

CONNECTIONS



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

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

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME

CHURCH OFFICERS

Reader	George Alderson	68, Brompton Park, Brompton on Swale DL10 7JP (07487) 257646
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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
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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

We move inexorably towards the turning of the year which brings us to November when Nature's fruits have been gathered but when the annual remembrance of the fallen, injured and damaged of the great wars of the past is always foremost—brought into focus more sharply by a human conflict, sought by few and being endured by many, in Ukraine. The interdependence of all in the world and the need to live in peace and work together is sadly being emphasised by what is not being seen around us—the effects of non-collaboration over climate control, the direct and indirect effects of the war in Ukraine, constant vigilance over COVID, the guzzling of the bounty of nature without thought for the future—I would even add Brexit to this list. This month, the church moves towards Advent and all of the promise which that season reminds us of annually—but before that, we remember.

The main feature articles this month are on remembrance and are contributed by two members of our benefice, Christine Porter Helen Bennett, each offering a family perspective on war and its impact, a seen and unseen. George Alderson's poem also contributes. Elsewhere, we have reports on how St Edmund's is working to sustain support for the Richmond Food Bank, Store House (from Jennifer Williamson) and reminders of how we can all help across the benefice, and news of visits by two national figures—one past (John Wesley as told by Jane Hatcher) and one present (Rishi Sunak by Martin Booth and Peter Trewby).

William Gedye offers us his penultimate walk in the long-running (walking?) series, John Welch shares his 60 second thoughts on his life and preferences and Judith MacLeod tells of all creatures of our God and King in her November hymn feature. More helpful suggestions on prayer from John Pritchard and a signpost to the state benefits system in these straitened times are also on offer, plus the usual mix of benefice news, mental challenges and reminders of the ever-growing range of meetings and groups during the week—all in all, a veritable cornucopia!

Unfortunately, the costs of publishing this monthly magazine are rising quickly. Feedback has suggested to the PCC that the publication should continue but this will mean that next year's price will need to go up to at least £1.50 per issue (£15 for 12 issues for annual subscribers) but your editorial team of Carole McCormack, Christine Porter, John Pritchard and I are willing to give it a go for another year and would like you to stay with us. More next month.

This month's cover picture is of 'Tommy', a sculpture to be seen on the seafront at Seaham. The bottle of wine for the mystery September cover (Downholme Church) was won by Brett Overin after a draw from successful entrants. *Jim Jack*



Martin's Message November 2022



November: time to remember

This month features the annual season of remembrance – with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day as well as Remembrance Sunday. All Saints' Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God at work. It is an opportunity to give thanks for that grace; to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that sanctity may grow in ordinary circumstances as well as extraordinary crises.

All Souls' Day celebrates the saints in a more local and intimate way. It allows us to remember with thanksgiving those whom we have known more directly: those who gave us life, or who nurtured us in faith. So this is a time to remember the people we love but see no longer, who live on in our hearts.

On Sunday 6th November the annual Service of Light at St Mary's (at 2pm) will be complemented by a similar service at St Edmund's in Marske (at 11am).

The short period between All Saints and Advent is sometimes known as the Kingdom Season, culminating with the festival of Christ the King (20 November). It is a time to recall the present reality and acknowledge the coming fulfilment of God's Kingdom. Poignantly, the post-Communion prayer often used on Remembrance Sunday is:

*God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

November: time for a warm welcome

In response to the cost of living and heating crises facing so many a national Warm Welcome Network is being established (visit www.warmwelcome.uk).

The Town Hall and Richmond Methodist Church are registered as places of

welcome. Other organisations in the town and surrounding area are invited to join the scheme so that, between us, we can offer as many days and times as possible when people can find a free, warm, welcoming, safe space open to all. As I write, the hope is to be up and running for the beginning of November.

Richmond Methodist Church ask for our prayers and our practical support and are recruiting volunteers to enable them to open their premises. Donations towards their increased utility costs will also be gratefully received. For further information please contact me (or Revd Julia Reid, the Methodist minister, on 01748 823149).

November: time for a new 1st Sunday format

Following our Annual Church Meeting the PCC had set three main priority areas for the coming year:

1. grow spiritually
2. extend our community engagement
3. secure our viability by increasing our income.



We recognised that this in turn will require:

- a. further strengthening of our lay leadership and our publicity,
- b. making our buildings, including the Holy Trinity Chapel, fully fit for purpose, and
- c. attracting more newcomers and young families to church life.

Whilst our participation in local schemes registered with the Warm Welcome Network clearly falls in the second priority area, the need discussed in this column over the last few months to refresh our all-age worship is directly linked both to point c. and to the first priority area. We would also hope that any newcomers choosing to join us might enable us to achieve the ongoing viability we all desire.

Our Harvest Festival on 2 October offered a good opportunity to try something new. The aim of this informal all-age service was to appeal both to our current congregation and to newcomers alike: that is, to be as inclusive as possible.

Feedback received following the Harvest Festival was reviewed by the PCC at their meeting last month – and we are most grateful for your views. It was agreed that for a trial period covering the next twelve months, the 10 a.m. service on the first Sunday of each month should be developed further and remain non-Eucharistic. This means that during this trial period your ongoing feedback will be essential as we seek together to make this service truly 'worship for all'.



We also recognise that this new first Sunday service should be part of a wider pattern of services and events (including Fun- Key Church) with the overall aim of attracting newcomers to join St Mary's.

As we embark on this trial period the PCC recognise that a monthly 10am service that is non- Eucharistic will be a major departure from our long-established service pattern. We will remain, however, a Eucharistic community with Holy Communion very much at the heart of our worship. Whilst there is the possibility of introducing an evening Eucharist on first Sundays (and do please let me know if you would like this – along with your preferred time), those of us who wish to receive the sacrament may do so at 8am on Sunday, 9:15am on Wednesday, or 10:30am (at Holy Trinity Chapel) on Thursday.

With every blessing for the times and seasons ahead,

Martin

Loving.
Living.
Learning.

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds



We have laid to rest those who have died.



1 August

William Albert Laws (Maj)

9 September

Rita Finch

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 (1)

A slightly different 'angle' in this month of remembrance. **CHRISTINE PORTER** has used her family letters, momentos and her own memories to envisage the effect of the First World War on those at home—and also reminds us of public attitudes towards those who appeared unwilling to fight 'for King and Country'

THE SILVER WAR BADGE

"For King and Empire, Services Rendered"

"I'm turning Ben's Silver War Badge over and over in my hand, and thinking on. Thinking about the good times we've both had, about the kind things our Vicar, Mr Cross, said at the funeral today ... and wondering where we'll all end up. Here we are, in the thick of it again, another war. The Great War was 'the war to end all wars'. Or so they all said.



"My name's Henrietta. always Hetty to my brothers and sisters, Aunty Hetty now to nieces and nephews galore. We were a big family, eight children, and I was the youngest. I was born on 29th March 1888, in Chorley, Lancashire. But sadly for Mother, Father died three months before I came along. His name was Henry. So they christened me after him.

"Like all the girls, I was in the cotton mill at 13, after leaving school. On Sundays we all went to church, St James's, and I sang contralto in the choir. It was at church that I met Ben, and we'd only just started walking out together when the Great War broke out. Lord Kitchener wanted all able men to volunteer 'for King and Empire' and, of course, Ben went to sign up. As a gunner in the East Lancs. Regiment. He was a quick lad and soon got moved up to the Royal Garrison Artillery.



"Being parted from Ben, not knowing where he was, what he was going through, those were the worst years of my life. I knew the infantrymen were the ones in front, and the heavy artillery some way back. But I knew too it was our artillery the German machine gunners really went for, trying to blast them to Kingdom come, to knock out the big guns.

Ben and I were lucky, got reunited, and married at the end of the War. Many of the lasses didn't get their menfolk back, widowed too young, or left on the shelf, not finding anyone, like my sister Maria.

Invisible wounds

"Mercifully, my Ben came back, a few months before fighting ended. But he was a changed man, with invisible wounds. 'An Honourable Discharge' they called it, because he was no longer fit for service. Whatever it was he went through, with all the shelling and the barrages and the din, he never let on. But when he came back he was full of brooding. I think the Lord they gave him this Silver War Badge. If it hadn't been for this to pin on his lapel, well, one of those meddling busybodies might have stuck a white feather on him. Just because a lad isn't on crutches or missing a limb, some folk used to think they must be fit and well and a shirker, dodging the call-up.



Some members of the Chorley Pals Regiment

"Of course, Ben never said a word about any of it, never let on. At the time, Pathe News told us about the men's heroics, that's all. It all came out years later. I heard that the Chorley Pals, in the East Lancs., had been right there in the thick of it, going over the top on the first day of the Somme, part of the Big Push. The first two waves to stand up and walk towards the Gerries were the Accrington Pals, and they pretty much got wiped out in a matter of minutes. Next to follow were the Chorley Pals, 93 casualties out of 175 men. Ben must have seen it all, and never once said a thing. But, that haunted look never left him.



Family Life

"I'm truly thankful we had a happy marriage. Our Stanley was born on 18th September 1919, then Irene on 20th June 1921. Those were sunny years. The best years. We had a week in Blackpool or Morecambe every summer, on the train, when the mills were closed for Chorley Wakes Weeks. I remember one summer, Ben left his wallet behind on the mantelpiece. When

Hetty with daughter Irene, son Stanley and husband Ben Waterworth. Christine notes the smile on Hetty's face but the haunted look on the face of Silver Badge holder, Ben.

we got on the train - it was packed - I had to get into my corsets to get the other money out.

“ I remember the cricket matches behind the Parish Institute, and sometimes we had away fixtures at other villages. Ben was good at cricket. And every summer we used to listen to Sir Henry Wood’s Promenade Concerts on the wireless.



“Ben just couldn’t bring himself to go back to a normal job. He was a bag of nerves. But he went for Verger when that came up, and that seemed to settle him. Working on his own in an empty church, tending the grounds and flowerbeds, meeting folk coming into church on Sundays. He enjoyed that.

The War Never Left Him

“Life moved on, and the war got further and further away. But the war never left Ben. In many ways it seemed to haunt him more and as time went by. He’d always had the night terrors and the nightmares. But things took a turn for the worst a couple of years back, when it all came round again. Another war, another national call-up. This time it was our Stanley who signed up. Stanley, a quiet shy lad, a good carpenter, and a promising future with a happy marriage of his own one day, God willing. But Stanley went off in 1939, just 20 years old, and now he’s somewhere in France, like his father was.

“Of late, Ben has been reliving his own war and dwelling on Stanley’s, fretting on whether we’ll get the lad back alive. We prayed together, felt our faith was keeping us strong, keeping us going. Even so, Ben slowly got worse. Some nights he couldn’t sleep a wink. Other nights he would get to sleep, then give an almighty groan and terrible shaking, and afterwards fall into a really deep sleep.

“Now God has called my Ben home, and he’s at peace. He was just 53. All my prayers are now for my son, as I sit here turning Ben’s Silver War Badge over and over in my hand, and thinking on.”

Postscript:

Uncle Stanley returned home in July 1946, with four campaign medals for end-to-end postings: to the French, Italian and North African theatres of war, then directly on to Jerusalem, to defend British rule in Palestine. In the face of an increasingly ugly paramilitary campaign and unable to find a practical solution, Britain ultimately referred the problem to the United Nations.

My Grandma had therefore lived through all the celebrations and street parties for Victory in Europe Day, with her son still on active service. Because the British had rapidly pulled their troops out of Palestine, Uncle Stanley's demob was unannounced.

So, in the summer of 1946, he simply walked through the front door. After turning into Canterbury Street, he'd paused by St James's Church on the corner. A neighbour had caught sight of him, with his kitbag, looking over the church wall. She rushed into the house two minutes ahead of him, shouting:

"Hetty, Hetty! Your Stanley's coming down the street!"

Christine Porter

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

To accompany her grandmother's imagined memories of wars, **CHRISTINE PORTER** offers some less well-known background information regarding the attitudes to war and those who served in WW1. In our own castle in Richmond, 16 men who were open conscientious objectors to war and fighting were imprisoned. A number of them took that view because of their personal Christian faith. There were others who walked the streets of the country of service age but who had good reason not to be in uniform—reserved occupations or men with what we could now recognise as post-traumatic stress disorder. They lived in dread of being 'white feathered' as is described here. It was to stop this that the silver badge was introduced.

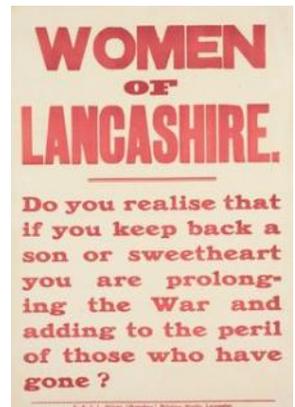
WHITE FEATHERS AND SILVER BADGES



'We don't want to lose you, but we think you ought to go,' sang the entertainer Phyllis Dane for the first time in September 1914. War had recently been declared with Germany and, with a lot of flag-waving and hip-hip-hurrying, men were being urged to sign up and fight for King and Empire.

What young man wanted to be the one who held back, while his workmates or schoolfriends surged forward to do their civic and patriotic duty? What man wanted to be asked by a girl, perhaps with a brother in uniform, why he wasn't enlisting?

Even feminist campaigners like Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst encouraged enlistment, because a German



victory, they said, would wreck everything that the suffragettes had fought for. Posters challenged women to urge their young men into the army. 'If he does not think that you and your country are worth fighting for - do you think he is worthy *of you?*' asked one advertisement, before adding 'If your young man neglects his duty to his King and Country, the time may come when he neglects YOU'.

Baroness Orczy created a Women of England's Active Service League, whose members pledged never to be seen in public with a man who had refused to answer the call to arms. Orczy supported a more poisonous organisation, the Order of the White Feather. This set out to shame

men in civilian clothes, by presenting them with a white feather, as a symbol of their alleged cowardice. In the days of organised cock-fighting, birds with white feathers in their tails were supposedly inferior compared to pure-bred cockerels.



In late 1914, a retired admiral, Admiral Charles Penrose-Fitzgerald, arranged for a group of women in Folkestone to chase 'slackers' and 'loafers' down the street and present them with white feathers. Tactics like this soon spread nationwide, and men needed a thick skin to resist these slurs on their character.



The followers of the Order of the White Feather became such a societal nuisance that the Home Office had to arrange for men employed in essential civilian war work to be issued with metal badges, showing

that they were already serving 'King and Country'.

The issuing of such badges was later extended to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness. The first of these Silver War Badges were issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement. Each badge is uniquely numbered on the reverse. They were intended to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress, and were forbidden to be worn on a military uniform.



No longer were discharged ex-military men with invisible wounds, many with what we now recognise as PTSD or a similar disorder, being chased down the street by someone holding a white feather. Being able to wear a Silver War Badge on their lapel demonstrated to all that the wearer had indeed answered the call to enlist and had already served King and Empire.

Christine Porter

A TIME OF MY LIFE (2)

Following Christine's reflections on family and war, **HELEN BENNETT** has sent in this piece, written by her father, John D. Long OBE (1915-2002) in 1994. He worshipped at All Saints, Gosforth for 48 years and served on their Parish Council for many of those years.

Helen writes, "John Long was my father. He served in The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in WW2, in the same regiment as Gardner Kennedy. My father was later General Secretary of the Northumberland and Tyneside Council of Social Service and the inspiration behind MEA House where all of the voluntary organisations spread around Newcastle became housed under one roof. This was inspirational at the time. Sadly this has all but disappeared in the intervening years."

This piece, written by John Long, was published in the parish magazine of All Saints Parish Church, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne in 1994, and is reproduced with the permission of the Reverend Canon Andrew Shipton.

Normandy Memories

I was quite decided about it : the Normandy holiday over, we would avoid the old, oppressive World War 1 Battlefields *en route* for home. But they lay in our path, and presently, under threatening skies, we were on the 1914-1918 axis of allied advance, the dead straight Roman road -Amiens, Albert, Bapaume- names that had been with me since childhood and which a later war had not erased.

I cannot say when the thought came to me , but somewhere along that gently rising road beyond Albert, a sense of urgency grew, that I should seek the name of a distant cousin, Gardner Kennedy, on the Thiepval Memorial- the memorial to the 72,000 dead on the Somme who



The Memorial at Thiepval

had no known graves . He had been killed on 1st July 1916, the first day of the battle, and never found.



Although I had a clear memory of his brother, Jack - a mental wreck from fighting the Turks in Palestine - Gardner's life and mine barely overlapped. I was nine months old when he was killed and the little I knew came mostly from a yellowing extract from a Coleraine newspaper which I had found in the pages of a regimental history. He had been decorated for gallantry

earlier that same year and the Congregation at his local church had been proud of him. He had served with the 36th (Ulster) division who were slaughtered in their thousands on the slopes below us. By this time we had turned off the main road onto the ridge. The weather though still chilly had cleared up and the sun had come out. In a wooded clearing on an eminence, fronted by an extensive, close-cropped lawn, stood an enormous Marble Arch of an edifice with its panels of chiselled names. We had the place to ourselves.

A occasional wind stirred the pines, otherwise there was silence.

Thiepval

It was a strange silence that defied analysis: not healing or reconciling: not eerie- certainly not angry : the appalled silence of God perhaps . On the chalky slopes below us , and for 12 miles on either side, 25, 000 men from the British and Imperial forces had been killed and a further 35,000 wounded on that first day of the Somme battle.



With surprising ease we found his name:

*L/Cpl William Robert Gardner Kennedy ,
103 Coy. Machine Gun Corps, attached 36(Ulster) Division,
killed 1st July 1916, aged 20 .*

And that, perhaps, was all there really was to it. I had sought and found the name of the long-dead soldier relative. Or was the urge to find his name, together with the joy of having done so, more than just idle fancy? Was it, as I thought, as we came away from this Golgotha of a place, some sort of reassurance for a young man across the divide of death that his sacrifice hadn't been for nothing, that he had been remembered with love and gratitude, albeit belatedly, and that , mercifully, all of us , living and departed , are one in Christ .

John Long (1915–2002)

POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

GEORGE ALDERSON's poem this month continues the theme of remembrance but takes it much further, relating the human sacrifices in war to the sacrifices made by Christ.

PASSING ON

We remember who remembered when the silence broke the noise –
The proud fathers and the mothers who had nurtured their young boys
And the brothers and the sisters who had followed them with pride
And had sat, stone-still, for hours, when their silent tears had dried.

We remember who remembered that the lads had fought for choice –
That their country and their hamlet might retain a forceful voice;
That their world should sleep in freedom and awake refreshed and game
To reject all that is selfish and destructive and brings shame.

We remember who remembered that they'd never known their dad
But who saw the gleaming medals that had made their mother glad
That her husband had been plucky and had done more than his share
And they wondered, should they have to, if they'd have the nerve to dare.

We remember who remembered when the Saviour took the tree
And who walked the way of villains to the site of Calvary.
We remember how they praised him for the work that he had done;
How they thought his life was over when, in truth, it had begun!

We remember who remembered when they found his tomb was void;
When they met him in the garden, they were scared, then overjoyed!
Though we cannot touch stigmata, we can think of him who could
And who then believed the wonder of the resurrecting blood.

We remember who remembered, so we know how we should live
To bring order and agreement and to take as well as give.
Will the legions who come after think of those who thought before
Of the people they remembered, and, who, in their time, adored?

George Alderson

REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP

Now that life is more closely approaching normal it's wonderful that more people are able to enjoy refreshments and fellowship after the Sunday ten o'clock service.

At present we have five teams of willing helpers to serve the refreshments. It would be very good if we could have some more volunteers in order to spread the load a little. We are hoping that we can reduce the rota so that each team is on duty just one Sunday in every other month.

If you would be able to help please contact Anne Clarke 07982 658991

WARM WELCOME NETWORK

www.warmwelcome.uk

Richmond Methodist Church is participating in this national scheme in response to the cost of living and heating crises facing so many. Other organisations in the town and surrounding area are invited to join the scheme so that, between us, we can offer as many days/times as possible when people can find a free, warm, welcoming, safe space open to all.

Richmond Methodist Church asks for your prayers as well as your practical support and is recruiting volunteers to enable them to open their premises. Donations towards their increased utility costs will also be gratefully received.

Please contact Martin for further information on 07762 440094. More details next month

MP VISITS THE HUDSWELL HOSTEL PROJECT



Annie Sumner (Treasurer)
talks design with Rishi Sunak

Martin Booth has been keeping us up-to-date with developments on finding a new use for St Michael and All Angels at Hudswell. On Friday, 14 October, our constituency MP, Rishi Sunak, arrived in Hudswell to meet members of the committee and local residents who have had a major role to play in progressing the project to its current position (as reported in the September edition of this magazine). He had a good knowledge of what had been done so far and was enthusiastic about giving the important building a new use. Mr Sunak offered his support for the scheme's bids to the Rural Prosperity Fund and the Community Ownership Fund and discussed other funding methods.

News from the Pews (cont)

Mr Sunak's presence and interest were appreciated by all involved and it must be hoped that this visit can offer wider routes to making the vision a reality.



Our MP meets Committee members

A minor security breach occurred when a stray sheep wandered into the churchyard, pursuing what may have been a parabolic course through the grounds before being ushered out without a good shepherd locating it! The sheep will no doubt also hope to bring others flocking in! We wish the committee every success in this community endeavour to bring the former church back into use.

SERVICE OF LIGHT—6 NOVEMBER

Martin's message for this month reminds us of the various festivals (Christian and secular) which take place in November. On 6 November at 2 p.m., St Mary's will be holding a Service of Light during which the names of friends and relatives who have passed on will be read out and candles lit in their memory. Anyone who would like someone commemorated in this way can add the name(s) to a list which is open at the back of church and, of course, anyone who wishes to attend this reflective service is most welcome. Our Rector, Martin, and Paul Sunderland are offering to arrange lifts for those who will find it difficult to get to church at that time. Please use the contact details on page 2 of this magazine.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF CREATIVE REFLECTION DAY

And advance notice of a Creative Reflection Day which will be held once again this year, this time on **3 December**. Seen as a 'gentle introduction to Advent', Fiona Brown will be leading the session. You are asked to start assembling any time after 9.30 a.m for a 10.00 a.m. start, finishing at noon. Further details in next month's magazine and details will appear in the pew sheet.

MAGAZINE 2023

Whilst the support for our magazine has remained strong throughout 2022, unfortunately a combination of rising paper and transport costs and energy prices has resulted in increasing costs over the year to levels which could not have been anticipated at the start. We print 250 each month and usually sell out; as with all magazines, our readership is much higher than this as copies are passed around households as well as read within them by more than one person.

The PCC appreciates the rising costs but would like the magazine to continue as, we

hope, you do. An increase in the 'per copy' price is likely in 2023—possibly to £1.50. There will be, as this year, a discounted subscriber price for taking out a full year's subscription—12 issues for the price of 10. Some subscriptions for this year are still to be paid.

A TRAIDCRAFT CHRISTMAS IS UPON US

Traidcraft is a Christian based fair trade company which works with people of all faiths and none and which aims to transform trade and make sure all trade, everywhere, is people-centred. This means the sustainable use of resources; transparent supply chains; rewards which benefit everyone; equal dignity, opportunity and power for women; businesses accountable and human rights respected; and ownership shared widely.



The Traidcraft Autumn Gift Guide is here with lots of gift ideas and treats for Christmas and a big range of Christmas cards. Rachel also has samples of the cards to look at. Sales of the cards support the work of four charities including Christian Aid.

There are Advent Calendars, chocolate including vegan, hampers, socks, gloves, hats, decorations, calendars and much more and a new selection of Gifts for Life.



If you would like to see the cards or a catalogue please contact Rachel or Howard Walker - 01748 812015. If you would like to place an order then the sooner the better to avoid disappointment! (telephone as shown or email remwalker7@gmail.com)



Trevor hated asking for money but sometimes resorted to subtle hints



... love the new noticeboard, I'm just not quite sure about the wording.

FRIENDS OF ST MARYS

A GREAT WAY TO LEARN ABOUT WINE

With a sell-out crowd of 60 snapping up the tickets for the reprise of Dr Jamie Harrison's wine tasting evening, volunteers from the church, led by the indomitable Wendy Pritchard, spent Saturday 8th October gathering tables, polishing wine glasses and gathering the resources to transform the back of



church into a suitable venue for such an important 'learning experience.'

After overcoming the minor disappointment of some that it was a *tasting* session (with appropriate *sampling* quantities) rather than for gulping, the appreciative audience were taken on an entertaining journey, exploring reasonably priced wines which are available locally. Wine and conversation flowed in equal measure as church members and their friends learned about the choices on offer, shared thoughts and travellers' tales, with some staying on to enjoy the company even after the session was over. A thoroughly memorable social event and one likely to be repeated next year. Thanks to Wendy and the team for their organisation and planning and to all who supported. The fact that over £500 was raised towards church projects was a delightful bonus.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This necessary but informative meeting was held after the morning service at St Mary's on Sunday 16 October. Peter Trewby, the Committee Chair, reported on the work done over the time since the last meeting with a number of social and fund-raising events having taken place under the planning and work of the current committee - Susan Scrafton, David Frankton, Jeanette Sunderland, John Challis, Andy Lovell, Wendy Pritchard, Graham Barber, Peter Trewby and Jim Jack. The group had set itself a target of raising £5,000 in the year alongside the key aim of enabling social contact among members and friends outside the 'chat' after services and the small number of interest groups operating out of St Mary's. This target has been exceeded already with two or three more events in the pipeline before the end of the year.

Acting Chair, Peter Trewby, presented his report and thanked officers and committee members for their work throughout the year. The annual report was received and accepted as was the balance sheet presented by Treasurer, Graham Barber. William Gedye was re-appointed as examiner of accounts for the next finan-

financial year. The proposal to move the AGM date to Spring to coincide with the Friends' accounting year was approved by the meeting. The proposal to re-appoint the current officers and committee *en bloc* for the interim period leading up to the next AGM was unanimously approved and the meeting was closed. A number of offers of future help which were made after the meeting were gratefully received.

FORTHCOMING EVENT 12th NOVEMBER—CURRY NIGHT

Being held at the Richmond Operatic Society's HQ on Bar-gate, Richmond rather than in church to avoid the odours of a good curry night on the Saturday pervading the atmosphere of morning worship on the Sunday! With the promise of a two course meal (with suitable options for vegan preferences), a bar and a band, the price of £12.50 per head sounds like a bit of a bargain. Probably a raffle, too, so even more of a winner. An open event ,so bring friends along with you to enjoy a convivial evening. Start times will be announced later.

Tickets will be limited to 50 because of the size of the hall so another 'book early to avoid disappointment' do. Tickets from John Challis.(07712 135601)



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE IN 2023?

The current committee has already started mapping out a programme of events for 2023. These include a return for the successful 'At Home' Coffee Mornings (could you host one?), a Quiz Night, a Music -themed Evening, another Wine Tasting. There is also the possibility of branching out to a couple of afternoon events - 'tasters' for playing croquet and bowls. But what would you like to see? Or what can you suggest from what you know of events which have been held by other groups or organisations of which you are aware? Get your requests in now to Peter Trewby or Jim Jack (contact details on page 2) or indeed any members of the committee. If you fancy organising one with the committee' support, all the better!



Life and death



The vicar was preaching a powerful sermon concerning death and judgment. In the course of the sermon, he said: "Just think – all of you living in this parish will one day die." At this, a man in the front pew began to laugh quietly. After the service the vicar demanded sternly what he had found so funny about his sermon. The man replied: "I was just so happy that I don't live in this parish!"

NEWS FROM TRINITY ACADEMY

Trinity Academy is our linked Church of England Primary School. The rector of St Mary's is always an *ex-officio* member of the *Governing Body*. The church also appoints *Foundation Governors* from our membership to join as 'general' governors but also to have a specific oversight of spiritual and moral education in the school.

As well as being subject to periodic Ofsted inspections, the school is also inspected to an equally rigorous specification by trained education specialists appointed by the Diocesan Education Board.

It is always good to hear of what the children are involved in. Deputy Headteacher **LUCY HODGES** tells us of Autumn Term activity so far.

The term seems to be going so quickly! Throughout the school, the children have working hard and making the most of the learning opportunities that they have. Our younger children have been enjoying learning about different jobs and have been fortunate to have a visit from Richmond Fire Service, a vet, a postman and a PE teacher, which included a PE lesson! Children in Key Stage 1 have been thinking about cracking inventions, which has include designing their own cars. I can see some future engineers and designers within these classes. Key Stage 2 have been exploring the local area, including visiting the Green Howards Museum and The Georgian Theatre. They have been fascinated learning about Richmond's Georgian history and enjoyed looking for clues around the town to prove it was Georgian.



We continue to engage in the opportunities offered by Richmond School linked to PE. The children in Year 2 enjoyed a morning of multi skills and children in KS2 took part in a Cross Country event, with four children making it through to the county final. A group of Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a three day residential at Robinwood, showing great determination and resilience. They took part in several activities, including a zip wire, climbing and caving and demonstrated great teamwork.

We are delighted to be working with North Yorkshire Music Service again, with the introduction of whole class Ukulele. The children are loving learning how to play and already picking up some songs. We hope to continue to develop the musical opportunities available to our children by offering individual and groups lessons in a range of instruments.



The half term was nicely rounded off with our Harvest Festivals. The Reception children performed beautifully for their parents in school and the children in Key Stage 1 and 2 enjoyed taking part in the service at St Mary's.

Even with all this going on, staff continue to work hard to improve and address the areas for development identified in our recent Ofsted inspection. The Early Years team has started working with Hopscotch Consultancy to look at developing the curriculum and what we have to offer our children.

Subject Leaders have been working with our diocesan advisor to develop and improve specific areas of the curriculum. All staff have undertaken training in Little Wandle, our new phonics scheme and this is being rolled out across the school. We continue to improve and develop to ensure we offer the best opportunities to our children and families. With the Christmas Season fast approaching I can't see it getting any quieter in school either!

Lucy Hodges



Reverend Matthew Hutchinson's Charity

Do you live in:

Richmond, Gilling West, Eppleby, Eryholme,
Hutton Magna, South Cowton, North Cowton,
West Layton, Hutton Magna, Cliffe, or Barton?

You may be eligible for a small grant towards:
educational courses
necessary medical equipment
household appliances
and many other expenses

For further information please contact:
Mrs M Morris (Clerk to the Hutchinson Charities), Stonehaven,
Hutton Magna, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7HQ

PATHWAYS IN PRAYER

JOHN PRITCHARD's excellent and helpful series of Pathways explores another way in which we can consciously develop ways of deepening our understanding of prayer and its effective role in daily life.

THE EXAMEN

This is a simple way of reflecting on where God has been present and at work in our lives during the last day. It has its roots in the Jesuit tradition which emphasises that 'God is in all things.'

The Examen is widely used across all Christian traditions as a way of recognising God's presence and activity in the midst of ordinary life, and trying to avoid God being relegated to occasional 'guest appearances' in church.



I have a simplified version of the Examen that seems to work well in four steps:

1. **Remind yourself that you are in God's presence.** Dwell on that.
2. **Look back over the day to see where you felt glad, grateful, 'connected,' alive, aware of God.** Those moments might have occurred in family life or friendships, in work or reading, in nature or exercise – anywhere. Savour the memory. Ask yourself what God might have been saying to you, giving you, inviting you to do, in those moments.
3. **Then look back again and notice the times you felt out of sorts, depressed, ill at ease, 'disconnected,' guilty, irritated.** What was going on there? What might God be saying to you in your feelings at those times?
4. **Ask God for grace for tomorrow and for openness to his presence.**

An obvious time to do this is in the evening when events are still fresh in the memory. Some of us find that last thing at night we drop off to sleep too quickly to do the Examen at that time, in which case it can be done in a morning prayer time.

At one level we know God is with us day to day, but the truth is that we often don't notice or pause to reflect. When we take time to notice the many ways God comes to us, we become more aware of God, his gifts and where we need his help. It's a simple exercise but very productive.

John Pritchard

NOTES FROM OUR PAST

Richmond has long been a centre for religious houses of the established churches, but in the middle and later 1700s, the flourishing Methodist movement was promoted across the country by one of its founding fathers, John Wesley. **JANE HATCHER** tells of the three known occasions when he visited the town and follows the impact of his preaching and teaching

When John Wesley came to Richmond.....

On the three occasions when the man, famously regarded as the founder of Methodism, John Wesley (1703-91), came to Richmond, he must have given the authorities here some concern. These visits caused quite a stir. They shouldn't have done, in theory, as he was an ordained clergyman of the Church of England, as his father had been before him. But he, and his younger brother Charles Wesley (1707-88), best-known to us as a hymn-writer, had become theological rebels.

Their lives had begun fairly conventionally. They were both university graduates, and indeed John had an early career as an Oxford scholar, before he and Charles went to the American colony of Georgia as missionaries. But that trip had not been a success. Back home in England, in 1738, both had religious experiences which led them to reject conventional early-Georgian theology, and John became something of a firebrand evangelistic preacher. The first 'Methodist' chapel opened in Bristol in 1739, but the movement did not separate itself from the Church of England until 1795, shortly after John Wesley had died.

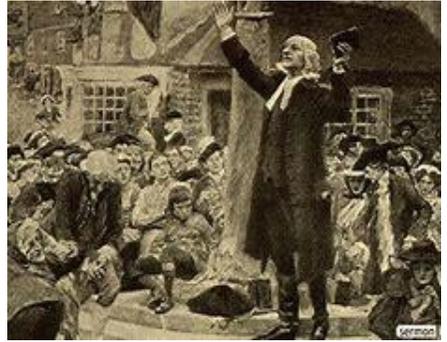


John Wesley must have had a very strong constitution. Not only did he live into his late-80s, but even late in life he travelled extensively around England. It must have been exhausting, spending hours on horse-back, and often preaching at several places in a single day. It has been estimated that he averaged 8,000 miles a year – comparable to the sort of mileage I used to do in my car when I was working! Furthermore, he kept a detailed record of these activities, which have been published in eight weighty volumes as his *Journal*, and this is how we know so much of his visits to Richmond.

The first visit was on Friday 3 June 1768. He had earlier much enjoyed his reception in Swaledale, where he'd found 'excellent and appreciative' congregations. He then rode down into Richmond, "intending to preach near the house of one of our friends". Instead "some of the chief of the town sent to desire me to preach in the

market-place”.

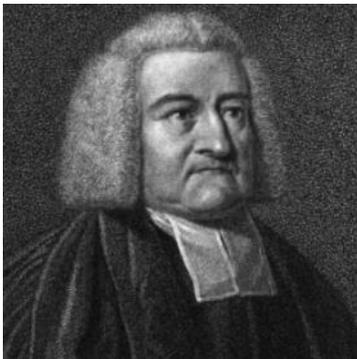
This didn't turn out so well, for he found that the town was full of the North York Militia, who'd just returned from their exercise. They were not in a mood quietly to listen to a sermon! “A more rude rabble-rout I never saw; without sense, decency, or good manners.” Oh dear, Richmond had not made a good impression, and the next day he headed off to Barnard Castle, where the Durham Militia were excused training so that they could attend his preaching. So they earned the brownie points!



**Image of John Wesley preaching—
albeit not in Richmond**

Fortunately, Richmond got better marks the next time. On Monday 13 June 1774 he was in Teesdale, then preached in Swaledale in the evening. The next day he crossed over into Wensleydale and preached in Redmire, before heading quickly into Richmond, “where I preached in a kind of square” which, according to local tradition, was at the east end of Newbiggin. The North Yorkshire Militia officers had obviously decided to follow the example of their Durham counterparts, for Wesley continued “All the Yorkshire Militia were there; and so were their officers, who kept them in awe, so that they behaved with decency.” He then headed to Barnard Castle again for the evening.

For his last visit Wesley, now in his 80s, came by a different route. Having been in Easingwold, and then in Thirsk in the evening, he came to Richmond on Tuesday 9 May 1786. He had been invited to visit the long-serving rector, Archdeacon Francis Blackburne, and called on him in the Rectory. But Wesley was disappointed to discover how much Blackburne's health had deteriorated since he'd last seen him: “How lively and active was he some years ago! I find he is two years younger than me; but he is now a mere old man, being both blind, and deaf, and lame. Who maketh thee to differ?” Blackburne was almost 81, Wesley 83!



**Archdeacon Francis Blackburne
(1748-1816)**

There was a further complication, for he says the rector “durst not ask me to preach in his church, ‘for fear somebody should be offended’.” So Wesley went outside, and preached from the top of Frenchgate Head, in the rain, “to a numerous congregation” who “behaved as well as if we had

been in the church". Quite something for a man in his 80s! He does, however, this time seem to have spent the night in Richmond, and it was the following day before he headed over to Barnard Castle yet again.

John Wesley continued to have supporters in Richmond but, even after the 1795 break away from the Church of England, meetings were held in private houses until it was decided to build a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in the town. Opened in 1807 on the north side of Ryders Wynd, it was a simple three-storey building with a small Sunday School below the larger chapel. It was demolished in 1985, having become flats.

This first chapel was superseded after the congregation decided in 1839, considered to be Methodism's centenary year, to build a much larger chapel. Opened in 1841, the new one was exactly across Ryders Wynd from the first chapel, although approached down a yard off the Market Place. It could seat 650, having a large gallery above the main chapel, and due to the sloping ground also had a basement floor used as a Sunday School. The building later became a saleroom and an art gallery, and is now a hostel.



Construction work on the present Methodist Church began in 1939 but, due to the outbreak of World War II, only the shell of the building could be put up quickly. However, since its eventual completion, members have sustained a continuous programme of modernisations and improvements. The same goes for the Assembly Room behind the church, which is used for many community activities.

There was also another Methodist Chapel in Richmond. The Primitive Methodist Connexion, which separated from the Wesleyans early in the 19th century, held meetings in various houses in the Bargate area of the town, before deciding in 1860 to build a chapel there. It opened the following year, and only closed in 1943 following the union of Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists in 1932. Now the headquarters of Richmond Operative Society, this name board covers the original plaque inscribed *Ebenezer Primitive Methodist Chapel 1861*.

As a postscript to John Wesley's visits to the town, mention should be made of Richmond and District Civic Society's plaque in Newbiggin which commemorates them. It is sited near where he reputedly preached in 1774, and was put up to mark the bicentenary of his final visit in 1786. So on 5 July 1986, when the plaque was unveiled by Revd Geoffrey Kemp, Chairman of the Methodist District, the Richmond Methodists put on a splendid show, with people in costume singing hymns, and 'John Wesley' riding a horse.

Jane Hatcher

Celebrating Harvest at Marske

Harvest Songs of Praise this year in the beautifully decorated St Edmund's Church in Marske began with the traditional invitation to celebrate God's generosity as the congregation of more than 30 adults and 5 children, supported by some members of the Marske Community Choir, sang the traditional call to give thanks for the harvest, "Come, Ye Thankful People Come, Raise the Song of Harvest Home"

This year harvest finds us all in an anxious place. The rising cost of living is making it increasingly difficult for some people to afford a sufficient and healthy diet. The increase in the use of food banks is testament to this. During the past two years, many people have become aware – some for the first time – of the vital role UK farms play in feeding our nation, while the food shortages we experienced in the early days of the COVID-19 lockdown reminded us how fragile the supply chain can be.



Emphasising Basic Human Needs—Food, Clothing and Shelter

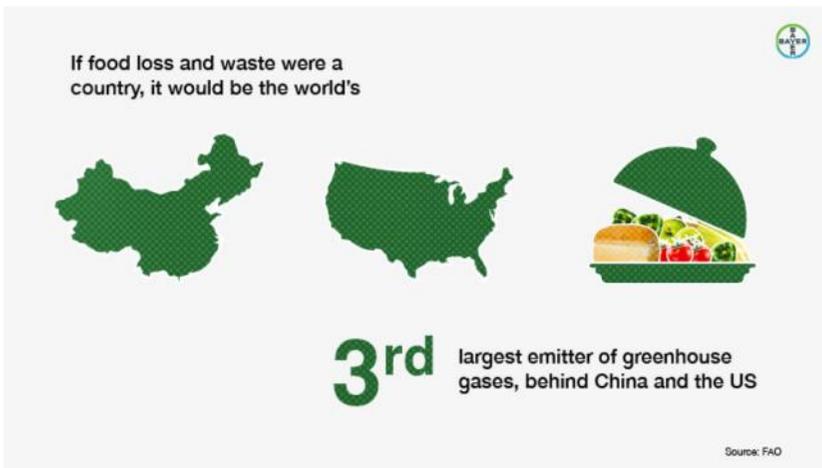
During the first and second world war governments realised how vulnerable an island nation is if it cannot itself produce enough food (and indeed fuel) to provide for its population and so agricultural policies were put in place to support the production of food. Memory can be short, and I remember over 30 years ago being in arguments about the folly of government policy changes which were reversing that support for agriculture. Margaret Thatcher maintained we didn't need farming as we would always be able to import the balance of food we required, paid for by invisible earnings.

It seemed to me that there were two flaws in the argument: first, what if we ceased as a nation to generate sufficient invisible earnings to afford to buy on international markets, or secondly if world food supply became limited as has happened with wheat and sunflower oil in Ukraine.

The war in Ukraine has focussed attention on the importance and fragility of food security both abroad and at home. British farmers continue to stand ready as they have done all through the Brexit volatility, Covid 19 uncertainty, weather crises due to climate change with floods and the highest recorded temperatures on record and many other challenges, to do what they can to ensure the public continues to have access to high quality, affordable, climate-friendly food. Yet farmers are facing dramatic cost increases, which threaten their ability to produce food.

Doing Nothing is Not an Option

The changing global climate crisis and the rising global population and political instability are not going to disappear. Suddenly, in a way we have not experienced before, the prospect of hunger has come into sharp focus. The nation needs a food strategy that puts sustainable food production at its heart. We need our government to work with the agricultural community to produce a food strategy to increase our food production as a country because today we produce less food that we have done for many years. We need to produce a food strategy which is long term to offer food security to this country and indeed the world.



Supporting the Storehouse—Richmond’s Foodbank

Hard to know what we as individuals can do in the face of economic uncertainty but in St Edmund’s we felt one thing we could do is to support the Influence Food Bank in Richmond, by our own regular donations given on a Sunday and by providing a

convenient drop off point for people living in Marske to leave what they are able to give and then by delivering it to the food bank in Richmond.

Last month Liz Kluz wrote in the magazine about the food bank and a follow-up letter was delivered to each home in Marske asking for whatever support they could give to collecting food and other essentials to be presented at the Harvest Songs of Praise.

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

In place of the traditional Harvest Festival used in Marske for several years, which offers the symbols of the harvest, from topsoil and seeds, through crops from farm and garden to the harvest loaf, this year the harvest offering which was blessed at the altar was the cornucopia of gifts brought for the food bank in gratitude for all we have been given by our gracious God.

The response by the people of Marske to the harvest appeal (as indeed to the earlier appeal for support for Ukraine) was overwhelming and it was good to see that the following week the box to be taken to Richmond was filled up again.

Our fervent prayer is that there should be no need for the food bank, that God's plenty should be shared equally by all, with none in need. However, in the meantime, Marske and its parish church of St Edmund hope to be able to continue to support the work of the Influence Food Bank in Richmond. *Jennifer Williamson*

HELP AT HAND

With the likelihood of financial hardship hitting people of all ages, the following is offered to those of state pension age. **If you are not in the category of needing support yourself, you may well know of someone who is.** The following summary is offered as a reminder and aide-memoire. You can find out more on the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility> or ask Citizens Advice for more information

Do you get the State Pension? Extra help with living expenses might be available for you with Pension Credit. Don't miss out if it is. The money is meant for people who need it. And it can be backdated by three months from your date of claim.

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. It also opens the door to other help like free TV licences and help with council tax. **Pension Credit is separate from State Pension.** You can get Pension Credit even if you have other income, savings or own your own home.

Martin Lewis, the MoneySavingExpert, urged people to check if they were entitled when he appeared on *Good Morning Britain*. The benefit means elderly people could get extra cash if they are of state pension age and on a low income. It boosts the weekly income of the poorest pensioners up to £182.60 for a single person and £278.70 for couples.



Hard-up households could get up to £3,300 a year - anyone who is a carer or disabled can qualify for the higher payments. But Lewis said it was a 'national tragedy' that up to one million pensioners could be missing out on the help.

According to the government's own figures, around a third of people entitled to extra help have not claimed it. Around £1.7 billion in Pension Credit has gone unclaimed. Lewis told GMB viewers they should "absolutely get in touch" with the claim line if they were of state pension age - 66 or over - and with a total income of under £200 a week.

Martin Lewis said that Pension Credit is a "gateway benefit" because it can signpost extra help for claimants. For example, a free TV licence if you are over 75, a council tax discount and the cold weather payment.

There is also a phone line to make a claim. **Have your NI number to hand** when you phone. Pension Credit claim line Telephone: 0800 99 1234 Textphone: 0800 169 0133 Relay UK (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone) :18001 then 0800 99 1234.

60 SECOND INTERVIEWS: JOHN WELCH



John Welch recently took over the duties of Head Verger from Leonard Scrafton, combining it with his work as caretaker at Richmond Methodist School and a leader and talented member of the St Mary's bell ringing team. One or two of John Pritchard's questions rang some bells with him; others left him scratching his head with the aid of his cat!

1. **First memory?** No idea. My memory's chronology doesn't work that far back!
2. **Favourite meal?** Pizza
3. **Favourite music or musician?** Stereolab
4. **Pet dislike?** Tribalism
5. **Best holiday?** 4 weeks in New Zealand in 2002
6. **Childhood hero?** Floella Benjamin
7. **Favourite hobby?** Bellringing
8. **Luxury on Desert Island?** Handbells and virtual/hologram/mechanical handbell ringers
9. **Recent TV you've enjoyed?** Ghosts
10. **Worst fault?** Not starting things because I can see reasons why I can't complete them
11. **2 best films ever?** Life of Brian and The Shawshank Redemption
12. **Favourite drink?** The milkshake I have after parkrun
13. **Gardening or sitting in the garden?** Sitting in the garden
14. **Best recent book?** The Big Midweek: Life Inside the Fall by Steve Hanley and Olivia Piekarski
15. **Favourite charity?** Fairtrade
16. **Place you feel happiest?** On the end of a bell rope
17. **Three dinner companions?** Richard Ayoade, Kathy Burke, Claudia Winkleman
18. **What do you pray for most?** More compassion and support for the powerless, weak, addicted & vulnerable
19. **Traditional or new Lord's Prayer?** New
20. **Epitaph?** He caught hold, he rang, he fired it out

John Pritchard

BEHIND THE HYMNS

JUDITH MacLEOD continues her fascinating and illuminating series of articles examining some her favourite hymns which have stood the test of time. As with all reflections of this type, the more we look, the more we see. This particular choice—'All Creatures of Our God and King' - has roots going back centuries as she explains and reminds us of the joys of creation.

If you read the October edition of the magazine you may have noticed two pictures that accompanied my article about the hymn, one *the Last Judgement* by Michelangelo and the other a photograph of Fen Coe. Thank you to the editors for these lovely additions. One of the pleasures of this assignment is to make connections – biblical, literary, historical artistic and musical.

My choice for November is *All Creatures of our God and King* [no. 250 in the blue hymnal]. It is a hymn which celebrates the beauty of the natural world – the animals, the fruits and flowers, the skies - but also asks for God's comfort in pain and death.



It has an uplifting tune written around in 1623 in Germany and edited by Ralph Vaughan Williams at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The words which were a translation by William Henry Draper and published in 1919 are of a text attributed to St Francis of Assisi. Born into 1182 to a wealthy family, Francis led a carefree youth. He joined a military expedition fighting as a soldier for Assisi and was taken prisoner, spending a year in captivity. During that time, he had a vision that directed him back to Assisi, where he lost all interest in what he once enjoyed.

According to legend, he was selling goods for his father when a beggar came asking for alms. Francis gave him everything he had in his pockets. On a pilgrimage to Rome in 1205, he joined the poor in begging and nursed lepers. He adopted a life of poverty preaching repentance. He soon gathered a following of people who led simple lives without possessions, but who were cheerful and enjoyed songs.

At the end of his life Francis became virtually blind. The first woman to follow his call, Sister Clara, built him a small hut to live in in the garden of her convent. It was at a meal with the sisters that he wrote the text "*Canticle of the Sun*" or "*Song of All Creatures*," later paraphrased into the well-loved hymn.

The words are not difficult to follow. The first 5 verses urge us to enjoy the gifts of creation – the sun, the moon, the wind, water, fire, flowers and fruit.

The last 3 verses make simple demands of us – to forgive others, to be humble and to praise God. In return we will receive comfort – ‘on him cast your care’ and ‘Thou leadest home the child of God’.

It is a hymn that radiates joy and promises offers peace.

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou fire, so masterful and bright,
That givest us both warmth and light:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia



Dear Mother Earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them his glory also show:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

And all ye that are of tender heart,
 Forgiving others, take your part,
 O sing ye, alleluia!
 Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
 Praise God and on him cast your care:
 O praise him, O praise him,
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



Let all things their creator bless,
 And worship him in humbleness;
 O praise him, alleluia!
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
 And praise the Spirit, Three in one:
 O praise him, O praise him,
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



Bargain with God



A man was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up toward heaven, he prayed in desperation: "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place, I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky."

Miraculously, a moment later a parking place appeared. He looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."



Baptisms



The following baptisms all took place on 2nd October

William Hames Bateman
 Benjamin Alexander Clark
 Oliver William Clark

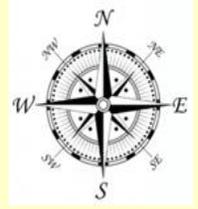
'Lord, surround these children with goodness, lead them in Your light each day.
 Help them on the path You've chosen, guide them on Your way;
 Teach them Lord to trust Your wisdom, grant faith from up above,
 Keep them from all harm and bless them always with Your grace a love.'

(adapted from a verse by B J Hoff)

WILLIAM'S WALKS



This walk explores the recently created Gravel Pit Lakes at Scorton and the back lanes via Bolton-On-Swale and returns to Scorton passing Henry Jenkins' grave and Feather Hill Farm. The walk is mainly flat.



SCORTON LAKES & BOLTON ON SWALE

Start/Finish – Scorton Village Green – Plenty of parking

Ordnance Survey Map 302 Northalerton & Thirsk

Distance: 5 miles

-o0o0o-

Leave Scorton Village Green passing The Farmers Arms on your right and head towards Moulton. Pass the new estates on the right and cross over the road entering the gate with footpath sign.



Viking Round House base markings

Skirt the fields, emerging onto a track. Follow the track and turn left at the junction with the lake on your right.

Follow this track until you get to the RAF memorial which is on the old Scorton Airfield runway. Most of the airfield is now under the lakes. Take the right-hand track of the two, and turn left at the end again taking the right hand path overlooking another lake.

When you get to the T junction take the track to the right again following the lake down below.

Go through the gate and keep right following the lake line passing the farm buildings on your left. Look out on the right for the Viking Round House Bases discovered during the lake excavations and now preserved as gravel rounds. The track becomes a farm lane, leading to the main Scorton to Brompton-on-Swale road.

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

Charity of the Month—November



Once again the United Society Partners in Gospel is the chosen focus of our charitable giving this month. This important world-encompassing gospel charity is one we have held dear all year. As before, donations of support can be made via the collection basket at the back of church each week in November or by visiting the USPG web-site www.uspg.org.uk.

STOP PRESS: Andy Lovell's excellent Xmas Cards will soon be on sale at the back of church at St Mary's. Proceeds to Friends of St Mary's.

SEPTEMBER COVER PICTURE COMPETITION

The competition to identify the location of Ian Short's cover picture attracted three correct entries. A draw was made and the prize of a bottle of wine was won by Brett Overin. Congratulations, Brett.

200 CLUB—OCTOBER DRAW

The winner of the October draw was No. 18 Wendy Egerton. Congratulations, Wendy



Last Sunday of Every Month !

4.00 p.m.

Why not come and join us?

Tell your family and friends—anyone with children

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: 6 October

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



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

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

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

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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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

12 November - Curry Night
At Richmond Operatic Society HQ. Limited tickets: see p 20

KNIT & NATTER

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

**Every Friday
9.30am to 11.30 a.m.**

We meet in the Restaurant at **Greyfriars, Queen's Road**
Refreshments available

Everyone is welcome

Contact Anne Clarke 07982 658991

Word Search

November

November is a wistful month, tinged with sadness and good-byes. The last of the leaves are falling, as the trees go to sleep for winter. It is a month of remembrance, of poppies, of remembering lost loved ones, and of letting go. It is a month of bonfires for the 'Guy', and Thanksgiving for Americans. It is a month of remembering Saints and looking forward to triumph - the church year ends with the joyful Sunday of Christ the King. And then Advent begins...looking forward to a very special

poppies
remem-
brance
courage
Bravery

flanders
dead
guns
war
Peace

afghanistan
iraq
thanksgiving
turkey
All

saints
advent
leaves
sadness
Angel

mary
elizabeth
bonfire
gunpowder
guy



Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku—Medium

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

Wordsearch



Deadline for December edition : 15th November
To contribute letters, articles, etc contact
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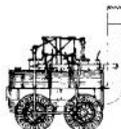
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