

# CONNECTIONS

The background of the cover is a close-up photograph of purple heather flowers. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing their dark centers. Interspersed among the flowers are delicate, white spider webs that catch the light, creating a sense of intricate detail and connection. The overall color palette is dominated by the purples of the flowers and the greys of the background, with the bright yellow text providing a strong contrast.

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

**July/August 2023**

**Price £1.80**

# THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME AND MARSKE

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

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Welcome to your summer July/August edition of *Connections*—and a reminder that this ‘two month summer issue’ was part of the reduction to ten issues a year instead of twelve to help this publication to cover its costs.

On the cost side, the price of printing seems to have stabilised, albeit at a higher level than we were paying a year ago. Printers themselves have been hit by rising paper and fuel costs as well as wage rises. We can only hope that the costs remain the same for the rest of the year.

The benefice itself will be facing some significant changes over the coming months as Rev. Martin highlighted recently. This issue reports on Scott Lunn’s final service with us before he moves on in his curacy training—big month this for the Lunn family as Gillian will be priested towards the end of June at Ripon Cathedral. We also know that Paul Sunderland and Jeanette will be moving on within months as his curacy here comes to an end.

Our Acorn listeners scheme will also cease soon for the present. Sadly, Sheila Harisson passed away in June, whilst Jennifer Patrick ( who also assists with communions) is preparing to move southwards to be close to her daughter.

It is partly for this reason that you will find a summary of the Diocesan scheme to encourage confidence in its churches’ mission in their communities. The benefice is resourceful but it would appear that this scheme is timely for us and may assist in building a position of greater strength for the future as new people will undoubtedly step in and offer their own skills and qualities. I do refer you to an earlier article where I talked of ‘the load resting easily upon many rather than heavily upon a few.’ Are you able to offer something to our benefice community?

Within this edition you will find notification of two months worth of activities for your enjoyment and to support. The annual MU Garden party, a Friends’ barbecue and the annual Plant and Produce sale – all worthy of your support and help. Volunteer work in the libraries after Covid is featured, whilst Jane Hatcher tells of how plagues have affected Richmond over the years. Gardening tips, a coronation recipe to try and two outings from Carole McCormack ( one with a dog) are practical activities, whilst favourite hymns from Christine Porter and three pieces from John Pritchard all related to faith and prayer offer pause for thought. Sally Ridley makes her first contribution in the ‘Living over the Shop’ series , whilst Ian Short once again produces a superb image for our front cover.

Have a wonderful summer. We’ll be back with a September issue (deadline 13 August). Thanks, as ever, to all contributors.

*Jim Jack (Editor)*



## Message from Paul — Curate not Saint



“The sun has got his hat on, hip hip hip horay!” that was the song that was going through my mind earlier today as I led the whole school at Trinity Academy, Richmond, in a time of prayer followed by their favourite song; ‘Our God is a Great Big God’. This song has actions and is a great way to get the children active whilst also praising God. The look of dread on the teachers’ faces when I suggested that we take our assembly outside was replaced with joy as the children lined the playground, singing with gusto. This was only possible as the weather was a balmy 17 degrees.

As a proud Yorkshireman, I find conversation about the weather very easy. I can moan about the rain, the snow and the heat. I can complain about the weather reports never getting it right. However, moan or not, I LOVE a bit of sun.

Sun makes me think of sandcastles, but I don’t like sand. Sun makes me think about ice-cream, but I can’t eat that as I’m ‘lactose free’. Sun reminds me of the feeling of being caked in sun cream, but I don’t like how sticky it makes me. I’m not one for moaning though!

I am constantly humbled by the faith of young children. Our other activity at school was to break up into smaller groups and pick a theme for prayer. This prayer time was led by the children themselves with little or no input from me or the other staff at the school. As I circled the playground to listen in to what was being discussed, I heard the most beautiful prayers from subjects ranging from war, food poverty and homelessness to individual prayers for the health of friends and family, thanksgiving for pets and even thanking God for their teachers.

Not once did I hear any of the children moaning!

In my role as a minister in the Church, I have the privilege of being invited into schools. I imagine the reason that I am invited is to teach the children about faith, the bible and what it means to have a relationship with God. Often, however, I am the one that learns from the children. I have learnt to embrace my voice and to sing with all my heart, even if I can’t hold a tune.

I have learnt that prayer starts with a ‘Thank You’, rather than a ‘Please’. I have learnt that when the sun shines, we need to get out and bask in the opportunities that God’s creation offers us.

I may still struggle with sand in my toes. I may have to find a nice lactose free ice-cream, or learn to love ice lollies. I know I need to cover myself in sun cream, I am ginger! But one thing that these children have taught me is to embrace what is good in life, without moaning about the weather.

Whatever you have planned as the weather improves, I pray that you too will find your inner child and sing as though nobody is listening, dance as if nobody is watching and eat ice-cream until your head hurts and your belly is full. Make time to smile each day, to laugh out loud and to tell someone you love them.

Please always know that you are loved and you are always welcome to join our family at St Mary's in Richmond, St Edmund's in Marske or St Michael's in Downholme.

All are Welcome.

*Paul*



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



|           |                   |          |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| Nicholls  | Dr Michael John   | 6 March  |
| Addison   | Doreen Margaret   | 18 March |
| Curran    | Martin Edward     | 24 March |
| MacDonald | Malcolm Alexander | 31 March |
| Harburn   | Kenneth William   | 2 April  |
| Smith     | Sidney James      | 16 April |

***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*



**Loving.  
Living.  
Learning.**

## LOYAL DALES VOLUNTEERS

In this occasional series, *Connections* has turned the spotlight on different organisations in our community, who voluntarily maintain services to that community. In 2020, we looked at volunteer work with CRACCL—the Catterick, Richmond and Colburn Community Libraries—coping with maintaining a service during COVID. **SUE YOUNG**, the current volunteer Chair of CRACCL, helps us to find out what is happening three years on and what you might be able to do for CRACCL today if you're interested.

### Keeping the Pages Turning

CRACCL, a charity, manages the libraries in Catterick, Richmond and Colburn and continues the 150 year history of free public access which underpinned better education for all. This volunteer organisation works in partnership with North Yorkshire Council who provide the books, desktop computers and premises. CRACCL is responsible for everything else including the cleaning, some property maintenance and insurance. Volunteers provide a service to the community on a daily basis from finding books to help with photocopying.

But the libraries are much more than just the books and buildings. As Chair of CRACCL, Sue Young emphasises, they are a place to interact with others, reading and knowledge hubs, safe spaces to meet. The libraries also facilitate social activities. These services continue to be available because volunteers undertake shifts in the libraries – without them the libraries would close and trustees remain grateful for their commitment. This gratitude and thanks was shown by the holding a modest lunch at Catterick Golf Club for volunteers.

Volunteers are asked to undertake 12 shifts a year with no requirement to sign up to a regular weekly or monthly commitment “ We quite understand the pressures from family, friends and other competing volunteer opportunities,” Sue pointed out. “ We do welcome volunteers from age 16 although the age profile is rather older, most of us are retired or semi-retired.



**Volunteers' Lunch at Catterick Golf Club**



**Rishi Sunak opens re-furbished Colburn Branch**

A number of our working age volunteers have successfully gone on to find employment which means we are always keen to recruit additional pairs of hands.”

CRACCL is rightly proud of its achievements in the five years since the organisation was founded. They have refurbished Colburn library, replaced the children’s library at Catterick, and bought a new front desk for Richmond to provide a warmer welcome. Rishi Sunak opened the refurbished Colburn library, participating in an artwork with a group of schoolchildren while trying to persuade them to consider a career as an economist! One of the children, who had never entered the library before, now regularly brings his friends along because he sees it as a cool space to be with ready access to computers.



**Baroness Harris unveils plaque at Catterick Children’s Library**

Baroness Harris, CRACCL’s patron, unveiled a plaque to mark the opening of Catterick Children’s library, while Richard Flinton, Chief Executive of the new North Yorkshire Council, is a recent visitor.

Volunteering has been essential in promoting the library service and the value and joy of reading. CRACCL plays its part in the national Summer Reading Challenge, the idea being to persuade primary aged children to read six books during the holidays to support a sound start in the new school year.

Each library has a programme of events to support the challenge. Sue described some of the activities they have offered— pony rides outside the library at Colburn, Punch and Judy shows, and Zoolab (who brought along Twiggy the stick insect, a baby python and a tarantula among others). This year, Adrian Bramley and a colleague will be holding music sessions (bring your instrument or alternatively a pair of ear muffs),

Gabriella Gordon will be setting out clues to solve a crime and Mike Barfield will be talking about his book, *A Day in the Life of an Astronaut, Mars and the Distant Stars: Space as You’ve Never Seen it Before*. These author events are in partnership with the Richmond Walking and Book Festival.

A number of members of the congregation are already volunteers with CRACCL. If you would like to join them drop an e-mail to [info@craccl.org](mailto:info@craccl.org) for more information or visit [www.craccl.org](http://www.craccl.org) and complete an expression of interest form online.



**A new activity—Lego Club**

## TAKE THE LEAD

**CAROLE McCORMACK** has been on the move with their faithful hound, exploring another dog-friendly expedition not too far from Richmond. As ever, you don't have to have a dog—but if you do, it is assured of a good time!

### WHASHTON BECK WANDER

This reliably satisfying short walk is lovely at all seasons. The footpath follows the course of Whashton Beck and there are plentiful wild flowers and birdsong – kingfishers can occasionally be seen flying along the beck. Because this walk is visually so beautiful, and very straightforward, I have included more photos than usual, which can act as an alternative to a map. There is good shade and plentiful water for swimming and drinking - dogs only! There are no poo bins and no opportunities for refreshment or loos for owners, but pubs at Gilling and Kirby Hill are within a few minutes' drive.

#### Where to Start

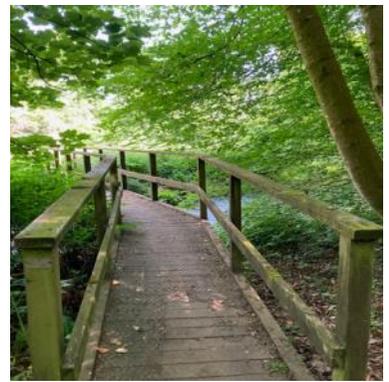
Head out of Richmond on Whashton Road and after approximately 3 miles go past the crossroads (left to Kirby Hill; right to Whashton) and, at the bottom of the hill, take the next right turn down Comfort Lane. This is a narrow single-track road, and caution is necessary when driving as it is difficult to see oncoming cars, bikes, horses or people. After about 500 yds, the road crosses Whashton Bridge, a narrow old stone construction, and a large layby follows immediately on the left.



After parking, walk back across the bridge and take the footpath signed to the left. Follow the path as it meanders along the banks of the stream. Shortly, to the left, there is a large, fairly deep, pool ideal for water-loving dogs



To the right of the footpath are fields where sheep often graze, but these are well fenced and dogs can safely be off the lead for the entire 'outward' walk. Continue past a gate on the right into a short stretch of light woodland. Although there are no 'Private' notices, it seems likely that this land is owned by the mill house on the far bank of the stream and dogs should be kept under close control until the footpath crosses a wooden bridge.



Continue to follow the beck, keeping it on your right and, after a short stretch of gravelled access track, bear right to skirt a crop field on your left.

At the end of this section of the footpath there is a watersplash/ford. If a longer walk is needed, the footbridge and the stile to the right leads into the Jagers Lane network of walks covered in a previous article. But to complete this circular Whash-ton Bridge route, follow the bridle track to the left, until it re-joins Comfort Lane. Leads back on your dogs here, then turn left and follow the lane back to the lay-by OR just retrace your steps to give the dogs more fun and freedom. *CMcCormack*

## NOTES FROM OUR PAST

The recent coronavirus pandemic revived historical interest in plagues which swept through Europe and crossed the channel to England, then Wales and Scotland in times past. The Black Death of 1348 had a profound effect on the social and economic structure of the country, long before the better known plague in London in 1665. As you can imagine, Richmond was not immune to visitations of these diseases. **JANE HATCHER** takes the Plague Stone in our own churchyard as her starting point.

### Plagues

A somewhat overlooked commemorative stone in St Mary's Churchyard is the Plague Stone, standing near the north wall of the church. Plain, without any inscription, it is of somewhat larger dimensions than the other tombstones which were put up around it, mainly in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, when an increasingly literate population created a fashion for such. The churchyard was mainly closed to burials when the cemetery in Reeth Road opened in 1886.

The Plague Stone is a reminder that the Covid-19 pandemic we have recently suffered is just one of several devastating periods of illness which a town as ancient as Richmond has had to endure over the centuries. As I write this, the World Health Organisation has just somewhat surprisingly announced that Covid-19 is no longer a global health emergency, although it is still nevertheless classed as a global health threat. The rapid and successful development of vaccines will doubtless be seen in retrospect as an important part of 21<sup>st</sup> century history, and indeed those of us in the over-75 age group are currently being urged to get a third booster jab.

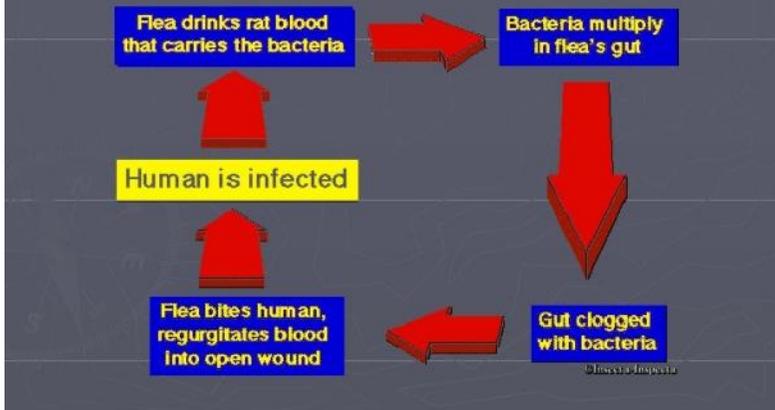
An early plague that must have afflicted Richmond was the Black Death of 1348, but we have no specific documentary records to indicate the extent of its influence here as parish registers had not yet been introduced. We can only extrapolate from what scholars suggest happened at a national level, where the estimated loss varies between 20% and 50% of the population.

The late-16<sup>th</sup> century 'pestilence' commemorated by our Plague Stone was also part of a national event, but this time we have specific evidence for Richmond, for our



# How did the Black Death spread throughout Europe?

## How it was Transmitted



parish registers began in 1556. In 1592 a very serious attack of the plague had hit London, killing thousands. It is recorded that theatres hosting new Shakespearean and other productions had to remain closed for a protracted period, to prevent large numbers gathering together. In fact, by the mid-1590s it was accepted that the plague in London had become an habitual event, likely to run from Midsummer (24 June) to Michaelmas (29 September). Consequently, between 1592 and 1599, London-based actors knew that they would have to seek summer employment out in the provinces!

It took a while for the disease to travel as far north as Richmond, for it was on 17 August 1597 that our parish register records the burial of Roger Sharpe "qui primus obiit tempe pestis" – "who was the first to die in the plague". It continued to ravage the town until on 15 February 1599 the burial of Anna Harrison is annotated "qui obit ult pestis" – "the last to die of the plague". It is hard to believe that 1072 deaths were recorded. As in London, the warm summer months saw the largest number of fatalities, the peak occurring in June, July and August 1598, when the burials totalled 100, 187, and 195 respectively.

Another source of information is an inscription in the parish church of Penrith in Cumbria. It summarises the numbers of deaths in the "gravis pestis" – "great plague" as 2,260 in Penrith, 2,500 in Kendal, 2,200 in Richmond, and 1,196 in Carlisle. Clearly there is a discrepancy in the figure for Richmond given in Penrith compared to the parish register, and various theories have been suggested for this.

One is that the Richmond register only records those burials that took place in the church or churchyard itself, and that because of the scale of deaths, additional burial pits had to be opened in perhaps the Castle and an area called Clarke Green east of the churchyard. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the churchyard was extended eastward to include what had been called Clarke Green. Another theory is that the 2,200 statistic related to a wider area than the parish of Richmond itself.

Sadly, the Richmond plague near the end of Queen Elizabeth I's reign was not the last before Covid-19, for there was another outbreak in the summer of 1645, when 542 burials took place from May (the worst month with 135) to September (down to 49). This was at a difficult time for the country, the English Civil War was on-going, and there were many soldiers about. In particular, in the aftermath of the Parliamentary victory at the Battle of Marston Moor fought near York on 2 July 1644, the Scottish army had been hired to keep the north of England subdued. It is likely that it was their movements which caused the spread of disease to Richmond the following year.



**Battle of Marston Moor (1644)**  
(Image—Public Domain)

The burial entries suggest that the disease killed all ages, with several members of a family succumbing one by one over a period of weeks. It is likely that those who could afford it fled the town, but many were left behind to struggle. That year Richmond's leading citizen, still called the Alderman and not yet the Mayor, was a man called Henry Bradrigg, who lived in Finkle Street. One might say he was the hero of the hour, for he took it upon himself to rent properties on the outskirts of the town as makeshift hospitals, and had food sent up to them. All at his own expense.

He seems not to have caught the plague himself, for we know he lived on until 1673. But he did not escape the suffering, for his wife Anne, his grandson Henry Wilson, and his maid, Anne Coltman, all perished. Henry Bradrigg's heroic efforts on behalf of his community were belatedly recognised at the end of his life by Richmond Corporation, who in 1672 awarded him the generous annual pension of £6 13s 4d. One must, however, regard this with some cynicism, for the Corporation was unlikely to have to pay it for long, as he was now an old man. In fact he was to die, still in debt from what he had expended, only a few months later.

*Jane Hatcher*

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## DURHAM TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELLA-ON FOOT

Over the years this magazine has looked at aspects of the Camino, pilgrimage routes to the cathedral in the Spanish town of Santiago. There are now eight recognised pilgrimage routes from different parts of Western Europe all converging on this famous Spanish city, each commemorating the pilgrimage of St James of Compostella to Santiago. In the 1990s, three members of St Mary's followed one of these routes on foot and recounted their pilgrimage in the magazine. More recently, we explored the link between the badge of Richmond School (the Elizabethan Seal depicting St James on his journey) and the saint when recounting the plans to develop St Michael's at Hudswell as a hostel on a new proposed route in England, designed to link up with the existing St James Way starting in Reading. **KEITH TAYLOR** tells us of the progress of this proposal.

### The Finchale Camino Inglés Proposal

An unusual event took place at the historic Finchale (pronounced 'Finkle') Priory in Co Durham on Saturday March 23rd 2019 when councillors from A Coruña and Co. Durham nailed in the first marker for the Camino Ingles to Santiago in Spain. The priory was chosen as the starting point for this unique section of the Camino Ingles, a route which leads from A Coruña or Ferrol, where many English medieval pilgrims arrived, and which travels 90 kilometres to Santiago.

Pilgrims must walk a minimum of 100 kilometres to receive their special certificate ("Compostela") in Santiago and the new stretch from Finchale via Durham Cathedral to Bishop Auckland has been approved by the authorities in Santiago as part of the Camino Inglés.

The reason that Finchale Priory was chosen is that the hermit St Godric, who lived at Finchale, was one of the first from England to go on pilgrimage to Santiago early in the 12th century. Pilgrims came to seek his advice and his blessing before making their own pilgrimages to Santiago.

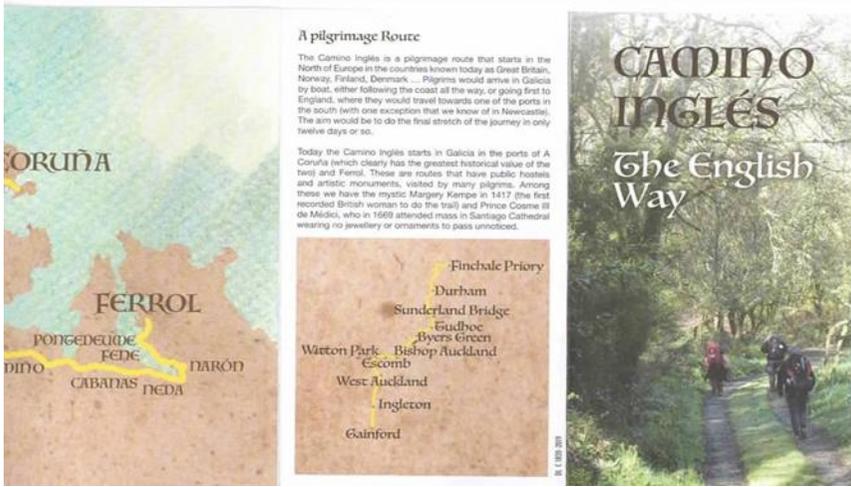
As you make your journey, you can follow the way-marks with the famous Camino scallop shell.



The Camino Way Marker

The intent is that we should develop the Camino along pilgrimage routes to the South of England to meet up with the St James Way at Reading. The St James Way guides pilgrims to Southampton where many pilgrims historically took ship to Northern Spain.

We intend to go via places of worship such as churches, abbeys and cathedrals to establish clear pilgrimage paths for people who wish to undertake such a journey. We hope to involve people from the area in telling us more about their locality and about their places of worship. Pilgrims will carry a Pilgrim Passport as they journey and will be able to collect stamps from various places along the route, but particularly places of worship.



We now have strong links with Durham Cathedral, who have a pilgrim stamp, and hold an annual walk on St Cuthbert’s Day to celebrate the life of both Saints. We are greeted there and share a service with the members of the congregation. We are also developing links along the route with people who will help us to develop, improve and maintain the route.

The process will be long, but we live in hope to join up the two routes as soon as possible so that pilgrims can travel throughout the length of England from Durham.

We have included Ripon Cathedral on the route and will also be hoping that Lincoln Cathedral can be part of the route.

There is the possibility that there will also be an offshoot via Kings Lynn (the home of Marjorie Kempes) to Walsingham but that is for the future.



**The Destination**

## THE JOURNEY GOES ON...

On Sunday 11 June, St Mary's marked the formal departure of **Scott Lunn** who, with his family, have been an integral part of the life of the church for over 20 years. Encouraging confidence was a key theme of the day.

A bright and warm sunny Sunday saw the final formal involvement of Scott Lunn in worship at St Mary's in his current role. In the morning service, in his sermon, he drew parallels between the recent diocesan initiative of Encouraging Confidence and the role of St Mary's in encouraging confidence for all members of the Lunn family, both as an organization and also through the individual members of the congregation. Scott and Gillian had had a long journey from sitting at the back not wanting to be noticed on their first arrival to taking on varying development responsibilities in the church, with Gillian shortly to be confirmed as a priest and Scott moving on in his curacy training.

After the service, people moved out to the Rectory garden with prosecco, juice and cake on offer and a short presentation of gifts to Scott, including a specially commissioned stoll bearing the St Mary's 'logo' as a reminder of his time with this church. This was particularly poignant as this design was strongly influenced by Sheila Harisson who had sadly but peacefully passed away on the preceding Tuesday.

Evensong was also led by Scott with an augmented choir of over 20 singers and a congregation of at least double that number—testimony to the affection and gratitude extended by the church towards one of its most constant members.

Living in Richmond ( at least part of the week), we will still see him around the town but he moves on to the next stage of his journey and he goes with our good wishes and prayers.





In his final sermon at St Mary's, Scott spoke of the confidence the church had given him and his family and linked it with the recent Diocesan initiative which is entitled **Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence**. This is the way in which the Diocese of Leeds wants to support churches to move forward in mission, ministry and sustainability, in a way that is prayerful, intentional and, within the grace of God, possible.

Barnabas offers every church resources and support at different levels, with a view to us all working towards the diocesan vision of Confident Christians, Growing Churches, Transforming Communities. The Leeds Diocese says that the **Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence project** is designed to help us, as Christians, to:

- **Be Confident in our Mission** - Supporting churches to become confident in their use of their building, financial and time resources; and creating more opportunities to be Good News in our communities.
- **Be Confident in our Future** - Ensuring our levels of clergy deployment are fit for the future and are affordable. This is intended to give clergy and churches the confidence that the Diocese is committed to their thriving in an overall financially sustainable structure.
- **Be Confident in our Leadership** - Giving significant and specific support around leadership and mentoring in the church, both for clergy in their roles, but also for church teams moving forward in mission.
- **Be Confident in our Witness** - Encouraging support for clergy and for churches to be confident in living and telling the Good News of Jesus in a rapidly changing world.

The **seven strands of support** which the Diocese will offer are **i)** with prayer, **ii)** developing clergy leadership skills, **iii)** developing a church's confidence in its mission work, **iv)** help with buildings, **v)** help with stewardship and finance and **vi)** help with governance. Whilst **the seventh** is starting a new congregation, there maybe messages here for developing a wider congregation in an existing church.

The Diocesan website ([www.leeds.anglica.org](http://www.leeds.anglica.org)) offers a 'drop down' menu for each of these areas which lead to amplification of each of these strands. It is an interesting read to set alongside our own development plan from the PCC Away Day which we will publish in the next edition of *Connections*.



## GRAND DAYS OUT

As we work through the months of high summer, there are a number of attractive places which we might be able to visit for fresh air, beautiful gardens, art and relaxation. While no where near as mountainous as the Himalayas, these attractive gardens do have some slopes which are wheelchair accessible and others which are best tackled on foot. Let **CAROLE McCORMACK** be your guide for this excellent Grand Day Out.

### Himalayan Gardens and Sculpture Park

This is a beautiful place to visit and is open from April to October. 45 acres of woodland gardens have been skilfully landscaped and there are lakes and 85 striking sculptures to be discovered. A visit in the spring or early summer is perfect, as there are many spring shrubs – rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolias – and flowers to see.

Accessibility is sadly limited as narrow paths and many steps wind through the gardens – pushchairs are extremely hard work! I would certainly advise wearing sensible and comfortable shoes. Cost is reasonable, as one can easily spend a long half-day here: £12 for adults; under 16 free. Season tickets are available for £25.

#### Getting There

The Gardens are tucked away, but the website gives useful directions from the A1 via Masham:

From the A1 take the Leeming Bar/Bedale turn off – A684. At the 'T' junction turn left and go into Bedale. In the village you will come to a crossroads. Go straight over and follow signs to Masham on B6268.

When you reach the centre of Masham go past the square, following the signs for Grewelthorpe. In Grewelthorpe, go past (but only just!) the Crown Inn pub on the left and take the first turning right up a hill (signposted to 'Kirkby Malzeard').

At the next 'T' junction turn right (signposted 'The Hutts'). Take the next left (signposted 'The Hutts – 1 mile'). Turn right up Hutts Lane (signposted 'The Hutts'). Continue up to very top of the lane, past houses on the right.

Parking for the Gardens is at the end of the lane to the left. Entrance, café and toilets are to the right after parking your car.

### The Himalayan Gardens—No extra oxygen required!

Whoever planned the positioning of the sculptures within the gardens has a real eye for impact. They are placed where they naturally fit within the landscape: dragon flies near to water; a nesting duck curls into marginal water-loving plants. And because of the varied landscaping a wide variety of sculptures seem entirely at home within the environment: a graceful swift skimming a lake and a huge fir cone set dramatically against a slope of conifers.



The website gives details of special events – usually related to art – which take place throughout the year.

This really is an exceptionally lovely place and has wide appeal. One can be quiet and reflective; fairly active, exploring the whole of the site; or adventurous, playing in the woodland.

*Carole McCormack*



## POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

Motivated by the thought that we may have lost our sense of wonder and the danger of taking so much of modern life for granted (e.g. health), **GEORGE ALDERSON** has been moved to record his thoughts in verse.

### Soli Deo Gloria

Do you sometimes fail to wonder;  
Taking all, without a thought?  
Just expect the final outcome  
Will—'of course' be what you sought?  
Is that not a touch neglectful?  
Overlooking how it came -  
Or, perchance, if it's exceeded,  
Rather quick to stake your claim?  
Chances are that others prompted,  
(To a large or small extent)  
If results are unsuccessful  
They are who you will resent.  
Yet, when everything goes forward  
And your wishes are achieved.  
Then you'll feel that you have earned them -  
At that stage you are deceived!  
Should you really take the credit?  
Have you not forgotten ...GOD?  
It is He we must consider  
When we need a staff or rod.  
Yet, as soon as plans are settled,  
Our devotion's set aside  
And the Architect cum Builder  
Is forgotten or denied.  
We can only hope to follow  
And accept what He has planned!  
We are NEVER in positions  
Which permit us to demand!  
Let us NEVER take for granted  
Anything may still occur,  
And, regardless of our egos  
It's to God we should defer!

## SECULAR BRITAIN

A recent report said that there is a significant drop in people stating that they believe in God, with believers being slightly under half of the survey group. **JOHN PRITCHARD** looks behind the headline figures and offers other perspectives on this recently reported trend.

So now we know it: people in the UK are less likely than the people of almost any other country in the world to believe in God. We're in the company of Norway, Sweden, South Korea, China and Japan.

Research by the Policy Institute of Kings College London found that 49% of people here believe in God, down from 75% in 1981. The Philippines, by the way, comes in at 100%.



What's interesting is that heaven and hell remain popular! 41% believe in heaven (down from 57%) and belief in hell has remained steadier, if lower, on 26%. And it's younger people who are more likely to believe in life after death – over 50% compared with 35-39% of older groups.

The reasons for the secularity of Britain are complex and constantly picked over by sociologists and journalists. What they don't often report is the continuing growth of the Church worldwide. There are 2.3 billion Christians around the world, a number growing by 70,000 every day of the year. But we in the West are not seeing that growth and wonder what to do about it.

The first thing of course is not to worry about it. It's not our problem; it's God's. God is the missionary; we just try and get caught up in the slipstream of the Spirit by staying faithful. We have to keep on telling the Story, throwing out seeds of the gospel and letting the Spirit of God bring about the increase where it will.

But the spiritual dimension of our lives hasn't gone away. The desire for depth, meaning and purpose is universal. The need for space to reflect, for a humane pace to life, for a context in which to make sense of life – all these are common to humanity. The desire to have some guidelines for ethical problems and daily decisions, some values, disciplines and habits of the heart – this desire seems to be perennial.

It's just that it's no use looking to a consumer-driven, instant-answer culture with values shaped by greed, celebrity and the Big Me, to meet any of those deeper needs. The wreckage we see around us in political, personal and public life is testimony to the failure of secularism.

That's why it's so important that the Church doesn't lose its nerve but faithfully keeps on

offering a richer image of life, held in the mystery of God and rooted in the story of Jesus. The problems of the Church may be many, but the answers aren't found in planned decline and quiet despair.

The answers are always to be found in the love and beauty of God, offered generously and without condition to the world. We have to keep giving ourselves away.

*John Pritchard*

## ANNUAL PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE

Our Annual Plant and Produce Sale makes its return on **Saturday 26th August starting at 10.00 a.m.** As well as being a major fund-raising event for the church, it's a great day for all. We look forward to your support once more, please, - and your help!

### **Calling all gardeners and bakers, jam and jelly makers**

People love to buy your produce! If you need empty jars or plant pots, there are plenty at the back of Church at St Mary's. Please take what you need and return them when full or planted up!

Produce from greenhouses, allotments and freshly baked cakes and biscuits will be gratefully received on Friday 25th August from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 pm-ish.

### **What about non-perishables?**

**Yes please!** If you can provide books, jigsaws (preferably complete!) and/or DVDs for re-sale, please leave them in Church from now onwards.

### **What else is happening?**

**The Belles Café** will be operating throughout the day

### **Prizes, please!**

We are also trusting in your continued generosity in providing prizes for the raffle and for the tombola stall. These can be left in Church or handed to any member of the Friends of St Mary's Committee.

**Any queries?** Please contact **Susan Scrafton (01748) 824106** ) or a member of the committee ; Peter Trewby, John Challis, Wendy Pritchard, Jeanette Sunderland, Andy Lovell, David Frankton, Jim Jack, Neil Stevenson.

## MUSINGS FROM MARSKE

Following **LIZ KLUZ's** information on how we can help the Richmond Food-bank—called StoreHouse- and what parishioners in Marske have been doing, she decided to get back in touch with Peter Heslop at the Influence Church who co-ordinates the work, to see what is happening currently.

Last autumn you may remember I wrote an article about The StoreHouse, Richmond's food bank set up by The Influence Church in Victoria Road. It has been nine months since I spoke to Peter Heslop who masterminds the project and I called to see him recently to find out how things have gone since we last met.



First of all I asked him by how much demand had increased over the intervening months and he said by 15%-20%. May had seen a drop in requests for help but that was partly due to a 10.1% increase in most benefits and the state pension from April as well as the fact that people eat and worry less when they are warmer.

### **Greater Demand—but Less Supply**

I wondered whether there had been any change in the kind of people seeking support and he said that more families had approached them for help during the winter months because of the increased cost of electricity and gas. Unfortunately the increased demand coincided with a drastic drop in individual donations due mainly to the cost of living crisis. However he said that they have received great support from schools, churches and various organisations for which they are very grateful. The StoreHouse also received a grant from The John Blenkiron & Sons Community Fund, which was launched in April this year, offering a share of £20.000 to not-for-profit organisations who support people living within a 3 mile radius of Richmond, Barnard Castle and Catterick. The grant was used to buy items they need which are not always donated.

Peter and his team make up weekly food packs which include 14 meals per person but 21 if you include cereals. Over the last 9 months they have given out parcels which provide over 32.000 meals, that is quite a service!

Evidence of need is required in order to receive help and that can be obtained from

the Job Centre, a professional referral or people can self-refer in some circumstances. The need for support can occur for a variety of reasons such as loss of employment, unexpectedly having to care for a sick relative, inability to make ends meet even though in employment. Whilst there are government benefits for many situations, the turn around between applying for whatever is available and receiving payment is normally 28 days which is a long time without funds.

In such circumstances the food bank supports applicants for up to 12 weeks until new employment can be found and they can get back on their feet. The StoreHouse has been helping people for more than 10 years and Peter says there will always be a need unless the government takes food banks on as their responsibility. Historically they did not exist but austerity has forced communities to provide help for those around them and for supermarkets and companies to work alongside the volunteers to use food which may have gone to waste previously. Those are all very positive moves towards a more caring society.

### **Extra Pressure During School Holidays—Can you Help, Please?**

With the school holidays approaching, families will be unable to rely on schools to provide the main meal of the day and demand for help from food banks will increase again so please put an extra item or two into your trolley next time you are shopping, The StoreHouse will be very grateful for your donations.



There will be an extra collection bin for new and used school uniforms, in good clean condition, which you can leave at The Influence Church every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

*Liz Kluz*

*A list of the most helpful food donations can be found on page 47 of this magazine. Why not cut out and keep, or take it with you the next time you shop?*

*Ed*

#### **NEW DAYLIGHT**

These Bible notes are a handy way to read the "Good Book," giving four months' worth of short daily passages, with helpful comments. If you'd like to try an issue of New Daylight, for £4.95 or £6.10 large print, please contact me on 826649 or [b\\_peirse@hotmail.com](mailto:b_peirse@hotmail.com) Mark Beresford-Peirse



## LIVING OVER THE SHOP

Within the benefice, there are a number of 'retired' clergy who are in fact still very active in leading and supporting worship in our area. In this, we are much blessed. However, throughout their formal working lives, all would agree that their roles in their respective parishes have been made possible by the active support of their partners—sometimes leading or organising activities themselves but also accepting that, by living in a vicarage, rectory or manse, they are 'living above the shop' - the address known and available, the phone number published which can make the life of the whole family group a 24/7 role. In this month's reflection, **SALLY RIDLEY**, a qualified nurse, looks back on supporting husband Stewart with his work as a parish priest.

### ' I Remember the Knocks on the Door'

The year? 1982. Just married and not so much living 'over the shop' as 'at the other end of the street'! The 'temporary' vicarage was in fact a pre-war semi which had been 'temporary' for many years. This was Hightown, Castleford West Yorkshire – a busy industrial, manufacturing and, of course, mining town where the summer air was often yellow and sulphurous and the winter fogs were heavy.



I'm not sure they knew what to make of their new vicar's wife – she was only 21, a student nurse and clearly hadn't a clue what was generally expected of the clergy wife! Slowly I, and they learned that my skills lay less in *leading* the Mother's Union and more in working with Stewart to re-engage the parish church with its community.

Our house supper evenings were well received. However the chilli became legend for all the wrong reasons – never leave Stewart unattended with the spice jars!! I loved driving the support minibus for our Liverpool to Leeds sponsored canoe trip, helping retrieve 2000 plastic ducks from the Aire & Calder Navigation after their epic race - all of which helped kick start some much needed fundraising .....

But then came the Miner's Strike. Lives turned upside down – poverty and hunger in previously comfortable households, women working all hours, a new political awareness and empowerment of wives and mums – men feeling helpless and

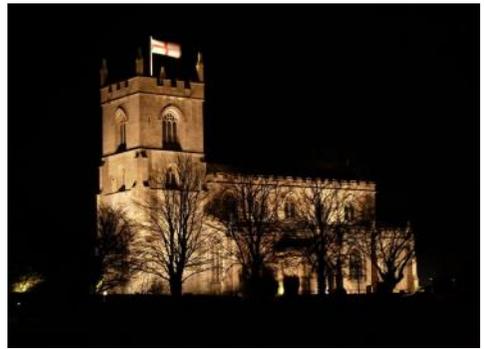
de-skilled, children bewildered. Everyone trying to make ends meet and wondering when and how it would end. Our church hall quickly became a workshop, aid centre, auction room and daily food kitchen – open 24/7 - a place to meet, eat, keep warm, feel useful, swap and share, sort, store and distribute aid of all kinds, and even in some cases sleep.

*I remember the knocks on the door*– often at night - gifts of food, children’s clothing, envelopes of money, offers of relief breaks for needy families. Oh, and the occasional bag of ‘blue coal’ ! (look it up)

Our hall became increasingly battered -and was, in fact, structurally condemned-but we managed to gain a stay of execution until the end of the Strike at which time it was demolished to make way for the new vicarage. This we occupied for maybe a year before being lured to the seaside!

### **The Call of the Sea**

The year -1987. The parish - Ingoldmells & Addlethorpe just outside Skegness. Two beautiful ancient church buildings, an official population of 4,500 plus 40,000



holiday caravans within the parish. Oh, and Butlins!

We moved into another brand new vicarage albeit marooned in a sea of mud at the entrance to a new build bungalow estate in progress. And what a change of focus! Easter to October was full on holiday season – amusements, bingo, fish and chips, fairground rides, markets.

Our walk to playgroup & later to school passed three amusement arcades and we were routinely greeted by Postman Pat & Jess offering rides in their van or by a mechanical parrot screeching “ Hello! Would you like a present?” All of this, my children had to learn, was “ for other children today, not for us”. Mummy was so mean!

Our summer congregations were largely holiday makers and seasonal caravan dwellers many of whom were regular visitors. They saw themselves (and were very

much accepted) as part of our community. Most resident locals were of course working 24/7 Easter to October.

But October to March was very different. Away went the visitors; back to church came the villagers as the sites closed up for winter; and we finally managed to visit the beach occasionally. Our children often asked “why do we only go to the beach when it’s cold?”

Stewart, being Rural Dean was out and about an awful lot, navigating the Lincolnshire Wolds – so many tiny communities, each with their own church and PCC; and so many vacancies. And no sat-nav.... We have fond memories of our time in rural Lincolnshire. A beautiful place where we made good friends.

***Again, I remember the knocks on the vicarage door*** – this time often a family needing food, having arrived for seasonal work with nothing in their pockets. Or someone in crisis having found it’s not always fun at the seaside. Or someone asking for transport to get a friend home from hospital (on one occasion home turned out to be in Mansfield, nearly 75 miles away across country) And I recall, as a school nurse in nearby Skegness, finding many children living the winter in seaside accommodation with no kitchen facilities and going to school without breakfast. That saw the birth of the school breakfast club.

It was a place of many contrasts – great wealth of business but also hardship for many; the tug for young people between easy seasonal earnings or study at school and beyond; traditional agricultural life versus progressive land development for leisure industries.

### **The Call of the North**

We had happy times there and made some lifelong friends. However, by 1992 we felt a need to return north and were blessed with an opportunity to apply for the Parish of Settle in the Yorkshire Dales. We were amazed to be accepted given that the recent ‘fly on the wall’ TV series about the local GP practice had resulted in dozens of applicants! We stayed in Settle for thirteen years – it was a great community; we and our two daughters all felt very much at home there. The vicarage was perched up the hill overlooking the church and the Settle- Carlisle railway. From our front patio window we could see the steam trains appear to run right along the church roof as they set off up the dale.



Fundraising, as always, was a necessary activity – our church building desperately needed development if it was to serve into the future. For several months, while it was closed for works, our vicarage hosted PCC meetings, Sunday School, Wednesday children’s club ... a busy place; busy times. The rewards were great – a lovely bright re-ordered church with modern mezzanine rooms where the old balcony had once been. Our dreams for outreach were now able to fly....



***I remember the knocks on the door*** – a genuine ‘gentleman of the road’ who stopped by regularly - he was always happy with a fish and chip supper and occasionally a sleepover in the garage. It always puzzled me how so many people “ had just got out of prison and needed travel money to get home ”. How on earth they’d got stranded in upper Ribblesdale was a mystery?

We didn’t have money to give but we could always offer food and a lift out to the bypass where they might thumb a ride. Then there were local people trying to get by and needing the bus fare to Skipton to ‘sign on’ and or shop more affordably at the bigger supermarket.

2001 brought the terribly dark days of the foot and mouth outbreak - a time of fear and grief as livelihoods fell apart, hopes of escape were dashed and countless wagons of slaughtered livestock rumbled through the market place day after day. It took many years of recovery from this and our church was very much part of the process – our re-ordering scheme provided space for community groups, counselling sessions, youth and children’s activities, coffee hub and market day lunches, space to prepare for community events.

Returning to the Dales after Stewart’s retirement, it has been comforting to pop back in to Settle occasionally and see that the church there remains fully part of the community; the building still works hard, the new C of E primary school is thriving, the vicarage remains occupied and life goes on in that lovely community which we loved and were part of for 13 yrs.

***The ‘knocks on the door’ have always held significance for us as a vicarage family in all of our parishes. Sometimes they brought greetings, kindness and joy; sometimes need for help; sometimes anger, threats and distress. They serve as a reminder to count our blessings, as whichever community we find ourselves in, there are always people who struggle and are in need of a ‘lift’ !***

***Sally Ridley***

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2023



Thank you to everyone who collected in Richmond Market Place on Saturday 20 May and/or supported in any way during the month of May. The figures are:

Market Place Collection £ 356.85

Methodist Church £ 442.10 (includes £30.00 Gift Aid and raised by donations, envelopes and an excellent talk by John Ridley about being a village headteacher.)

St Mary's Church £ 491.40 (includes £66.25 Gift Aid donations & envelopes)

**TOTAL** **£ 1,290.35**

A good figure although approximately £550 less than last year's total. St Francis and St Joseph's R C church have now withdrawn from the Richmond Christian Aid Group.

So there we have it! Times are changing. In the current financial climate, many people have less money to spare for charitable giving. Money transactions are increasingly being carried out on line, with people paying by card and carrying less cash than in the past. One now needs to be skilled in computer navigation to do this job of Christian Aid Group Co-Ordinator, which I have been happy to do for the past twenty years. As I don't possess these skills in abundance, I am now standing down from the role and hope that there is someone out there with the enthusiasm for this worthy cause (and better computer knowledge than I) who can take up the baton and run with it on behalf of Richmond. *Judith Barber*

**Retiring Christian Aid Co-ordinator**

### 200 CLUB

**The winner of the June draw for the 200 club is no. 30—Leonard Scrafton. Congratulations, Len.**

A big 'thank you' to Jonathan Roberts who has single handedly run this major fund-raiser for church for a number of years. John Challis has taken over the role and is looking for volunteers to act as Collectors, especially in the Hudswell area, willing to gather in the £10 p.a. subscriptions from some of the members who prefer to pay by cash or cheque rather than direct payment by BACS.

**John's contact number is 07712 135601**

## ALL IN THE GARDEN GREEN

**WENDY PRITCHARD's** summer garden focus moves on to that most traditional of English flowers—the rose. The varieties of rose bushes available now is vast, thanks to specialist growers developing an ever-widening range through cross-pollination. As with last month, Wendy's written focus is enhanced by her focal skills with the camera. Her images can make the reader almost believe that the scent is here is well!

Imagine sitting in a garden on a warm summer's evening, sipping a glass of wine whilst the scent of roses fills the air. That is unless the midges are biting or it's raining or there's a cold wind whipping off your sunhat. But let's pretend, and at least the roses will still look good!

Roses are the most popular flower in the world, grown wherever conditions allow and instantly recognisable. According to fossil evidence, the rose could be 35 million years old. About 5000 years ago, roses started to be cultivated in gardens, probably in China. By 500BC, the emperor had hundreds of books about roses in his library, and nearly caused a food shortage in the country by using so much land for rose breeding.

The Egyptian queen Cleopatra arranged to have her fountains filled with rose water and her personal rooms filled ankle deep with rose petals before Mark Anthony visited. It seemed to work!

Today there are many thousands of different roses worldwide with different growth habits – floribundas, hybrid teas, climbers, ramblers, patio roses, English roses, shrub roses etc – in red, orange, yellow, white, pink, salmon, even red and white stripes – but not blue. Some have scent, some don't, some could cover a !



three-storey house, some grow just a couple of feet high, some have big red hips – remember rose hip syrup?

Specialised growers breed new roses by pollinating one rose with the pollen from another, both parents carefully selected in the hope of getting the best qualities of both in the offspring. The seeds from the resulting rose hips are grown on, and the plants produced are trialled for disease and weather resistance. Maybe one or two will be good enough to launch at a flower show like Chelsea, but it will have taken between five to eight years for a rose to get to this stage and out of the few roses launched each year, around 50,000 others would have been rejected!



The roses sold to the public are formed by grafting a little of the cultivated rose onto a strong wild rose rootstock, a reliable method of getting a rose just like its parent. You can see the join at ground level and any shoots from below this are wild rose – they'll look different from the branches above and need removing.

Most roses need pruning over winter so that they keep a reasonable shape. There are lots of guides as to how to do this, but don't be afraid to be ruthless – the rose will survive whatever you do, so hack away if you need to! Sort out the greenfly and whatever our summer turns out to be like, take some time to smell the roses.

*Wendy Pritchard*

## **NEED HELP WITH YOUR GARDEN? NEW CONTACT DETAILS**

If your own garden feels as if it is getting out of control, or you have ideas on how you want it to develop but lack the time, expertise or energy, help is at hand from one of our church family, Richard, whom you may have seen at church on Sunday mornings with his family. As was pointed out in the June edition, Richard serves with the Army and lives on the Garrison. Apart from his military expertise, Richard is very good at gardening, including as a trained chain saw operator, so can do all those heavy maintenance jobs which have built up over the winter. He is available evenings and weekends.

Please contact him at [richymwwangi@yahoo.com](mailto:richymwwangi@yahoo.com) or 07365 516805 to discuss rates and timescales – he will be delighted to hear from you. *PLEASE NOTE; Richard's telephone number has been updated from the one published last month.*

*Alexe Roberts*

## I'VE OFTEN WONDERED....

An occasional series where we try to answer the sort of questions which cross people's minds but perhaps cannot find a place where they can find answers. **JOHN PRITCHARD** offers to tackle this one.

### WHY DO PEOPLE CROSS THEMSELVES OR BOW AT CERTAIN POINTS IN THE SERVICE?

Both actions have been associated with more Catholic ('High Church') parts of the Church but the practices are now spreading to other parts too. The simple answer to why they are done is that they both literally 'embody' respect for something of particular significance in the service. What the believer thinks and feels is being put into physical form, thus reinforcing their spiritual response.

**Crossing.** This calls to mind either the Trinity (God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit) or the cross of Christ. It might therefore be done at the beginning and end of the service, when receiving forgiveness after the prayers of penitence, when the Gospel is read, at the Benedictus in the Eucharistic prayer, before and after receiving Communion, and on being blessed. Christians choose which of these moments seem right to them.



**Bowing.** This has a more extreme cousin, genuflection (a kind of curtsy), but essentially it's a way of showing respect to the altar, to the name of Jesus, and to consecrated bread and wine. Some people will therefore bow when they walk in front of the altar where the cross may stand and where bread and wine are consecrated. They might also bow when Jesus is named in the Creed or at other points in the liturgy.

**Kissing.** In some churches (though not in this benefice) you might see the priest kiss the altar when he or she arrives and leaves. You might also see the person who reads the Gospel kiss the book before it's read. When you add to these the 'kiss of peace' at the start of the liturgy of the sacrament you have respect and reverence to Christ as he is found in the Gospel, in the sacrament, and in each other.

In each case these physical acts are ways of embodying and amplifying a person's spiritual response to something special in the service. It's helpful that the doing of these simple things need no longer be associated with particular church traditions. They're simply there to help us worship in spirit and in truth.

*John Pritchard*

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF JULY/AUGUST EVENTS

**Sunday 2 July: Annual Mothers' Union Annual 'Afternoon Tea in the Garden'**— marvellous food and company at this great event. Afternoon teas in the Scrafton's garden from 3 p.m —or order a takeaway box to collect from 2.00 p.m. onwards if pre-ordered by Friday 30 June— delivery in Richmond can be arranged

**Sunday 2 July Piano Recital in St Mary's.** Yorkshire (and international) pianist Jill Crossland has booked St Mary's to give a recital on Sunday afternoon July 2 **at 3 p.m.** including works by Bach and Mozart. Jill has played all over the UK and abroad, including frequent appearances at Wigmore Hall, South Bank and Sage Gateshead, and also at the Vienna Musikverein, Vienna Konzerthaus and Leipzig Gewandhaus. Jill has critically acclaimed recordings with Warner and Signum Classics, and her complete Bach 48 Preludes and Fugues was described by the Penguin Guide as 'a remarkable achievement, ranking with the finest.' Tickets £7.50 from Castle Hill bookshop, from Eventbrite, or at the door. (U-16s free).

**Wednesday 5 July at 7.30 p.m., Jane Hatcher** will be delivering a talk in the Town Hall entitled "Richmond Remembers". This will be a showing of a unique recording of the BBC2 TV programme made in 1985 about remarkable photographs of the town, (commissioned August 1945)

**Tuesday 11 July at 6.45 p.m.** Bob Woodings will be lecturing at the Richmondshire Museum about 'Richmond's Easby Choir Stalls', exploring the many truths and uncertainties behind this outstanding heritage of St Mary's Church and Richmond .

**Saturday 22 July 2 p.m. Annual Church BBQ in Rectory Gardens** Food, music and games. An enjoyable afternoon guaranteed. 1.00—5.00 p.m. Tickets (£5; U12 free) on sale from 19 June for food. **Drinks on sale. (see page 34)**

**Thursday 27 July 9.00—12.00 Church Coffee Morning in Richmond Town Hall.** Sale of cakes. Raffle. If you can offer to help for part or all of the morning, please contact the Editor via the magazine e mail address or phone 07754 283161

Apologies for the mis-information about a coffee morning on 17 June in the Town Hall printed in last month's edition.



**Saturday 26 August; 10.00 -4.00 Annual Plant and Produce Sale.** See full details on page 22.



Last Sunday in every month.  
Next services  
Sunday 30 July & 27 August at 4.00 p.m.  
For children and the young at heart.  
Why not come and join us?  
[www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk](http://www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk)



**LADIES' GROUP**  
Meets last Friday of each month  
**MORRO LOUNGE**  
Richmond Market Place  
Next Meetings: 28 July  
& 25 August

**THIRST!!**  
**(The Men's Group)**

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

**CASTLE TAVERN,**  
Richmond Market Place

**Next meetings: 6 July & 3 August**

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



**ANNUAL St MARY'S BARBECUE**  
**SATURDAY 22 JULY**  
Rectory Garden 1.00—5.00

Fine food and refreshments, including  
vegetarian choices (drinks by donation) ;  
Garden Games; Test your skills; Face painting ; Music.  
A social event for all ages.

Tickets £5.00 each to cover catering costs  
(U12s free) from John Challis, Jim Jack, Andy Lovell and Friends  
Committee members

## PATHWAYS IN PRAYER

This month, **JOHN PRITCHARD** takes us along a pathway in prayer first walked by St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) the founder of the Jesuits.

### IGNATIAN MEDITATION



This is one of the most profound ways of encountering Jesus in prayerful meditation on the scriptures because it involves putting our whole selves into it, in particular our senses. It's named after St Ignatius Loyola who founded the Jesuits (Society of Jesus). It doesn't suit everyone but with practice it has enriched very large numbers of prayer-journeys, often at a deeply emotional level. These are the steps:

**Choose a biblical story**, usually one from the gospels and **read it slowly** and attentively. Perhaps read it again, even more attentively! Let's try Mark 2.1-12.

**Put the Bible down**, close your eyes and re-run the story in your mind, using all your senses to get inside the event ie

- **see** the participants as the four friends let down the paralytic through the roof, look at them, their faces, their reactions as the story develops;
- **listen** to what Jesus and others say, to their tone of voice and to what those words are doing to you as you hear them;
- **feel** the rough working clothes of those packed in beside you,
- **smell** the fish and the sea air coming through the windows from the lake shore;
- **taste** the bread that Peter's mother-in-law is passing round (did she?). Go through the whole story, slowly, noting all the details you see, hear etc.

When the former paralytic (in this example) has left and Jesus has finished his teaching, **make your way over to Jesus and ask him about what has just happened and what it means**. Get into conversation with Jesus (prayer) and let it run as long as it will. Then let it end naturally.



The Sanctuary of Loyola.  
Azpeitia, Spain

**Carefully come out of the gospel story.** Reflect on what you've learned and understood, and give God thanks.

There are no right or wrong ways of imagining the gospel stories as long as we don't flatly contradict what is in the gospel accounts. There's far more left out of these stories than is left in because the four evangelists weren't interested, like a novelist, in the colour of Jesus' hair or what he had for breakfast. But we might be!

It's a bit like going to the Holy Land; the gospel stories are lifted off the pages of the New Testament, and into our hearts.

*John Pritchard*

### **St Ignatius Loyola**

Ignatius came from a noble Basque family in north-east Spain. Born in 1491 in his family's castle near Loyala, he was sent to serve as a page at the court of King Ferdinand V of Castile. Ignatius entered military service, but was wounded in 1521, at the French siege of Pamplona. While convalescing, he read about the life of Christ, as well as the biographies of various saints.

Like those saints, Ignatius felt the call of Christ on his life, and responded. He made a pilgrimage to Montserrat where he firmly hung up his sword over the altar. He exchanged his clothes with a beggar, and settled in nearby Manresa, where he helped care for the sick in the hospital there. Then he spent some time as a hermit in a local cave, praying and studying Thomas a Kempis's book *'The Imitation of Christ'*. It was probably during this time that Ignatius wrote his famous *'Spiritual Exercises'* on Christian prayer and meditation. It has been valued by Christians of many traditions for centuries.

Ignatius then went on pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem, studied at three universities and ended up in Paris to continue studies. It was there, in 1534 that Ignatius and a group of six students (including Francis Xavier) vowed to go as missionaries to Islamic Palestine.

They were prevented from travel by a war in Europe, and so, in 1537, the group, now ten in number, offered their services to the Pope. By 1540 they had been ordained, and with papal approval, formed the Society of Jesus, with a vow of personal obedience to the Pope, in addition to the traditional three monastic vows— poverty, chastity and obedience.

Ignatius became the first general of the order. In the following 15 years the order grew hundred-fold, to become the vanguard of both the Counter Reformation and the missionary work of the Roman Catholic Church. He died in 1558. July 31 is his feast day.

## BEHIND THE HYMNS

**CHRISTINE PORTER's** choice of hymn this month was a particular favourite of the late Queen Elizabeth II—not to mention my father who grew up as a member of a Congregational church choir in his Scottish home village! His own love of this hymn was not only the words (the metrical psalms were always part of the Sunday service) but the rendition by the Glasgow Orpheus choir via a much played vinyl LP. I have to confess therefore that Christine's choice has refreshed a strong personal interest in this popular hymn.

### By Royal Appointment:

#### Queen Elizabeth the Second's favourite hymn

What would you say is your favourite hymn? One you first sang in primary school maybe? Or a particular one sung at a significant occasion, such as a wedding or funeral? In September 2019 a special episode of *BBC Songs of Praise* counted down the top 10 hymns voted for by the public. These were:

1. Jerusalem (And Did Those Feet)
2. How Great Thou Art
3. In Christ Alone
4. Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
5. Abide With Me
6. I Vow To Thee My Country
7. Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah/Redeemer
8. Amazing Grace
9. Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord
10. I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky (Here I Am Lord.)

Long before her death, when the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II was being planned, there were numerous inputs from the Queen herself. She stipulated that the service should include her own favourite hymn. This was none of the above hymns, chosen by her subjects. The Queen's favourite hymn was the setting of Psalm 23: ***The Lord is My Shepherd***, sung to the well-known tune ***Crimond***.

The ancient words explore themes of protection, inner strength, safety, and graceful guidance. These are words, it seems, that had resonated with Queen Elizabeth II over the years:

1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; he leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.

2. My soul he doth restore again;  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for his own name's sake.

3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For thou art with me; and thy rod  
And staff my comfort still.

4. My table thou hast furnishèd  
In presence of my foes;  
My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house forevermore  
My dwelling place shall be.



**Francis Rous MP, JP 1581-1659**

**Attributed with writing these  
words 1641**

This ***Crimond*** setting of the 23rd Psalm has been sung at many notable religious occasions. For example, it featured in a Silver Wedding Anniversary service for King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on 26 April 1948, and later was sung at King George VI's funeral in St George's Chapel in 1952. It was also part of the music at the Queen's wedding: Princess Elizabeth Windsor to Prince Philip Mountbatten on 20 November 1947.

The practice of singing psalms, to the exclusion of other types of sung music, had become a central part of public worship during the Protestant Reformation in Scotland. The Book of Common Order, introduced in the Church of Scotland by reformer John Knox in 1564, contained metrical versions of all the psalms, adapted from John Calvin's Genevan Psalter (1539). Psalms were sung to Genevan tunes and were only permitted to be sung in unison. Many revisions were published, but by the mid-17th century, the Churches of England and Scotland were both in need of a new translation.

The English lawyer and politician Francis Rous wrote a new metrical paraphrase of the Book of Psalms which he published in 1641. Under Oliver Cromwell, Rous had been appointed a member of the Westminster Assembly and was a prominent figure among the English Puritans. Before his psalms could be approved, they were subjected to scrutiny by the Long Parliament, and a committee of translators was

formed to review submissions by Rous and by his rival, William Barton. The committee deliberated for six years and made extensive alterations to the texts before they could be published in 1641. In 1650 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, also approved the Rous version for the Scots Metrical Psalter.

Although the text was written in the 17th century, the hymn's most famous tune wasn't composed until about 1871, over 200 years later, by Jessie Seymour Irvine. The tune is named after the Crimond Church in the Aberdeenshire town of Crimond, where Jessie's father was the pastor. Jessie was also an organist and would often take metrical psalms and set them to music. She wrote the tune for Rous' text as an exercise for a composition class. This was later performed at an evening service, but Jessie was reportedly dissatisfied with her own harmonisation and asked a local musician, David Grant, to re-harmonise her melody.



**Crimond Church**



**Glasgow Orpheus Choir with conductor Sir Hugh Robertson**

The combination of Francis Rous' *The Lord is My Shepherd* and Jessie Irvine's *Crimond* seems to have entered the public consciousness via performances by the Glasgow Orpheus Choir, conducted by Hugh S. Robertson, using his own choral arrangement. The Orpheus choir's first English performance of this arrangement took place on 4 April 1936 in the Queen's Hall, London. Robertson's arrangement was published around the same time and the Orpheus Choir also recorded it on 78-rpm and 45-rpm vinyl discs in 1947.

For the royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip in November of that year, William McKie, organist of Westminster Abbey, created yet another arrangement, incorporating a descant by W. Baird Ross. McKie's harmonization was subsequently included in the *School Hymn Book of the Methodist Church* (1950), the *BBC Hymn Book* (1951), *Congregational Praise* (1951) and the *British Methodist Hymns & Psalms* (1983).

In addition to *Crimond*, other tunes have also been used, most commonly *Brother James' Air* and *Amazing Grace*. There have also been multiple arrangements by major modern choral composers such as John Rutter and Howard Goodall. In spite of all these variations, the original pairing of Francis Rous' text with Jessie Irvine's tune *Crimond* is by far the most famous version.



Jessie Seymour Irvine  
(1836-1887)

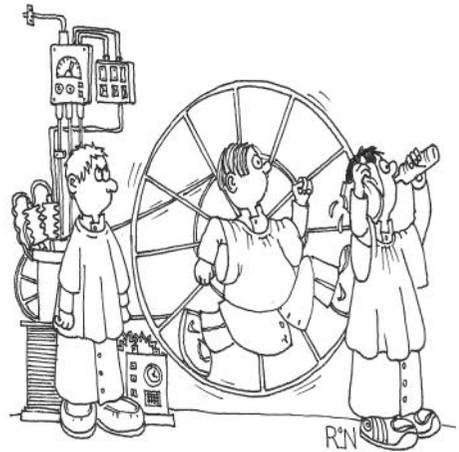
As a tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II, the Royal Conservatory of Music released a special recording of the Crimond version on 19 September 2022, sung by soprano Jonelle Sills, accompanied by pianist Geoffrey Conquer. The performance took place at the RCM's Mazzoleni Hall and can be heard through the following link (*which would be easier to access from our magazine's online edition*):

<https://glenn Gould.com/the-scoop-the-royal-conservatory-of-music-honours-queen-elizabeth-ii-with-her-favourite-hymn/#:~>

Francis Rous' original text has been translated across the world, including two Spanish versions: "Es el Señor mi buen pastor" by Federico J. Pagura, and "Jehová es mi Pastor" by George P. Simmonds, and the French "Jésus est mon divin berger". It has even been translated into Korean, with the phonetic first line: "Choo-naw-eh mohk-jaw tweh-shee-nee". We hope St Mary's Director of Music is not tempted to track down the entire Korean phonetic version and set a challenge to the choir ... *Christine Porter*



"It's not a new stained-glass window – the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"



When the church solar panels stopped working, the choir turned to plan B

## THE CORONATION QUICHE

Having offered readers an accessible recipe for the specially designed Coronation Trifle in the May edition, CAROLE McCORMACK heard the mixed reviews of the Coronation Quiche so decided to give it a go—so here it is—but with accompanying notes to help us produce the perfect quiche!

Taken from the website [www.royal.uk](http://www.royal.uk) ; with some personal cooking tips in italics ... This recipe was released after the last copy of *Connections* went to press.

### The Coronation Quiche

The Coronation Big Lunch aimed to bring neighbours and communities together to celebrate the Coronation and share friendship, food and fun. Her Majesty, The Queen Consort, has been patron of the initiative since 2013 and has attended Big Lunches all across the UK and the world, including in Ghana and Barbados.



Last year, The Queen Consort hosted a special Big Lunch at The Oval cricket ground to celebrate the late Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

### Coronation Quiche Recipe

A deep quiche which serves 6, with a crisp, light pastry case and delicate flavours of Spinach, Broad Beans and fresh Tarragon. Eat hot or cold with a green salad and boiled new potatoes. Use a 20cm flan dish.

### Ingredients

#### Pastry

- 125g flour
- Pinch of salt
- 50 gm fat. *I always use flora light for my pastry, but the official recipe recommends 25 gm butter and 25 gm lard. Following a valuable tip from a National Trust chef some years ago, I mix chopped herbs into my shortcrust pastry – anything will do: parsley, chives, oregano, marjoram and rosemary are my favourites.*
- 2 tablespoons milk

Or 1 x 250g block of ready-made shortcrust pastry – *if you really must ... pastry takes about 3 minutes to make and obviously you can't include the herbs if you choose this option.*

## Making the Filling

- 125ml milk
- 175ml double cream. *I use half fat crème fraiche, or Greek yogurt – healthier option*
- 2 medium eggs
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon. *This is notoriously difficult to source. Dried is fine.*
- Salt and pepper
- 100g grated cheddar cheese,
- 180g cooked spinach, lightly chopped ***really important – do fry off the spinach in hot olive oil. This will avoid the quiche filling becoming soggy***
- 60g cooked broad beans or soya beans

## Method

To make the pastry...

1. Sieve the flour and salt into a bowl; add the fats and rub the mixture together using your finger-tips until you get a sandy, breadcrumb like texture.
2. Add the milk a little at a time and bring the ingredients together into a dough. Cover and allow to rest in the fridge for 30-45 minutes
3. Lightly flour the work surface and roll out the pastry to a circle a little larger than the top of the tin and approximately 5mm thick.
4. Line the tin with the pastry, taking care not to have any holes or the mixture could leak. Cover and rest for a further 30 minutes in the fridge.

Preheat the oven to 190°C.

1. Line the pastry case with greaseproof paper, add baking beans and bake blind for 15 minutes, before removing the greaseproof paper and baking beans.
2. Reduce the oven temperature to 160°C.
3. Beat together the milk, cream \*, eggs, herbs and seasoning. \* *or other dairy product*
4. Scatter 1/2 of the grated cheese in the blind-baked base, top with the chopped spinach and beans and herbs, then pour over the liquid mixture.
5. If required gently give the mixture a delicate stir to ensure the filling is evenly dispersed but be careful not to damage the pastry case.
6. Sprinkle over the remaining cheese. Place into the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until set and lightly golden.

*Carole McCormack*

## 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, [fletcher\\_martin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fletcher_martin@yahoo.co.uk) or 07762 440094; or Paul Sunderland (07989 178196) [paul.sunderland@leeds.anglican.org](mailto: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 | 3 |   |
| 9 |   |   |   | 8 | 6 |   | 5 |
|   | 6 | 3 |   |   | 9 | 1 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 |   |   | 8 |   | 5 |   | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 9 |   |   |   |
|   | 9 | 6 |   |   |   | 4 | 7 |
| 8 |   | 1 | 9 |   |   |   | 6 |
|   | 5 | 7 |   |   | 6 |   |   |

### Sudoku - Medium

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

-o0o0o-



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## Word Search

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July the Church remembers St Thomas, also called Doubting Thomas, because he would not believe his fellow disciples' news of the Resurrection. But 'doubt' did not mean that Thomas did not love Jesus! Only a few weeks before, Thomas had urged his fellow disciples to follow Jesus to see Lazarus in Bethany, despite danger from the Jews. "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life. Thomas was sometimes very confused about just where Jesus was headed. But in John 14:5 Jesus untangled his confused commitment: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me." Finally, after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Thomas, showing him the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was electrified, and his response immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26ff). Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of people down the centuries.

July  
 Thomas  
 Resurrection  
 Doubt  
 Doubting  
 Love  
 Jesus  
 Follow  
 Lazarus  
 Bethany  
 Danger  
 Jews  
 Die  
 Life  
 Confused  
 Going  
 Father  
 Wounds  
 Crucifixion  
 Response  
 Immediate  
 Lord  
 God  
 Honest  
 Faith  
 reassurance



## Puzzle Solutions

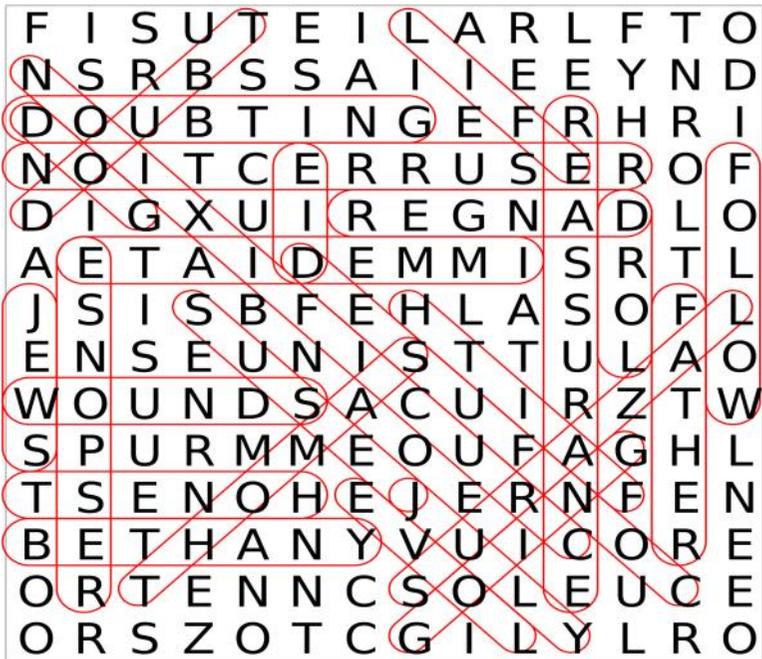
### Sudoku — Easy

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

### Sudoku—Medium

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

### Wordsearch



**Deadline September edition : Sunday 13 August**

To contribute letters, articles, etc

contact [stmarys.maged@gmail.com](mailto: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

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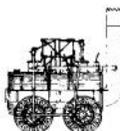
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