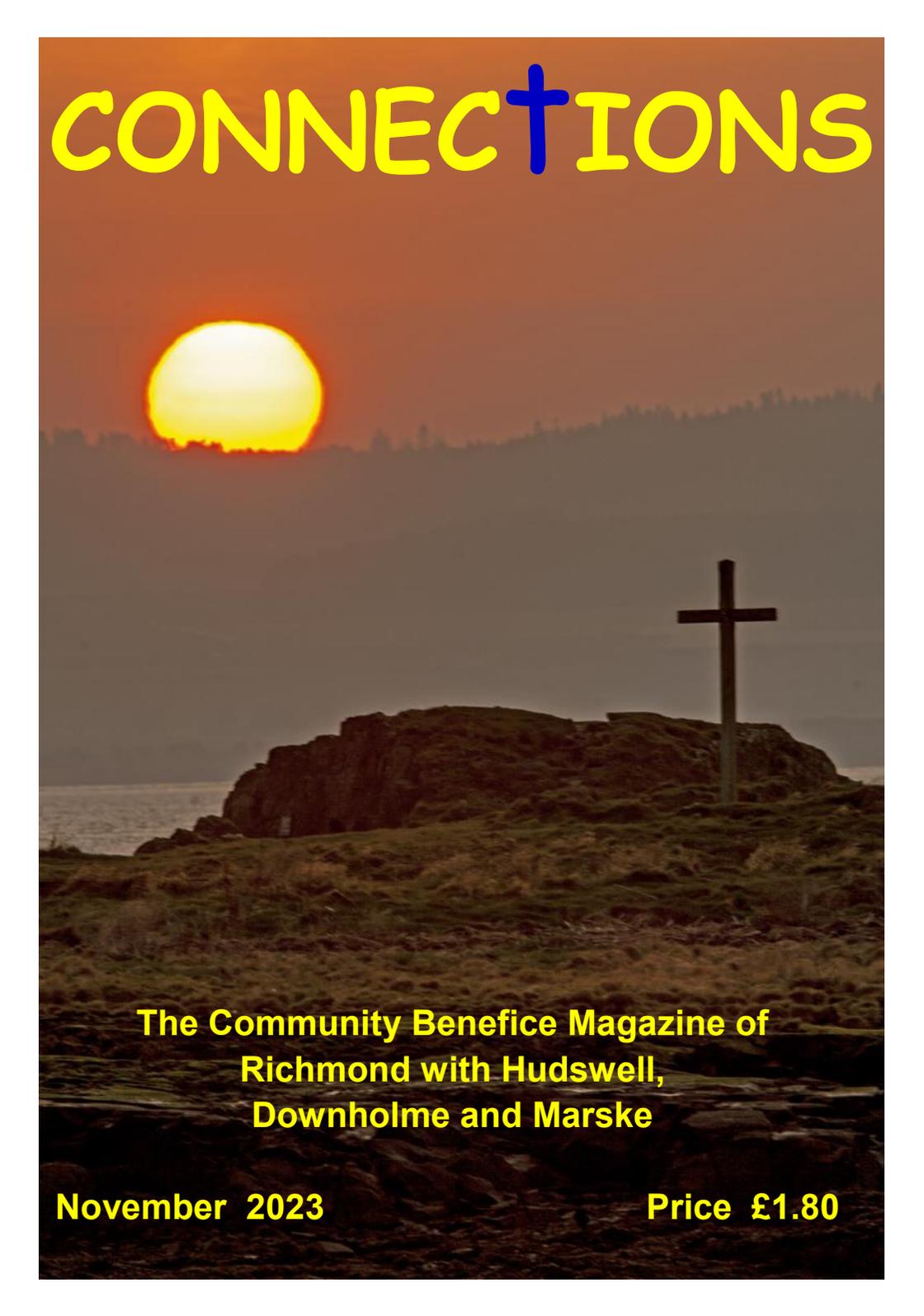


CONNECTIONS



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

November 2023

Price £1.80

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

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR

The Rev. Canon Martin Fletcher
martin.fletcher@leeds.anglican.org

The Rectory, Church Wynd, Richmond
07762 440094 or 821241

ASSISTANT CURATE

Revd. Paul Sunderland 1 Wathcote Place, Richmond 07989 178196
paul.sunderland@leeds.anglican.org

HONORARY CLERGY

Bishop John Pritchard · Revd. Jennifer Williamson - Revd Pauline Shepherd
Revd Martin Clarke

PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Jennifer Patrick (01748) 850693 1 Roper Court, Richmond
Sharon Digan (07791) 426659

ACORN CHRISTIAN LISTENER

Jennifer Patrick (01748) 850693

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests to pray@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk or text 07394 907924

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CHURCH OFFICERS - ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND

Mayor's Warden	Peter Trewby	(01748) 824468	24 Hurgill Road, Richmond
Rector's Warden	Wendy Pritchard	(01748) 850854	
Warden Emeritus	David Frankton	(01748) 823531	8 Allan's Court, Richmond
Director of Music	Colin Hicks	(07498) 299061	
Bell Captain	Susan Welch	(01748) 823700	8 Maple Road, Richmond
Head Verger	John Welch	(01748) 823700	8 Maple Road, Richmond

Parish Administrator & Secretary to the PCC

Colin Hicks (07498) 299061 admin@richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

OFFICERS OF THE PCC (AND OTHERS)

Lay Chair	Peter Trewby	(01748) 824468	24 Hurgill Road, Richmond
Treasurer	Paul Carnell		stmarys@paulcarnell.co.uk
Magazine Editor	Jim Jack	(07754) 283161	stmarys.maged@gmail.com
Magazine Distribution	Keith Robson	(07866) 325843	
Magazine Adverts	Jeanette Sunderland	jeanettesunderland@outlook.com	
		(07812) 109243	
Bookings	Martin Clarke		stmarys.mgc@gmail.com
Publicity	Andy Lovell	(07974) 766020	skeeby@skeebys.com

CHURCH SERVICES - St MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND with Hudswell

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

CHURCH SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Every Thursday

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME

CHURCH OFFICERS

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

CHURCH SERVICES AT DOWNHOLME

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

THE PARISH OF ST EDMUNDS, MARSKE

CHURCH OFFICERS

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

As Martin's address to the congregation at the Civic Service reminded us, we are living as observers to some very troubling times. The wars in Ukraine and now in the Middle East currently bring us impacts upon our standards of living and our consciences. However the vast majority of people in those areas are civilians who simply look for the things in life which we all treasure—peace, harmony, family security and health, a caring community who 'look out for each other. Alongside the lives that are senselessly lost are many, many others which are being turned upside down with little certainty about what the next hours, days, even years will bring.

It was against this background that our Civic Service in October reminded us of the quiet, simple deeds of support and help for others which a good community will bring. Goodness of heart is valued, especially when carried through into deeds of kindness. In an age where human rights have prominence, the parallel of human duty to others often goes unmentioned. If everyone claims their rights but no one honours their human duties, then, logically, rights would go unsupported.

We have consistently sought to describe and spotlight community service through the pages of your magazine. Charitable work, people who give time to work, paid or unpaid, in the service of others. This theme is continued in this month's edition of 'Connections' in which the text of our Lord Mayor's address to the congregation at the Civic Service is reproduced, with his permission, in full. His theme was 'Civic Service' and we have also given space to publicise events which our Town Council is promoting between now and Christmas all worthy of community support.

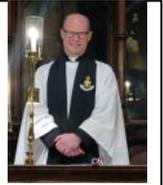
November brings with it not only 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' but also the annual acts of remembrance and the poppy appeal, highlighting the activities of the Royal British Legion and spotlighting the range of work which this publicly supported charity carries out. Poetry finds its outlet at the end of that item, later in the hymn writing of Henry Lyte and also (on page 13) in the words of 'The Unmarked Grave' sent in to our Rector by Barbara Foley from Southampton, words crafted by a family friend a generation before her. Jane Hatcher highlights how members of the Richmond community supported apprentices and the poor in times gone by.

There are also reports on the Camino inaugural walk by Catherine Perry and a busy few weeks for the Friends of St Mary's. John Pritchard begins drawing his *Pathways in Prayer* series to a close with his penultimate contribution, whilst the man behind our excellent cover photographs, Ian Short, offers his quick responses to John's 'Sixty Second Interview.' The month of November offers not only National Saxophone Day, National Confidence Week and Stir-Up Sunday but the feast day of the patron saint of music, St Cecilia. A brief biography is to be found in these pages. And, above all, a re-assurance that 'Connections' will continue in 2024. More of this in the next issue.

Jim Jack



Martin's Message November 2023



Our Benefice Retreat Day, Saturday 25th November: Our life in the Spirit

'Draw near to God and he will draw near to you' (James 4:8). Of course, God is always near to us – 'nearer to us than our own soul', according to Mother Julian of Norwich in *Revelations of Divine Love*. Others refer to God being closer to us than our own breath. This is a striking reminder that breath is synonymous with the Holy Spirit. In John's gospel, we read that the risen Christ breathed on his disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit' (John 20:22).

Romans chapter 8 is Saint Paul's great exploration of life in the Spirit. In verse 11 we read: 'If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he ... will give life to your mortal bodies also', and in verses 15-16: 'When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God'.

If God dwells within us, at the very core of our being, do we recognise his gentle prompting, guidance, encouragement; his ever-present grace? He wants us to draw near to him! Do we pray *expectantly*? And how do we nurture the growth within us of 'the fruit of the Spirit' (Galatians 5:22-23)?

The entire liturgy of the Anglican Church is based on our life in the Spirit, with each of the sacraments including an invocation – a calling down – of the Holy Spirit. Truly, the Lord is here; his Spirit is with us!

For our spiritual refreshment a pre-Advent Retreat Day will be held at St Mary's on Saturday 25th November, 9:30am-1pm. It will be led by Rod and Jan Allon-Smith, speakers from ReSource, a national Anglican body who promote the spiritual renewal of local churches. This is their vision:

'To see churches across the UK alive in the Spirit and active in Mission. We long to see churches of all kinds and traditions being beacons of life and hope wherever they are set, making a transforming difference in their communities.

ReSource helps churches to keep the person and work of God the Holy Spirit at the forefront of their discipleship and their mission, with a particular heart for little, local and ordinary churches.'

For further information on ReSource visit <https://www.resource-arm.net/local-church>

Rod and Jan will be returning to St Mary's the following day for our 10 a.m. service when we will be able to explore further some of the insights we have received. May that weekend represent a new beginning with the arrival of Advent and a new Church year. Let us pray *expectantly* that as 2024 unfolds we may grow ever more alive in the Spirit and active in Mission.

Do please come to the Retreat Day when together we can come alive in the Spirit. In the meantime, in preparation please offer this prayer:

*Father, we thank you for this opportunity to gather in your presence.
We ask your guidance as we learn more of you from each other,
May our thoughts and actions reflect your holy will, and may everything
we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your help.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Charitable Giving at St Mary's

I would like to thank everyone who has supported our charitable giving at St Mary's over the years. I know this has been over and above both your giving to St Mary's and your personal charitable giving: truly, it is sacrificial giving.

Last month, when we celebrated our Harvest Festivals, we gave thanks to God for his rich providence. As well as our food, this includes our gifts and skills which enable us to earn a living and contribute to society.

We are all called to be good stewards of the gifts we have received and to give generously, especially to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. This call applies to individuals, families, communities, nations – and to churches.

At St Mary's in recent years, with paying our Parish Share such a challenge, we have not been able to give a proportion of our income to mission support. However, this remains our aspiration: we want to be able to support the mission of the wider Church at home and overseas, in word and in deed, in places where the Good News of Christ is desperately needed.

What we have been doing is to invite support each month of a 'Charity of the Month', as well as promoting Christian Aid Week, the work of the Mothers' Union, the Children's Society (through our Christingle Service), the Royal British Legion, and the Mayor's Charities – as well as the appeals launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

During 2022 and 2023 the Charity of the Month programme has alternated between a 'home' charity and the mission agency USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). Our website offers information on the programme and on each charity

[St Marys Church Richmond > Giving > Charitable Giving](#) with our weekly Pew Sheet giving us further information.

For 2024, the Charitable Giving Team (David Frankton, Colin Hicks, Cllr. Loo Morton, and myself) are inviting you to suggest the charities we will be supporting. There are slips enclosed in the Pew Sheet to enable you to do so (or simply contact a member of the Team).

Please make your suggestion by **Sunday 12th November**. The Team will then compile the 2024 Programme and present it for approval at the November PCC meeting on the 15th.

Thank you again for your generous support of our charitable giving at St Mary's.

With every blessing,
Martin



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



Edna May (Joan) Hodgson	28 August
Beryl Lacey Gill	31 August
Joan Pamela Deighton	1 September

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)

LEST WE FORGET...

November is always the time of year when we are asked to make a donation to the Royal British Legion and are given a poppy to mark the fact that a contribution has been made. It is probably the one time in the year when the name of the Legion is highlighted to the public at large, although its work goes on throughout the year.

Whilst the number of individuals who experienced the Second World War diminishes as year follows year, there are 'veterans' of other conflicts in which our armed forces have served in more recent times who need and benefit from the support which the Royal British Legion has to offer.

Through the annual poppy appeal and remembrances at this time, the Royal British Legion is more than just reminding us of the sacrifice and losses experienced by previous generations- death, life-changing injury, post traumatic stress- and why such losses were sustained. It is alerting us to the fact that it continues to be an active charity with a national lobbying role. As this article shows, it also has an invaluable part to play in the lives of many individual service and ex-service families today.

'In Flanders fields the poppies blow..'

These timeless words, penned by Canadian physician John McCrae after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, may well have led to the choice of the blood red poppy as the symbol of sacrifice and loss when the British Legion was founded in 1921. McCrae had noted how quickly poppies grew around the graves of those who had died in battle. Although it is said he discarded his poem 'In Flanders Field' because he was dissatisfied with his verses, fellow soldiers retrieved the poem and sent it to *Punch* magazine in London which published it on 8th December, 1915. (I have reprinted the full poem at the end of this article for easy access should you wish to refresh your memory—or indeed read the whole poem for the first time.)



John McCrae

The British Legion was founded on 15 May 1921. The aim was to give a voice to the ex-service community whose numbers were considerably swollen by the Great War of 1914-18. The newly formed legion brought together four existing organisations, namely the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, the Comrades of the Great War, the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors

and Soldiers and the fundraising department of the Officers' Association. It took as its president Field Marshal Haig, one of its founding fathers. Although established by the upper class of the time, it was born out of a desire to support those many members of the working class who had suffered most from the traumas of war...although there is a school of thought that its founding was also built to offset a fear of social unrest caused by 'disillusionment with war as an instrument of foreign policy.'



Field Marshal Douglas Haig (1861-1928)

Granted a royal charter in 1925, its membership grew considerably from veterans of the Second World War, reaching 3 million by 1950 before a steady and increasing decline in numbers, caused mainly by the ageing of the population most involved in the two major conflicts of the 20th Century. Whilst conflicts in which British Armed Forces have been involved e.g. Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, Northern Ireland continued, the number of service personnel involved was much less than in the two world wars. Public awareness of the Legion's continuing value has diminished as a result.

The Legion began as a campaigning organisation which promoted the welfare and interests of current and former members of the armed forces—in common parlance now known as 'veterans.' From the start, it has always acted as a pressure group for such matters as research into Gulf War syndrome, compensation for its victims, upgrading of War Pensions, support for military personnel resettling into civilian life. Together with the financial and advice support for 36,000 War Disablement Pensioners, over 300,000 welfare and friendship and support visits take place each year. Most recently, there has been a significant increase in cost of living grants given to ex-service personnel. Add to this the running of a number of care homes for ex-service personnel and it can be seen that much of the work done by the Royal British Legion goes unseen and largely unreported.



The 2023 re-cyclable poppy

What we do see is the activities which take place every year in November, with the sale of poppies nationally. This provides the biggest single input of funds which this forces charity receives each year. The red poppy is indeed the registered trade mark of the Royal British Legion and its only lawful use is to raise funds for the poppy appeal.

This year, for the first time, the poppy handed over in exchange for a donation will be completely re-cyclable with its green stem manufactured from 'run free paper (as the poppy flower and leaf have been for some time.)

Made at the Poppy Factory in Richmond on Thames from paper produced by James Cropper Partners based in Burnside, just outside Kendal, the funds raised are essential (a) to support the running of the organisation, (b) to fund direct support of individuals in the ways as outlined above and (c) to give donations and grants which the Legion itself makes to help other organisations supporting ex-service personnel e.g. Help for Heroes.



On the second weekend in November, tied by tradition to the signing of the armistice which ended the First World War in 1918, the Legion organises the annual familiar Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Displays and musical items by members of the armed forces, supported increasingly in recent years by celebrities who back the work of the Legion (and give their time without charge) provide the 'show' element of the Festival. This performance element is used to remind, remember, celebrate and in some cases educate the public about the reasons why the Legion exists. There is also an act of Christian worship and remembrance and the drop of poppy petals at the end of each programme.

I say 'each programme' because there are, in fact, two performances, a matinee show and then an evening performance—once more sold out this year—to members of the Legion and their families. The evening performance is attended by members of the Royal Family, leading politicians and senior Defence representatives. The broad-



cast edited version on BBC One ensures that the event is accessible to the viewing public (perhaps using recorded elements of the afternoon performance as well as the evening). There has been an increasing effort in recent years to make the event appealing to a wider public, especially the younger elements of the population. The Legion selecting the areas of emphasis and arranging the music, but direction and production is increasingly the responsibility of the broadcaster.

On Remembrance Sunday, the Legion will have organised for 10,000 veterans to assemble from 7.00 a.m. onwards on Horse Guards Parade where they will receive

Sustenance, comfort and shelter before marching past the Cenotaph at 11.00 a.m. in memory of those who died in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

Although the events of the remembrance weekend are the ones which most people associate with the Royal British Legion, the work goes on throughout the year. Funds are raised by the sale of poppy branded goods, whilst feature events such as fundraising



Veterans pass memorial on the way to the Cenotaph, Whitehall

dinners and concerts bring in additional revenue. In 'special' years, the Royal British Legion is commissioned by His Majesty's government to organise particular commemorative events. For example, when there were D-Day commemorative events organised in Normandy, the Legion events team organised travel and accommodation for a significant number of veterans and a family member/carer to attend events in France, as well as preparing the detailed content, timing and 'choreography' of ceremonies and church services.

There was a surprise Richmond choral connection to one such event when former chorister Katherine Dawes was representing the Ministry of Defence as their senior planner found herself working with Catherine Parums (nee Jack), a fellow chorister, who leads the Royal British Legion Events Team! With St Mary's Church choir trained leaders for this national event, it was, indeed in safe hands!

At local level, Richmond has an active branch of the Royal British Legion which has always been one of the leading branches in the UK in terms of money collected by the local Poppy Appeal. The national network of Legion Clubs will all be involved in such collection activities to a greater or lesser degree.

The legion also has its own Women's section. There are over 50 Legion bands around the world, each run and funded independently. The Central Band of the British Legion, based in London and founded in 1944, helps to raise the profile of the Legion through playing at prestigious events such as Finals Days at Wimbledon, concerts in Cadogan Hall and the Guildhall in London and cathedrals across the country. Whilst the musicians are all volunteers (ex-service personnel and instrumentalists from 'civvie street'), the Musical Director is paid from central funds to lead the band and organise and arrange the music for the annual Festival at the Royal Albert Hall.

The Royal British Legion runs six care homes for the Armed Forces Community and their families, five with specialist dementia care. The nearest to Richmond is Lister House in Ripon with 76 en-suite bedrooms. The RBL also provides a network for carers who visit homes, works with Dementia UK to provide Admiral Nurses who help Armed forces community and their families living with dementia. They also help with funding for new equipment to help veterans live safely in their own homes.

Their funds also go towards the maintenance of a Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, providing expert care and support for wounded, sick or injured armed forces personnel. They also work in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and Help for Heroes to operate Recovery Centres, committing to contribute £50m over the next ten years to support these centres to provide personal recovery plans for all who need them. The Legion's Battle Back Centre at Lillieshall helps veterans with well-being courses as well as helping sick, wounded or injured service personnel to return to duty or transition to civilian life.

Personal support can include telephone help, visits, rehabilitation courses and, increasingly, cost of living grants. The RBL website www.britishlegion.org.uk outlines the wide range of support on offer and belies any impression that demand for their work has diminished as the ranks of World War, Korean War and National Service veterans have thinned out as time has taken its toll.

Our proximity to Catterick Garrison serves as a daily reminder of the work that our Armed Forces do –and, pray God– never have to do. They will know better than most of the comfort of knowing that, as it has for over 100 years, the charitable support of the Royal British Legion is there for them and their families. The simple, stark blood red poppy is not a celebration of war but a reminder to us all of our debt to those whose lives are irrevocably changed as a result of conflict. The Royal British Legion, as ever, stands ready to help. Hence the Poppy Appeal. *J E J*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

THE UNNAMED GRAVE

As I walk gently upon the grass
And move between the stones,
A minor tremor disturbs my feet
From a person who's unknown.
And as I look down on the earth

I wonder to myself
Is this the grave of someone dear
Whose life had limited wealth?

No cross, no border, no headstone
To show who lies beneath,
This piece of un-kept sacred ground
Now lost to those who weep.
What life did they once live, I ask,
The family that they knew
The age of their untimely death
Their appearance as they grew.

But as my thoughts begin to fly
To imagine who they must be,
A sadness fills my aching heart
For the stranger I long to see.
Forgotten and lost to everyone,
No sentiment of prayer,
No loved ones visiting with kindness
To show how much they care.

Instead they sleep amongst us
As we talk and walk on by,
Until another unnamed grave
Reveals the place where someone died.

Let us not lament their peace and quiet
For within these graves they rest.
Their lives now over, their voices still,
All memories now have left
For they are always remembered
By the others who have died,
Their journeys made together
To a world on the other side.

William Jefferson

CIVIC SERVICE

For Richmond's annual Civic Service, a conscious decision was made this year to ensure an inclusive community participation at the instigation of our Lord Mayor, Councillor Ian Woods. Invitations went out not only as usual to other local mayors and our town councillors but also to representatives of the wider branches of the community who serve others - either by the nature of their work or by their voluntary activities. And so the theme of the Civic Service was—Civic Service.



Our mayor also gave a beautifully measured address which held the attention of the large number present on 15th October. Following an equally insightful introductory address by our own rector in which he looked at the current international horrors, noting the absence of the sense of love and service to others in the leadership of nations, Councillor Woods greeted his invited guests and the community attending before sharing these thoughts with the congregation.



"I want to give special thanks to Rev Martin Fletcher who is my Chaplain during my mayoral year for allowing and encouraging me to address you at this Civic Service. I am especially grateful that we have not chosen the hymn '**And can it be that I should gain**' as verse 4 has the troubling line, 'My chains fell off' – I'm also reliably informed by St Mary's churchwarden, Peter Trewby, that that hymn is not used in services for cycling organisations either!

The chain I am wearing was presented to Richmond Town Council in 1872. It cost £250 then, an amount raised by voluntary subscription. The first Mayor to wear it was Thomas Thompson, but Richmond's first Mayor was William Wetwange in 1668. That seems a long time ago, but it pales into insignificance when compared to the first incumbent of this church – the first recorded name is Peter Chaplain in the year 1250.

Some of you may be wondering about the chain, the robed officials, the maces – it is to mark a heritage that stretches back hundreds of years. For a small town, this is unusual. Indeed Richmond Town Council now has the same status as a parish council Local Government reorganisation in 1974 which saw Richmond Corporation abolished. However, Richmond was granted a special dispensation to retain the traditional robed civic entourage and officials for ceremonial purposes.

I like to think though, that William Wetwange and Peter Chaplain and all their successors right through to Rev Fletcher and myself have the same approach to the duty of office as succinctly outlined in verse 2 of the hymn we have just sung:

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

The hymn was written by Richard Gilliard in 1976, a New Zealand author and composer and it's also known as 'The Servant Song' – his inspiration was from John's Gospel 13, the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

And what is special today is that here, in this church, are lots of people who serve their community. We are honoured to have the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Linda Curran. Linda was a local Councillor for many years and has great expertise in the field of equalities, especially disability. She is also a trustee of a charity she set up with her late husband which supports children and young people with disabilities in Richmondshire. The High Sheriff for her part is deeply involved with IDAS (the domestic violence charity and also the Henshaws charity which also supports people with disabilities.



We have with us local Mayors, Councillors, members of the armed forces, volunteers, community organisations, members of the local Primary Care Network, local teachers, faith leaders. During the pandemic, this community went the extra mile to support one another, and I am delighted that here today there are people who gave of their time at the Richmondshire Vaccination Centre.

All united with the same aim, to help and serve each other. The readings we have had today talk of service. Perhaps we should also add **Romans chapter 12 verse 6 to 8** –

'We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully'.

We live in challenging times – locally we are coping with the transition from a three-tier local government system to just a two-tier organisation – North Yorkshire Council and 731 town and parish councils spread across the county. This puts increased pressure on those elected to the office of North Yorkshire Council and I am

pleased that Councillor Stuart Parsons is amongst us today – he is the North Yorkshire councillor who now **alone** represents Richmond in the new authority and as such is deserving of our prayers and support.

Nationally we are facing the challenge of just what this country aspires to be – the next year will see increasing febrile debate as to what direction this nation should take.

But what gives me hope, is the strength and variety of our local community – groups and organisations working hard to service the many needs present here in this town. This is the true definition of CIVIC SERVICE – and for those of you here today, spread that message to everyone you work with and those you love. In the Gospel of Luke, an expert in the law asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. He replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and love your neighbour as yourself.’

One of the guests here today sent me the following message when I told her that this service would be about what we do as a community:

‘I look after my friends and people around me: a few elderly couples, a friend who has cancer treatment and a friend who has her elderly parents living with her and sometimes needs someone to talk to. I love people and I am there for them. That’s all I do – I’m so grateful that I can do that.’

Can there be a better definition of loving your neighbour than that? That is the essence of community.

In May next year, this chain and this robe will pass to someone else – the cycle will turn again. But I am sure that whoever stands before you here next year, their passion will be the same— to uphold this community, forge strong links within and without the town of Richmond and bear the load of those who are struggling.

At my mayoral induction in May this year, I read a poem by Naomi Shihab Nye – it is called **‘Shoulders’** and it says everything that I hope has come across in this talk.



*A man crosses the street in rain,
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,
because his son is asleep on his shoulder.*

*No car must splash him.
No car drive too near to his shadow.*

*This man carries the world's most sensitive cargo
But he's not marked
Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE,
HANDLE WITH CARE.*

*His ear fills up with breathing.
He hears the hum of a boy's dream
deep inside him.*

*We're not going to be able
to live in this world
if we're not willing to do what he's doing
with one another.*

*The road will only be wide.
The rain will never stop falling.*

Thank you for being here today – we are in a special place. The poet Philip Larkin described a church as follows:

*'A serious house on serious earth it is,
In whose blent* air all our compulsions meet,
Are recognised, and robed as destinies.'*

To my left and your right is a beautiful window – it is a memorial to Ruth Frances Gedye, a Richmond girl, chorister and musician who in her short life excelled in her passion for singing and making music. After this service, if you can, take time to have a look at this memorial and in particular the text which is from 1 Thesalonians:



HOLD ON
TO WHAT
WHICH
IS GOOD



If we can manage to do that, we can keep our community strong.

Ian Woods

* 'blent' - an archaic form of the word 'blended'

PATHWAYS IN PRAYER

This series on prayer is coming to an end so, in the last two months of the year, **JOHN PRITCHARD** invites us to look at this fundamental question as his series draws to a close...**SO WHAT IS PRAYER?**

We've looked at all sorts of aspects of prayer but behind all the details is a surprising diversity of ideas on what prayer really is, all of which have value. There are almost no right or wrong answers. So try these definitions and see which of them fit best with your understanding of prayer. **Prayer is:**



Being with God in a variety of ways – thanking, being sorry, asking, arguing, resting.

Lifting mind and heart to God.

Resting and listening to God (with a different kind of 'hearing').

'Taking a chalice to the fountain to be filled' *St Augustine*

Having an unusual kind of conversation with God.

Aligning our hearts and minds with the heart and mind of God.

Loitering with God.

Asking for what we believe is important for others and for us.

Emptying ourselves so that we can be filled with the presence of God.

Thinking in the direction of God.

Relaxing into the reality of being loved so that we can rise to the reality of loving others.

A stance, an attitude, a way of living in the presence of God.

'My life is my prayer, and what I call my prayer is really my effort to make it so.'
East End priest.

'Putting people in my 'Jesus bubble' and praying for them there.' *8 year old.*

One small daughter saying to another daughter, suspiciously: 'What are you doing?'
Other daughter: 'I'm just enjoying looking at you because you're such a lovely girl.'

I wonder which of these, if any, best fit your understanding of prayer? Why not choose two or three and live/pray your way into them...

CAMINO INGLES GOES LOCAL

On a busy weekend at the end of September, over sixty people from different parts of the region joined our new Bishop, Anna, in inaugurating a new part of the famous international pilgrimage trail. Up hill and down dale, our intrepid band of pioneers set off from Richmond on 30 September. Their destination—Downholme. **KATHERINE PERRY** tells us how the afternoon unfolded as the group officially put our benefice 'on the map'.

The Camino Ingles is one of the pilgrim routes across Europe which converge at Santiago de Compostela. It begins at the ports in northern Spain where in the Middle Ages travellers from the British Isles would have landed at the start of their pilgrimage to Santiago. More recently, several routes have been devised to enable pilgrims to begin their journey in England.



Finchale (pronounced 'Finkle') Priory, Durham



Escomb Saxon Church nr Bishop Auckland

One of these is the Finchale Camino, starting at Finchale Priory where the 12th century hermit Godric lived, and from where he made one of the earliest recorded pilgrimages from England to Santiago. The route visits Durham Cathedral before heading to Bishop Auckland and the Saxon church at Escomb. It is gradually being extended to Ripon Cathedral and beyond, and one Saturday at the end of September, we were invited to join a pilgrimage along the Richmond to Downholme section.

We were a large group, about 60, not counting the dogs. People had come from a wide area, some from as far as Durham, and we were also joined by Anna, our new Bishop of Ripon, and her family. We met at St Mary's for a welcome from Martin. Bishop Anna spoke briefly about pilgrimage and about how we can develop and deepen a sense of community and fellowship by walking and talking together. We were told the story of the pilgrimage route we were about to undertake, and we also heard all about the plans to convert the church of St Michael and All Angels, Hudswell, into a hostel for walkers.



**Distinctive
Camino way
marker**

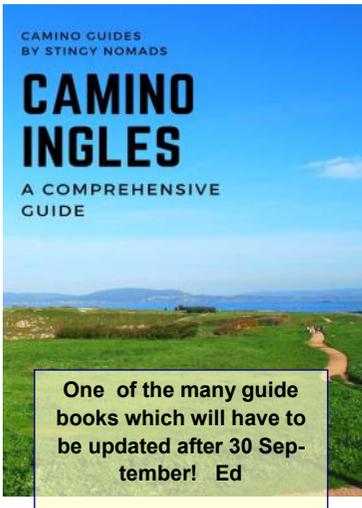
After a blessing from the bishop, we set off to walk along the Batts, over Green Bridge, along the river Swale to Hudswell Woods then up the many, many steps to reach Hudswell village and St Michael and All Angels. For those of us who haven't lived in the area for very many years, it was the first time we had been inside the church. It was good to know that, although no longer a place of worship, it will be used as a place of rest and refreshment for travellers, whether pilgrims or Coast to Coast walkers. And it was a place of rest and refreshment that day, as the generous people of Hudswell provided us with hot drinks and delicious cakes and scones.

After lunch we set off again to walk over the hill to Downholme. It was perfect walking weather, not too hot, not too cold. The Bishop had been right. We were enjoying conversations with our fellow walkers, and meeting new people as we went. The views of Swaledale were wonderful and we were feeling pretty confident that the forecast rain would hold off until after we had finished our walk.

Sadly, it didn't quite. I think everyone was at least slightly damp, and some of us who got a bit lost at the very end of the walk (we could see Downholme church, but we couldn't get to it) got very wet. But we got there in the end and gathered in the church, where Martin led a short service of Evening Prayer.

And, thanks to the wonderful organisers, and the Little White Bus, our cars were in the field next to the church waiting to take us home. It was a great way to spend a Saturday.

Katherine Perry



The treasurer still had a trick up his sleeve

NOTES FROM OUR PAST

JANE HATCHER lifts the lid on practices from the past which our PCC and our Town Council thankfully do not have to address.

The Parochial Church Councils of churches today have a heavy workload with many duties and onerous responsibilities. But just think what it would be like if they were also responsible for Social Security, not only from raising the taxes to pay for it, but administering it as fairly as possible? That's just what parishes had to do for many hundreds of years under various Acts of Parliament.

The relief of the poor, as it was called, took various forms, all of them onerous and unpopular, whichever Act of Parliament was in force at the time, as successive attempts were made to improve the fairness of both the relief and its finance. As the population increased, so did the demand. Sounds familiar?



In times past, the parish partially shared some poor relief duties with Richmond Corporation which, for hundreds of years, was responsible for running all aspects of the town. From providing a supply of drinking water, to maintaining the town clock in Trinity Church Tower, from rallying the inhabitants to deal with a building on fire, to overseeing the grazing of cattle on the town's pastures. But above all it

ran the commercial life in the town, controlling the markets, and regulating the standards of Richmond craftsmen from butchers to shoemakers, drapers to tanners, and many more.

To trade in Richmond, a butcher or a shoemaker etc had to be a freeman of one of the town's thirteen guilds. Or if someone who was not a freeman came in from elsewhere to trade in the market, he had to pay a heavy toll to do so. Membership of a guild was normally achieved either by being the eldest son of a freeman, or by serving an apprenticeship with an existing member.



Apprenticeship cost money, because the master not only taught you what you needed to know, but also had to feed, clothe and house you for seven years. So a formal legal agreement was drawn up, saying how much the master would be paid, and

what he was contracting to provide. But what happened if a child was poor, for example because his father had died?

I have been looking at some early Corporation records, and on at least eight occasions between 1596 and 1634 the Corporation paid out money for a poor child to be apprenticed, usually because the mother was a widow, though occasionally because the child had had the misfortune to lose both parents and thus was an orphan. There may of course have been other examples where the records have not survived.

Of these eight poor children, four were boys and four were girls. Two of the girls, and two of the boys, were to learn to knit, for Richmond had an important industry producing knitted stockings – worn not only by women but also by men to wear with knee-length britches – and work people’s caps. One of the girls was apprenticed to a maltster, probably to learn brewing which was considered a woman’s occupation.

One girl was to be taught to spin and make cloth by her master Robert Sayer, who was not only to find her “meat, drink and apparel”, but – and this was a unique clause in the contract he agreed with the Corporation: “And if she behave her selfe deligently & well during the forsayde tearme he dothe promise to give her at their partinge a little cubbord which was her mothers.”

One boy was apprenticed as a tailor, the other as a plasterer. The people taking on these sad apprentices were paid 13s 4d per year for their pains, so one fears that the youngsters were worked pretty hard to earn their keep. It seems from other Corporation records relating to the town’s apprentices that this sum was rather below that paid by parents able to support their own offspring.

Inevitably the contracts become rather more detailed as time went on, and it became standard for two local tradesmen to stand as sureties for the poor youngsters without family support. Another detail occurring in one contract was that if the lad died, his master was for pay back that year’s 13s 4d which had been agreed for “meat, drink, apparel, washing and wringing” – perhaps young Marmaduke the apprentice plasterer did not look a very robust boy!



Example of an 18th century contract for an apprenticeship

Eventually, a wealthy man, originally from outside the Richmond area, set up by his Will a charity which would save the Corporation paying to apprentice poor children.

He was Dr John Bathurst, who became personal physician to Oliver Cromwell, and who died in 1659. Why did Cromwell's G.P. found a Richmond charity? Well, Reason One, he had married a Swaledale girl, Elizabeth Willance, who was the heiress to the Clints estate in the parish of Marske, and Reason Two, he had made a lot of money from lead mines in Arkengarthdale.

The Will stipulated that each year, out of the income from the Bathurst family's town house in Richmond Market Place – now the King's Head Hotel - £12 was to be paid to a Committee of trustees consisting of the Mayor for that year, the Recorder of Richmond (this post was always held by a distinguished lawyer), the Rector of Richmond and the Master of Richmond Grammar School. Out of that annual £12, £4 was to be used by the Corporation to bind as an apprentice a poor boy who could "write and read well, and in some competent measure cipher and cast accounts" – that last phrase meaning to know sufficient arithmetic to keep simple trading accounts. The other £8 was to be used to sponsor two boys who had enjoyed free places at Richmond Grammar School and who had obtained places to study at Cambridge University to the tune of £4 each per year for the duration of their studies. If there was only one eligible boy each year, he could have the whole £8.



Bowes Hospital building

There had previously been founded in Richmond charities to help widows, either with living accommodation, such as the Bowes Hospital which still survives on Anchorage Hill next to the Darlington Road petrol station, or to provide them with bread or coal at Christmas. But that Bathurst Charity was innovative in supporting Richmond youngsters.

Oh, and by the way, St Mary's Parish Council used also to have to fund the repairs of the highways.....

Jane Hatcher

YOUR MAGAZINE IN 2024

'Connections' will continue to be produced throughout 2024, with the good news that there will be no increase in price for subscribers. The subscribers' rate will continue to be £15 for 10 issues, although the cover price for single copy purchases may rise from its current rate of £1.80. Subscriptions can be paid by direct bank payment, cheque or cash. Full details in the December issue

SIXTY SECOND INTERVIEW



IAN SHORT has been providing wonderful images for our magazine each month for the past few years which not only demonstrate his skills as a photographer but also his love of nature in all of its aspects. Perhaps no surprise then that his joy in immersing himself in the world around us features in his responses to John Pritchard's prompts.

First memory? Being on my tricycle in Blyth (about 4 years old)

Favourite meal? Christmas dinner

Favourite music or musician? Joe Pass jazz guitar

Pet dislike? Show-offs

Best holiday? 2 weeks at Bucks Mills, North Devon

Childhood hero? Robert Horton from the TV western Wagon Train

Favourite hobby? Walking and observing in the countryside

Luxury on Desert Island? My camera

Recent TV you've enjoyed? Dad's Army (always on repeat but continually loved)

Worst fault? Not always finishing things off

2 best films ever? *Local Hero* and *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*

Favourite drink? 16 year old Lagavulin

Gardening or sitting in the garden? Sitting in the garden

Best recent book? Ronald Blythe – *Next to Nature*

Favourite charity? John Muir Trust

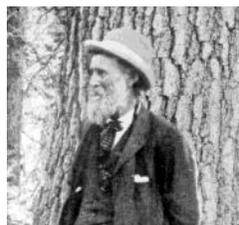
Place you feel happiest? Home

Three dinner companions? James Ravilious (photographer),
Ronald Blythe
Dorothy Wordsworth

What do you pray for most? People who are sick

Traditional or new Lord's Prayer? Traditional

Epitaph? Ian helped others.



John Muir

FRIENDS OF St MARY'S

BLUES IN THE PEWS (15 September)

What set out as a new and experimental venture at the start of the year is fast becoming established as part of Richmond's varied community music scene. So it was that an audience of about eighty people came to St Mary's on Friday 15th September to hear the resident band, the Dry Stone Blues Collective, and guests, the 20 Foot Squid Blues Band from Sheffield perform on a small stage loaned by the Swaledale Festival and installed by enthusiastic supporters of the event for the evening only. Thanks to the organising supremo, John Meara, and to the enterprise and energy of Andy Lovell, John Challis and Peter Trewby for the staging and support of the event by running the bar, all proceeds of which went to the Friends. **The next Blues night features Jed Potts and the Hillman Hunters on 17 November. Tickets from Castle Hill Books (£8 each) or through John Challis.**

HEART OF RICHMOND CONCERT (16 September)

The Friends also supported this community event by providing refreshments for a concert organised to boost the number of defibrillators around the town. The target is 20 and, with the funds raised by this and other events, the organisers will be over 75% there by the end of the year. A brass ensemble from Leeds and a childrens' choir from Catterick provided the high quality entertainment. Your editor won his first raffle prize in years, which turned out to be a special treatment at a nail bar! This was moved on to family members more interested in this process, while I continue to get my nails from Atkinson's and Yorkshire Trading!

ARMY BAND CONCERT (29 September)

Another stunning evening of music from our friends from the garrison. Two vans and a coach arrived amongst the roadworks outside the church on the Friday afternoon to deliver nearly forty musicians and an amazing array of instruments for the afternoon set up and practice. The vans eventually squeezed down Church Wynd to unload a



concert xylophone, glockenspiel, a Chinese gong, chimes, electric keyboard, a full set of 'timpani', music stands etc which filled the communion rail end of church. The music itself ranged from the rousing to quiet and sensitive, demonstrating

how well suited the acoustics of St Mary's are to such an ensemble. The loudest of the music was loud without being deafening whilst the quietest of pieces floated gently through the church. The audience of nearly 200 enjoyed the performance as ever. There was no entry charge but the generous donations at the end showed a high level of appreciation for what the band had offered. The band loves playing at the church and found it an excellent venue to fine tune the repertoire which they will be recording this autumn. It is possible that they may return before Christmas so do watch out for a date. The proceeds of the evening were given towards the Friends fund used to support the continuation and development of our church. Thanks to Judith MacLeod, David Frankton and Carol Rutherford for staffing the refreshments area, whilst Peter Trewby gave yeoman service on serving wine!

AUTUMN QUIZ NIGHT (30th September)

Due to public demand (honestly!!) , Andy Lovell persuaded his friend Dave to return to the Town Hall for another community Quiz Night. As with the previous event, all tickets were sold (in spite of a concert in town and people having been on the Camino walk, World Cup rugby on the tele! etc). People were treated to another enjoyable evening, with tricky questions, interesting and informative answers, a fine pie and pea supper served up by the Challis family and David Frankton, Charley washing up, Graham Barber on the door and raffle and the usual bar run by John Challis and friends. It does take a lot of work behind the scenes to make these events happen, but the committee is grateful to the increasing numbers of the congregation offering to help out. This evening was well supported by people in the community with no particular links to the church and was enjoyed by all. It raised over £1,300 towards our 'Step Free Access' project. A special word of thanks to the staff of the Town Hall who offer brilliant and cheerful support for our events.

WINE TASTING EVENING (14th October)



Wendy Pritchard set up another interesting and educative evening before jetting off to Canada and Alaska with John, returning with great memories, over 2000 photos (does she feel a magazine article coming on, I wonder??) and returning with a week to go to this event to tie up any loose ends. Forty people assembled at the back of church to taste six different wines (3 white, 3 red—all available from Sainsbury's) and be led through the tasting experience by Dr Jamie Harrison. Cheese, baguettes and other nibbles were on hand to support the tasting of those wines which were deemed to be best enjoyed with food. There was some wine left at the end of the tasting

session which those attending generously gave their remaining energies to consuming! Thanks to Wendy once more for her meticulous organisation—a fun evening and another contribution to the Step Free Access plan.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Blues in the Pews: Friday 17 November 8.00 p.m. St Mary's
Curry Night: Saturday 25th November 7.00 p.m. Town Hall
Coffee Morning: Saturday 16th December from 9.00 am Town Hall
Winter Quiz Saturday 24th February, 2024 7.00 p.m. Town Hall

CURRY NIGHT—SATURDAY, 25th NOVEMBER 7.00 p.m.

The return of another of last year's successful social evenings with a new venue. The inaugural Curry Night was held in the Operatic Society Hall last year with food prepared by the Challis family and music provided by the blues band which is now the resident band for Blues in the Pews. **Demand for tickets and space means re-location to the Town Hall** which means that there will be 100 tickets available this year instead of 50. Music will be provided by the Dean Stockdale Quartet.



Tickets are £15 per head to include all food and entertainment, obtainable from John Challis, Andy Lovell, Castle Hill Books or through any committee member. It should be another excellent evening so why not get a table of friends together and come along for what promises to be another great night?

WHAT'S IT ALL FOR?

The events listed above have collectively raised nearly £2,500 for the Friends of St Mary's funds. This has meant that we have been able to provide some items of relatively small expense (e.g. the new noticeboard on Station Road, a new set of step ladders to change bulbs etc) which would otherwise fall upon the PCC to rather larger expenditure e.g. the architect fees and other professional costs associated with the development of the Step Free Access plan (which seem to average £2,000 each time this work is needed) - also an expense which the PCC would otherwise have to bear or be unable to afford. But our events are not solely for fundraising. We are always seeking to provide opportunities for us to meet up socially and also to bring together members of our church with those in the community who have no affiliation with St Mary's in shared activities. If you can help in any way, please contact one of the committee.

JEJ

BEHIND THE HYMNS

My first introduction to the hymn 'Abide with Me' was not in a church but in the front room of a small terraced house in Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne, in May 1955. I had been taken there by my father to join a few other people when I was aged 8 to watch the cup final on a rare, small black and white TV. Newcastle United defeated Manchester City by 3 goals to 1 on that day. In spite of the raucous pre-match atmosphere, the crowd went quiet and then joined in the singing of this, one of the most popular and well-known of hymns. Did the writer, Rev. Henry Francis Lyte have any connection with football? And, if not, why was this hymn written?

'Abide with Me' was first sung at a cup final in 1927 when Cardiff City beat Arsenal 1-0. Sung 15 minutes before kick-off and before the teams appear on the pitch, the idea was to bring both sets of supporters together in unison before the start. It was felt that the words of the hymn emphasised the fact that, whilst the result was important to both groups, its importance paled into insignificance when viewed from the perspective of life itself.



George V meets the Cardiff City team before kick-off, 1927

It replaced the playing of 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' which had been the opening performance tune up to that time. The move was fervently supported by King George V and Queen Mary who both loved the hymn; it was also well known across the land, frequently chosen at funerals for people of all classes so was well established in the popular consciousness

The writer, Henry Francis Lyte, would probably not have been of a sporting inclination, being troubled by weakness and illness for much of his adult life. Born in the summer of 1793 at Ednam in the Scottish Border country near Kelso, Lyte was the son of an army officer. Sadly, his father died when he was quite young. Henry's education was in Ireland—at the Royal School of Eniskillen and then at Trinity College, Dublin as a scholarship student, where he won a poetry prize on three occasions.

Originally interested in studying medicine, he decided instead to take Holy Orders in 1815, in spite of pressure from friends to pursue a medical career. A curacy in County Wexford was followed by a post at Marazion in Cornwall. Poor health meant that he was unable to work for some time, although he did marry whilst in

the South –West. A move to Lymington in Hampshire followed in 1819, where his powers of writing poetry led to him bringing together some new verses in a volume entitled ‘Tales in Verse on the Lord’s Prayer’ published in 1826.

In 1820, Henry Lyte visited an older priest, Augustus Le Hunte, on his deathbed as part of his pastoral duties. The dying priest shared with Henry his regret at not having paid more attention to the letters of St Paul, impressing on his younger colleague the need to study these letters in ‘their plain and literal sense.’ Later, in his last moments, Le Hunte kept repeating the words ‘Abide with me. Abide with me’ - words which made a deep impression on the young Henry Lyte. Some say that his hymn was written after his visit, but it is believed that the actual full writing of the hymn was not done until Henry was near death.



Rev Henry Francis Lyte



Another move followed in 1823 when he went to All Saints Church in Lower Brixham ‘under the red cliffs of Barry Head’ in Devon, to a new church built to serve the fishing community. There he stayed for the next twenty years where ‘he led the life of a faithful and diligent parish priest among poor people, by whom he was greatly loved’ (Canon Ellerton).

(ton).

His poetry was his hobby. He expressed a desire to adapt the ideas of the Psalter to the services of the Christian church but ‘more happily than (Isaac) Watts has done.’ Using his talents for writing verse, he developed a new volume called ‘Spirit of the Psalms’ which was published in 1834. Probably his best known work in this book was based upon psalm 103 which found its version as a hymn in ‘*Praise my soul the King of Heaven.*’

In spite of the purported health properties of sea air, his work challenged his uncertain health, so much so that he moved away from his parish in the winter of 1844-5 to seek rest and restoration. Unfortunately, he returned home little improved and he continued to grow weaker.

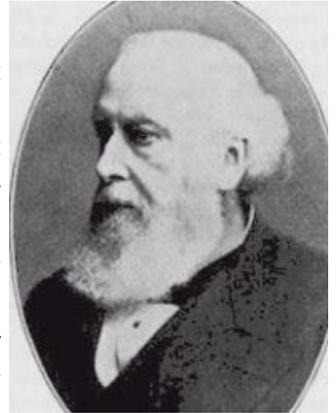
In 1847, he was advised to seek warmer climes once more for the sake of his respiratory problems caused by tuberculosis. His health meant that he had not preached for some time but, in spite of the protestations of his family, he took the few steps up into his Lower Brixham pulpit on 4 September 1847 to give what proved to be his

final address to his congregation. A slow walk back to his home at Barry Head followed, the sun setting over Dartmoor in a blaze of glory. This was the house gifted to him by King William IV in thanks for the welcome given by Rev Lyte and the church choir when he visited Lower Brixham in the early part of his reign almost twenty years before.

On that same evening, “he placed in the hands of a near and dear relative the little hymn *Abide with Me*” with a tune he had written to go with the words. It was his final song. With this background, it can be seen that this was no evening hymn to end the day, but the eventide to which he refers was the eventide of his life and, in this sense, it is an intensely personal and profound piece of writing.

In the same week, he left England, journeying slowly to Nice where he died on 20 November, 1847. His final words are said to have been “Peace! Joy!”

As with many of our hymns, the tune used today is not the one which the writer of the verse chose. When bringing together the first volume of ‘Hymns Ancient and Modern’ in 1861, the editorial panel sought a melody which worked better with the words than the one which Henry Lyte had offered. They turned to the composer William Monk whose three year old daughter had recently died. The resulting tune ‘Eventide’ complements the words wonderfully well, author and composer experiencing similar emotions in their creativity.



William Monk

The hymn has found its way round the world . In addition to choirs and congregations of Christian churches, the hymn has been recorded by such performers as Doris Day, Paul McCartney, Thelonus Monk and John Coltrane, whilst Alfred Lord Tennyson and Mahatma Gandhi both listed it as a favourite piece. It is said that the band on the *Titanic* played it as the ship slipped below the icy waves and it was also sung at the opening of the London Olympics in 2012.

And so back to Wembley. In the middle of the sporting passion of 90,000 souls at the FA cup final (and also, incidentally at the Rugby league cup final since 1929) Lyte’s hymn and Monk’s tune still have the power to suspend those partisan passions and produce a few moments of united respect for the occasion and a tradition which will soon be marked by its 100th anniversary. But for the church congregations, attenders at funerals and viewers of Songs of Praise, Henry Francis Lyte’s verse still enables the Christian message to cut through.

And the hymn's special relevance to the circumstances of its writing and the strength of Henry Lyte's faith is well illustrated by the following verses from the famous hymn.

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.*

*Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies,
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me*

JEJ



WARM WELCOME SPACE

FREE • WARM • WELCOMING • SAFE

visit www.warmwelcome.uk

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

week, and we have relied on our rota of loyal volunteers. We continued during the summer when we have been open on Friday mornings, and now we are planning for the autumn and winter. We will open on Monday and Friday from September to October, and then Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from November. Opening hours on each day are from 9.30am to 12.30pm. To cover the rota, it is essential that we recruit more volunteers to cover the additional days.

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

THE 200 CLUB

The October winner was Vinnie Shelley-Young. Congratulations, Vinnie

FROM THE MOTHERS' UNION



Every year, the worldwide organisation which is the Mothers' Union organises a global Day of Action as part of 16 days of conference, prayer and action planning, currently aimed at ending gender-based violence.

Our own branch in this benefice gives this initiative its full support and asks for our support in their work.

Since 2013 it has been a primary focus for the Mothers' Union to campaign for an end to gender based violence, including domestic abuse.



In discussing transformation of lives, the World Council in Kigali in 2019 affirmed three main goals for the future – to **transform lives by creating an environment that is peaceful and safe for all**, where **livelihoods are secure** and where **gender justice is a reality**.

Women and girls face many injustices. Members of Mothers' Union play a unique role in helping to overcome this across the world. Our 16 Days campaign has evolved into a dedicated 16 Days 365 outreach. Initiatives undertaken aim to develop understanding of the root causes of gender based violence, draw attention to unhelpful cultural norms, promote right and equal relationships, and highlight domestic abuse in our communities. We also work with other organisations and groups to increase our effectiveness.

The statistics are staggering. In 2018, two church studies show that in Britain and Ireland, figures are equally high in a church setting, with 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men reporting that they had personally experienced or witnessed domestic abuse. Most church goers indicated they had never heard a sermon on the topic, or felt their church was inadequately equipped to support or deal with the issue of domestic abuse.

It is hoped that this year's campaign will equip Mothers' Union members and our supporters on a prayerful and spiritual journey, as we seek to bring into focus God's continuing love and work together as the hands and feet of Christ in the eradication of all forms of gender-based violence.

What is the Rise Up campaign?

RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse is Mothers' Union's new campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse. The aim is to make sure that activism against domestic abuse and gender-based violence happens 365 days a year and not just during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in November and December.

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone from any walk of life. It isn't just unemployed, single parents who suffer from abuse. It is the educated, the affluent, both women and men. It can happen to anyone. Abuse can and does happen anywhere. Unfortunately some people hide behind miscommunicated Bible passages to justify their actions or feel like they should stay with an abusive partner. We want to raise awareness that this not OK

The letters of **RISE UP** stand for **R**espond, **I**nform, **S**upport, **E**mpower, **U**nite and **P**ray.

A prayer for RISE UP

God of justice, peace and compassion, Heavenly Father, Creator and sustainer of all, We thank you that you gave yourself, your own Son, to give every person the opportunity to turn from darkness to the light of your presence and love.

We know that all those who endure cruelty and abuse are precious in your sight, that no tear falls without your knowledge and love, and we ask that they would know your presence, strength, comfort and wisdom – even in their fear, confusion and pain.

We commit ourselves, those who have experience of abuse, those whose loved ones have experience of abuse and those of us who enjoy safety and peace in our relationships – to RISE UP against domestic abuse in all its forms.

We pray - for your compassion as we seek to RESPOND – for your wisdom as we become better INFORMED – for your gentleness as we try to SUPPORT – for your strength as we hope to EMPOWER – and the mark of your Holy Spirit that UNITES us together to work and PRAY unceasingly, until situations change and freedom, life and love is restored to all. In your dear and powerful name we cry out to you together.

Amen

The **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** is an annual international campaign that kicks off on **25 November**, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until **10 December**, Human Rights Day

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

In the secular calendar, November marks a number of lesser known special days. Whilst we would not want readers to miss out on World Ballet Day, National Sandwich Day, World Jellyfish Day, National Saxophone Day and World Numbat Day (yes, there is a rare creature called a numbat) to name but a few, the church has a number of saints' days' which fall in November. The Wordsearch on page 41 briefly focusses on St Andrew (30 November). However, November 22nd marks a celebration of the life of the patron saint of music -St Cecilia. Church choristers from the past will recognise the name if they are holders of the St Cecilia's award. Who was she?

Cecilia is one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs of the 2nd century. As far as is known, she was born a noble lady of Rome who, despite her vow of virginity, was forced to marry an older pagan nobleman named Valerian. During the wedding, as the musicians played, Cecilia sat apart singing to God in her heart, and for that she was later declared the saint of musicians



When the time came for her marriage to be consummated, Cecilia told Valerian that watching over her was an angel of the Lord, who would punish him if he sexually violated her but would love him if he respected her virginity.

Understandably startled by this, Valerian then asked to see the angel for himself. Cecilia replied that to do so, he must go to the third milestone on the Via Appia and be baptised by the Bishop of Rome. Valerian seems to have been a good-natured husband, because the story goes that he followed her suggestion, was baptised a Christian, and sure enough, saw the angel protecting his wife.

Being a Christian in those days was dangerous, and when the next wave of Roman persecutions began, Valerian and Cecilia were among those arrested. It is said that they died at the hands of the Roman prefect Turcius Almachius, perhaps in Sicily sometime between 176 and 180 AD although others give a date of 230 AD as a likely date.

One story goes that Cecilia was struck on the neck with a sword, and as she lay dying, asked that her house be converted into a church. Legend has it that, although struck in the neck three times, she survived for three days. Certainly an early Roman Christian church, Santa Cecilia, was founded in the fourth century in the

Trastevere section of Rome, reputedly on the site of the house in which she lived. It is also said that when her remains were transferred to the church dedicated to her name, her body was found to be incorrupt.



Exterior of St Cecilia's Basilica, Trastevere



Interior of St Cecilia's Basilica, Trastevere

In the centuries since then, a number of musical compositions have been dedicated to her, and her feast day has become the occasion for many concerts and musical festivals.

The first such festival took place in Normandy as long ago as 1570 whilst poets such as John Dryden, Alexander Pope and composers such as Purcell, Charpentier, Handel and Benjamin Britten (coincidentally born on her feast day) have all used their creative talents to honour Cecilia and her works.

St Cecilia is frequently depicted playing a viola, a small organ, or other musical instruments. Whilst the depiction of her playing an organ (see previous page) is probably a result of a mistranslation, the images symbolise that music used in praise of God was central to her life—and death.

JEJ



Curate ensuring all are welcome!!



STIR UP SUNDAY—AN OLD TRADITION



Stir Up Sunday

The last Sunday before Advent (this year 26 November) is known as 'Stir Up Sunday'. Early makers of puddings, or those uneaten from last Christmas, will swear by the benefits of allowing plenty of time for their puddings ('dumpling' in Scotland) to mature. In such cases, the pudding is already lurking in a cupboard, waiting for Christmas. However, some will still stick by this old tradition, and be champing at the bit to maintain this old custom.

Before Christmas puddings were sold ready-made in foil containers, they were always made at home. They were made a month before Christmas day so the flavours had plenty of time to develop before Christmas. Stir-up Sunday is the traditional day for everyone in the family to take a turn at stirring the Christmas pudding, whilst making a wish.

If you want to restore this tradition in your household, on Stir-up Sunday, you need to give the pudding its traditional lucky stir on your return from church. The pudding mixture should be stirred from East to West (keep your compass handy!) in honour of the three Wise Men who visited the baby Jesus. Whilst stirring the pudding mixture, each family member should make a wish.



However, your children (including those who have returned to the nest) may be too embarrassed to chant the rhyme: *"Stir up, we beseech thee, the pudding in the pot; And when we get home we'll eat the lot."*

The name 'Stir Up Sunday' comes from the opening words of the collect for the day in the *Book of Common Prayer* of 1549. The original collect (prayer) has been adapted into more modern language and is now the Church of England's prayer after communion for Stir Up Sunday:

"Stir-up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

A Christmas pudding is traditionally made with 13 ingredients to represent Christ and his disciples. Often a small coin was traditionally added to the ingredients and cooked in the pudding. It was supposedly to bring wealth to whoever found it on their plate on Christmas Day. Other traditional additions to the pudding included a ring, to foretell a marriage, and a thimble for a lucky life

FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

There are a number of events taking place in November and December which are regular and important parts of our community lives. The following are open to all and people are most welcome to attend. Bring your friends too!

Sunday 5th November: Annual Town Firework Display at Richmond School

Gates Open 6pm

Fireworks 7pm

Free Entry but cash donations being collected

Suggested donation £1 per adult - donation buckets at the entrances

Saturday 11th November Armistice Day - Service of the Crosses

Friary Gardens, Queens Road 11am start

Sunday 12th November - Remembrance Sunday

Parade leaves Richmond Town Hall at 9.40am for St. Mary's Church

Service at St. Marys at 10am

Wreath laying and 2 minutes silence in Friary Gardens 11am

(N.B. the parade will not be going to the Green Howards Memorial)

Address outside the Town Hall at approximately 11.50am

Dates for your December Diary

Friday 1st December Christmas Light Switch On - Friary Gardens 6pm (note the earlier time !)

Sunday 3rd December - Christmas Market - Richmond Market Place 10.00– 16.00

Saturday 9th December - Mayor's Audit Money— 9.30 –noon

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Carol Concert— 7.00 p.m. St. Mary's

Full details in the next issue



Baptisms

We welcomed into the Church....

Theo Darren Clements on 1 October

Baptism is the door of the spiritual life and the gateway to the sacraments.'

(Thomas Aquinas)



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

Join the St Mary's Song Squad

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

For more information or to sign up for the Song Squad

Contact Chris Denton 07817 386070



Last Sunday in every month.

Next service

Sunday 26 November

For children and the young at heart.

Why not come and join us?

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

LADIES' GROUP

Meets last Friday of each month

MORRO LOUNGE

Richmond Market Place

Next Meeting:

Friday 24 November



THIRST!! (The Men's Group)

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

Next Meeting at NEW VENUE

Traveller's Rest, Skeeby

Thursday 3 November



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 for help with odd jobs. Keith's contact number is (07866) 325843

AFTER THE CARDS AND VISITORS

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

Starting again on your own is even more difficult.

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

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

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

TELEPHONE SUPPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

Do please get in touch.

PASTORAL CARE— A CONTINUING SERVICE

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

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

To ask for prayer you can either telephone, email or text Rev Martin on 821241, martin.fletcher@leeds.anglican.org or 07762 440094; or Paul Sunderland (07989 178196) paul.sunderland@leeds.anglican.org—or speak to any member of the Pastoral Team and they will place your prayer in the circle. Please be assured your requests are confidential.

- ◆ *To be a praying member of the circle or a member of the Pastoral Team, please speak to Rev Martin or Paul. They would love to hear from you.*


"All are welcome in this place."

Sudoku - Easy

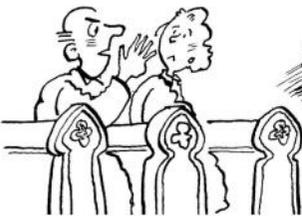
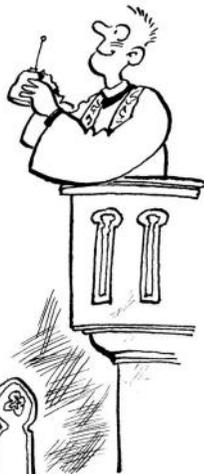
		4	1					
		9	4				2	
		2	6			3		8
	6		8	4	3		9	
2	8	5				4	3	1
4	9		2	1	5		8	
3		6			9	5		
	2				1	9		
					4	8		

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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...his constant droning from the pulpit is really getting on my nerves!

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Word Search

SAINT ANDREW

This month, on 30th November, Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus. St Andrew is honoured, not for any mighty deeds of his own, but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael/Bartholomew to Jesus. 'Better Together' seems to have been his slogan, too! 'We have found the Messiah!', he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself. Andrew's connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.

Scotland
disciples
Jesus
Andrew
Honoured
Peter
Nathanael
Bartholomew
Messiah
Saviour
Patras
Archaia
eighth
remains
Translation
Fife
pilgrimage
tenth
pious
Patron
saint
love
introducing
place



Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku—Medium

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

Wordsearch

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

Deadline December/January edition; Monday 13th November
 To contribute letters, articles, etc
 contact stmarys.maged@gmail.com or 07754 283161

How we can support Richmond's Food Bank

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

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

Packets: pasta, pasta sauce, noodles, cereal, porridge, rice, biscuits, spaghetti; flapjack

Jars: pasta sauce, sandwich fillings, jam, spreads, tea, coffee

Also: UHT milk, squash, washing up liquid, deodorant, bars of soap, tampons, sanitary pads, nappies (0-3 mths); laundry detergent or powder;; toilet rolls (4 packs) ; shower gel; shampoo

More information :storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk

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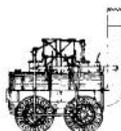
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