

CONNECTIONS

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

November 2024



Price £1.80

Silver Award 2024

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

www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk

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CHURCH SERVICES — St MARY THE VIRGIN, RICHMOND with Hudswell

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

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CHURCH SERVICES AT DOWNHOLME

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

THE PARISH OF ST EDMUNDS, MARSKE

CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Warden	Ruth Tindale	(01748) 823371	Skelton Lodge, Marske
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PCC Secretary	Andra Sisons Ham		andrakrumins@gmail.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**

I suspect that most of our readers know by now that *Connections* recently achieved the Silver Award in a national competition for Church magazines, but more of that later. I have to admit that it is very gratifying to have such recognition, and is a real 'feather in the cap' for our Benefice.

November is traditionally a month for remembrance, so we mark it not only with our front cover, but also with another article from the Green Howards and a poem from George Alderson. Jim Jack has provided another collection of dates for the month, some of greater significance than others, and also draws our attention to the activities, and successes, of the Friends of St Mary's. There is an update on the progress of the Hudswell Project, now to be known as St Michael's Lodge, and Judith MacLeod shares her memories of Whitby and its Abbey. As usual, John Pritchard has been very busy and, as well as another in his series of Bible Pointers, he provides some enlightenment on the background to the current awful conflict in the Middle East. He has also summarised the 'doings' of the PCC; gives an appreciation of Bishop Tim Dudley-Smith, one of the great hymn-writers of modern times; and manages a 60 Second Interview with Steph Williamson. Carole McCormack reviews a rather different Memorable Manuscript; Jane Hatcher takes a look at Milestones; Judith Barber recounts another Norwegian Adventure; and Jennifer Williamson has contributed some news from Marske. With Martin's Message and details of our next Charity of the Month, we hope you find this issue both interesting and informative.

With your magazine this month, you should also receive a yellow letter inviting you to subscribe to *Connections* for another year. Unlike most other things nowadays, the price remains the same — £15 for 10 issues — which represents a 20% saving on the individual cover price. We do hope you will continue to support us, and will encourage other to become subscribers, by completing and returning the form in the envelope provided. Early returns would be appreciated, so we know how many to print.

Finally, a quick reminder that the next issue will be for both December and January, so if you have any items relating to the early part of next year, please make sure we receive them in good time.

John McCormack

**Cover photo by Jim Jack
'Unknown Soldier' sculpture in RHS Rosemoor Gardens, Devon**



Martin's Message

November 2024



Connections: our nationally recognised community magazine

As you can read elsewhere in this magazine, *Connections* has won a national award! Many congratulations to our Editorial Team of John McCormack, Jim Jack, Bishop John Pritchard, Christine Porter, Carole McCormack, and Judith MacLeod. On behalf of the estimated readership of 700 from across our communities, I would like to thank the team for all they do for us. Please give them every encouragement when you can – which will include paying your 2025 Subscription at the earliest opportunity!

Access for All: open to all

As I write, work on the level access to the south porch of St Mary's church and the disabled car park at the Rectory is nearing completion. The plan was to be ready for Remembrance Sunday and it now looks possible that we will be open to all earlier than that.

The official opening is scheduled to take place at the 10.00am service on Sunday 15th December, when we will invite our patrons and other special guests to join us. In the meantime, and again on behalf of everyone in both the church and wider communities, I would like to thank our Access for All Project Team: Steph Williamson, Peter Trewby, Linda Curran, Graham Barber, Gill McLean, Andy Lovell, David Frankton, Jan Beeton, and Neil Stevenson – along with our architect Louise Priestman, building contractor Staley Stonework, Diocesan Registrar David Whitaker, the Friends of St Mary's and each of our generous donors.



Thank you also to **you** for your patience during these last two months as the work took shape.

The works — nearing completion

November: a time to remember

This month features the annual season of remembrance – which includes **All Saints’ Day** and **All Souls’ Day** as well as **Remembrance Sunday**. All Saints’ Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God at work. It is an opportunity to give thanks for that grace; to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that sanctity may grow in ordinary circumstances as well as extraordinary crises. All Souls’ Day celebrates the saints in a more local and intimate way. It allows us to remember with thanksgiving those whom we have known more directly: those who gave us life, or who nurtured us in faith.



So this is a time to remember the people we love but see no longer, who live on in our hearts. On Sunday 3rd November the annual **Service of Light** at St Mary’s (at 2.00pm) will be complemented by a similar service at St Edmund’s in Marske (at 11.00am). We will have an opportunity to light a candle in memory of our loved ones, and to hear their names read during the service.

The short period between All Saints and Advent is sometimes known as the **Kingdom Season**, culminating with the festival of **Christ the King** (24th November). It is a time to recognise the present reality and acknowledge the coming fulfilment of God’s Kingdom.

Poignantly, the post-Communion prayer often used on Remembrance Sunday is:

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

It is fitting that this year the theme of the Sunday between Remembrance Sunday and Christ the King will be **Safeguarding**. Our Safeguarding Team (Jan Beeton, Pamela Holland, Anna Boyce and myself) will explain our collective responsibility as a church community to uphold and maintain best practice in protecting anyone who is vulnerable. And that can be anyone at any time.

Richmond with Hudswell PCC Away Day: postponed

The Richmond with Hudswell PCC annual Away Day planned for October had to be postponed to Wednesday 20th November. The good thing is that this gives us more time to let our PCC – who represent everyone who belongs to St Mary's – know our thoughts and ideas.

The PCC will be reviewing progress made in the three main priority areas identified at last year's Away Day, namely to: grow spiritually; extend our community engagement; and increase our income. These in turn required us to strengthen further our lay leadership and publicity, make our church building fully fit for purpose (eg. by addressing the need for easier access and better parking), and attract more young families to church life. The PCC will then set and plan new priorities for the year ahead. And just so you know, the current members of our PCC are: Peter Trewby and Wendy Pritchard; Colin Hicks and Susan Welch; Ann Richardson, Stuart Rowan, Reuben Digan, Sharon Digan, Steph Williamson, Isobel Short, Linda Curran, David Frankton and Carole McCormack; Lorna Heatley and myself.

The Wednesday 9:15am Holy Communion service goes to SFX school!

On Wednesday 13th November, our 9:15am Holy Communion service will be held at SFX school rather than in church. We have been invited to join Year 10 students who are planning the liturgy and will lead the prayers and the reflection: I will preside. The school look forward to welcoming us, and offering hospitality after the service. All are welcome: please sign in at school reception at any time after 9.00am.

With every blessing,

Martin



Baptism

Enya Robin Appleton
& Eryn Rose Appleton

were welcomed into the Church through Baptism
on Sunday, 6th October '24

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



POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

Perhaps we cannot remember people who were lost in the wars, but we may well remember those who were bereaved, and can reflect on their feelings, which remained with them for decades.

Passing On

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

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

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

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

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

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

George A Iderson

REMEMBRANCE



Remembrance Sunday this year falls on 10th November. The words of John McCrae's 1915 poem '*In Flanders Fields*' are familiar to all, but **STEVE ERSKINE** from the Green Howards Museum has kindly provided the article below, with a lesser-known poem written soon after D-Day, 80 years ago.

Remembrance Day is often marked through the words of Laurence Binyon and his evocation to remember the fallen – *They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old ...* The power of the words serve to give us all pause but, without wishing to detract from the piece, its context is not of impending personal danger or sacrifice: it was written in September 1914 before the stark realities of individual sacrifice and the national quest for the collective and personal reflection, which underpin why we stand before memorials to man's folly.



Sandy Boyle on a hill-walking expedition in 1930

In an example of one man's reflection on himself and life, just before he entered the cauldron of battle, the following poem was written by Major Samuel Malcolm Boyle (known as Sammy or Sandy) of the 7th Battalion The Green Howards shortly after landing on Gold Beach on the 6th June 1944. He sent it to a friend in another regiment.

Major Boyle commanded D Company, and the battalion faced bitter fighting in the Normandy countryside in the days following the D-Day landings. On the 16th of June, the 7th battalion was advancing along the road south-west of the hamlet of les Orailles, with D company one of those leading the advance. They came under attack from German 88mm guns, heavy machine gun and mortar fire. Amongst the dead were the two leading company commanders – Major Boyle being one of them.

"The sudden loss of these two officers had a depressing effect on us all. We were in a very sombre mood." wrote Private Tateson of 7th Battalion.



The simplicity of the words, and the years that have passed since they were penned, have not dulled their power.

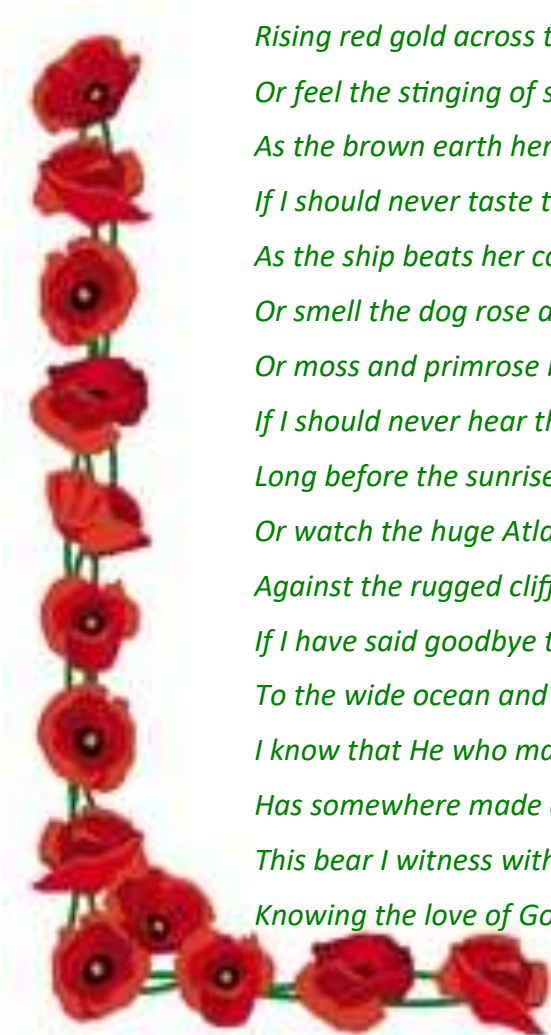
Sandy Boyle is buried in Bayeux War Cemetery. If you find yourself in Normandy, do think about visiting him.

**Headstone in Bayeux
War Cemetery**

Steve Erskine

*If I should never see the moon again
Rising red gold across the harvest field,
Or feel the stinging of soft April rain
As the brown earth her hidden treasures yield.
If I should never taste the salt sea spray
As the ship beats her course against the breeze,
Or smell the dog rose and the new mown hay,
Or moss and primrose beneath the trees.
If I should never hear the thrushes wake
Long before the sunrise in the glittering dawn,
Or watch the huge Atlantic rollers break
Against the rugged cliffs in baffling scorn.
If I have said goodbye to stream and wood,
To the wide ocean and the green-clad hills,
I know that He who made this world so good
Has somewhere made a heaven better still.
This bear I witness with my latest breath
Knowing the love of God, I fear not death.*

Sandy Boyle





Association for Church Editors

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

You may have noticed a little addition to the front cover of our magazine. **JOHN McCORMACK** is pleased to share the news that *Connections* has won the Silver Award in a national competition.

Some people like London, but I'm afraid I'm not one of them. I find it noisy, crowded and impersonal, with everyone else seeming to know where they are going – and in a hurry to get there. So it was with a certain apprehension that I caught an early morning train to the metropolis at the end of September, having been 'recommended' to attend the Annual Meeting of the Association for Church Editors (ACE) in Central Hall, Westminster. With the help of Google maps, I planned the journey carefully: train to Kings Cross, Victoria Line Tube to Green Park, then one stop on the Jubilee Line to Westminster and turn right outside the Tube station. Fine – except that when I got there I found that there are 5 exits from Westminster Tube station, so I emerged not knowing where I was. Thankfully, a demonstration was about to start and there were plenty of Police about, so they were able to point me in the right direction.

Every year ACE holds a competition for church magazines, with the aim of improving their quality. This year it was for colour magazines, so in late-March we had submitted the required 2 issues as our entry, with the results to be announced at the end of the Annual Meeting. As the day progressed, I learned that from about 200 members there had been more than 50 entries and that all the submissions were considered by a panel of 3 judges, who had to score them against 6 criteria:

- Clarity of Christian Message
- Cover Design
- Layout & Structure
- Choice of Headlines
- Use of Graphics
- Appeal to intended readership



There would be a certificate for the best in each category, and then 3 awards – Bronze, Silver and Gold – for the overall winners of the combined categories. Imagine my surprise, and delight, when it was announced that *Connections* was the winner of the Silver Award, because the judges thought the magazine fulfilled its aim to 'produce an attractive, interesting and informative magazine of the highest

quality affordable; combining Christian and secular content; publicising church and community events; acting as an outreach in the community; and appealing to a diverse readership'. If you wish to see what the other winners produce, the Gold Award went to *Hot Pott* from Pott Shrigley in Cheshire, and the Bronze Award to *In Touch* magazine from Otley in West Yorkshire, so the North did rather well this year.



Receiving the Award from Sally Churchus
— Chair of ACE

You may well have seen the framed certificate on the table at the back of the church. I'm so pleased that the award is for the whole of the Editorial Team, for without the efforts of Jim Jack, Judith MacLeod, Carole McCormack, Christine Porter and John Pritchard – and indeed all our contributors – the magazine would not be what it is. In particular, Jim Jack, my predecessor as editor, deserves particular credit, for he created the format and style which I have just inherited.

We hope you continue to enjoy the magazine, will encourage others to become regular readers, and will be willing to offer ideas and/or articles for future editions. We'd love to hear from you.

John McCormack

FROM SIGNS SEEN OUTSIDE CHURCHES

"God Recycles" - He made you from dust

We are Soul air powered by the Son

Under the same management for 2,000 years

Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the snake and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on

There are some questions that can't be answered by Google

Church Parking - Trespassers will be Baptised

Read the Bible - it's user friendly, plus we offer tech support here on Sundays at 10.00am

Source — ACE Monthly Forum



THE HUDSWELL PROJECT

After some frustrating delays, real progress is now being made with this ambitious project, which is now attracting interest from near and far.

St Michaels Hudswell to become St Michaels Lodge

The last article that we wrote about our plans to convert St Michaels Church in Hudswell envisaged that it might be open this year. This ambition was thwarted by the need to submit a second planning application, triggered by our proposal to install solar tiles on the roof of the church, which took almost seven months to be determined. This was finally approved at the end of July and this enabled the internal works at St Michaels Church to begin. The new roof will be installed in the near future. Meanwhile we were able to commission the work on the access road



Access road, cattle grid and dry-stone walling

and car park, which have been built, along with a wider entrance, new drystone walling and cattle grid. Internally, the building has been emptied and the interior walls have been sandblasted back to the internal render. The internal frames for the new rooms are being constructed. We are now aiming to be open for Easter 2025.

A branding exercise has led us to choose a new name for the hostel, which will be known as St Michaels Lodge. This name was chosen, in part because it echoes the names of the other walker's accommodation in upper Swaledale, as those walking the coast-to-coast trail will be able to stay in Keld Lodge, Grinton Lodge and then St Michaels Lodge. We also have a new logo and website to be launched shortly. We will be looking to recruit staff for the hostel (manager, cleaners, receptionist) at



Internal frames for new rooms

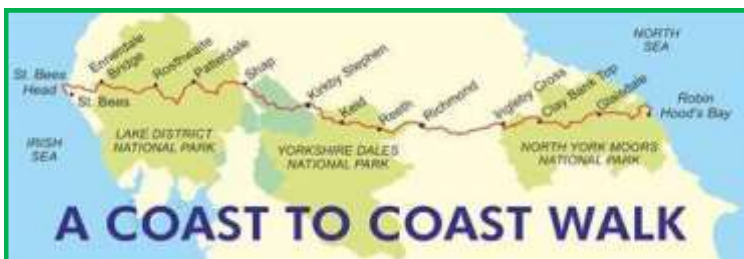
the end of this year or early next year. As far as possible, local trades-people have been used to undertake the conversion work, so that the economic benefit is kept local. In addition to this, volunteers from the village have helped from time to time with labouring tasks, for which we are extremely grateful. As has been reported before, the creation of St Michaels Lodge has also led to the Origins of Hudswell Project, whose latest activity is to fill a Time Capsule, to be buried with the Lodge grounds, with letters, photographs and artefacts from Hudswell today, to be discovered by future generations. An event was held on the 14th September was attended by village children, who wrote letters to future residents about their lives in Hudswell.



Writing letters for the Time Capsule

The pilgrimage walk via St Michaels Hudswell to St Michaels Downholme took place again this year on the feast of St Michael. We hope this will become an annual event. We have been very much encouraged by the amount of local support we have received for both the St Michaels project and our other current initiative to build three new homes in Hudswell. These projects and their related activities have attracted attention and recognition from elsewhere, as is demonstrated by the request from the Historic Towns and Villages Forum to hold a workshop in Hudswell, so that they can learn from our activities. There is also the recent request to feature all these activities in an up-and-coming episode of “Cafe Hope” to be broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Once again, Hudswell is leading the way, something of which we can all be proud.

Hudswell Community Charity Trustees



IT'S A DATE

First of all, a big 'thank you' to those of you who pointed out that I had not given a mention to the anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt last month — a double omission as the date of the battle was 25 October, which students of 'Henry V' will know is St Crispin's Day. We'll store up St Crispin for next year!

And so to November — as the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' becomes more misty and less fruitful, let's cast an eye over the month for dates of greater and lesser import.

LOTS OF SAINTS ON ONE DAY

From the point of view of the Christian church, there is once again a dearth of well-known saints whose commemorative dates fall within these thirty days. All Saints or All Hallows day, however, falls on **1 November**, when **ALL** of the many saints who do not have their own feast day are remembered. Following this is All Souls Day on **2 November**, a day of prayer in remembrance of the 'faithfully departed'. Of the better known saints, Scotland can lay claim to two: of St Andrew (**30 November**) more later, but let us start with St Margaret (**16 November**).

QUEEN MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

On the A1 just South of Edinburgh lies the clearly signposted Queen Margaret University. Obviously a person of significance, but who was she? Some women have power, and some women are good. When a woman with power is also good, she can achieve an astonishing amount.

Margaret of Scotland has been called 'The Pearl of Scotland', but she began life in Hungary about 1045. She was born to the expatriate English prince Edward the Exile, and so was an English princess. The family returned to Wessex in 1057, when she was 13, and, following the death of King Harold at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, her brother Edgar Aetheling should have been King of England, but he was never crowned. Instead, the family fled north to Scotland, where she was married to Malcolm III of Scotland by 1070. As a Scottish queen, she went on to become mother of three kings of Scotland, and a queen consort of England.

Margaret was a Christian and became a good friend of Lanfranc, a future archbishop of Canterbury. Her biographer tells of how she read narratives from the Bible to her



**Margaret arriving in
Scotland
(William Hole)**

husband, thus helping to ‘civilise’ him. He was illiterate, but so admired her reading that he had her books decorated with gold and silver. She was also credited with helping her youngest son, the future King David I of Scotland, towards becoming a just and holy ruler.

Margaret introduced the worship and practise of the Church of Rome into Scotland. She also wanted to help the many pilgrims travelling in Scotland, and so she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth, which is where the towns South Queensferry and North Queensferry got their names.

Margaret performed many charitable works for the poor, and she interceded for the release of English exiles who had been forced into serfdom following the Norman conquest. She also began the restoration of Iona Abbey.

In private life, Margaret spent much of her time in prayer, using a cave on the banks of the Tower Burn in Dunfermline as a place of devotion and prayers. St Margaret’s Cave is still there today, covered beneath a municipal car park. Margaret died on 16 November 1093, and in 1250 Pope Innocent IV canonised her. Her relics were dispersed after the Scottish Reformation, but at one time Mary Queen of Scots is said to have owned her head. She is remembered on **16 November**.

ST. ANDREW, PATRON SAINT OF SCOTLAND

According to the gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first two disciples whom Jesus called — ‘Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ (Matt 4:18,19). Without more ado, they obeyed — ‘At once they left their nets and followed him.’ The story is touching for the simple but total faith that they had in Jesus.

Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew’s name is always in the first four. Rather than a boisterous leader of men (like Peter), he seems to have been an approachable person who wanted to help people.



It was Andrew who helped introduce a group of Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-2) and who also offered Jesus the five small barley loaves and two small fishes when Jesus told his disciples to feed the five thousand. (John 6:8) His faith in Jesus over small things was richly rewarded, and this faithful, kindly Galilean fisherman turned disciple went on to become one of the twelve apostles of the Christian Church.

Andrew never settled back in Capernaum by Galilee. Instead, his ‘fishing for men’ seems to have taken him far and wide. One ancient tradition links him with

Greece, where both Scythia and Epirus claimed him as their apostle. Another place in Greece, Patras in Achaia, claimed to be the place where Andrew was eventually martyred (c 60 A.D.). Like Jesus, he was crucified, but the story goes that during the two days it took him to die, he preached earnestly to the people about Jesus. He was not afraid of death on a cross – he had seen it before, and knew one thing for certain: because of Jesus, there was nothing but eternal life ahead of him.

LINKS WITH SCOTLAND — CLEARLY NOT GOLF

According to one ancient legend, his remains were taken from Patras to Scotland in the 8th century, and ended up in Fife (the St Andrews area), where a church dedicated to him was built. This became a centre for evangelisation and later of pilgrimage. As Andrew was the only apostle to make it as far as Scotland, he was chosen as patron saint.

But Andrew did not stay in Scotland. After the fall of Constantinople in 1204, it is said that the Crusaders took his relics to Amalfi. From there, the despot Thomas Palaeologus sent his head to the Pope in Rome in 1461 – where it became one of the most treasured possessions of St Peter’s – until it was sent to the church in Constantinople by Paul VI.

In art, Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross in the most ancient examples. The saltire cross, ‘X’, commonly called St Andrew’s Cross, and which represents Scotland on our Union Flag, was associated with him from the 10th century.

DIWALI

For those of the Hindu and Sikh faiths, **1 November** marks the start of Diwali – the Festival of Lights – marked by feasting, dancing and fireworks and the lighting of traditional Diwa candles.



NOVEMBER — SPECIAL DAYS FOR FOOD



November seems to be a great foodie month. Those who eschew, rather than chew, meat will be aware that **1 November** is **World Vegan Day**, whilst meat eaters can use **World Jellyfish Day (3 November)** to prepare for **Roast Dinner Day** on **4 November**, perhaps with a delayed wash down on **5 November** with a glass of dark beer on **International Stout Day**.

Whatever the inclination, all can come together – vegan, carnivores and game-

eaters — on **9 November** for **British Pudding Day** (no doubt having paused on **7 November** to hug a bear (stuffed not real!) on **Hug A Bear Day**.

And just when you thought that there could be no more food to celebrate, **Home-made Bread Day** comes round on **17 November** (go on, get kneading the dough), followed by the sweet-toothed **National Gingerbread Day** on **21st** (do the people of Grasmere know?). **23 November** is the healthier **Eat A Cranberry Day**, before we arrive at **Stir-Up Sunday**, the traditional day for Christmas pudding preparation on **24 November**.

REMEMBERING THE HUMAN CONDITION

Away from food, there are a number of very important human care awareness times marked in November. **4-9 November** focusses on giving awareness and direction to anyone specifically seeking work in 'green' industries with **Green Careers Week**. **6 November** is **Stress Awareness Day**, after which the spotlight falls more on child needs with **Anti-Bullying Week (11-15 November)**. The following week contains **Odd Socks Day** and **Universal Childrens' Day (20th)**, named by the United Nations as the day on which all things embodied in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child are supported and planned for.



Sandwiched into this period is **World Kindness Day (13 November)**, when we are especially encouraged to make sure we carry out at least three acts of random kindness on that day. Ending the same seven day period is **World Hello Day on 21 November**, encouraging people to greet others in the community – that's if you can tear yourself away from the TV, as it is also **World TV Day**, a United Nations selected day to mark the role of TV in people's lives.

And talking of TV, did you know that **23 November** is **Dr Who Tardis Day**? Or that it starts **National Tree Week**? Or that it's the day before **Stir-Up Sunday**, an essential part of preparation for Christmas? And as the month draws to a close, another important preparatory day on the **29th** – **Spend Nothing Day**.

So there we have it. All the way through the month and no mention of Guy Fawkes, whilst Remembrance is covered elsewhere in these pages. I'm off to see if I've missed any battles this month. Hope not. See you in December? It's a date!

Source — The Parish Pump , with extra bits from Jim Jack

TIME OF MY LIFE — 2

A couple of years after their daughter, Julie, married her Norwegian husband, Kristian, (as related in our last edition) **JUDITH & GRAHAM BARBER** paid them another visit, part of which was a 'walk' in the Jotunheim region of Norway. As Judith explains, perhaps it wasn't quite what they were expecting!



Judith, Julie and Graham at the start of their walk

In June 2002, Graham and I both enjoyed another Norwegian adventure with our daughter, Julie and our son-in-law, Kristian in the Jotunheimen National Park. We were to climb Besseggen, the 'goats back' mountain (5361ft), which inspired Grieg to write Peer Gynt and is one of the most popular hikes in Norway. Although we were a little out of practice following the Foot and Mouth outbreak the previous year which had closed the Dales for months, they assured us it was quite straightforward and 'everybody does it', so we were reasonably happy to join them.

After driving up to the area we slept in a "Hytte" (a cabin or Bothy) and next morning, having left the key and rental money in an honesty box,

we drove to Gjende lake to begin our 14-mile hike at 9.00am. The weather was beautiful as we set off to climb the 2000 feet to the top of the ridge, mostly walking, but with some serious scrambles up rock faces. There were snowfields to negotiate where the



The Hytte



In places, more of a scramble than a walk!

spring sunshine hadn't warmed the ground, and we walked gingerly to avoid breaking through the icy crust and sinking waist deep in the snow. Alarmingly, we could hear rushing water beneath us on occasion, as the melting snow drained away to fall over the precipice down to the lake a thousand feet below.

We were following a single set of footprints and freshly painted waymarks on the rocks. The only living thing we

saw all day was a lone reindeer high up on the mountain, and the only sign of humanity was one small boat chugging along the lake far below us. Once past the summit on the long ridge, the route descends sharply down a rocky spur towards Bessvatnet lake at 4500 feet, which was still frozen near the shore. Avoiding this meant more climbing to get over to the track which leads eventually down to the ferry landing on Gjende lake, arriving at the far end of the circular walk at 5.30 pm.

From late June – 3 weeks *after* we did our walk – and throughout July, a ferry runs along the lake and takes walkers back to the car park at the other end. We knew when we set off, however, that we'd have to walk back again, so we fortified ourselves with hot dogs and coffee cooked by Kristian and sat beside the small collection of deserted "hyttes", where people can stay overnight in June and July, before beginning the long trek back along the shoreline.



Ridge above Bessvatnet lake

That was by no means straightforward either!

There was often no shoreline path and our route kept climbing high over spurs which plunged straight into the lake with no possibility of skirting around them.

There were many streams to cross where icy torrents crossed our route. Some were crossable by rickety, makeshift bridges, but others presented something of a challenge. There was one particularly daunting one where a more substantial looking bridge was lying down below in the lake, where the torrent had dumped it. I could not jump from rock to rock across a twelve-foot width of fast, icy, white water, so I took off my shoes and socks, rolled my sleeves up and crab-walked on all-fours with water up to my knees and armpits. And it was SNOW COLD! Graham had to rub my feet to get the circulation going again.



**Julie & Kristian
on the hike**

We finally arrived back at the car park at 10.30pm and, of course, it was still light. I think what kept me going was the fact that Julie and Kristian had done this walk a couple of years previously and, having missed the boat, had to walk back, so they considered us fit enough to do it too! Plus the fact that Julie was 6 months pregnant this time, so my frame of mind was "Well if she can do it, I

also should be able to!” Graham was a bit harder than me, so was more sure of his stamina. We subsequently discovered that Kristian’s parents had never attempted Besseggen, so we have to confess that a small amount of pride was felt, as well as the satisfaction of having achieved such a hike.

We flew home the next day and, back at work the following day, I literally could not climb the stairs and had to take the lift ... to the first floor!

Judith Barber

**Friends of St Mary's Church
Richmond**

Curry Night

**At
The Town Hall
Richmond**

**Saturday 30 Nov
7:00 pm
Bar**

**Tickets £15 in advance from
Castle Hill Bookshop**

Limited Numbers

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

AN UPDATE

The committee met on 1 October to review events and plan for November. Thanks to your support and the efforts of the Friends up to the end of the third quarter, we are in a position to be holding £10,000 in the bank, which is 'ring-fenced' to cover any shortfall in the Step-Free Access project. It is looking increasingly likely that all of this may not be needed, which means that we would then be able to pay for other improvement work in the church, if the PCC would like us to do so, other than the general running costs of the parish (a restriction placed on us by our Charity Commission-based constitution).

In the past, the Friends have paid for such things as the hot air 'curtain' over the south door; robes for the choir; improvements in the structure of the heating system; and, most recently, has paid the initial £8000 of architects' and other fees to get the Step-Free Access project under way.

BLUES IN THE PEWS

Another good night of music held at the back of church with the George Shovlin Blues Band. A smaller attendance than for previous events, possibly due in part to access difficulties with the South Door being closed, still produced approximately £150 for the Friends, as well as being a great 'outreach' event for the whole community. Please note that there will be no Blues night in November, as the booked band is now unable to come.

CURRY NIGHT — 30 NOVEMBER AT 7.00p.m.



We celebrate St Andrew's Day with a Curry Night! This annual favourite, run by the Friends, is once again in the Town Hall, starting at 7.00 p.m. on Saturday 30 November (See overleaf). Tickets cost £15 per head and will be on sale at Castle Hill Books or from Committee members. Anyone who would like a vegetarian or vegan curry, please contact John Challis (details on the back of the ticket) to place your order. This has proved a popular evening in the past so do book early. See you there!

Jim Jack

NOT AGAIN! WHY DOES IT KEEP HAPPENING?

Who among us cannot be moved and concerned by the conflict in the Middle East, which, at the moment shows no sign of diminishing? So many lives lost, injuries sustained and homes destroyed. To help us understand the background, **JOHN PRITCHARD** shares what he knows of the history of the region over the past 100 years or so.

THE ROOTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

At the time of writing the Middle East is erupting in violence and we can't be sure where it will lead. The violence we are seeing in Israel, Gaza and Lebanon breaks the hearts of all of us who love the region and its peoples. How can we stop this kind of tragedy occurring again and again? (Think of the civil war in 1947, the Six-Day war 1967, Yom Kippur war 1973, First Intifada 1987, Second Intifada 2000 and all the violence in between).

I'm a patron of the Balfour Project, an educational and 'political' charity committed to equal rights for both Israelis and Palestinians, based on self-determination for both peoples – which means Palestine recognised as a nation state, just as Israel has been since 1950. Our contention is that there will never be an end to the violence until its root causes are addressed and we move beyond the sticking-plaster solutions of vengeance.

The crucial question Israel and the international community have to address isn't how to broker cease-fires and contain Palestinian anger, but 'why are the Palestinians so angry?' As long as Israel only thinks in terms of containment, while gradually absorbing Palestinian territory (700,000 settlers so far with the pace increasing), the terrorist extremists amongst the Palestinians will keep recruiting angry young people to the unacceptable goal of driving Israel out of its land.

Especially under Netanyahu, Israel has chosen completely to ignore the root problem and instead has set itself against any move to recognise Palestine as a state. This selective



blindness makes it almost impossible for friendly states such as the USA and the UK to help Israel, except by supplying more armaments that only make matters worse.

Britain has a key role in all this because we are largely responsible for the mess. In 1915/16 we promised the same Palestinian territory to both the Jewish people and the Arabs in exchange for support in the Great War. In 1914, the Jewish population owned 3% of the land and made up 7% of the population. The post-Second World War UN plan gave the Jewish population 55% of the overall territory for 30% of the population (because many Palestinians had fled). By 1949, after the civil war the Israelis had 78% of the land and 700,000 Arabs had been effectively driven out of the land (the 'Palestinian refugees' we hear so much about, many living in refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon). The 1967 war made matters worse as Israel took over what the rest of the world calls the Occupied Territories. The stand-off continues.

The Balfour Project is led by well-informed former diplomats, historians and lawyers. I'm an amateur in this company, but I share a profound desire that both Israelis and Palestinians should live in peace with their human rights guaranteed and their territorial integrity respected. We seek by education, witness and political dialogue to help all the parties to move towards a solution based on the above – which has to start with recognising Palestine as a state, as 130 nations around the world already do. A 'two-state solution' has to be the first step.

Until this root issue is resolved, violence will continue to erupt as angry Palestinians and vengeful Israelis clash in ways which sometimes, as now, get out of control and big powers get drawn in with dangerous consequences. This is a Holy Land for Jew, Christian and Muslim. We need each other. We need peace.

For more information, see: www.balfourproject.org *John Pritchard*



(Image from usatoday.com)

NOTES FROM THE PAST

In our fast-paced modern times, it is so easy to overlook signs which have been in place for ages and were so useful to previous generations. Sadly, many are now overgrown or so lichen encrusted as to be almost illegible, but **JANE HATCHER** tells us about some local ones and may tempt you to go looking for them.

How Many Miles to Richmond Town?

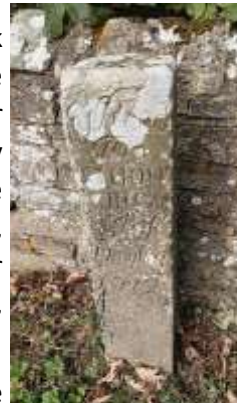
Why hasn't this been made into a popular song?

In days gone by, Richmond was one of the most important market towns in the North Riding, attracting both sellers and buyers from miles around, especially for commodities such as corn and cattle as well as general household shopping. So it is hardly surprising that at least two surviving ancient guide stones directed travellers to Richmond, as well as to other nearby market towns.

One such stone is set at a crossroads along what is now a back road between Ripon and Bedale, and it is inscribed with the place-name split over two lines, *RICH MOND*. Another is near Middleham in Wensleydale, opposite the entrance to Danby Hall. The stone has five sides. One points to the hall as the home of its squire, Simon 'Scroop' as it is spelled on the stone, or more usually now Scrope, who was clearly responsible for erecting the stone. The other faces direct travellers to Bedale, Ripon, Richmond and Leyburn.

Both these stones bear the date 1712, and would appear to be the result of the North Riding Justices of the Peace somewhat belatedly responding to a 1697 Act of Parliament which had advised them to erect stones to guide travellers to market towns.

Somewhat later in the 18th century, the demand for improved roads led to the creation of 'turnpike' roads. A turnpike road required an Act of Parliament for a Trust to take over a section of the king's highway, and to provide funds, raised by local trustees, for improvements to, or sometime rerouting of, a main road. To recoup the trustees' costs, charges were levied on users of the road, and for the distance being travelled. To avoid arguments as to how far a journey really was, mile posts were erected at mile intervals along the road, following a tradition begun in Roman times.



**Stone opposite
entrance to
Danby Hall**

The charges were collected at toll houses, where the road was barred with a 'pike', which was turned, or lifted, for the user to pass through, hence the term turnpike road. Charges varied according to the use being made of the road, so each horse pulling a coach or cart might be charged 9d, or a horse, mule or donkey on its own 7d. Those walking also had to pay, unless going on an unavoidable journey, such as to a funeral, or military service.



Inscription on downstream parapet of Green Bridge

The first turnpike road starting from Richmond was authorised in 1751. It was for a largely new road from Richmond to Lancaster, then an important port on the west coast, through which cotton was being imported from America. And that is why on Richmond Bridge, the old bridge near The Green, there is carved the inscription

To Askrigg 18

To Lancaster 56

Miles

Askrigg, then a market town with a significant textile industry, was considered a convenient staging post on what was quite a hazardous high-level route over the

Pennines. The first toll bar on that route was next to the Holly Hill Inn.

Richmond was also soon connected to the Great North Road at Catterick Bridge by the road running eastwards through Brompton-on-Swale. Richmond had another turnpike road connecting it to the Great North Road further north, at Piercebridge on the River Tees. This was turnpiked in sections, starting with the length from Richmond, through Gilling West, to a crossroads where the road to Aldbrough St John met the old Roman Dere Street, later the Great North Road, and now the B6275 as the A1 has a revised route.

This crossroads had been marked by a medieval cross, known as Lowsey Cross. That old name was later interpreted as Lucy Cross, and there was a coaching inn called The Lucy Cross at the crossroads. It is now a farmhouse of that name. So the road was called the Richmond to Lucy Cross road. On Gilling Road, one mile away from the centre of Richmond, there stands a rare old stone milestone of triangular plan. Now very worn, and easy to overlook, its erstwhile inscription has been recorded as Lucy Cross 7, and Richmond 1.

Later turnpike milestones are often of cast iron. Near Richmond Cemetery on



Milestone on Reeth Road

Reeth Road, there is one marking the first mile from the centre of Richmond. Similarly, 1 mile out on the Darlington Road there is another, and two more in Skeeby.

Other wayside stones might mark important boundaries. So, for example, at the junction where the nameless track which follows Scots Dike, Richmond's eastern boundary, meets the B6271 Richmond to Brompton-on-Swale road, there is a stone inscribed



Boundary Marker opposite the Easby turning

EASBY ROAD ENDS HERE. This relates to the irksome responsibility that parishes used to have for maintaining roads within their area. No one wanted to repair a road a foot further than they had to!



Not sure where the 'D' has gone. On the reverse perhaps?

A stone which has been placed outside Richmondshire Museum is inscribed with the letters "C.D.". It came from the Aske estate, and must relate to the purchase of the estate by Conyers D'Arcy in 1727.

Since the old district councils were absorbed into a single North Yorkshire Council area in 2023, those erstwhile roadside signs proclaiming *Welcome to Richmondshire* have become part of history!

How do we discover where boundaries lie these days? Those of my generation probably get out an Ordnance Survey map, though most people nowadays seem to rely on apps of maps on smartphones, and of course for road directions use SatNavs.

Some parishes maintain the ancient tradition of regularly 'Beating the Bounds', because it was thought that if children were 'beaten' at contentious spots where boundaries met, they would remember such thrashings for the rest of their lives! Richmond's seven-yearly Boundary Riding enables us to learn the vast extent of the old Borough's boundaries with rather more decorum and enjoyment than walloping children! The boundary is 14 miles in length, and the next Boundary Riding will take place in 2025 – so perhaps start getting into training now?

Jane Hatcher



60 SECOND INTERVIEW

STEPH WILLIAMSON joined us during lockdown, coming up from London and a demanding job in project management in hospital design for the NHS. She brings much church experience to our community, is on the PCC, and in John and Wendy's Home Group.

First memory: Lying in a darkened room with measles, aged four!

Favourite meal: Sole Veronique – my birthday favourite, requested every year.

Favourite music or musician: Loved Elvis Presley since I was 10 years old.

Pet dislike: People who litter – I am most likely to call you out if I catch you!

Best holiday: Costa Rica 2017 – the wildlife is sublime

Childhood hero: Jacques Cousteau, which is why I became a marine biologist!

Favourite hobby: Walking in the Dales with friends and dogs. Must end at a pub.

Luxury on Desert Island: Bottles of cool beer

Recent TV you've enjoyed: Lolita Lobosco – Italian detective who chases criminals in stilettos!



Worst fault: Short attention span – be back soon!

2 best films ever: The Shawshank Redemption (a classic) and Tick....tick Boom

Favourite drink: Gin and tonic with Yorkshire gin, ice and a slice.

Biggest regret: I have a few, too few to mention!

Best recent book: Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce

Favourite charity: Water Aid every time.



Place you feel happiest: At home in Richmond with the fire lit, the family round and a G&T to hand.

Three dinner companions: Jonathan Roumie (The Chosen), Tim Peake (astronaut) and Meryl Streep (in her dungarees).

What do you pray for most: Peace personally, at home and beyond

Traditional or new Lord's Prayer: Traditional

Epitaph: I'm out walking my sausage dog. Please leave a message!

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

This month we celebrate the feast day of St Hilda, the first Abbess of Whitby Abbey and a very influential figure in the early Christian church. **JUDITH MacLEOD** has early memories of the town and tells us more about the Abbey and nearby St Mary's Church.



Whitby Abbey on the cliff above the town.

November used to be one my least favourite months. For the last 4 years of my schooling I was a boarder as St Hilda's School in Whitby. It could be bleak in the winter. The 17th November was St Hilda's Day - no lessons, but a walk up to the abbey of 2 or 3 miles, 199 steps from Henrietta Street to the top of East Cliff for a service in the ruins of the abbey. It was usually blustery and we wore our school uniforms, sang the school song with its rather lovely words in praise of St Hilda, and trudged back to school.

Several years later, when I used to stay in a family flat on the West Cliff looking across the harbour towards the abbey, I grew fond of it and also of the parish church of St Mary's, which was in my direct line of sight.

Whitby Abbey was established first as a monastery for both men and women by St Hilda, the abbess, in about 664. Following a period of abandonment in the 9th and 10th centuries, a new community was founded in about 1078 and a stone church and convent were built there in the Romanesque style. The buildings did not survive and were re-built in the 13th century in the Gothic style. Work continued in the 14th and 15th centuries, but the abbey was suppressed in 1539, after which only the abbot's house was maintained.



**St Hilda
Abbess of Whitby**



The shell of the Benedictine abbey church was almost complete until the 18th century, when it was damaged by weather erosion. The earliest part had 5 apses (an apse is an area with curved walls at the end of a building), the foundations of which are still apparent. Walls in the eastern part and north transept stand at almost their original



A book cupboard?

height. Carved detail and moulding are visible in the presbytery. Little of the 15th century nave remains, but there is evidence of a cloister and a recess which may have been a book cupboard.

Last month, on 1st October, a giant art installation, The Heritage Tree, was unveiled at the abbey featuring the extraordinary impact of seven inspiring individuals, who delivered Lottery-funded projects to preserve heritage and enhance science and the environment.

Like the abbey, St Mary's church at the top of the 199 steps, was re-founded in the 12th century on the site of an earlier structure. The nave, the chancel and west tower date from that period. Georgian furnishings such as box pews were added in the 18th century. Quirky features such as a



Box pews — 'free' for anyone to use



Triple-decker pulpit, with barley-sugar column behind

triple-decker pulpit fitted with hearing trumpets for a former rector's wife, and barley sugar columns for the

grandest pews came later. The church has no electricity, relying instead on candles in low light, and a Victorian cast-iron stove is the only source of heat. It is said that the church can hold 3,000 people: it would have been the ideal place to shelter from the weather on St Hilda's Day!

November is now one of my favourite months, mainly because it is the month in which my daughter was born.

Judith MacLeod

THE 200 CLUB

Congratulations to our latest Winner:

October — no: 134 — Allan Read

BIBLE POINTERS

In the third in this series on the Bible, **JOHN PRITCHARD** looks at the question of inspiration. What does it mean to say the Bible is inspired? Is it, as some say, 'infallible'? Is it really like any other book, just greatly honoured in the Church? And what do we mean by 'inspiration'?

HOW IS THE BIBLE 'INSPIRED'?

Christians easily talk about the Bible as the 'inspired Word of God' but it's important to be clear what we mean. At one extreme, fundamentalists mean that God essentially dictated the Bible and it's therefore infallible as a record of events and as the repository of truth about religion, science, and morals. At the other extreme, some people regard the Bible as a disorderly collection of sixty-odd books that are often tedious, barbaric and obscure, and teem with contradictions and inconsistencies.

The Bible itself says, in 2 Tim. 3.16, that 'All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.'. The word 'inspired' here in the Greek is 'God-breathed', and that gives a more balanced view than either extreme above. The Bible was written by fallible human beings, whose work bears the hallmarks of the preconceptions and limitations of the times and cultures they lived in, but also of the transformation they had experienced in their encounters with the living God.

One way of looking at it is to see the books of the Bible as a sacred dialogue, a giant conversation between heaven and earth, initiated, inspired and guided by God. It's about God, his creation, his vision for the world and our role as God's partners. More intimately, the Bible is to be befriended as a much-loved companion in our journey of faith. Friends are to be debated with, sometimes disagreed with, but always to be enjoyed and valued.



Of course, the tricky bit is always how we choose to use the Bible. George Bernard Shaw said wisely that ‘No man (sic) ever believes that the Bible means what it says; he is always convinced that it means what *he* means.’ Another writer put it vividly: ‘We want to control the Bible, harness it, tame it, but the Bible bucks and rears and throws us off. We want to pin the Bible down so that it proves our theology, but the Bible evades capture and plays hide-and-seek. We want answers, but the Bible keeps firing questions. We want it to tell us what to do, and it keeps telling us to think. We put it on a pedestal, and it jumps down and runs away. We want to make the Bible dance to our tune, but the Bible has music of its own.’

My own brief summary is to say that the Bible is a symphony of divinely inspired human voices, bearing witness as best they can to their evolving understanding of God and God’s self-disclosure, finally shown in Jesus.

Ultimately, when we read the Bible, we aren’t merely reading a book or indulging in a literary exercise. We are being addressed by God.

John Pritchard



Warm Welcome is now in its third year and continues to provide a safe, warm, comfortable space in Richmond, where visitors are offered free hot drinks and light snacks. Until the end of September we were open on Monday and Friday

mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm, and from October to March we will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week, again from 9.30am to 12.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

Volunteers are always needed to welcome visitors, and to provide hot drinks and snacks. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the local community, so 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.

NEWS FROM MARSKE

With thanks to *George Monbiot* and his article about soil science and sustainability in '*The Guardian*', **JENNIFER WILLIAMSON** sends news about harvest-time and happy events in Marske.

HARVEST 2024

A Harvest Songs of Praise was held in St Edmund's Church, Marske, on the first Sunday in October, the traditional date in this parish.

During the farming year there are many times of harvest, though I suspect many think of *Harvest* as the harvest of wheat, which is usually finished earlier than the first week of October, but for the potato farmers they often still have the bulk of their crop to lift later in the year.

Silage, necessary to feed animals during the winter, have several cuts to be made over the summer, and livestock, an essential 'crop' round here, are sold throughout the year.



Marske at Silage time — by Laura Simpson-Ridley

Around 25 people met together in St Edmund's, including 5 children, to sing songs and hymns ranging from the very traditional, "We plough the fields" to one from

school assemblies, “Autumn Days” with its chorus of “So I mustn’t forget to say a great big thank you, I mustn’t forget”

With the help of the young people, we reflected on the importance of the soil, learning that **one gram** (about a teaspoonful) of undisturbed soil in Earth’s mid-latitudes (like UK) contains around a kilometre of fungal filaments ... a **kilogram** contains more major branches of the animal kingdom than you’d see on a week’s safari in the Serengeti ...

Soil is not a dull mass of ground-up rock and dead plants: it’s a biological structure like a wasps’ nest or a beaver dam. Microbes make cements out of carbon to stick mineral particles together, creating pores which water, air and nutrients pass through. Animals in the soil use clumps of these to construct bigger labyrinths. Bacteria, fungi, plants and soil animals work unconsciously together, making an intricate fractal architecture of coherent worlds.

Soil may not be as beautiful to the eye as a rainforest or a coral reef, but once you begin to understand it, it is beautiful to the mind.

And this is what God provides us with, so we can feed ourselves. Another word for soil is Earth, the name of our planet. The Earth is a precious gift where our creator sets us to live, and, if we are to thrive as God intends, we need to look after both Earths, the soil and the planet.

*So, we mustn’t forget, no, we mustn’t forget,
to say a great big thank you, we mustn’t forget*

Jennifer Williamson



Marske Weddings

On 21st September ‘24

At St Peter & St Felix Church, Kirby Hill

Hollie Anna Braithwaite to Alexander Anthony Stuart Trotter

On 28th September ‘24

At St Edmund’s Church, Marske

Stephanie Jayne Lilian Coates to William Thomas Maxwell

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm.

Song of Solomon Ch 8

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

This month's charity, nominated by **JOHN & JUDITH CLARK**, is the **Darlington Women's Refuge**. As they explain, the work of the refuge is confidential and little is known or said in detail about the organisation and how it works, even where it is — it is just an essential support for some unfortunate sectors in the community. The general ethos of helping women and children in violent situations, however, does not need a great deal of explanation: the refuge simply does what it says on the tin. Let's hope that our congregation feels generous this month.

Family Help Darlington CIO offers safe, temporary accommodation with specialist domestic abuse support for women and women with children, fleeing domestic abuse from anywhere in the country.

Family Help is one of the longest-standing domestic abuse services in the UK. It remains an independent charity, and home to Darlington's only women's refuge. For over 48 years, Family Help have been supporting survivors of domestic abuse, empowering them to lead a life free from domestic abuse and violence.

Each year, we accommodate around 60 women and 100 children, providing them with a safe, welcoming home and a supportive team that encourage progress towards positive and safe outcomes free from domestic abuse. Most families staying with us are often moved away from their hometowns due to the need to safeguard their safety. We have designated support staff, counselling support, children and young people's workers, and move-on provision for our clients.

Family Help Darlington CIO's experienced and knowledgeable team provide a high-quality service to all of its service users, and are always welcoming with a non-judgmental, caring and compassionate attitude.

We also have a confidential helpline for any person affected by domestic abuse, directly or indirectly. The referrals-/help-line receives over 500 calls a year.



Tel: 01325 364486

www.familyhelp.org.uk

BEHIND THE HYMNS

Have you ever noticed that, after the last verse of the hymns shown on the screen at our services, the name and dates of the author are given?

Here, **JOHN PRITCHARD** gives an appreciation of one of the most prolific hymn-writers of recent times.

BISHOP TIMOTHY DUDLEY-SMITH

How often have we sung 'Tell out my soul' and 'Lord for the years' in our churches? Both much-loved hymns were written by Bishop Timothy Dudley Smith who died in August, aged 97. He wrote more than 400 hymns and was turning them out well into his long retirement from being Bishop of Thetford in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

A musician friend of mine knew him well and often delighted me with hymns I didn't know he'd written. They were always true to scripture and to personal experience and a pleasure to sing. He claimed to lack musical ability, but his hymn writing was simple and poetic and made an immediate appeal.



Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith

Bishop Timothy was born in Manchester (very sensibly), and after graduating in maths and theology at Cambridge he stayed on to go to Ridley Hall Theological College (again, very sensibly). He was ordained in 1950 and served in Kent, Bermondsey and Norwich before becoming Bishop of Thetford in 1981, where he was known as a thoughtful, kind and spiritual pastor.

His life was an embodiment of the last verse of 'Lord for the years':

*Lord, for ourselves, in living power remake us,
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
Past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.*

May they sing his hymns in heaven.

John Pritchard

MEMORABLE MANUSCRIPTS

Have you ever read a book which has left a lasting impression? This month, **CAROLE McCORMACK** shares her thoughts about one such book, which chimed so well with her experiences on a visit to the places described.

Book: Last Places

Author: Lawrence Millman

Publisher: Andre Deutsch, 1990



In this fascinating book, the author follows the explorations of the Vikings, who ‘chose the last places at the very rim of the globe, past which the sea suddenly turned into a downward torrent; but rather than falter, or tumble downward themselves, they simply sailed on and discovered new last places.’

In 2018 we embarked on a cruise that we fully expected would become progressively wilder and more beautiful as we explored first Iceland and then Greenland. We had visited Iceland before and loved the order, cleanliness and stark beauty of this fascinating island.

In their quest for land to settle, the Vikings had colonised first Iceland and then Greenland, before moving on to Newfoundland. The name that these adventurous raiders chose for their first landfall – Iceland – proved unwise, as people found its connotations unwelcoming and were not over-keen to colonise. Hence the name chosen for their second settlement – Greenland.



Surely fellow prospective settlers would be attracted by the hints that this land was welcoming, gentle and attractive.

Never have I been so mistaken! After two days' sailing on the North Atlantic, we tried to enter Tassilak, a small eastern Greenlandic port, but were delayed for a couple of hours by a huge iceberg which blocked the entrance to the harbour. I didn't realise how relatively quickly icebergs move, and after only a couple of hours the ice pilots onboard the ship confirmed that we could enter the bay, prior to anchoring and being taken ashore by tender in the ship's lifeboats.



Iceberg blocking the entrance to the bay

It was one of the most desolate and despair-filled places that I have ever visited. Because of the permafrost and the Greenland ice-cap, landfill is impossible, and so all the rubbish from the settlement was just being steadily bulldozed into the sea. Even the dead are apparently taken to Denmark for burial. 'Flower valley' was full of empty alcohol bottles and cans; midges were everywhere; and the constant howling of huskies filled the bay. I recalled an acquaintance from years ago, who worked for the Bible Society, telling me that there is no word in Greenlandic for 'joy'. When attempting to translate 'joy in Heaven', the translators found and used the nearest phrase: 'there will be much tail-wagging in Heaven'.

Millman captures the essence of each of the countries he writes of perfectly: the exciting volatility and vibrancy of Iceland; the joyless wasteland which is Greenland; and the excitement of Newfoundland. He writes well and strings anecdotes and facts together in an engaging way.

It's not often that an author can catch perfectly the intonation and patterning of the language of a particular race, without the clumsy parroted vernacular I have sometimes come across. But Millman writes in parallel: he perfectly presents us with the linguistic philosophy of the Icelanders – volatile, embracing change; and of the Greenlanders – sardonic, and sometimes quite shocking in what they say and how they behave.

If you want to laugh and learn, I can't recommend this book too highly. It is still widely available on Amazon and eBay.



Husky howling!

Carole McCormack

WHAT HAS THE PCC BEEN TALKING ABOUT?

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) last met on 24th September '24. **JOHN PRITCHARD** has kindly summarised the Minutes of the meeting to keep us up-to-date with what was discussed.

Finance: At 261/366 days we were £3608 in deficit. We may not achieve the budgeted income this year and we could struggle to pay our target of 85% of Parish Share. Hopefully members of the congregation might respond to the article in the October magazine.

Barnabas day 21 Sept: Sadly only 20 people were going from the whole deanery. The Deanery Rural Change Fund and the Barnabas Project are important elements in our way ahead. [Ask PCC members for details]

Safeguarding: The Privacy policy will be reviewed by the Safeguarding Team in November when the issue of live-streaming and YouTube recordings of people in services will also be addressed. Both the Diocesan and our own Privacy Notices are out of date on this latter issue. Jan Beeton has completed the latest training for Data Protection and GDPR and will report back. In the meantime, the Safeguarding Action Plan and 2 policies have been read by all and were approved.

Schools: There were short reports on Trinity Academy, Methodist Primary, SFX and Hipswell schools. Julia Chapman is now a foundation governor at SFX and Lorna Heatley will be co-opted as a governor at Trinity Academy.

Admission of Children to Communion before Confirmation: There had been no objections, so this will go-ahead with appropriate preparation for the children.

Christmas lunch: It turns out that the Warm Hub at the Methodist church is planning to do this, so we will offer support. We will seek to make sure that no-one in the church family need have Christmas lunch alone.

Step-free access: The work is progressing well. The car park lease will be between the PCC and the incumbent for 7 years at £50 per year, assigned to the diocese. Approved.

Blues in the Pews: There was a spirited discussion on whether a charge should be levied on this event. A preliminary decision was that a hire cost of £50 would be paid by the Friends, pending a discussion at the Friends Committee.

Bells: Having fun with events and a good send-off for the late Charles Waterfall.

Charitable giving: The committee is meeting soon to propose the 2025 list.

Children and young people: This is a serious gap in our life. There is a possibility of a joint Sunday Club with the Methodist Church.

Pastoral: The Pastoral Team has met recently and is working well. PCC members [and congregation] are encouraged to let the Team know of people who might need support.

Worship and prayer: The Team met in August. A Parish Retreat Day/Weekend was discussed as desirable.

Next Meeting: 20th November.

John Pritchard

STARTING TO THINK ABOUT CHRISTMAS?



5 for £3.00



OR

20 for £10



Andy Lovell has once again produced some beautiful cards for sale for Christmas. Taken as drone shots over Richmond, the iconic castle and our church are captured dusted in snow. The cards are A5 size (the same size as this magazine) on high quality card, with all proceeds being donated to the Friends of St Mary's.

They will be available from the end of November at the back of St Mary's Church (payment using card reader beside the door or by cash/cheque in slot in wall, please) or by contacting Andy direct on 07974 766020. Thanks, Andy, for your generous support of the Friends through these seasonal sales.

Jim Jack

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 — 24th November
For children and the young at heart.
Why not come and join us?
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:

29th November '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

7th November '24



WORD SEARCH

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day this year has a special significance – it was 80 years ago this June that the D-Day Landings of the Second World War took place.

Those D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy led to the liberation of France and Europe. And this year the Normandy region has been celebrating – with events including synchronized fireworks at the major D-Day sites, a giant picnic on Omaha Beach, Liberation balls, bagpipe parades, and international parachuting of hundreds of soldiers above Sainte-Mère-Église.

It has been estimated that between 15 and 20 million people died in Europe alone during the Second World War. Worldwide, an estimated 75 million people died.

Remembrance

Fireworks

Day

Landings

Second

World

War

Normandy

Liberation

France

Europe

Picnic

Beach

Omaha

Bagpipe

Parades

Parachute

Millions

Soldiers

Died



Sudoku - Easy

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

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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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 boycead11@gmail.com



"All are welcome
in this place."

Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku — Medium

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

Wordsearch



Deadline for Dec '24/Jan '25 edition; Monday 11th November.
To contribute letters, articles, etc. please contact
connections.ed24@gmail.com or 07866 033263

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