man' St Francis Xavier



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

WILLIAM'S WALKS



For three years, William has been providing us with a variety of do-able walks, each one bringing wider knowledge of our area as well as no excuse for not enjoying the blessing of our local countryside. Many thanks go to William as, for one last time, he offers us a



new walk this month. 'This flat walk which meanders through lovely parkland along sometimes muddy tracks,' William says, 'is beautiful at any time of year. The new tenants at Home Farm keep fine horses which can be seen in the fields. If you are lucky you may see deer and buzzards.' Thank you for your research, William, and all of the work you and other volunteers have put in to make walking for health so accessible.

BROUGH PARK- An Erratic Story

Start/Finish – Brough Park Gates, on the Brough St Giles to Tunstall Road

Ordnance Survey Map 302 Northallerton & Thirsk

Distance: 3 miles

Terrain: mainly flat

-o0o0o-

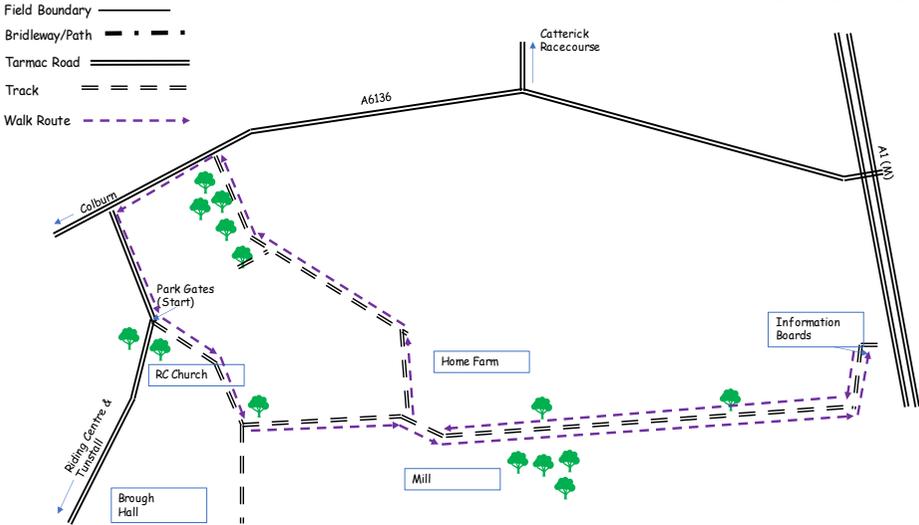


Park outside the Park Gates. Proceed through the arched gateway following the tarmac road which leads past St Paulinus, the Roman Catholic church and into the park with its majestic oaks and fine views.

Ahead you will see Brough Hall, where William and Ffion Hague had a flat until fairly recently. Turn left up the slight rise along the farm track with Home Farm ahead and on your left.

Follow the track passing the Old Mill on your right and go through the gates along the fenced lane. On the right you will see the reservoir mound built to harness flood-water during the A1 tripling project.

At the end of the lane turn left up the short slope through the new plantation to the information boards. These explain how erratic boulders were swept down from



Shap by the ice sheets, and examples of these boulders are on display. They also tell the story of the reservoir construction and wildlife to be seen nearby.

Turn left along the pavement and then left again up the lane which takes you back to the Park Gates.



This is a Ramblers' Wellbeing Walk Richmondshire route.
 For more information email www.ny.richmondshire@btinternet.com

A Message from William Gedye

I hope you have enjoyed reading and perhaps trying out 'William's Walks'. This is the last in the set of around 30 walks based on the routes used regularly by Ramblers Wellbeing Walks Richmondshire.

We provide free led walks on Monday and Thursday mornings. Our short walks are up to an hour, reasonably flat with no stiles. Our longer walks are up to 90 minutes with stiles and some typical Richmondshire hills.

We usually end up with a coffee and chat. 'All are welcome'.



Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...



"The vicar's still miffed that one of the parents got £250 from You've Been Framed for their video of last year's nativity play."

200 CLUB— November Draw

The November draw was delayed due to the Service of Remembrance on the draw day. Result will be published next month



Normally the last Sunday of Every Month !

However, as that is Christmas Day, please check with the Pew Sheet and web-site for the December arrangements

Why not come and join us?

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

THIRST!! (The Men's Group)

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

**CASTLE TAVERN,
Richmond Market Place**

This month's meeting: 1 December



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

SMALL GROUPS FOR CHRISTIAN NURTURE



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

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

The Discussion Group.

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

Contact: Anna Boyce: boycead11@gmail.com

The Book Group.

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

Home Group.

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

Poetry and Puds.

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

johnlpritchard@btinternet.com

Exploring Faith.

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

kshmillier32@gmail.com

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 Fleece, starting at 1.30 p.m.

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

TELEPHONE SUPPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

Do please get in touch.

PASTORAL CARE— A CONTINUING SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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Sudoku - Medium

1	5		3					9
2		4			8			5
6								
	1				6		2	
	9		5				4	
								8
8			7			6		4
4					2		1	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 keep things going ?

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

NEXT EVENTS

Army Band 13 December
Town Hall Coffee Morning 17 December



YARNS



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

Every Friday
9.30am to 11.30 a.m.

We meet in the Restaurant at **Greyfriars, Queen's Road**
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Everyone is welcome

Contact Anne Clarke 07982 658991

Word Search



Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on his people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Messiah

Broken

Heart

Freedom

Darkness

Favour

Prisoners

Comfort

Mourn

Bestow

Crown

Beauty

Ashes

Son

God

Jesus

Seen

Father

Whoever

longing

thousand





Puzzle Solutions



Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku—Medium

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

Wordsearch

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

Deadline for January edition : 9th December—earlier to meet printer's deadlines. To contribute letters, articles, etc contact stmarys.maged@gmail.com

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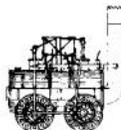
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Executive Headteacher: Mrs C. Barnett

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