

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

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

www.facebook.com/StMarysRHDM

#### MINISTRY TEAM

#### RECTOR

The Revd Canon Martin Fletcher martin.fletcher@leeds.anglican.org The Rectory, Church Wynd, Richmond 07762 440094 or (01748) 821241

#### **ASSISTANT CURATE**

lorna.heatley@leeds.anglican.org Revd Lorna Heatley 07783 903156

#### **HONORARY CLERGY**

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

#### OCCASIONAL PREACHER

Paul Perry

#### **PASTORAL ASSISTANTS**

Graham Pearson (07455) 943875 Sharon Digan (07791) 426659 Sharon O'Connor (07704) 467833 Jan Jack (07725) 574188

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests to Anna via boyceadl11@gmail.com

#### 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	
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Bell Captain Susan Welch (01748) 823700 8 Maple Road, Richnond Head Verger John Welch (01748) 823700 8 Maple Road, Richmond

#### Parish Administrator & Secretary to the PCC

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

#### **OFFICERS OF THE PCC (AND OTHERS)**

(01748) 824468 24 Hurgill Road, Richmond Lay Chair Peter Trewby Paul Carnell Treasurer stmarys@paulcarnell.co.uk

Magazine Editor John McCormack (07866) 033263

connections.ed24@gmail.com

(07754 283161 Magazine Advertising Jim Jack Magazine Distribution Keith Robson (07866) 325843

**Bookings** Martin Clarke

stmarys.mgc@gmail.com skeeby@skeeby.com Publicity Andy Lovell (07974) 766020

#### 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 from1st 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

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 <u>rev.jenny1@btinternet.com</u>

#### CHURCH SERVICES AT DOWNHOLME

9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer Every second Sunday9.30 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) 824365 rev.jenny1@btinternet.com

#### **CHURCH SERVICES AT MARSKE**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion Every Sunday except 2nd (& 5th) Sunday

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer Every 2nd ( & 5th) Sunday

#### EDITORIAL from connections.ed24@gmail.com

I had intended to use a harvest picture for this month's front cover, but, at the time of writing, most of it seems to have been gathered in already during the recent spell of better weather, so Jim Jack's striking picture of a grouse, captured on a walk between Reeth and Healaugh, has been used instead. I hope you like it.

This month I'm delighted to announce the start of a new series from John Pritchard – *Bible Matters* – in which he will be exploring various questions that people wonder about when they read, or hear readings from, the Bible. Definitely something to look forward to. We also have a couple of fascinating articles from Jane Hatcher, one with particular relevance to the Step-free Access project, and an account from Christine Porter of an awful event which gained Richmond a certain notoriety many years ago. Jim Jack has been busy with his trawl of dates in September, together with a report of a Grand Day Out and another insight into a popular local business. The bell-ringers have also been busy, as has Wendy Pritchard in her garden, so with some of our regular features and information about what has been happening and events coming up in the near future, we hope you will find this issue of interest.

Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed that details of the benefice Facebook page have been included beneath the website address on page 2. Our new Curate, Lorna, is now looking after this, so if you have something you wish to celebrate, or something you just want others to be aware of, please get in touch with her. There is so much 'good news' in our community, which deserves to be shared more widely. Let's banish the 'doom and gloom', which often appears more prevalent. All contributions will be welcomed – especially if they include pictures.

The latest winners in our '200 Club' can be found on page 42. I have been asked to remind everyone that subscriptions for the coming year were due in July and a few are still outstanding. If you have forgotten to renew, or would like to join the Club – there are still a few numbers remaining – please contact John Challis without delay. Don't lose the chance of winning!

John McCormack

Cover photo:
'On the look-out for Shooting parties' by Jim Jack



### Martin's Message September 2024



**Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence** 



'Barnabas' is a major Diocesan project, deliberately named after the apostle Barnabas, 'the son of encouragement' (Acts 4:36). With parish resources and sustainability becoming increasingly stretched, Barnabas will encourage and enable churches to:

#### • Be Confident in our Mission

by supporting churches to become confident in our use of our building, financial and time resources.

#### • Be Confident in our Future

ensuring our levels of clergy deployment are fit for the future and affordable.

#### • Be Confident in our Leadership

giving significant and specific support around leadership and mentoring in the church, both for clergy and for church teams.

#### • Be Confident in our Witness

encouraging support for churches to be confident in living and telling the Good News in a rapidly changing world.

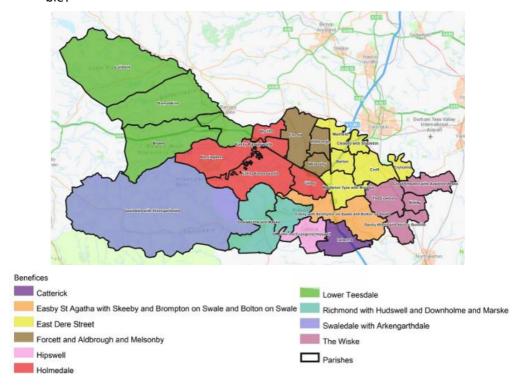
You can read more about Barnabas here:

https://www.leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/barnabas-encouraging-confidence/

We in the Richmond Deanery want to shape how Barnabas will work in our rural setting. Each PCC has been invited to a **'Barnabas Day' on Saturday 21st September** in Colburn. There will be two sessions. The first will be 'How can Barnabas help us?', facilitated by Dr Ben Walker from the Diocesan Barnabas Team. The second will be 'Working Together', facilitated by Peter Smith, Parish Development Manager at the charity Wellsprings Together.

Wellsprings Together is a Yorkshire-based Christian charity, which has a wealth of experience in Community Engagement (for further information, please visit <a href="https://wellspringstogether.org.uk/">https://wellspringstogether.org.uk/</a>). They are already assisting our Deanery to review our particular strengths and weakness in mission and ministry. At the Barnabas Day we will be asking ourselves:

- What is it we want to see through our community engagement?
- How might our efforts both bless those around us and help us to be sustainable?



Bishop Anna has secured external funding of £200,000 to assist mission and ministry initiatives across the six Deaneries of her Ripon Episcopal Area. Each Deanery is to submit a bid for a slice of this 'Rural Change Fund', and Wellsprings Together will be advising the Richmond Deanery in preparing our bid. The Barnabas Day discussions will be part of this process.

As the Barnabas Day approaches please *encourage* our PCC members (see below) to speak up on our behalf, to celebrate the good things already happening, and to acknowledge where we need to grow stronger.

#### **Richmond with Hudswell PCC matters**

At their meeting in July, the Richmond with Hudswell PCC was made complete by the co-option of Reuben Digan and the arrival, as an ex-officio member, of our Curate Lorna. Reuben and Lorna join our Churchwardens Peter Trewby and Wendy Pritchard, elected members Linda Curran, Sharon Digan, David Frankton, Carole McCormack, Ann Richardson, Stuart Rowan, Isobel Short, and Steph Williamson, along with our Deanery Synod representatives Colin Hicks and Susan Welch, and myself. Our Treasurer Paul Carnell is a non-voting member.

The Richmond with Hudswell PCC will be meeting for their annual Away Day on 26<sup>th</sup> October, to review and to plan. We will review progress made in the three main priority areas identified at the 2023 Away Day, namely to:

- grow spiritually
- extend our community engagement
- increase our income.

These in turn required us to strengthen further our lay leadership and publicity, make our church building fully fit for purpose (e.g. by addressing the need for easier access and better parking), and attract more young families to church life.

With regard to *growing spiritually*, we would offer a Parish Retreat Day – to enable us as a congregation to grow closer to God and to each other and introduce us to new ways to refresh our worship. Allied to this, we were to consider holding occasional special events such as a Pilgrimage Walk and an Easter Day Dawn Service, which would offer Christian fellowship outside of formal worship and thereby extend our Outreach.

Having reviewed our progress we will set and plan new priorities for the year ahead. As the PCC Away Day approaches, please let any of our representatives know your thoughts and ideas.

#### Pilgrimage Walk, Sunday 29th September 2024

The 2023 Walk from Richmond to Downholme via Hudswell was very well supported. It took place on 30<sup>th</sup> September, close to the festival of St Michael and All Angels – the patron saints of our churches in Hudswell and in Downholme. This was



the inaugural walk along a new section of the Camino Route which will link Durham Cathedral and York Minster via Ripon Cathedral. (Extending this route will eventually bring together the St Cuthbert's Way and the St James' Way which leads to Southampton – where a ship to Spain will enable pilgrims to join the Camino de Santiago!)

The 2023 Pilgrimage Walk also officially launched the project which will transform Hudswell church into a hostel for walkers and cyclists. 'St Michael's Lodge' is scheduled to welcome its first guests in Spring next year!

This year's Pilgrimage Walk is being planned for the afternoon of Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September — Michaelmas itself. Please look out for further details!



#### **Christmas Alone?**



The prospect of spending Christmas alone is naturally a cause of sadness for many people. In Richmond, for many years a Christmas Lunch was provided by volunteers in the Town Hall. Anyone wanting company on this special day of celebration and goodwill to all was welcome. We at St Mary's are exploring the feasibility of restoring this event from 2025, in collaboration with the churches of Richmond, the Town Council and other local agencies. If you would like to be involved in any way, do please let me know.

Meanwhile, at Christmas this year – as in any year – if you know of someone who might otherwise be alone, could there be a spare place at your table for them?

With every blessing for this September season of new beginnings,

#### Martín

#### A DAY OF CELEBRATION



Sunday, 30th June '24 was a very special day in the life of St Mary's, for it coincided with the 50th anniversary of Revd Stewart Ridley's ordination as a priest and our welcome to Revd Lorna Heatley as our new Assistant Curate, following her ordination as a Deacon the previous day in Ripon Cathedral. The occasion was marked by Stewart presiding at Morning Worship on that day, ably supported by Lorna and Canon Martin. Our warmest congratulations to them both on these significant milestones in their lives of service.



# Letter from Lorna September 2024



In my last offering into the parish magazine, I wrote that my life was a bit of a constant tug-of-war between me and God as to which of us knew what was best for my life — and I must admit, I have to concede this particular round to God.

Don't get me wrong, I still don't have the slightest idea as to what I'm doing. Every day involves waking up, girding my loins, and then throwing myself bodily into whatever is going on that day and hoping for the best. Not quite a lifestyle I am comfortable with, considering I am, as I say, a chronic overthinker and (a new tit-bit of information for you all) someone whose leadership style has once been described as "steamroller-esque".

But that is what curacy is about — learning. In my first year here, I am a deacon, coming from the Greek *diakonia*, meaning service among others. This is something that I'll never not be: my entire basis for ministry (and the basis of every minister's ministry) will be servitude. Unlike other promotions, when we ascend to the next 'level' of ministry, priesthood, the episcopate, etc., the job just adds more layers rather than changing responsibilities. It's like building a piece of music, though the orchestra playing my life is sounding a touch like a primary school orchestra at the moment (I can say this with confidence, having played in so many in my life).

But I have to say, even with the trumpets of indecision blaring and the violins of knowing what's happening sounding a bit screechy and out of key, I have to give my profuse thanks to you all for sitting encouragingly in the audience, like the loving parents who feign a touch of deafness as I stumble through the first few weeks of a (so far) deeply enjoyable curacy. To Martin, that one music teacher who sits with the band playing wonderfully on, trying to keep me at least in time. My greatest thanks go to God, however, the conductor of this magnificent jumble of sound, who literally knows the score, and yet again proves that he knows where I'm going — even if I myself have no real idea.

So here's to the next chunk – hopefully soon I'll be playing my instrument with some semblance of knowledge, and I thank you all for your encouragement as I learn!

Lorna

#### From the Parish Registers



#### **Baptism**

Evren David Duffield
Lucas John William Walker
Mila Lianna Walker
were welcomed into the Church through Baptism
on 7th July '24

†

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



#### Weddings

On 22nd June '24 Hannah Kate Williamson & Alexander Douglas Hausman Pinto



On 27th July '24
Gemma Louise Holgate
& Lee Daggett

May you all be blessed with long and happy lives together.



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



Joyce Evelyn Wade 7th May Ruth Brown 19th May

#### 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...

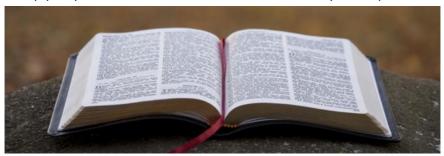
All is well.

#### BIBLE MATTERS

In this series, **JOHN PRITCHARD** hopes to answer a raft of questions that people ask or think when they encounter the Bible. Behind each short answer is a library of deeper and better answers, but he hopes at least to offer some pointers to help us meet and read the Bible afresh - the book that is 'the most owned and least read' book in the world. So let's start with:

#### WHY IS THE BIBLE IMPORTANT?

Many people think the Bible is too long, too complicated, too boring and too irrelevant. We'll look at those issues in different ways in this series, but the main question is simply why should we be interested in the Bible? Why is it important?



#### 1. The Bible addresses the big questions.

It looks at the issues of why we are here, what the meaning of our lives is, how we can live well in our time here, what God is like. We spend most of our time avoiding big questions like these and focus instead — and understandably — on second-order questions of survival and success in our own lives. But these big questions still haunt us, and when our lives are disturbed or broken open by major change or tragedy, such questions assert themselves and demand some kind of response. The Bible is our primary witness to God, and, if the Bible is true, it changes everything — how we look at the world, how we treat each other, the way we should live our lives. CS Lewis said, 'I believe in God as I believe the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because, by it, I see everything else.'

#### 2. The Bible is about you and me.

The people in the Bible are very like us. The issues they wrestle with are the same as the ones we all face – love, peace, violence, happiness, success, freedom, guilt, forgiveness, greed, sex, possessions, truth etc. The people we encounter in the Bible often mess up with these issues, just as we do. We have lots to learn along-side them.

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#### 3. The Bible is historically important.

The Bible has influenced the actions of more people around the world than any other book. In the Western world it has inspired most of the great art, poetry, music and literature of past centuries. It has influenced politicians, writers, revolutionaries, visionaries and prophets. Moreover, along with elements of Greek and Roman practice, it has formed the basis of our western systems of law, politics, education, healthcare, philanthropy and ethical thinking. This is a repository of wisdom like no other. Historian Tom Holland wrote, 'So profound has been the impact of Christianity on western civilisation that it has come to be hidden from view... Incomplete revolutions are remembered, those that triumph are taken for granted.'

#### 4. The Bible is the Word of God.

We'll look another time at what that means, but Christians claim the Bible is more than just another book. It's a book through which God speaks to God's people. It challenges, inspires, thrills, excites and changes those who engage with it. Of course, the problem comes with how we interpret the Bible, because therein lies a can of worms! But the essential fact is that God uses this book to change us. Martin Luther, instigator of the Reformation, said, 'The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me.'



Martin Luther



who said, 'You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilisations to pieces, turn the world upside down and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it's nothing more than a piece of literature.'

Let the final word here be from Mahatma Gandhi, a Hindu,

Is that true of us?

John Pritchard

Mahatma Gandhi



#### SAINTS AND MARTYRS

One of the most gruesome events in Richmond's long history took place in Newbiggin in this month almost 470 years ago. The story of what happened to the Snell brothers is recounted by **CHRISTINE PORTER**, so look for the commemorative plaque if you are down that way.

#### Richard and John Snell: Martyrs of Richmond

Over the centuries our now Protestant church of St Mary's has witnessed both joyous and solemn occasions: weddings, baptisms and concerts; funerals and commemorations. But none has been as tragic as a recantation service held there in

September 1558 — and what followed shortly afterwards was truly shocking. The 16th Century was a tumultuous time. In the 1530s and 1540s, Henry VIII had broken away from the Church of Rome and had imposed a new Protestant faith. In 1553, however, his daughter Mary ascended to the throne and re-imposed Catholicism. The purpose of the recantation service in 1558 was for two devout Protestants, brothers Richard and John Snell, to recant their Protestantism in St Mary's Church and avow allegiance to Roman Catholicism.



**Queen Mary Tudor** 

Eighteen months earlier Richard and John, hard-working and peaceable weavers from Bedale, had been locked up in the town gaol (jail) in Newbiggin for rejecting the theology and rituals of Rome — as far as they understood it, for they were both uneducated men. So hideous were the conditions in the gaol that their toes had rotted off. Dr John Dakyn, Archdeacon of the East Riding and Rector of Kirkby Hill between Richmond and Ravensworth, was responsible for ensuring everyone in the region was following Catholicism. He had been ordered by the Archbishop of York to root out heresy in the diocese, and was a powerful and feared man who had previously made all heretics recant. After Richard and John Snell's eighteen months' imprisonment, Dr Dakyn thought they would have learned their lesson and come to their senses, so he organised the special service in St Mary's Church, where they could publicly recant.

When Richard was asked to recant his Protestantism he refused, shouting "sacrilege!" and "blasphemy!" throughout the proceedings. He was promptly returned to gaol, to await his fate.

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His younger brother John, however, did recant and was released. Immediately afterwards he was taken in by John Acrigge, one of the priests who had conducted the service. The priest acted on an injunction the congregation had heard minutes earlier: "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law." The priest cut John a walking stick from an elm tree outside the church and gave him a bed in his own rooms alongside Trinity tower in the marketplace.



John Snell stayed there for three days, coming to believe that he was a traitor to both his God and his brother. On the fourth day, completely distraught, John struggled down Cornforth Hill, turned left along the riverside path and, when he reached the waterfall, threw himself into the fast-flowing Swale. His body washed up underneath Catterick Bridge four days later.

Dr Dakyn felt humiliated by his failure, in front of the townspeople in St Mary's, to break the will of Richard Snell, the most obstinate man he had ever met. Richard could scarcely stand, but still he defied Dakyn when, at an excommunication hearing a week or so later, the latter challenged him to say when he had last confessed to a priest. "I'd sooner confess to a dog than a priest," Richard replied. As a result he was sentenced to be burned to death.

On the morning of September 9th 1558, large crowds gathered in Newbiggin near the town gaol. At dawn, four butchers, chosen by lot from the members of their guild, had sprinkled gunpowder on top of straw and faggots around the base of a 10ft oak stake embedded deep in the cobbles and fitted with an iron collar. Tar had been spread thickly around. A wagonload of twigs and greenery was piled nearby.

The hired butchers joined in the Sheriff of Yorkshire's procession of guards, jailers, churchmen, bailiffs, town officials and 12 halberdiers which accompanied Richard Snell from the prison. Richard seems not to have resisted, as he was padlocked, waist-high in kindling, to the stake.

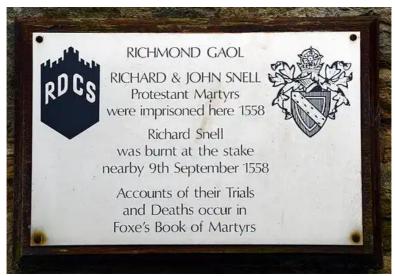
Dr Dakyn addressed the onlookers on the necessity of believing in the power and authority of the Church of Rome and of Queen Mary, if they were to inherit eternal life. His harangue and a listing of Richard Snell's heresies lasted nearly an hour. Eventually, Dakyn thrust a crucifix into Richard's face and offered him a last chance to repent. The defiant Richard replied: "Do your worst, false priest!"

On Dakyn's orders, the butchers poked a burning torch into each corner of the

pyre. As the flames leapt up, they added greenery and, amid his cries of "Christ help me!", Richard began to suffocate in the thick smoke. One voice in the crowd, that of another weaver Richard Atkinson, rang out loud and clear: "Hold fast there and we will all pray for thee." At these words many in the crowd sank to their knees. As the fire took hold, Richard Snell gave a final piercing scream and lost consciousness.

Dr Dakyn was unwell the following day and his condition quickly grew worse. Two months to the day after the terrible martyrdom in Newbiggin, the Archdeacon died. As he was convulsed by final seizures, servants heard him claim that he was being choked by smoke from Richard Snell's pyre. A week later, 'Bloody Mary' was also dead. Richard Snell was the only man to be burned at the stake in the North-East of England. South of the River Trent, nearly 300 people had been executed on Mary's orders.

Today on the corner at the west end of Newbiggin, there is a dentist's surgery in a former police station. Next door is the Old Gaol where Richard and John Snell endured their eighteen-months' ordeal. A plaque on the Old Gaol now commemorates Richard's martyrdom, which took place close by. After Mary's death on November 17th, she was succeeded by her half-sister Elizabeth I, who promptly proclaimed that the country should return to the Church of England. Had the condemned Richard Snell been imprisoned a few weeks longer, he would have escaped his gruesome fate.



Christine Porter

#### WHAT HAS THE PCC BEEN TALKING ABOUT?

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) meets every 2 months to consider and discuss matters relating to the workings of our Church. **JOHN**PRITCHARD has kindly summarised the Minutes of the meeting on 17th July '24 to keep us up to date with what is happening.

**Membership:** 16 members were present. Lorna Heatley was warmly welcomed and Reuben Digan was co-opted as a teenage member.

**School governorships:** It was agreed that Julia Chapman and Lorna Heatley should be put forward as potential governors of SFX and Trinity Academy respectively.

**Safeguarding:** Jan Beeton is in the process of being appointed as Safeguarding Officer. Our church policy has been reviewed and approved. The Safeguarding team are meeting soon.

**Admission of Children to Communion before Confirmation:** There have been no objections to this policy being implemented.

**Privacy Notice:** There was a discussion about how up-to-date we are in our privacy policy, especially now that we record our services. This will be a major agenda item at the next meeting.

**Video report:** Lorna Heatley will be compiling a video report of the various church groups, which will be on Facebook and in print in due course.

**Step-free access and disabled parking:** There have been two objections to the removal of a grave tablet. This is being tackled with the help of the Archdeacon.

**Christmas lunch:** The idea of running a Christmas lunch in the town hall was discussed with the help of Georgie Sale who had much experience of such events. The issues to be resolved included having a chef with an NVQ in food safety; transport and entertainment; as well as who the lunch would be for. It was decided that 2024 was too soon for such a venture, but members of the church would be encouraged this year to look out for people to invite to their own Christmas lunch.

**Ukranian support:** Local Ukranians are very grateful for both the regular and occasional use of the church for meeting and conversation, and for concerts.

**Team updates:** These were received from a number of teams, but it was noted that there wasn't a team on community engagement, an issue to be discussed at the Awayday in October.

Next meeting: 18 September '24

John Pritchard

#### REMEMBER, REMEMBER THESE DATES IN - SEPTEMBER

As daylight hours become noticeably shorter, **JIM JACK** has once again been trawling his calendar to seek dates of particular significance. From church to secular, from ecclesiastical to quirky, there's a fair selection here — starting with a couple of significance for our benefice.

For our own benefice church of St Mary's, 8th September has greatest significance. It is on this day that the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated. In both eastern and western Churches, Mary has always been held as pre-eminent among all the saints for her unique, extraordinary privilege of being the mother of the One who was both God and Man.

The gospels of Matthew and Luke give Mary most mention. Luke even tells the story of Jesus' infancy from Mary's point of view. Her Song, or *Magnificat*, appears in Luke 1:46-55. But after Jesus' birth, Mary fades quietly into the background. During Jesus' public life, she is mentioned only occasionally, as, for example, at the wedding at Cana. She reappears at the foot of the Cross (John's Gospel), and is given into John's care. In the early chapters of Acts, Mary is with the Apostles, and received the Holy Spirit along with them on Whitsunday. But her role was not the active one of teaching and preaching.



**Blessed Virgin Mary** 

Mary's significance grew with the centuries. By the fifth century she was called *Theotokos*, The Mother of God, and from the seventh century onwards, she was given four festivals: the Presentation in the Temple (2 February), the Annunciation (25 March), the Assumption (15 August) and her Nativity (8 September).



Shrine at Walsingham

Devotion to Mary has played an enormous role in the church down the years. Mary has been the object of countless prayers, accredited with performing many miracles, and the subject of thousands of artistic endeavours. She has had hundreds of chapels or parish churches named after her. Principal Marian shrines of today include Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal), and Walsingham in Norfolk, England.

#### DON'T FORGET ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

For Downholme Church and the now closed church in Hudswell, **29th September** will be their noteworthy day as the festival of St Michael or Michaelmas.

St Michael is an archangel, whose name means 'who is like unto God?' He makes various appearances throughout the Bible, from the book of Daniel to the Book of Revelation. In Daniel, he is 'one of the princes' of the heavenly host, and the special guardian of Israel. In Revelation, he is the principal fighter in the heavenly battle against the devil.



From early times, St Michael's cult was strong in the British Isles. Churches at Malmesbury (Wiltshire), Clive (Gloucestershire) and Stanmer (East Sussex) were dedicated to him. Bede mentions him. St Michael's Mount in Cornwall was believed to commemorate a vision there in the 8th century. By the end of the Middle Ages, St Michael had 686 English churches dedicated to him.

In art, St Michael is often depicted as slaying the dragon, as in the 14th century East Anglican Psalters, or in Epstein's famous sculpture at Coventry cathedral. St Michael's most famous shrine in western Europe is Mont-Saint-Michael, where a Benedictine abbey was founded in the 10th century.

The 'All Angels' bit of this feast-day was added in 1969, when Gabriel and Raphael were included with St Michael.

#### THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

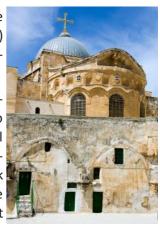
On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them — the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem

#### **AND SECULAR DATES?**



**Harry Potter** 

Not so many this month — although children will be pleased to fit in Harry Potter Day on 1 September before they go back to school. When they do go back, I'm sure their attention will be drawn to Read a Book Day on the 6th before International Literacy Day comes around on the 8th. For the older members of the community, Trekkies won't need reminding that the same date is also Star Trek Day. If you tackle our puzzle page on a regular basis, why not save it until the 9th which is International Sudoku Day.

More literary activity is featured on the **13th** with **Roald Dahl Story Day** (promoting reading and raising money for Roald Dahl's favourite children's charities) and **Read an E Book Day** on the **18th** ... but don't forget **Teddy Bear Day** will have already been and gone on the **9th**, when we're all asked to appreciate the companionship a teddy bear gives, so make sure you give it a hug if you still have one!

Other than teddy bears, there are not many animal awareness days in September — other than **Red Panda Day** on the **21st** and (perhaps not for farmers) the annual **International Rabbit Day** on the **28th**, when we're asked to celebrate 'the value and contribution that rabbits make to our lives.'

On a more serious and highly relevant note, there are awareness days in Septem-

ber which draw our attention to the challenges facing the global community. A full fortnight (9-22 September) is devoted to the work of Fairtrade, high-





lighting the difference which fair

trade can make to lives and to communities across the world. Also at international level, **2-6 September** has been designated **Zero Waste Week**, when there will be a social media campaign to increase recycling and reduce landfill waste. The **UN International Day of Peace (21 September)** is one to which we can all subscribe.

The month reaches a watery end with **World Rivers Day** on the **29th**, encouraging the improved stewardship of rivers around the world (water companies take note) and **World Maritime Day** on the **30th**, when we're asked to focus on the importance of ensuring the safe and fair treatment of maritime workers of all nations.

And can I finish with our five-year-old grand-daughter's favourite joke — Why are pirates called pirates? Because they Aaaaarrrrr! (Swing your crooked arm across your midriff at the same time). Save it for **19th September** — **'Talk Like a Pirate Day.'** Shiver me timbers! Who knew? Roll on October.

Jím Jack

#### FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S -1





#### NOTES FROM THE PAST

Boundaries are frequently a matter of much debate and dispute, especially when it is proposed to move them. Here, **JANE HATCHER** reflects upon a number of changes which have affected our area and recounts the story of a dispute with unfortunate consequences.

#### **Boundaries - Where Should They Be?**

The newspapers recently included much coverage of the event, 50 years ago on April Fools Day, when all local authorities were reorganised, and their boundaries re-drawn. The changes thus enacted are still bitterly resented in many areas, such as those where some places were 'moved' from Yorkshire into Lancashire [how could they, such a travestry!] Some new 'counties' were invented, such as Humberside and Cleveland, which proved very unpopular, and in subsequent years these were quietly dispensed with.



And only a year ago we lost the district name Richmondshire, introduced in 1974, when in 2023 it was swallowed up into one big North Yorkshire Council.

But church boundaries and jurisdictions have also changed over the years. Here in Richmond for 10 years now we have come under the Diocese of Leeds. Before that for a few years we were in the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds. And for many years before that it was the Diocese of Ripon, which had been created in 1836.

And yet I can go back further than that, for as part of Henry VIII's reformation, he created the new Diocese of Chester in 1541. It was under this jurisdiction that an important part of Richmond's historic economy functioned, lasting almost three centuries, when ecclesiastical courts and offices were based in Trinity Church in the Market Place. Our medieval predecessors in St Mary's probably found it much less confusing when they were simply part of the Archdiocese of York.

Where boundaries lie have caused many legal problems over the years. In the time of the first Queen Elizabeth there was a long-running argument about some land just north of Richmond. It resulted in hotly contested law cases, which must have cost various parties a lot of money. What was at issue was not just who would receive rent from a farmer using that land for crops or grazing, or whatever, but what at the time seemed a much more important question. Was it within the

parish of Richmond? Or did it belong to Aske, which lies within the parish of Easby? What was really at stake here was whether the parson of Richmond, or the

parson of Easby, was entitled to the tithes of that piece of land.

Tithes were a percentage of produce from land, usually a tenth, and paid in kind, perhaps grain, or maybe even hens. Tithes were part of a system dating back to medieval times, or perhaps even earlier, which produced income for clergy and the church. Neither the Richmond nor the Easby incumbent in this case was willing to give up what



Collecting tithes in times gone by.

he regarded as rightly his. Frustratingly, I'm afraid, there doesn't seem to be any record of the outcome of the ensuing lengthy legal proceedings.

This Elizabethan tithe dispute might seem typical of many cases still reported today, which an outsider might think could have been settled sensibly and at much less cost. But another issue over parish boundaries in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was a much sadder affair. This concerned the murder of a man called John Moore which occurred on 16 December 1758.



18th Century brassware

John Moore lived at Gilling West, and by trade was a brazier, he made domestic articles in brass. That Saturday he had had a stall in Richmond market, as he did each week, and being just before Christmas, he had had a good day's business. But afterwards, as he was on his horse heading for home, at about 7pm, when it was of course dark, someone shot him, causing him to fall off his horse. Then the miscreant finished him off with a beating, stole his bag of money, and disappeared into the night.

The dastardly deed was committed on the road leading from Richmond to Gilling, somewhere near Olliver Ducket. Other travellers discovered the body on the road, and raised the alarm. The body was moved off the road so that a surgeon could examine it, and the matter was reported to the Mayor of Richmond, among whose many responsibilities at the time was as Coroner for the Borough.

The Mayor in 1758, Henry Lanchester, hastily summoned an inquest, and the jury brought in a verdict of murder by persons unknown, and John Moore's body was

laid to rest in the churchyard at Gilling West. Then a question arose as to where, precisely, the murder had taken place, and it was realised that the crime had actually been committed 60 yards into the lordship of Aske. Poor John Moore's body was therefore dug up, and another inquest was held by the Coroner for the North Riding. This reached the same conclusion, and John Moore was buried for the second time at Gilling West.

The sad story led to funds being raised to offer a £50 reward to find the culprit or culprits. This was advertised in the *London Gazette* in the name of no less a famous person than William Pitt the elder, soon to be Prime Minister, and it was supported by local landowners the Earl of Holderness and Thomas Yorke. Sadly nothing came of this effort, and no one was ever charged with the offence.



William Pitt the Elder

In recognition of the efforts made in and around the town to find the perpetrator, however, a wealthy kinsman of the poor brazier, George Moor of East Witton, presented to the Mayor and Corporation of Richmond a silver cup as a tribute to the town's efforts to identify the perpetrators. That is still in the town's collection of civic plate.

John Moore's tombstone is sited quite near the South door of Gilling Church. It is inscribed with a lengthy account of the murder:

Unto the mournful fate of young John Moore, Who fell a victim to some Villains power, In Richmond Lane, near to Aske Hall, 'tis said, There was his life most cruelly betray'd, Shot with a Gun by some abandon'd Rake, Then knock'd o' th' head with a hedging stake, His soul I trust is with the blest above, There to enjoy eternal rest and love; Then let us pray his murderer to discover, That he to justice soon may be brought over.



Jane Hatcher

John Moore's tombstone in Gilling Churchyard

# THE STATION Singers

#### **ENJOY SINGING?**

If you do, why not consider joining the Station Singers? All are welcome, and this term's concert will be supporting our step-free access project.

#### Why not join us this September?

The Station Singers consists of three community choirs under the musical direction of Carol Gedye. We rehearse once a week during the Autumn and Spring, leading up to performances in St Mary's Church, Richmond. This term our concert will be 'A Popular Christmas' on Saturday, 14th Dec. 2024, in aid of the Friends of St Mary's Church and their project to create step-free access to the church.

Our new term starts on 18th and 19th September. There is no audition and anyone who likes to sing is welcome to join.

Platform 1 meets on Wednesday 18th Sept. from 9.30 until 11.00 at The Station (Mixed Voices)

Platform 2 also meets on Wednesday 18th Sept. from 11.15 until 12.45 at The Station (Mixed Voices)

Branch Line meets on Thursday 19th Sept. from 19.45 until 21.15, with social time beforehand from 19.00 at The Town Hall (Women's Voices)

New members should just turn up for a free taster session on 18/19th September and we hope that you will become part of our community. The autumn term fee is £72. We offer a reduced subscription if you genuinely need financial support.

Visit <u>www.richmondstationsingers.co.uk</u> for further details. Just go to the Join Us section from the menu.

We look forward to welcoming you into one of our choirs.



#### BRANCH STRIKING COMPETITION

Not, as one might suspect initially, a trade union event, but a local Bell-ringing competition in which St Mary's very creditably managed to enter two teams. **GRAHAM ROGERS** has kindly provided an account of their day and how they fared.

St Mary's bellringers were very well represented at the annual branch striking competition, which was held at the delightful parish church in Barton on Saturday 29 June. It was fitting that that the event took place on Armed Forces Day, since Barton's six bells are dedicated to the "Barton Lads" who gave their lives in the two World Wars. Fitting, too, in as much as a striking competition sometimes feels akin to "going into battle".

Nine teams of ringers turned out on the day, from locations spread over Cleveland and North Yorkshire — Gainsborough, Ripon, Grinton amongst others. St Mary's Richmond managed to organise two teams for the occasion, which testifies at least to the numerical strength of our "band".



Each team has a short period for practice to sort St Cuthbert's with St Mary's Church, out the geography of the ringing chamber; ad-

just to the weight of the bells; and to get the gremlins out of the system. "Things can only get better", I hear the bells sing.

Then things start in earnest. The competition itself is organised into two sections; teams which ring "methods", and Sunday ringing teams who ring "call changes". But definitions of these terms are unnecessary. Quite simply, the objective of the competition in each section is to ring the bells for about 4-5 minutes, with as few mistakes as possible i.e. the judge awards faults when the bells clip or clash with each other, or where the rhythm of the bells is broken. Clearly, the team with the fewest faults carries the day.

It is challenging and a little nerve-wracking, especially for those who are not used to having their ringing put under the spotlight and subjected to the scrutiny of their peers and a very experienced, critical judge. But it is also good fun. There is a lot of friendly banter, beneath which there is equally an earnestness to do as well as possible and hopefully come out top of the pile. St Mary's teams gave of their best, but finished somewhat at the lower end of the pecking order. Whilst

gritting my teeth, I was reassured that the taking part is what matters. Northallerton, unsurprisingly, emerged as the clear winners in the more advanced section: "Almost perfection" declared the judge. The afternoon was completed by retiring to the local hostelry for the results and refreshments. It occurred to me that a pint before proceedings commenced



Not our team!

might have steadied the nerves. On the other hand, bells and beer make unhappy companions.

A very good day in every respect. Above all, the event celebrated the fact that bell-ringing is alive and well, both at St Mary's and across the county. Finally, many thanks to members of our Richmond team – John and Susan Welch and Chris Ibbotson – who organised the ringing of the day and managed the finances. We are also very grateful to Chris and Pat Jones, who made it possible to hold the event at their lovely church and make use of their delightful and forgiving bells.

**Graham Rogers** 

#### FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S - 2

Over the period of the last issue, there were a number of events which made further contributions to the Step-Free Access Project, probably totalling over £1000. The Town Hall Coffee Morning was well staffed by church members and attendance increased as the morning wore on. A quirky part of the raffle was a donation of a cucumber by Linda Curran, brought by her to give to someone who hadn't arrived. When the draw was made, Linda won — her cucumber! As the intended recipient had now arrived, it was immediately handed over. Thanks to all who helped, especially David Frankton who masterminded the flow of refreshments.

Linda's Open Garden morning was also well attended. Thankfully, the poor weather forecast didn't materialise and so a busy morning – outside and in – ensued. Thanks to Linda for making her lovely garden available for others to share. The detailed financial outcomes of this event, coupled with the McCormack's Coffee Morning and the latest Blues in the Pews (August 16) are not available at the time of writing, nor the Plant and Produce sale, but all of these events are likely to add about £2,500—£3,000 to the appeal.

The only event in September is the popular Quiz night on 7 September. Tickets are now on sale — see overleaf. Thanks for your continuing support.

Jim Jack

## Friends of St Mary's Church Richmond

# Quiz Night

Town Hall Richmond Sat 7th September 7:00 pm

With Top Quizmaster Dave Tucker

Bar, Raffle, Play Your Cards Right Tickets £10 including Pie and Pea Supper

(Vegetarian Option)
Tickets available in advance from :
Castlehill Bookshop,

# Prizes (Top Prize £50)

Call 07974766020 for Details

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk



#### 60 SECOND INTERVIEW

Where would we be without the man who quietly and unobtrusively produces the weekly PowerPoints which grace our Services?

This month, **DAVID BUCKINGHAM**, our tech wizard, answers the questions posed by **John Pritchard**.

First memory? My childhood clock.

**Favourite meal?** Fajitas, or anything with a Yorkshire Pudding.

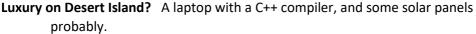
Favourite music or musician? Drum & Bass, Culture Shock.

Pet dislike? Incompetence.

Best holiday? Isle of Man.

Childhood hero? My father.

Favourite hobby? Hockey.



Recent TV you've enjoyed? Andor.

**Worst fault?** Easily distracted from that which matters.

2 best films ever? Ocean's Eleven, Children of Men.

**Favourite drink?** 1698, a strong ale.

Regret? One big one.

**Best recent book?** Data-Oriented Design by Richard Fabian.

Favourite charity? Dogs Trust.

**Place you feel happiest?** Marloes, Pembrokeshire.

**Three dinner companions?** Jonathan Blow, Casey Muratori and Jeff Roberts.

What do you pray for most? My family, old and new.

**Traditional or new Lord's Prayer?** Traditional.

**Epitaph?** I had to look up what that meant.







#### CHARITY OF THE MONTH

Dementia Forward is North Yorkshire's leading dementia charity. Here, WENDY PRITCHARD shares a personal experience and, as we have a local Day Centre here in Richmond — Garget Walker House — she invites us to support their invaluable work.

We all forget a name or a face sometimes, especially as we get older. But dementia is something different: it's one of the biggest health and social care challenges of our time. Dementia is not a natural part of ageing and it doesn't just affect older people — over 70,000 people under the age of 65 in the UK have it. Memory problems are just one of a number of symptoms that people may experience. Others include difficulties with planning, thinking things through, struggling to keep up with a conversation, and sometimes changes in mood or behaviour.

My mother had dementia. It started suddenly when she was eighty, so if I'm like her, I have six good years left. It was probably vascular dementia caused by a series of strokes, not Alzheimer's, but although there are many different causes of dementia, they all have similar outcomes. My father looked after her at home for seven years, but then she had a big stroke which took away the use of her legs, so she had to go into a nursing home for her last eighteen months. My father visited her every day on the bus, fed her meals to her, sang to her and showed her photos



A recent fund-raising event

of the family. We took her small grandchildren to see her in the nursing home and, although her language by then was very limited, she smiled constantly at them and said 'Beautiful'. By the time she died she could only say one word — my father's name — which she shouted with open arms when he visited. She thought I was a nice person, but didn't know who I was.

Before all this started, my mother had been a teaching assistant at the local primary school, had run the Sunday school at our church, had been on the PCC, made lovely tapestries and was outgoing, friendly and chatty. As her illness developed, she still wanted to communicate, but didn't always have the ability to

form ideas, so she would read a shoe catalogue to me over the phone. I loved her dearly, even when she did the dusting with the inside of a toilet roll, polished her nails with a conch shell and insisted on wearing white gloves round the house. You just had to go with the flow.

There were day-centres nearby that could give some respite to the family by taking dementia patients for a day. My mum was banned from one of them for wandering off onto the road outside looking for my dad. She was banned from another for hitting a fellow dementia sufferer with her handbag 'because she kept pestering me'. Not much self-awareness there! But a third coped well with her, and gave my dad the chance to do the shopping and to have a weekly game of bowls. The people who ran the centres were kind, understanding and infinitely patient.

Dementia Forward has nine welcoming hubs across North Yorkshire providing day services, among them our local Garget Walker House. This purpose-built house, close to Richmond town centre, has been hosting day services for people in Richmondshire for 25 years. Doris Garget and Kathleen Walker both cared for their husbands and saw the need to provide support for people with dementia, as well as respite for their carers. Dementia Forward has taken over the running of the building since 2021, with trained staff and volunteers, offering crafts, singing, gardening and games.

Dementia Forward also operates a helpline giving much appreciated advice, together with support for families. We probably all know someone with dementia – there has been a 50% rise in the number of people diagnosed with it from 2010 to 2022. This charity is really worthy of our support, as are all who have this condition. And if you think you might be suffering from dementia, do please visit your doctor or phone Dementia Forward to get help and support. Don't just hope it will go away by itself, when there are people out there waiting to help you.



Refreshments served in St Mary's after the Charity Walk

Wendy Pritchard



Helpline Open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm

03300 578592

#### GRAND DAYS OUT

Whilst his two replacement knees are working well for him, **JIM JACK's** Grand Days Out need to be interesting places and in the open air, with relatively even tracks or well-surfaced paths. Slopes are OK if not too severe — and a café for a cup of tea at the end as a reward is always a hoped-for bonus. And not too expensive. So when 'What about the Botanic Gardens?' was suggested, thoughts of Kew, Edinburgh or Glasgow were far too far away. 'No, not that far,' was the reply, 'Durham.'

So it was that he and Jan set out one morning, heading northwards to the award-winning University of Durham Botanic Gardens. What would they find there — apart from the café?

'Well, this is it. Never knew this existed in Durham,' was my first reaction as we pulled into the car park. Whilst I might not have known of the existence of Durham University's Botanic Gardens' existence, car registration plates from France and the Netherlands indicated that others from further afield were far more aware.

#### **HISTORY**

The first university botanic garden was established in 1925 in the grounds of the university near the Science Laboratories, but the need for more buildings meant that the garden was gradually taken over by concrete and brick. This led to a decision to re-locate to the present site in 1970 to allow undisturbed development. Although initially a 'closed' facility, it was decided to allow public access, with a purpose-built Visitor Centre (opened by Dame Margot Fonteyn in 1988) signalling its availability to the whole community. Over 80,000 visitors now take advantage of the invitation each year.

As well as a study and visitor facility, the garden applies the principles of conservation and bio-diversity in its own land and environmental management. Bird hides, feeding stations, bug hotels and bat boxes can all be found in the garden, while a flock of rare-breed sheep graze the arboretum and wildflower meadows.

#### **GAINING ENTRY**

Tickets from the ticket kiosk are at the relatively low cost of £5.00 per adult (£4.50 concessions, U16 free). It was a Monday, however, so the RHS annual pass meant no cash changed hands — even for the sheets which offered a quiz trail and a science trail and for the helpful site map.



Emerging into the gardens themselves, we were faced with a colourful display of plants in large pots and an open terrace area full of tables and chairs, with the sound of running water from a landscaped pool at the end of the visitor centre/café terrace.



Deciding to follow the tarmac path in an anti-clockwise direction (it's probably as rebellious as I get!), we started on a gentle downward incline with well-manicured lawns on our left and the first in a succession of metal artworks, which are placed in different parts of the 10 hectare site.

As with many such gardens, Durham is divided into distinct areas devoted

to plants and trees from different parts of the world. Many of these have been gathered over the years for research purposes for the university Botany department, but they provide a very pleasant and interesting variety of scenery on a walk through the grounds.

This is obviously a working garden, with brief information boards at points on the Science Trail explaining the type of work which used the species on display. An example which caught my eye was near a small copse of hornbeam trees. These were being studied for biomimetics apparently.

The helpfully written information board explained that biomimetics was how technologists and scientists studied how the incredibly compact natural emergence of the leaves had been used to see how nature 'packs' the leaves in such profusion in such a small space. An example of its use is how nature's way was replicated by space scientists in devising methods by which solar panels and instruments could be packed for transit, before being triggered to unfold and present wide surface areas when deployed in space! Science mimicking nature.



As well as coming across points on the Science trail in no particular order (we picked up a Science Trail questionnaire at the end of our visit — not the best way to do it), there were also waymarks on a quiz trail. These posed questions about nature or about objects on the way, which may be targeted at the younger generation but, in reality, suit all ages. A wooden post with a series of numbers set out (quiz trail H) caught Jan's attention. The quiz sheet (also obtained at the end of our visit!) set a question for children to answer about the numbers on the post, but Jan had already started to speculate, however, whether it could have been a change-ringing sequence! (Watch out, bell ringers!).

#### **GARDEN, GROVE AND MEADOW**

And so our visit of exploration progressed — through the arboretum, alpine garden, bamboo grove and down to a stone bridge, across which lay open meadowland and a hillside upon which an experiment was being conducted on how best to plant and nourish a copse of trees to produce the best outcome for the climate. Straight ahead was an area of native woodland, with a variety of specimen trees and shrubs. This was entered by going underneath a striking metal sculptural arch representing harebells and fungi.

A steady climb back up the hill brought us past a friendship circle of eleven benches set in a leafy glade — great place to stop, sit and contemplate and a place to put some of John Pritchard's 'Pathways in Prayer' from last year's magazines into action, as the afternoon sunshine broke through the leaf cover, creating a lovely dappled effect on the circle itself.

No botanic garden would be complete without glasshouses, and this one is no exception. Much smaller in scale than its metropolitan counterparts in Scotland and London, the tropical plants on display and the humidity gave the visitor an even warmer experience



than outside. The experiment with playing tropical thunder sounds fooled us sufficiently to believe that there had been a sudden and unexpected change in the weather outside — although we did resist the temptation to press the button which invited us to create a tropical rain shower as we left, in case the next group of visitors might be unwittingly soaked as a result of our climatic intervention!



So there you have it. An oasis of calm and interest in our nearest university city, combining interest and easy learning in a natural environment. Reasonably manageable walking, with artwork round many corners and well worth a look. We were told that the nearby Oriental Museum was also worth visiting, but tea and cake called. Enough walking for one grand day out. Keep the Orient for a wet day later in the year.

Jim Jack

Location: Hollingside Lane, South Road, Durham DH1 3TN

Distance: 26 miles

Travel time by car: 35 mins

**Parking:** Free. Spaces for about 35 cars on site. Leave car registration at Visitor Centre to avoid parking ticket. See website for full access details re. paths and hills.

**Directions:** A1(M) north. Take A177 junction to Durham City to traffic lights at the cross roads which has University Science buildings LHS and a pub on RHS. Turn left here and go up the hill past Grey College. Take signposted left turn to Botanic Gardens near the top of the hill.

**Admission**: Adult £5.00; over 60 £4.50; children U16 free of charge. Free to RHS members every Monday and first Saturday of every month. **NOTE**: Dogs (other than assistance dogs) not allowed.

Opening Hours: 10.00am-4.30pm March—October, 10.30am-4.00pm November—February

Café, picnic facilities and Toilets: All on site

**Paths:** Tarmac or level unsurfaced. Some slopes and grass paths through woodland areas.

Website: https://durham.ac.uk/things-to-do/venues/botanic-garden

#### OUR FOREBEARS

The step-free access project, which is about to begin, can only be achieved by moving some of the ancient memorials. **JANE HATCHER** has been researching their background and has discovered that this has probably happened before.

St Mary's is currently intending to improve paths into the church, through its 'Access for all' scheme. As part of this plan, a few of the churchyard tombstones will have to be carefully relocated, and I was asked to investigate if I could find out to whom they had belonged, and anything about the people commemorated on those memorials. Who were they, and what of their lives?

This turned out to be a fascinating exercise. Some I already knew about, others I had to research from scratch. It turns out that they are in many ways a typical sample of individuals from parishioners of any age, including our own, though they mainly came from the Georgian era. Some belonged to families well established in the town, while others had come to Richmond from elsewhere. And, in some cases, this is not the first time that their resting places have had to be disturbed.

For example, a well-established family was commemorated by a sandstone chest tomb which probably had the longest memorial inscription in the churchyard. It is now hard to read, but it was recorded by Peter Wenham in the 1970s. In fact it described members of the Thompson family who died between 1758 and 1871.

They lived at the bottom of Barate, and were probably the only Richmond family who inhabited the same site for at least 200 years, though they would rebuild their home at least once during that time. Their house is now divided into Numbers 6 and 7 Cornforth Hill, but was originally one large house.

They were a prosperous merchant family of glovers, who would later describe themselves as gentlemen. Each succeeding generation seems to have been called William. They became active in civic life, and at one time a William Thompson senior was on the Corporation alongside a William Thompson junior.

Timothy Hutton of Clifton Castle was a close friend of the William Thompson of his time in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and often stayed with him on Cornforth Hill when attending events in Richmond. Late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century a younger son of the family, Francis, became known as 'Matebele' Thompson for his exploits in Botswana, though he was not buried in Richmond.

Next to the Thompsons' chest tomb in the churchyard was another, with elaborately panelled sides. This one took quite a bit of detective work on my part as its inscription was already almost illegible when Peter Wenham recorded it in the 1970s. It turned out that this memorial was to members of the Rodick family who died between 1777 and 1790.

William Rodick was a wealthy linen draper who came to Richmond to trade with the well-to-do Georgian residents who would require linen, not only for sheets and towels, but also to make shirts and underwear to go under their fashionable outer clothes.

#### The Rodick box tomb

This has been dismantled as the path will run through it.. The components will be incorporated into the new steps, as it was considered unsafe to re-construct it. The top, with the legend, has been relaid as close to the original position as possible.



But why was the Rodick chest tomb in such a prominent position next to that of the well-established Thompsons? The answer is that William Rodick had had the good sense to marry Catherine, the daughter of William Thompson, who would have been able to introduce him to all the 'right people'!

An upright tombstone nearby was set up to commemorate Isaac Hodgson, about whom nothing seems to be known except that he died on Christmas Eve 1806. However, his daughter Sarah had in 1795 married William Terry, and they presumably commissioned his tombstone, for the rest of its now partially illegible inscription related to them and their family.

From the tombstone inscription, Richmond's parish registers, and other sources, it has been possible to piece together William Terry's interesting story. He was a watchmaker who had moved to Richmond, where the prosperous inhabitants and visitors would provide him with plenty of business. He was not entitled either by birth or apprenticeship to be a Freeman of Richmond, but he nevertheless rose to hold the position of Mayor of the town, and as a step towards this he was paid a great compliment. On 5 May 1806 he was specially made a Freeman by the Corporation, as they "wished to promote trade by encouraging industrious and skilful tradesman to settle here".

It would seem he was a popular individual, for he soon not only became a member of the Corporation, and then an Alderman, but was chosen to serve as Mayor in

1818. Furthermore, he served a second term as Mayor in 1824, though this time his election was not without incident. In those days, two candidates were proposed, for one to be chosen by their fellow aldermen. A leading member of the Corporation wrote to a friend on 24 January 1824 "our Mayor was chosen last Thursday and in the evening there was a complete riot. A straw effigy of one of the unpopular Aldermen was hoisted on a pole and the mob paraded round the streets with drum and fife till they were dispersed by the Constables. Mr Terry the watchmaker was the successful candidate."



The William Terry Memorial

Now re-positioned by the

Churchyard wall near

Church Wynd.

The parish registers show that William and Sarah Terry had several children, but the first Terry burial recorded on the tombstone notes a sad event, the death of their infant daughter Harriet. She was born in September 1818, when her father was Mayor for the first time, as is noted in the parish register, and Harriet died at four months old in January 1819, just as he handed over that office.

Harriet's birth must have taken place when Sarah was about 40, for the tombstone next commemorates her death in April 1832 at the age of 54. The monumental mason employed by William Terry to carve this inscription seems not to have been very satisfactory, for he spelled her name Sarrah, and originally carved the date as 1819. This of course was the year of Harriet's death.

Such mistakes are relatively few in Richmond churchyard.

The next part of the inscription marks the burial in 1848 of William Terry, aged 74. He must have been 4 years older than his wife. The last entry on the tombstone is the death of a second William Terry, at the age of 63 in 1859. He was William and Sarah's first-born child, born a year after their marriage. He too became a watchmaker, and also married a lady called Sarah.

At the time of this second William's burial, Richmond churchyard would be greatly disrupted by the major Victorian restoration of St Mary's. The church was closed from June 1858 until it re-opened at Easter 1860, so it would have been a building site when he died on 20 March 1859. Indeed, the burial could not take place until 4 April. It would therefore seem likely that, when this tombstone was taken down to allow William's grave to be dug, and for his inscription to be added, it was not exactly in the place where it had originally stood.

#### MY BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS

The Station is one of the recognised recent successes of developments in Richmond. With its mix of food outlets, films, arts exhibitions and restaurant, it is one of the most visited tourist attractions in Yorkshire. One of the original food production and retail businesses which has been an evident contributor to the Station's popularity with residents and visitors alike is the artisan bakery Angel's Share. **JIM JACK** visited recently to find out more about this well-loved local enterprise.

#### **BREAD OF HEAVEN?**

There are few more inviting aromas in a kitchen or a store than the smell of freshly baked bread. The placing of the 'fresh bread' section of local supermarket Lidl close to the entrance is probably no coincidence, psychologically creating a feeling of freshness of product as the consumer enters the store. At the Station in Richmond, whilst the bread is not at the main entrance, the 'heavenly' aroma of



home-baking certainly drifts along the platform, enticing visitors to drop in.

Entering the unit, the production of bread, scones and other sale items can be seen, as owner Alex Franks and her staff mix and work doughs and ingredients; move a range of breads and pastries into and out of ovens; and prepare the fruits of their labours for sale over the counter or delivery to a range of local restaurants, stores and functions' organisers.

The term 'Angel's Share', however, is one associated with whisky production, not bread-making. When the distilled liquor is decanted into casks to mature for a number of years, evaporation leads to an approximate 1% loss — for the angels, is the legend. So what's the link? Not a bottle of whisky in sight and no evaporation loss evident in artisan bakery work.

'It's a tribute to my dad,' Alex explains, 'He loved a tot of malt whisky.' As a father, he always supported her, but also made her think clearly about what she wanted to do and why. With this influence in helping to create a head for business; her mother's hard work in catering for events; and her husband, Jay's, unstinting support, the platform for the establishment and development of the local service business we see today was laid. 'When I look back, I think I'd always wanted to run my own business,' Alex ventures. 'I'd always seen my Mum baking and preparing food

for weddings and other events, and helped out when I was younger.'

#### **FOOD — AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE**

It wasn't the accepted route of catering college or apprenticeship, however, which brought Alex to her present situation. 'A' levels at Richmond School in the 1980s were followed by a degree in French and German at Newcastle University. This had involved the need to improve her spoken French before starting the course. To do this she spent a number of months living in France, and then a year -out in Germany as a teaching assistant as part of her studies. In both cases, her time abroad furthered her interest in baking, using methods which differed from those she had observed here.

The distinctive texture of French baked goods, she discovered, was due to their milling process, which involves a slower grind than in the UK and therefore has a softer texture. This produces a soft, fluffy texture in bread and pastries.

In Germany, by contrast, rye, spelt and multigrain flour is often used, which produces a denser, healthier and tastier loaf when used in bread production. Using steam in the oven also produces a crustier loaf.

#### MORE INTEREST THAN A BANK

This acquired knowledge was not of immediate use to the young Alex, however, whose degree won her a job in the Bank of Scotland based in Threadneedle Street in London. She enjoyed the work, but the post also required further study for her banking exams. This, in turn, involved travel to courses in Edinburgh on a number of weekends. She hadn't lost her interest in food, however, as evidenced by an appearance on 'Masterchef'' (although she didn't progress past the first round). When a third set of banking exams loomed (after 4 years of exams at university), Alex decided that it was time to put away the calculator and pick up an apron full-time. Working with mum and enjoying baking, suggested baking and catering would be the route into self–employment, so she decided to look for a business of her own back in Yorkshire.

Whilst an enquiry about a possible opportunity in Harrogate was coming to naught, she discovered that someone who her mother supplied on Grange Road in Darlington was retiring and looking to sell up. Although expecting their first child at the time, Alex and Jay

Alex with her mum

decided it was worth a go.

With fresh eyes and enthusiasm, the business quickly flourished, increasing the range of food on offer. The greatest success at the time, however, was in making and selling fresh sandwiches and take-out drinks to the lunchtime trade, in a period when there was little competition in this type of business.

#### PLATFORM FOR A NEW BUSINESS

It was after a second child had arrived that Jay spotted that the Station in Richmond was seeking tenants for the units being created in this new community venture. Alex was excited by this idea: given her background and experience, opening a specialist artisan bakery in one of the units in her home area lacking a local specialist baker offered new opportunities. What also interested her was the concept that the units had to be food production units, where the work of the tenant would be seen. The stipulation that only 30% of the output should be sold across the counter, the rest being supplied to trade customers in the local area, also appealed. She is quietly proud that she has maintained this balance throughout her tenancy at the Station.

Fresh bread would be the cornerstone of the new business, with up to five different types on sale each day. The employment of Sylvia, a German national married to a serviceman on the garrison, brought the skill of making German-style crusty bread to the menu. The popular loaf is still on sale today, named the Lancer after Sylvia's husband's regiment.

Alex freely admits that the early months were a learning process for her. The creation of original breads and pastries was a challenging mix of trial and error alongside the safer recipes, many of which were based on family recipes handed down through the generations. The rule of thumb was – and is – to give a new type of product three tries. If it isn't selling well by then, it doesn't appear again. This is applied across the range of in-house baked products on



**Succulent Cumberland Pie** 

sale at Angel's Share. The big successes which have made their way on to the 'regular' list are such things as the frangipan tart; the Cumberland pie; their own takes on Fat Rascals; and chocolate brownies.

In creating new lines, the artisan bakery has taken into account changing legislation as well as practical issues. From ensuring that there is guidance regarding food allergies, to making baking products that are portable so that they don't fall

apart in the bag' takes planning, time and care. The beautiful looking large tarts especially need careful packing. Whilst vegetarian and vegan requirements can be met, Angel's Share cannot offer gluten-free products because of the wheat flour which may be circulating in the atmosphere. Being an artisan baker needs the fulfilment of a number of criteria. First among these is a limited amount of machinery and automation in 'production'. The visitor can see this first hand, as Alex and colleagues cut and shape pastry,



Di checking the ovens

knead dough and add fillings. This concentration on quality control through direct contact with the baking process has come at a price. The regular kneading of dough has caused arthritis in hands and shoulders through kneading, lifting and transfer into ovens. Despite this, Alex has shown a dogged determination to meet the commitments made on becoming a tenant at the Station. One of the grant funding requirements for the trustees was that the units were to be let to create employment opportunities, and this has been achieved, together with the other stipulations mentioned earlier.

#### TASTES OF ITALY, YORKSHIRE AND SCOTLAND

The Angel's Share was also offering a small range of high-end, less perishable, delicatessen products with a strong Italian or Yorkshire base. When the adjacent unit became available, Alex took the opportunity to extend the range of product to freshly-baked foods, again with their own unique combination of flavours, although Alex confesses to the successful introduction of Scottish oatcakes and haggis flavoured crisps, which are both going down well too!

The challenges of COVID required Alex to furlough some staff and reduce opening times, although throughout the epidemic she continued to serve from the back door in the fresh air every weekend — albeit with a limited range of products.

#### **AS SEEN ON TV**

A totally different challenge was presented when Angel's Share was invited to take part in the ITV programme *Britain's Best Bakery*. 'Initially, I thought this was a wind-up,' but Alex, and long-serving staff member Di, took up the challenge and the team surprised themselves, getting right through to the final. Although a great experience, and a feather in the cap for our local business, it was additional to the daily load of serving customers. Having to travel to London by train carrying ingredients for the next baking challenge, was just something else to overcome.

#### **RISE AND SHINE**

A typical working day involves getting up before 7.00 a.m. and getting into the Station by 8.00. The first job is to work on the fifty loaves of five different types of bread, for which work on the dough has already been done the day before. Having been put into the retarder/prover the previous day to enable the dough to rise, the prover clicks to zero, thus lowering the temperature. This suspends the process until 5.30 a.m. when the prover clicks on again and the oven starts up automatically. The fresh bread is ready by 9.00 a.m. and warm for first customers. At least one choice of loaf is based upon an order received from the previous day.

With up to 3 staff making baked goods, the Angel's Share moves on to batch-baking of cakes, savouries, biscuits and patisseries, fulfilling local orders and to be ready for over-the-counter sales.

It's clear that the work is hard and physical. As with other small businesses we have featured, there is a particular guilt about taking holidays. Alex used the phrase 'I've been naughty,' when talking about taking a day off (other than regular



A selection of baked goods

Monday closing). She handles the food side of the business: husband and ardent supporter, Jay does the invoicing and the books — a true local family business. They're about to be 'very naughty' by taking a four-day break in the Autumn.

I'm sure that no-one served by this distinctive local business of taste would begrudge them this break from being 'behind the counter' or in the heat of the kitchen. (According to Genesis, even the Lord rested on the seventh day!). The chances are that, even away from home, Alex will be following the advice in a favourite piece of hers by Baz Luhrmann, whose short title is 'Sunscreen' — 'do something every day that scares you.' *Angel's Share* has constantly tried new things and offered new treats. This local bakery is more than just a source of our daily bread.

Jim Jack

#### THE 200 CLUB

Congratulations to our latest Winners:

July — no: 19 — Margaret Squires

August — no: 182 — Elizabeth Bassingdale

#### NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

As one of the prettiest plants in any garden or greenhouse, the fuchsia has long been a gardener's favourite. With umpteen combinations of colours and a profusion of long-lasting blooms, the many varieties add a touch of the exotic to any situation. No wonder **WENDY PRITCHARD** finds them so delightful.

The nights are starting to draw in now and there's a chill in the air overnight. But the fuchsias have been in flower for weeks now and are still going strong, so they fully deserve to be the stars this month.

Fuchsia is so hard to spell! 'Fuschia' seems so much more logical since we pronounce the name like 'fewsha'. They were discovered and named by the French plant hunter Charles Plumier, a monk and botanist who made 3 trips to the Caribbean and South America. He found begonias, magnolias and, in 1695, discovered a new plant on the foothills of Hispaniola (nowadays Haiti & the Dominican Republic). He named it after his hero, Leonhard Fuchs, (1501-1566), a German physician and botanist.

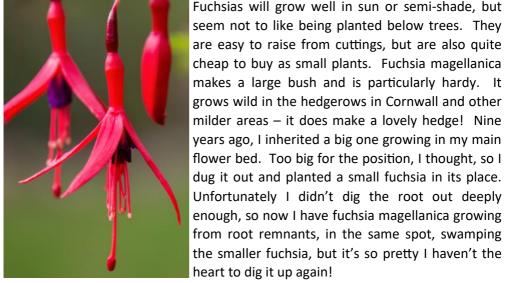
Apparently, the plant samples and seeds Plumier collected in Hispaniola were lost in a shipwreck, so actual fuchsia plants didn't reach the UK until 1788. In the early 1800s, many more fuchsia species reached the UK from South America and a plant-hunting and hybridising craze soon began. Almost 110 species of fuchsia are recognized now, most being native to South America, a few coming from Central America, and also several from New Zealand. One New Zealand species is a tree, growing up to 15 metres tall!

Fuchsia colours can be red, purple, pink, salmon, magenta and white with various combinations of these. The flowers can be simple or over-the-top frilly. The



showiest fuchsias, however, aren't hardy and will be killed if left outside over winter. Those described as 'hardy fuchsias' have been chosen because they have survived at least 3 normal British winters – and there are over a hundred of these to choose from. They have different growth habits from bushy to trailing, and have heights from 20 cm to 4 metres, so

choose with care! In a hard winter they will die back, but should shoot again from the ground by the following June – so don't give up on them too soon.



seem not to like being planted below trees. They are easy to raise from cuttings, but are also quite cheap to buy as small plants. Fuchsia magellanica makes a large bush and is particularly hardy. It grows wild in the hedgerows in Cornwall and other milder areas – it does make a lovely hedge! Nine years ago, I inherited a big one growing in my main flower bed. Too big for the position, I thought, so I dug it out and planted a small fuchsia in its place. Unfortunately I didn't dig the root out deeply enough, so now I have fuchsia magellanica growing from root remnants, in the same spot, swamping the smaller fuchsia, but it's so pretty I haven't the heart to dig it up again!

Fuchsia magellanica

#### Wendy Pritchard



Warm Welcome is now in its second year and continues to provide 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 Monday, Wednesday, and

Friday each week, and we have relied on our rota of loyal volunteers. We are continuing through the summer and, from May, we will be open on Monday and Friday mornings, from 9.30am to 12.30pm in the Methodist Church.

Volunteers are needed to welcome visitors, and to provide hot drinks and snacks. This remains 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 Dr John Ridley (Tel. 01748 818653, or by email: JohnRidley7449@aol.com).

Thank you.

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



Usually last Sunday in every month
Next service — 29th September
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www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

LOUNGERS! (The Ladies' Group) Usually, last Friday of each month

From 7.30pm in the MORRO LOUNGE
Richmond Market Place
Next meeting:
27th September '24



## THIRST! (The Men's Group)

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

Next Meeting at

The Town Hall Pub & Dining, Richmond

5th September '24



#### WORD SEARCH

#### **MICHAEL and ALL ANGELS**

The Church remembers angels this month, with the feast day of Michael and All Angels on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The Bible is full of angels, where they often had a key role in crucial events. It seems that Michael is their leader, an 'archangel'. In stained glass he's often seen with a sword, because in the Book of Revelation he leads the angelic host who fight and defeat Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, angels make numerous appearances. Just two examples: Gabriel was sent to Mary to announce the coming of her baby, Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. Another angel was sent to sit in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there — He had risen (Mark 16:5)!

Michael

ΑII

**Angels** 

Key

Crucial

Leader

Stained

Glass

Sword

**Angelic** 

Host

Defeat

Satan

**Appearances** 

Gabriel

Mary

,

Baby

Jesus

waiting

Angel

NIATSLES KANGELS  $\mathsf{E} \mathsf{A}$ ACSSR B A B

#### Sudoku - Easy

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

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#### Sudoku - Medium

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

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"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."



The vicar's scheme to make the church more appealing to men seemed to be having a degree of success

#### 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 (01748) 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.

We are refreshing the **Prayer Circle**, an email-based anonymous group of church members who commit to pray when specific prayer requests are made, usually for named people. These can be relatives, friends or acquaintances, who may not even live in the area, but who would appreciate confidential prayer. No prayer request is ever too small or trivial. Whatever you wish to share, in confidence, we will support you in prayer.

If you would like prayer (or to be a pray-er), please contact **Anna** via boyceadl11@ gmail.com



#### Puzzle Solutions

#### Sudoku — Easy

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

#### Sudoku — Medium

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

#### Wordsearch



Deadline for October '24 edition; Friday 13th September. To contribute letters, articles, etc. please contact connections.ed24@gmail.com or 07866 033263

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