

CONNECTIONS



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

April 2025



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THE BENEFICE OF RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME AND MARSKE

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

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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

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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

What a joy it is to have had some sunshine and warmth recently. With the clocks going forward around the time you receive this magazine and the extra hour of daylight, buds on trees and shrubs bursting open and plants springing up, there is a real sense of new life coming from darkness. I hope our front cover reflects this and is symbolic of the Easter message. Alleluia – Christ is risen!

As you might expect, there is much going on at this important time in the Church's year, all of which are detailed in Martin's Message. Do try to participate in what is on offer.

In the rest of this issue, John Pritchard has been busy once again with his thoughts on the Site of the Resurrection; another instalment of his Bible Pointers; and a summary of what happened at the General Synod in February. Jim Jack rounds off his 12-month series on Dates with his blend of the saintly and secular in April, as well as keeping us informed about the activities of the Friends. After a very successful year, as reported at their AGM, they have two events coming up this month. These are detailed on pages 23 and 24, but they also want to draw your attention to a couple of different, rather special, events in May and September. Put the dates in your diaries now! We then have Carole McCormack offering an account of an experience some years ago; Jane Hatcher telling the story of a Georgian socialite in Richmond; and Martin Booth bringing the exciting news of the near completion of the Hudswell project. With a 60 Second Interview from Wilfred; details of the Charity of the Month from Anna Boyce; a Book Review from Peter Trewby; more Garden Notes from Wendy Pritchard; and details of the Take a Seat initiative supported by Richmond Town Council, we hope you will find this issue both interesting and informative.

If you haven't yet signed up for the new Electoral Roll of St Mary's with Hudswell, as explained in last month's issue, please do so without delay. Forms are available at the back of the Church and the Easter deadline is fast approaching.

John McCormack

**Cover photo by Wendy Pritchard
New life in his hands**



Martin's Message

April 2025



Making Lent: Marking Holy Week and Easter

There is still time to book a place at our **Benefice Retreat Morning for Lent**, led by Bishop John. This is an opportunity for us together to make space to rest awhile in God's presence.

It will be on **Saturday 12th April**, 9:30am — 12:30pm (concluding with a Bring and Share Lunch), at **Downholme Church** – where toilet facilities will be available!

Please add your name to the Sign-up sheet in any of our churches.

To mark **Holy Week** there will be a range of special services and events at St Mary's:

- On **Palm Sunday** (13th April) we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The 10.00am service will feature, in place of the sermon, a dramatic reading of Jesus' Passion – a drama which speaks for itself.
- On the **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week** (14th – 16th April) there will be a short meditation at 7.00pm, concluding with Compline.
- On **Maudy Thursday** (17th April) at 7.00pm we will commemorate the Last Supper, at which Jesus instituted Holy Communion ('Do this in remembrance of me'). This moving service will feature the stripping of the altar, as the church is made ready for Good Friday, and then a Watch of Prayer ('Could you not watch with me for one hour?').
- On **Good Friday** (18th April) there will be an ecumenical **Walk of Witness**, beginning at 10.00am at the Catholic Church, and concluding with a short service in the Market Place – followed by hot-cross-buns at the Methodist Church.

Then, at St Mary's, there will be at:

- 12.00am – 1.00pm: **All Age 'Whistle-Stop Tour' of Lent**,
- 2.00pm – 3.00pm: **Meditation for the Last Hour**,
- 7.00pm: **Bach's St Matthew Passion**, sung by the Marske Community Choir.

On **Holy Saturday** (19th April), as we contemplate the reality of Christ lying dead in the tomb, there are traditionally no services during the morning and afternoon.

With the arrival of darkness and **Easter Eve**, however, we will hold our first service of Easter – the **Easter Liturgy** – at 8.00pm. This wonderful service features the new Paschal Candle being lit from a fire outside and then brought in to the church. As we each hold a candle, lit from the Paschal Candle, the dark church is illuminated by the light of Christ. A Vigil follows, in which we reflect upon key Old Testament passages which tell the story of the history of our salvation in the *light* of the Resurrection.

On **Easter Day** (20th April) there will be three alternative special celebrations:

- 6.00am: **Dawn Service** at Easby Abbey (an ecumenical non-Eucharistic celebration, led by Revd Simon Dowson, Vicar of Easby, Skeeby, Bolton and Brompton-on-Swale).
- 8.00am: **Holy Communion** at St Mary's.
- 10.00am: **Parish Communion** at St Mary's – followed by our traditional egg-rolling competition!

There will also be services of Holy Communion at **Downholme and Marske** (at the usual times of 9:30am and 11:00am).

'Faith Confirmed'

From Holy Week, Lorna and I will be running a **Confirmation Course**, entitled 'Faith Confirmed'. Whilst this will be in preparation for those to be confirmed by Bishop Nick (on Sunday 1st June, 3:30pm at Ripon Cathedral), **it would also be an excellent way to learn more about our faith – or to refresh our knowledge.** There will be six weekly sessions, held on Tuesdays, 4:30pm at the Rectory, from 15th April. Please speak to Lorna or me for more details. All are welcome.

'Your SHAPE for God's Service'

As I mentioned in my February Message, our Lent Course 'Alive in Christ' is to be supplemented in June and July by another short course, **'Your SHAPE for God's Service'**. Whether or not we have attended 'Alive in Christ' (or the Confirmation Course), these sessions are designed to help us to discover our God-given SHAPE for his service:

- S**piritual Gifts God's unique gifts to you
- H**earth's Desire What motivates and excites you
- A**bilities Your talents, knowledge and skills
- P**ersonality Your character, personal qualities and strengths
- E**xperience Your life experiences and all you have gained from them.

For further information on this transformative course, please contact Martin or Lorna, or see: www.resourcingrenewal.org/shape-course

June Ordinations

June will be a busy month! After the Confirmation Service on 1st June, there will be two Ordination Services at the end of the month, featuring three candidates from our Benefice.

On Saturday 21st June, 11.00am at Ripon Cathedral, Lorna will be ordained priest, having completed her year as a deacon. She is already deeply aware of the privilege and responsibility of priesthood: as she continues to develop as a servant leader amongst us, she can be sure of our ongoing support.

On Saturday 28th June, 11.00am at Wakefield Cathedral, Anna and our former Reader, Scott, will be ordained deacon, having completed their respective 3-year part-time courses of theological training at St Hild College in Mirfield and Cranmer Hall in Durham. Anna will then enter her curacy at Ripon Cathedral, whilst Scott will be in the Penhill Benefice, both on a part-time basis as they continue their 'day jobs' of child psychiatrist and teacher.

Please pray for Lorna, Anna and Scott as they prepare to enter God's service in the 'SHAPE' of ordained ministry – on top of their demanding jobs. There will be an opportunity to support them through being present at their ordinations: please look out for the Sign-up sheets.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, Lorna, Anna and Scott.

With every blessing to you on your Christian pilgrimage,



Martin

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Baptism

On Sunday, 1st December '24
Persephone Harris Stevenson
& on Sunday, 2nd March '25
Charles Evan Ball
Imogen Kate Ball
Arthur Roberts Kerr



were all welcomed into the Church through Baptism

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



We give thanks for the lives of those who have died.



Rodney McDonald	17th December '24
Hilary Johnson	28th December '24
Gillian Byrne	27th January '25
William David Booth	8th February '25
Rose Moyra Strachan	15th February '25
Jean Lovell	12th March '25

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.*

THE 200 CLUB

Congratulations to our latest Winners:

February — no: 131 — Richard Gazzard
March — no: 14 — Alan Judge

THE SITE OF THE RESURRECTION

Before the recent conflict in that troubled part of the world, **JOHN PRITCHARD** regularly led pilgrimages to the Holy Land. It seems particularly appropriate at Easter-tide, that he should share some of his experiences and thoughts about his visits.

When I take people to Jerusalem, their major destination is bound to be the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which contains both the likely site of the crucifixion on Golgotha and the resurrection in the Garden. We hasten there full of anticipation, life-long images of Calvary and the Easter Garden firmly in place. The most important site in Christendom ought to stand out in majestic isolation with pilgrims gathered round in amazement.



Church of the Holy Spulchre

What a shock! The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, as it's known, has anonymous buildings clinging to it like barnacles. We look for a luminous light, but find it dark and cramped. We hope for peace, but find it chaotic and noisy. We expect holiness, but encounter jealous possessiveness between the six groups of occupants – Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Armenians, Syrians, Copts and Ethiopians – some of whom are tucked away on the roof. The arguments between these churches are legendary, and human frailty is nowhere more apparent.

The site of the crucifixion is a steep climb to two over-decorated altars, with a constant stream of pilgrims wanting to kiss the sacred spot. The site of the resurrection is a cube-shaped building-within-a-building, with another long queue of people awaiting their sixty seconds inside. Lost pilgrims push their way through the crowds; religious processions demand proper space; cameras flash all over the church; and there seems to be no attempt to keep a reverent hush.

There are three remedies. First, to be duly warned and to go with a determination to look through, beyond and under the cacophony. That's easier said than done. Secondly, find the dark first-century Syrian tomb directly behind the 'cube' and peer in to an original tomb, with its double chamber that probably gives as good an idea of Jesus's tomb as possible. Thirdly, go very early in the morning before the rush of pilgrims, and then the awe of the place can catch and hold us. I recommend the third option – then return to the hotel for breakfast.

A fourth possibility is to go to the Garden Tomb which lies just outside the old city and is run by an American/British trust: this contains a wonderful example of a first-century tomb such as that in which Jesus would have been laid. General Gordon thought he saw the shape of a skull ('Golgotha') there and declared he'd found the real spot. There is no evidence at all for this, but it's a quiet, reverent place conducive to prayer and reflection.

Back to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and we find plenty of good evidence that this is where the original cross and resurrection of Jesus were to be found. In the first century this was the site of a quarry outside the city walls. The early Christian community held services on this site until Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 66-70 AD. The precise site was marked by Hadrian building a temple to Aphrodite there in 135AD, and when Constantine built a major basilica there in 335AD he would have been very sure to get the spot right, even when the suggestion was made that it be built in an easier place, a suggestion fiercely resisted by the local Christian community. You argue with sacred memory at your peril!

But what I value most of all, is leaving Jerusalem altogether and finding two other sites from the Easter story. The village of Emmaus has a superb crusader church,



St. Peter Primacy

where we celebrate a final eucharist at the end of my Jerusalem retreats. It simply glows with peace and joy. The other site is by the Sea of Galilee at a place called St Peter Primacy, where the resurrection breakfast recorded in John 21 might well have taken place, and where Jesus restored Peter to his leadership of the apostles in the soon-to-be-formed church. Here you breathe the beauty of the resurrection and stand by the sea,

amazed at the incredible story of Easter that has ricocheted around the world and changed countless lives.

What matters more than the details and disappointments of the church in Jerusalem is the power of the risen Christ to energise his people to participate in his Kingdom of justice and joy. 2.3 billion people adhere to the Christian faith today because of this one event. No resurrection, no Christianity.

Our confused and wounded world has rarely been in such need of the gospel of the risen Christ.

John Pritchard

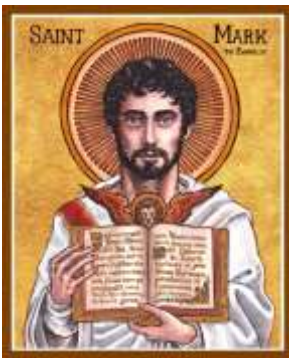
IT'S A DATE

We've nearly completed a year round with **JIM JACK's** investigations into the saintly and the secular, the well-known and the lesser acknowledged dates in our annual calendar. April may start with All Fools Day on the 1st and conclude with National Honesty Day on the 30th, but there's a lot in between. Here's a selection.

Last month, I left you to contemplate the wonders of **National Sleep Day**, but you'll obviously need your wits about you on the first of the month — if only, as custom has it, until noon. **April 1st, (All Fools Day)**, as we know, is a morning of potentially harmless pranks, japes and deceit.

As with several such customs, however, its origins are unclear. Some attribute it to 1564 in France, with the changeover from the Gregorian calendar to the Julian calendar, causing New Year's Day to move from the 25th March to 1st January. Those who forgot the change were known as April Fools. Others, however, attribute it to earlier times and Noah's decision to send the dove out to

look for dry land before the waters had abated – a seemingly pointless or foolish exercise. The date in the early Hebrew calendar upon which this 'foolishness' is said to have happened aligned most closely with 1st April, so anyone who forgot to mark this deliverance from the flood was punished by sending them on a pointless or foolish errand on 1st April. The custom appears to be of great antiquity, and may even have been derived by the Romans from some of the Eastern nations, but basically, no-one knows.



In the saints department, we have already covered St George in detail in a previous issue, but the feast days of St Anselm (**21st**) and Mark (**26th**), the gospel writer, also occur in April. Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and His 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind. Papias, in 130AD, said that in later years Mark became Peter's

interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive in Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died about 74 AD.



St Mark's Square and the Doge's Palace, Venice

Early in the 9th century, Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist is the lion, and this is much in evidence in Venice.

There are a number of days in April which focus on health and the human condition. **World Autism Awareness Day** claims the **2nd**, while such worthy causes as **Bowel Cancer Awareness, Stress Awareness, Testicular Cancer and Neurological Disorders** claim not just a day, or a week, but the full month, with **Multiple Sclerosis Awareness** settling for a week (beginning **21st April**), and **Haemophilia** having a single day in the spotlight across the world on the **17th**.

There are a number of days which encourage us to avoid health problems. You could choose to seek out more information about **Community Gardening** opportunities in Richmond during the awareness week beginning on **1st April** — or commit to a whole month of walking during **National Walking Month**, launching on **2nd April** with **National Walking Day** (possibly no-one would believe it, if the start date was the 1st?). Or what about **Walking to Work Day** on the **4th**? Retirees and home workers may need advice on this one — or choose to wait until **Walk on the Wild Side Day (12th)**. Then there is **Wear your PyJamas to Work Day** on the very special day for that activity (**16th**).



It's **National Exercise Day** on **April 18th**, after which the whole push for burning

energy on specific days seems to run out of steam... unless, of course, you join in **International Dance Day** on the **29th**, or get back to the garden during **National Gardening Week** starting the previous day. There is **World Immunisation Day** on **28th**, however, which is devoted to our human caring role in promoting access to basic immunisation across all communities.

Food gets its fair share of attention in April. The increased interest in sourdough bread gets its own promotion on **Sourdough Day (1st)** and, if you've been in the dark about this, spare a thought for **International Carrot Day** on the **4th**. This seeks to ensure that you get your allocation of vitamin C on **National Vitamin C Day** on the same date, (with the hope that we will all do the same on every subsequent day of every year!)



The presentation of otherwise ordinary food is encouraged on **Cheese Fondue Day (11th)** and **Eggs Benedict Day (16th)**, the latter sharing its special time with **Banana Day**. Is it worth considering, even at this late stage, if it's possible to have Easter Eggs Benedict? I'm happy to offer a bottle of prosecco as a prize, if anyone can come up with a working recipe!!



Anyone for Garlic?

You could choose to be a stand-out member of the community by choosing to be an active supporter of **National Garlic Day (19th)**. With an immediate improvement in heart health, and starting to receive the other welcome physical benefits from its consumption, you're all set up to celebrate **Asparagus Day** on the **23rd**. Were Shakespeare and St George asparagus eaters, I

wonder? But whatever the food, we can all contribute to **Stop Food Waste** on this global day (**30th**).

Animals get their usual look-in in April, some of which may surprise you. The series starts with **World Rat Day** on the **4th** (I kid you not), and it's quickly followed by a catch-all **Zoo Lovers Day** on the **6th**. We need to wait until the **14th** for **Dolphin Day**, and then there's a **World Penguin Day** on the **25th**, closely followed on the **26th** by **World Veterinary Day**.



There's a lot of promotion of cultural activities in April, perhaps in the underlying knowledge that the anniversary of the birth AND death of **William Shakespeare** occurs on the **23rd** (not such a happy birthday, me thinks!). **Children's Book Day** goes international on **2nd April**, whilst on the **13th**, fans of playing with words can mark the date of the passing of the Games inventor, Alfred Butts, with a game or two of **Scrabble** in his memory. The challenging poetry format of **Haiku** gets its day in the sun (but probably not the Sun) on **17th**, while **23rd** (yes, it's that date again) is **World Book & Copyright Day**, ending with **World Book Night**. These encourage more and wider reading, whilst also reminding us of the considerable work which goes into writing a book. Copyright honours the author's efforts and stresses the importance of respecting their ownership of that effort through copyright laws — laws which also have links to other creative art forms, such as music.



William Shakespeare

There's a **Drummers' Day** on **4th April**; an **International Jazz Day** right at the end of the month on the **30th** and, if art is your preferred medium, a world-wide celebration of the medium half-way through the month on the **15th** with **International Art Day**. Meanwhile, the Circus fraternity always keeps the third Saturday in April (this year the **19th**) as **World Circus Day**.

So, lots to remember in April — and all of this in addition to the several important key dates in the Church calendar. I left you last month by alerting you to a **National Sleep Day**. I haven't led you aside by promoting my Scottish roots on **6th April (Tartan Day)** or **Unicorn** (national symbol of Scotland) **Day** on the **9th** in order to retain your interest. Whether through sleep or boredom, I hope April will keep you awake and alert. And by the way, in case you do nod off, remember the week beginning **21st April** could catch you out. Why? It's **National Stop Snoring Week**.

And that's about it, folks. This article completes the year's round, as we started the series in May 2024. Have you really marked them all? Be honest — for the introduction to this article reminded us that **30th April**, the final day of the year's cycle, is — **National Honesty Day!**

Jim Jack

TIME OF MY LIFE

More years ago than she cares to remember, **CAROLE McCORMACK** decided to 'get-away-from-it-all' one Summer, the memories of which have stayed with her ever since.

There are times in one's life when a complete change is needed and the end of my second year at University was such a time. I had not warmed to Augustan literature, which had been the focus of much of Year 2 of my English Honours course. My chosen options of Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse, thank goodness, continued unabated, but I still had to trudge wearily through *The Dunciad* and *The Rape of the Lock*. I longed for the power and passion of Wulfstan's sermons, and the legendary exploits of Beowulf, not the heavily-contextualised satire of the Georgians. And so, feeling stale and disillusioned, I looked for a complete change: somewhere I could indulge my fairytale fancies, whilst widening my experience of real life.



I had been a member of the Council of British Archaeology for a couple of years and, scanning through the calendar of UK digs, I saw that an excavation was scheduled from July to September on North Uist. I had never heard of the place, but found out that it was an island in the Outer Hebrides and was 13 and a half hours by boat from Oban. That, I thought, was remote enough for me.

The journey from Bristol to Oban was memorable – and long. It was a different world from that which we inhabit in 2025 – more spontaneous, and full of surprises. I cannot remember the name of the remote and very small station in the depths of western Scotland, but, around tea-time, the train stopped and everyone got out. A team of well-equipped ladies bustled out from the waiting-room area with sandwiches,

cakes, tea and coffee, which they swiftly put on trestle tables with red and white checked cloths. Fortunately, it was a warm and dry early summer day. There was no buffet car, and this was our opportunity to purchase refreshments. I stayed overnight in the Oban Youth Hostel, before catching an early morning ferry to the islands. The boat stopped briefly at several of these, whose names were an undiscovered mystery to me at this point in my life



Cal Mac ferry en-route to South Uist

It had only been six years previously that a tarmacked road had been constructed around the island and transport was indeed basic. I landed in the early evening at Lochboisdale, the main port on South Uist, and loaded myself, my rucksack, sleeping bag and mattress onto the island bus. It was deep dusk and I asked the driver to put me off at the school, which was to act as our accommodation during the excavation. The time moved on, very slowly, and it must have been around 10.00pm when the bus driver eventually told me that we had arrived.

In the half-light of the Hebridean summer night, I made out the shape of a wide, low building – presumably the school. There were no lights and no other buildings. They expected me – I hoped. These were days before mobile phones and emails, but I had written weeks earlier and had my place on the dig confirmed. As quietly as I could I entered the building. It was certainly a school and I went straight into the main space, which I imagined doubled as both classroom space and assembly hall. I could just make out a couple of rows of sleeping bodies, one of which greeted me quietly, announcing that she was ‘Margaret, the cook and housekeeper for the dig’. She was also a student, about the same age as myself, who held the only paid position on the excavation. The rest of us were volunteers, receiving only our keep.

I couldn’t detect whether the other sleepers were male or female, and, quite frankly, I was so exhausted after two days’ travel from Bristol, that I didn’t care. I just unrolled my mattress and slipped into my sleeping bag, before immediately falling asleep.

The routine was simple: breakfast; transport to the dig in Landrovers, arriving around 8.30am; excavation until around 4.30pm; transport back to the school;

shower – in the outside toilets, by means of emptying a bowl of water over our heads and letting it run out through the gap under the door; then dinner.

When more extensive ablutions were required, we divided into two groups – male and female – and swam on either side of the peninsular. There were always



Deserted white sand beaches

ceilidhs somewhere on the island, and my memory is of working all day and dancing all night – quite how I managed to sleep escapes me!

But although our life was basic during that long, hot summer, our surroundings were spectacular! I've never forgotten the dazzling white sand, black rocks and orange lichen – magic and colour were everywhere.

We were excavating sand dunes on a peninsular called Udal Solas, and it was explained to us by the Director, Iain Crawford, that its significance lay in the fact that a community had continuously existed here from the Neolithic to the 18th Century. With minimum influence from the outside world, artefacts from different periods had a remarkable similarity. But I have subsequently learnt much more than that summary information. The community farmed the 'machair' – a Gaelic word meaning 'fertile plain' which is made up of flowers, sand and peat and is unique to Western Scotland and north-west Ireland.



The machair

Iain's life's work was his excavation of the Udal Peninsula, between 1963 and 1995. My time there was barely midway in this excavation period. Udal is one of the richest human and natural environments of the Outer Hebrides and is an exciting and beautiful time capsule. When I excavated there, many of the later exciting discoveries had not been made, such as a kerb cairn complex, with a cist and human remains, uncovered after storm damage.



The location of the dig site (top centre) on the Udal peninsula, from the air

My discoveries were more pedestrian! The outline of a whale's vertebra, and plough marks which went right up to the edges of the sand dune settlement. Both were perfectly-preserved pale shadows in the darker sand.

I still remember my summer on North Uist, almost in a series of bright images: the utter peace, the isolation, its wild beauty, the warmth and simple life-style of the islanders, and the sharp thrill of discovering some of the earth's hidden secrets. At the ceilidhs I had befriended a couple of the island's nurses, whose father had a small croft near the dig site. He had lost an arm in a farming accident several years earlier, so life can't have been easy for him. At the end of the summer, when I went to say goodbye, with his remaining arm he shook my hand and, without a word, pressed into it a £1 note curled up in his palm. Such a kind and generous gesture, when he had so little — but so typical of the islanders.

The impact of the whole experience will stay with me forever.

Carole McCormack

BIBLE POINTERS

Continuing his series on aspects of the Bible, this month **JOHN PRITCHARD** explains how the various 'books' which make up the single Book we know as our Bible, are grouped together.

How is the Bible divided up?

When we're sitting in church and we hear that the Old Testament reading is taken from the book of the prophet Amos, I wonder if we have much idea about where it fits in the Bible? Or 2 Kings, or Ruth, or Proverbs? At least we know that Genesis comes first! And in the New Testament, do we realise that if someone says the reading is 'from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews', in fact it isn't? Or that 1 and 2 Corinthians aren't 'books', but letters?

A little mental organisation can help.

The Old Testament is divided up as follows. The key books that bear special significance for us as we read the Bible today are highlighted in **bold**.

1. **Law.** The Torah. The Pentateuch. Associated with Moses but not written by him.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (not the cat!)

2. **History.** Twelve books taking the story on from the conquest of the Promised Land through to the decline of the monarchy. Key figures: Saul, David, Solomon, Samuel.

*Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, **1 and 2 Kings**, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.*

3. **Wisdom.** A varied section of books containing reflections on human experience in the context of God and 'wisdom'.

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon (18 certificate!)

4. **Major Prophets.** Five significant prophets, who spoke truth to power and to the people. Themes of unfaithfulness, social injustice and oppression, redemption, a coming Messiah.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel.



5. **Minor Prophets.** ‘Minor’ because they are shorter. Similar themes to the major prophets.

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

The New Testament has four main sections:

1. **Gospels and Acts.** Tell the story of the origins and early history of Christianity.

Matthew: Jesus the giver of the new Law.

Mark: The power and passion of Jesus.

Luke: Jesus the man for others.

John: The cosmic Christ.

Acts: Luke continues the story.



2. **Letters.** Mainly Paul’s letters to the churches he founded, to support them and keep them on the road. The authorship of some is disputed.

Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

3. **General Letters.** Letters addressed not to a specific community but to the Church in general. Hebrews stands out as different.

Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, Jude, 1,2,3 John

4. **Revelation.** A mystical vision, full of imagery and symbolic numbers.

An interesting fact is that the chapter and verse divisions we take for granted were a much later addition to both Old and New Testaments. The **chapters** were introduced by Stephen Langton (later Archbishop of Canterbury) in the early 1200s. The New Testament **verse** divisions were introduced by a Frenchman in Geneva in 1551, while the Old Testament verse divisions had existed in ‘dot’ form from the early days of the Church and were numbered around 1440.

I hope this helps in navigating around those mysterious announcements in the morning service!

John Pritchard

60 SECOND INTERVIEW



7-year-old **WILFRED ROWAN** may not be recognizable from his self-portrait, but is well known to all at St. Mary's. Here he rises to the challenge of being interviewed by **John Pritchard**.

What's your favourite meal? Fish and chips.

What's your favourite board game? Chess.

What's the best thing about school? Maths and PE.

What was your best holiday? Going to France.

Who do you admire (a hero)? My friend Isaac from school.

What's your favourite hobby? Football and reading.

What do you enjoy about church? Getting to read readings and prayers.

What recent film or TV programme have you enjoyed most?

The new Christmas Wallace and Gromit.

What's the best book you've read recently?

The Wishing Chair books by Enid Blyton.

Where do you feel happiest?

On the sofa, reading quietly.



What three people would you like to invite to tea? You don't have to know them personally.

Isaac, Oscar and Jacob (friends from school).

What do you pray for most?

Asking for God to use his power to help us in our everyday lives.

What was your best Christmas present?

A fluffy, patchwork blanket, which keeps me warm.

Do you find anything scary? If so, what?

I find shadows scary when it is *quite* dark. This is because they are big and looming.

What's your favourite Bible story?

The feeding of the 5000.



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

EVENTS

The year has got off to a good start after a 'no events January'. We took on publicity for Vox Populi (15th February) and it is good to report that, after an audience of a handful on their visit last year, an audience of over 100 people, suitably attired on a chilly evening, were treated to some very high quality singing in various styles — a special night, and the young ensemble was absolutely delighted with the attendance and reception. They'll be back, so very many thanks for your support.

Attendance was also up once more to over 80 for Blues in the Pews at the end of February to hear the hugely entertaining and talented Jed and the Hillman Hunters. They, too, enjoyed their evening as performers. By the time you read this, we anticipate that we will have had another fully booked and successful Quiz Night at the Town Hall.

All three events have met our primary objectives of promoting social gatherings for both church and wider community members, and adding to the much needed funds which are used to support necessary improvement work at St Mary's

AGM

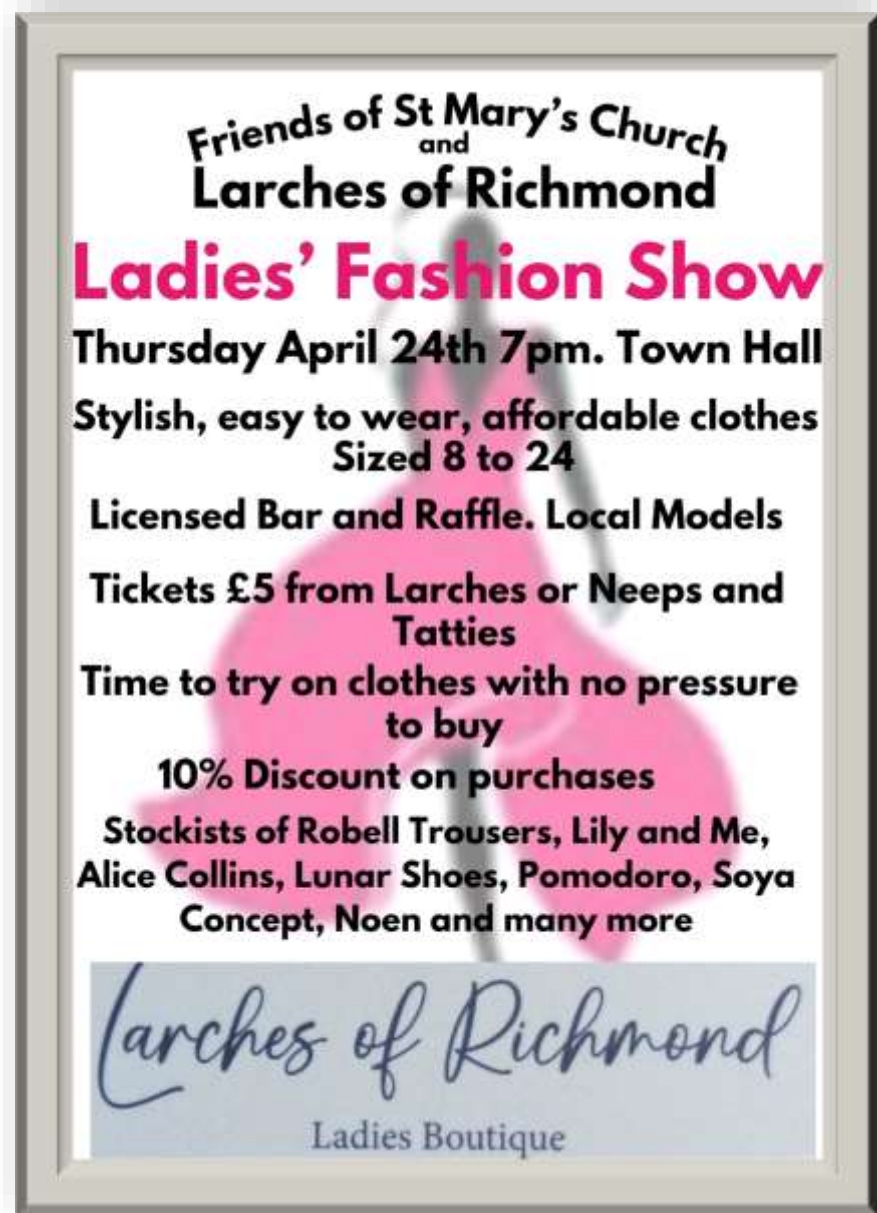
The 37 attendees after Morning Worship on 9th March accepted both the Chair's and Treasurer's reports on what has been a busy and successful 2024. Funds raised have been devoted almost exclusively to the Step-Free Access project, now virtually complete, so we turn our efforts now to supporting our church in developing its ability to serve the needs and aspirations of our worshipping members, visitors and the wider community of Richmond with Hudswell, which the Friends Constitution directs us to do. The committee and officers were all elected to serve for a further year, although Peter Trewby (Chair) rightly stressed that new members and skills would be most welcome.

FUTURE EVENTS

In addition to **Blues in the Pews** on **18th April** (see page 24), we are asking for your support in publicising and supporting three new experimental events for our enjoyment and fundraising. **Larches of Richmond** is hosting a **Fashion Show** in the Town Hall on **Thursday 24th April**, (see opposite) for which tickets are now available from Wendy Pritchard and the outlets mentioned. Then **PAUL KERENSA** (comedian, script writer for such programmes as 'Miranda', 'Not Going Out' and 'Top Gear', and radio broadcaster) is coming to St Mary's on **Friday 16th May** to

present an **Evening of Comedy**; and then in the Autumn, sell-out Irish folk artist, **EDWINA HAYES** is coming to us on **Friday 5th September** for a **Folk Night**. Please support all these events, not just by attending them, but also by publicising them to your friends and neighbours and in the wider community.

Jim Jack (Secretary)



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

Ladies' Fashion Show

Thursday April 24th 7pm. Town Hall

**Stylish, easy to wear, affordable clothes
Sized 8 to 24**

Licensed Bar and Raffle. Local Models

**Tickets £5 from Larches or Neeps and
Tatties**

**Time to try on clothes with no pressure
to buy**

10% Discount on purchases

**Stockists of Robell Trousers, Lily and Me,
Alice Collins, Lunar Shoes, Pomodoro, Soya
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Larches of Richmond

Ladies Boutique

Friends of St Mary's and
Found The Note presents



plus Rolling Drystones

**Tickets £10 adv £12 Door
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Neeps & Tatties
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foundthenote@yahoo.com

ALL'S WELL AT HUDSWELL

Apologies for the corruption of a Shakesperean title in the month of his birth (and death), but **MARTIN BOOTH's** update on progress on the hostel at Hudswell shows that all is well with the hostel community project as it nears completion — a long haul, but congratulations to all involved so far.

St Michael's Lodge to be open in May

There is still a lot of work to do before we can open St Michael's Lodge to customers. We can now say with some confidence, however, that it will be open in May this year, which will enable us to get a full summer season of visitors through the doors. There are currently teams of tradespeople working there on the myriads of tasks that have to be completed, including joiners, plumbers, electricians, stonemasons, heating engineers, double-glazing specialists, roofers and many more. We are very grateful to local builder, Rob Petch, who has led on much of the work and is currently using his joinery skills to construct the bunk beds from the fine pitch-pine pews that had previously been sat upon by generations of Hudswell worshippers. All the work has been co-ordinated by one of our trustees, Annie Sumner. It has been a gargantuan task, but now that the end is in sight we can see what an amazing place to stay it will be.



Re-tiling the roof

We have made use of state-of-the-art technology to transform a draughty, cavernous Victorian building into comfortable, warm bedrooms and attractive communal spaces. It is worth dwelling on the some of the features of the conversion work. On the north-facing roofs of the nave and chancel, the old worn

-out slates have been removed and replaced with matching new ones. On the south facing roofs there are solar slates that will generate 12.1 kilowatt hours of power, which will be stored in four batteries located in the cellar below the vestry. Together with the huge amounts of insulation that have been installed in the ceiling (between the new slates and the wood panel roof), walls and floor, and the secondary double-glazing that has been added to all the windows, all will enable the Lodge to be extremely energy efficient. Heating will be provided by far infra-red heating foil that has been installed behind the plasterboard in the ceiling of the bedrooms, corridors, and drying room. This will provide an invisible heat source, automatically controlled by thermostats, which will heat people and things, but not the air.



Energy –saving measures in the roof and ceilings.

All of these will be supplemented by a log-burning stove to be installed in the residents’ lounge, providing an attractive feature and also hot water via a back-boiler to a small circuit of reconditioned radiators from the original church system, which will heat the full-height chancel area and kitchen. In addition, we have installed a mechanical ventilation and heat recovery system, which will collect warm air and redistribute it to colder spaces in the building. This will greatly add to the energy efficiency of the Lodge.

Each bedroom has a window and will have its own shower room and toilet. The downstairs rooms each have one of the original church windows (which have been fully cleaned and repaired) and the upstairs rooms each have a roof-light: one of them, the large four-bedded room, also contains the large rose window. This will surely be the most sought-after room.

The ground floor will be fully accessible, with ramps and a “scissor lift” connecting the different floor-height areas. The old vestry will contain the kitchen, with large oven, fridge, freezer, air-fryer and microwave. The laundry/drying room will have



Rose window in the large upstairs bedroom.

a washing machine and tumble-dryer.

Despite all these modern facilities, we have been able to retain many of the church's original features, with a view from the entrance right through to the chancel and up to the wooden-beamed ceiling. The medieval windows in the vestry, and Victorian windows throughout, have been restored and reinstated. The pulpit and font have also been retained, and the full-height chancel will be the residents' lounge and dining area. We have also commissioned interpretation boards, which will explain the history of the site and the building: these will be displayed within the Lodge.

We have recently appointed the Lodge Manager, who will take up her post in April ahead of the opening, in order to help us to prepare for the summer season. The website (<https://stmichaelslodge.com>), is currently being built and should be open for bookings by the time you read this article. We hope to have a grand opening event that will attract wide attention and get the Lodge off to a great start. Look out for publicity about this nearer the time.

The Trustees of Hudswell Community Charity are well aware that we have inherited a gem of a building of great importance to the village. We want its new use to respect and celebrate its past, whilst also providing an attractive place to stay for visitors to the Yorkshire Dales.

*Martin Booth, on behalf of
The Trustees of Hudswell Community Charity*



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Town Council**

WORKING PROUDLY TOGETHER TO BRING YOU

'Take a Seat'

Welcome to Richmond

Home Instead are thrilled to be working alongside Richmond Town Council on an initiative called 'Take A Seat'. This initiative is all about making Richmond even more accessible and enjoyable for all.

This is particularly important to older people; people with disabilities and people with long term conditions whether they are a local resident or someone visiting this beautiful historic town.

Businesses taking part in 'Take A Seat' will display the sticker below in their window to indicate that a seat is available with no obligation to make a purchase.

So, if you need to rest, please, just come on in and ask to 'Take A Seat'!

*With thanks to
all shops and
businesses for
their generous
involvement*



For further information please call 07513 723302 or email

joanne.hendry@darlington.homeinstead.co.uk



WHAT HAPPENED AT GENERAL SYNOD IN FEBRUARY?

For those of you who may not have followed the proceedings too closely, **JOHN PRITCHARD** has kindly provided a summary of the main issues.

General Synod met in February at a time of considerable anxiety, not to say crisis, in the national Church. Safeguarding mistakes were draining the confidence of church-goers and general public alike. So, what happened there? In fact, it was a lot less rancorous than one might have imagined. There were serious issues to address and three of them stand out.

Safeguarding

In the light of the mistakes the Church has made in safeguarding, there has been a strong call from survivors, as well as church members, for cultural change in the Church and an independent oversight structure. The question was whether the oversight body would take over the safeguarding employees in all the dioceses – model 4 – or operate as an independent body monitoring the work in the dioceses – model 3. Eventually the Synod voted for model 3.5! This recognised the difficulty of reconciling the different contracts and methods of 42 dioceses in one swoop, and proposed model 3 as a staging post to model 4. This has left the church open to outside criticism as letting victims down again, but was felt to be more workable and fair, and would achieve the same goal in the long run.

Clergy Discipline

It's hard to imagine in a parish like ours, but very occasionally clergy go off the rails! For some fifteen years now, there has been a procedure for bringing complaints about clergy to a formal process, which could result in a tribunal restricting a priest from ministry either temporarily or permanently. The procedure has been more than clunky. It has driven some clergy to despair and near suicide. It has been very slow, laborious, and infantilising, and it has often seemed like a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Many complaints have been mischievous. A new Clergy Conduct Measure was passed at Synod that gives much greater flexibility to the procedure, with three pathways depending on the severity of the complaint. A number of other improvements were made, streamlining the bureaucracy, abolishing the 12-month time limit on making complaints, and restoring Deposition from Holy Orders for the most serious offences.

Living in Love and Faith

A delay was announced in the process of agreeing final arrangements for the use of prayers of blessing for same sex couples. The Church obviously desires as much unity as possible, and it is proving difficult to agree how those who reject such blessings can have episcopal oversight and theological training for 'their' ordinands with which they are content. More theological work is being done, with the hope that final approval can be given at General Synod in November or next February.

John Pritchard





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Richmond Methodist Church
Dundas Street Entrance
Monday: 9.30am – 12.30pm
Wednesday: 9.30am – 12.30pm
Friday: 9.30am – 12.30pm
Free hot drinks and snacks



NOTES FROM THE PAST

A draft of the article below was begun by **Bob Woodings** before he sadly passed away last December, so, in tribute to her fellow researcher, **JANE HATCHER** has completed what he started to reveal the story of an interesting lady.

Richmond's Georgian Lady of Substance

An attractive, and very wealthy, socialite must have caused quite a stir amongst Richmond's chattering classes when she suddenly appeared in the town in the 1780s. A cultured and well educated widow in her 30s, her name was Mrs Sarah Elizabeth Ottley. On arrival she was immediately welcomed into the social circle of John and Elizabeth Yorke, whose mansion, Yorke House, stood at the west end of The Green. There they hosted gatherings of a coterie of intellectuals who called themselves the Richmond Athenaeum.

We learn something of the Yorkes' social circle from the published letters of Judith Milbanke, wife of Ralph Milbanke, the Colonel of the Richmondshire Battalion of the North York Militia. The couple had rented Hill House as their Richmond town house, to take part in military and social activities here. Their family seat was the now-demolished Halnaby Hall near Croft, itself another centre of cultural activities, including accommodating the composer William Herschell. Judith relates that, on 25 July 1784, she had been invited to a dinner party put on by the Yorkes for several members of local society, and that Mrs Ottley was there too.



Col. Sir Ralph Milbanke

Many genteel widows settled in Georgian Richmond: it offered congenial company and fashionable Georgian activities, such as assemblies, plays and horse racing. It was a less expensive location than, say, Bath, but economy was not something that Mrs Ottley needed to worry about. Her father, William Young of Delaford near Iver in Buckinghamshire, had been created a baronet when appointed Governor of Dominica in 1770. A painting of c.1768, now in the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, by the society artist Johann Zoffany, shows the Young family. They are a large group, in fancy dress as if costumed for a performance, with musical instruments. Sarah, then a young woman, holds a music book, and



The family of Sir William Young — Johann Zoffany

doubtless this was one of the many accomplishments which made her so welcome at Richmond soirées.

The Young family's West Indies connections led to Sarah marrying, about 1770 when she was probably just 21, the much older widower Richard Ottley, a wealthy plantation owner, who already had a son and three daughters by his first wife. Sarah gave him another three sons before Richard died in 1775. All members of the Ottley family were beneficiaries of slavery plantations in the West Indies.

Her Antigua-born stepson, Drewry Ottley (1754-1805), had been educated at Eton and St John's College, Cambridge, before being admitted to Lincoln's Inn. Drewry's son, Richard, would later become the Chief Justice of Ceylon, and was the father of Revd. Lawrence Ottley (1808-61), who served as Rector of Richmond 1850-61.

Deciding to educate her sons away from the West Indies climate was what brought Mrs Ottley to Richmond. Perhaps she had heard from Elizabeth Yorke, who also had family links with the West Indies, of the high reputation of Anthony Temple, Master of Richmond School. In addition to educating the local boys



Anthony Temple
Master of Richmond School

entitled to free places, Temple also admitted paying pupils from outside the town who could board, under the care of his wife Arabella, in their large home looking down Frenchgate, later named Oglethorpe House. Mrs Ottley needed to board her sons, for she sometimes travelled back to the West Indies, and probably also had a house in London.

Mrs Ottley encouraged her sons to take full advantage of Temple's tuition, for she wanted them to do well, even though they could anticipate being comfortably off adults. But she was also lavished maternal affection on another boy at the school at the same time as her sons. James Tate, a boy of humble background with a free place, was an exact contemporary of her eldest son William. When he took Tate home to meet his mother, she was clearly impressed, not only by his courtesy and gentle manners, but also his intelligence, and interest in poetry and literature.

Taking the young James Tate under her wing, Mrs Ottley opened up for him a world he was unlikely ever otherwise to have encountered. As a bright schoolboy, she introduced him to the Richmond Athenaeum. When he obtained his place at Cambridge she helped raise the funds needed to augment the modest allowance he received from the £8 per annum scholarship awarded under the terms of Dr John Bathurst's charity. And when he returned home in the vacations she asked him to distribute charity on her behalf to the needy.

Mrs Ottley was to remain a dear friend and mentor to Tate until she died in 1818. It is from his highly informative letters to her that we know so many details of his life story. When Tate became engaged to Margaret Wallis, Mrs Ottley sent Margaret a heart-shaped piece of jewellery, and attended their wedding at Kensington Church in 1796. Tate had just been appointed Temple's successor as Master of Richmond School, which under him would gain even greater prominence as a leading classical school, before his reputation led to him being appointed a Canon of St Paul's Cathedral for the last ten years of his life. James and Margaret Tate named many of their children after people who had mentored James,



James Tate
Anthony Temple's successor

and their 6th child was named Sarah Ottley Tate.

We know much of James Tate's later life, but what of the careers of Mrs Ottley's three sons? They all kept in touch with Tate, although relatively little is known about the younger two, Warner Ottley (1774-1846), who became a London merchant, and Brooke Taylor Ottley (1775-1846), who had a military career before settling in Dublin. More is known of the eldest son, William Young Ottley (1771-1826), who moved on from Richmond School to Winchester College, and then in 1787 to the Royal Academy Schools, where he began collecting drawings, prints and paintings of the old masters.

William Ottley added greatly to this collection on a ten-year Grand Tour of Italy, before returning to London and establishing himself as a writer and connoisseur. Elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, he was invited to advise various aristocrats on their collections. The family's income from the slave trade was diminishing, and, following the 1833 Act to Abolish Slavery, he was appointed keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum.



Mystic Nativity
(Sandro Botticelli)



William Young Ottley

In early December 1833, soon after James and Margaret Tate had moved to Amen Corner near St Paul's, they threw a dinner party. Among the guests were William Ottley, and Dr John Sleath, Master of St Paul's School, both of whom, Tate wrote to a friend, "gave us the benefit of their voices. But Ottley was many years in Italy and understands music in the most masterly style."

Not long after this, William Ottley's health deteriorated, and he died in 1836. Some of his paintings, and his 'Dublin' score of Handel's *Messiah*, were purchased by his younger brother Warner.

Jane Hatcher



CHARITY OF THE MONTH – APRIL

For our charity this month, **ANNA BOYCE** invites us to support **Holy Rood House** in Thirsk. As she explains, it is a haven of peace and tranquillity, which relies on donations to be able to continue its work.

It's a real struggle to put into words just how special Holy Rood House is, in the people who are associated with it and what it does – and maybe it's best summed up by saying it's a very special place where all are welcome.

Amongst many other things, Holy Rood House in Thirsk is the place to turn to if you'd like a local retreat, are interested in well-being and day courses, or if you are interested in exploring theologies relating to caring for the world and its people. Set in large grounds in the centre of Thirsk, it comprises two large houses, of which one, Juliet House, was the real Mrs Pumphrey's house in the James Herriot stories. In addition to beautiful and peaceful herbaceous gardens, there are productive gardens, a goat, some chickens and, in the summer, a tortoise, Thomas.

Holy Rood House is an inclusive Centre for Health and Pastoral Care which began in its present form over thirty years ago, led by Revd. Stanley Baxter and Revd. Elizabeth Baxter, from a base in Spennithorne, moving to Holy Rood House over 30 years ago when the Diocese of York took on the lease. The mantle of leadership has been taken on by Revd. Sue Hammersley, who, prior to taking up her new role at Holy Rood House in May last year, was Vicar of St Mark's Church in Sheffield for 13 years.

At the heart of Holy Rood community life is the care of guests who come on retreat from all parts of the country, and from all walks of life. Meals are mostly taken around a common table, although alternative arrangements can be made. Great care is taken to cater for special diets and allergies. This is where the productive gardens come into their own, as – along with eggs from the chickens – much of the food is home-grown. Retreats take place between Mondays and Fridays and are mostly taken up by individuals, although groups also stay. Some guests take advantage of sessions such as spiritual direction or chaplaincy, whilst others come to rest or walk in the local area. There are 15 guest rooms, mostly en-suite, with disabled access and a ground floor room for those with restricted mobility or medical needs.

A great deal of care is taken to ensure that Holy Rood is a safe place, where

guests and staff members alike can relax and be truly themselves as they come across the threshold. Guests are invited to make a donation towards the retreat rather than being charged a set rate.

An unusual facet of what is on offer at Holy Rood House is the Counselling Service, which is accommodated in Juliet House. This is provided by local, professionally registered Counsellors who give an amount of their time to Holy Rood to provide mental-health based counselling to local people, and sometimes people from further afield, on a non-time limited basis. Art therapy has been a very strong element of the counselling offer over the years and there is a well-equipped Creative Arts Room which is available for use by guests on retreat. Again, rather than being charged a set rate, those receiving counselling are invited to make a donation for their time at Holy Rood House, which means that, as far as is possible, low income is not a barrier to getting help.

The third strand of what is on offer through Holy Rood House is the Centre for the Study of Theology and Health. As the website, www.holyroodhouse.org.uk, puts it, 'this reflects the community's commitment to a prayerful, questioning and theologically reflective way of life'. A programme of events takes place throughout the year, where guest speakers explore relevant and contemporary topics, with the highlight being the annual Summer School. This year, Summer School guest speakers include Revd Mary Kells, Chaplain at Kings College Cambridge. Supporting this emphasis on learning is a well-resourced theological library, to be found in Juliet House.

Holy Rood House is home to a small residential community, which means that there is always someone on site day and night. As most of its services are provided by volunteers, staff costs are relatively low. Heating and maintenance costs make up a large share of outgoings. Governance is overseen by a Board of Trustees.

As I wrote in my introduction, it's difficult to summarise Holy Rood House in just a few words; it's a place, a community of people and an ethos where you can be yourself, explore ideas, eat cake – all in beautiful surroundings. It was the only place I had seen goldcrests until recently. I would warmly encourage anyone who has not visited, to take the opportunity to do so over the coming spring and summer, to pop in – perhaps meet Thomas the tortoise – and find out more.



Thomas the tortoise

Anna Boyce

MEMORABLE MANUSCRIPTS

PETER TREWBY has kindly provided our book review this month, having been impressed by the author's knowledge and experiences. A fascinating read, but perhaps not for the faint-hearted.

Book: Adventures in Volcanoland

Author: Tamsin Mather

Publisher: Abacus Books

This is a lovely book; a hard read but well worth it. It's a scholarly and thought-provoking journey through the science of volcanoes, their formation, the rocks and gases they contain, and their role in forming the world as we see it today, and the world our ancestors will see; all this combined with a personal account of the author's travels and adventures in pursuit of furthering our understanding of the unimaginable forces that lie beneath our fragile ecosystem and the effects those forces have on our world.

When we think of volcanoes, we think of Vesuvius and its eruption in A.D. 79 with so much suffering and death immortalised by archaeologists in the twisted plaster casts shown on our television screens. But Vesuvian eruptions go back at least 17,000 years and continue. Many stories and legends surround volcanoes and the author recounts how in the 18th Century some believed hell to lie in the subterranean chambers of volcanoes; although Rev Tobias Swinden of Cuxton pointed out that no earthly subterranean space could ever be large enough to accommodate all the 'fallen angels'. That was in 1714: what hope for us sinners now!



More recently, in 1815 the eruption of Mount Tambora in the Indonesian Archipelago shot rock and ash 40 km into the sky, leading to 71,000 deaths. 1816 was described as a "year without a summer", leading to an appalling famine. Lord Byron and Mary Shelley, who were holidaying together in Geneva, were kept indoors by the incessant rain and were purported to spend their time reading each other ghost stories, perhaps resulting in Mary Shelley conceiving her Frankenstein masterpiece and Byron his apocalyptic poem "Darkness": '*Morning came and went – and came and brought no day*'.

In 1883 the volcanic island of Krakatoa in Indonesia erupted killing 36,000, with the noise of the eruption shattering eardrums 60 km away and audible 850 km away in Singapore. The ash, dust and chemicals led to dramatic skies persisting for years afterwards, and it is postulated that the background blood-coloured sky of Munch's painting, 'The Scream', represented a post-Krakatoa sunset.

What part have volcanoes played in the evolution of life in our planet? Winding back the biological clock, we encounter at least five mass extinction eras when, in each era, often over tens of thousands of years, more than 70% of all species died. Four of these events overlapped with evidence of massive volcanic activity. The end-Cretaceous extinction, when the non-avian dinosaurs were wiped out, also coincided with the impact of the asteroid Chicxulub. What possible hope did they have of survival? As our carbon dioxide levels increase way above historic levels, global temperatures rise, and with no let-up in volcanic activity, we wonder if, with a sense of foreboding, we are entering another great era of destruction.



Recent volcanic activity in Iceland

Volcanoes, even when inactive, emit carbon dioxide and contribute to global warming, but in a steady state emit only a fraction of the amount emitted by us in our motor cars, planes, concrete manufacture and heated homes. In 2019 we released 35 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, 70 times more than the estimates of global volcanic

degassing. As measured by carbon dioxide emission, the level of power attained by our species is such that it overwhelms all the earth's current volcanoes, with the aviation industry alone emitting 800 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year (and a third runway at Heathrow!?).

I find myself attempting to summarise rather than criticise this book, but that is because I am still learning from it. The book isn't perfect. It is beautifully written but wanders a bit and the photographs are poor, but I learned so much and it makes one reflect and admire and be amazed – and what else can one expect from a book? I was inspired by the passion and humanity of the author and the depth of her scholarship. But should you buy it? **Yes**, if you have an interest in Earth Science and are prepared to persevere, but **No** if you want a quick and easy read. If you are somewhere in between, go for it. Be prepared to underline bits with your pencil, make notes, discuss and turn down pages. There is so much to learn.

Peter Trewby

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

With luck, the early morning frosts are receding from memory and we are blessed with longer, warmer days. **WENDY PRITCHARD** encourages us to spend more time looking at the beauty of God's creation in the awakening plants.

April is the month when hope for the future starts to shine brightly in nature, with daffodils spreading sunshine and new shoots defying the cold, promising that summer is on its way. We truly need that hope at the moment, with the world in crisis in so many places. The delicate blue flowers of forget-me-nots bring their message of 'remember the good things'; primroses spread their happiness through gardens and hillsides; the cherry blossom is about to become 'pink snow'; and bees start to return. I love bees and can spend many happy hours stalking them with a camera!

We all need to get away from the gloom of the news and get life back into perspective. Gardening has been shown to be good for our mental health, and just going for a short walk outside can restore our balance too. A garden is where God's creativity and ours can mesh together. To work with the soil and feel its rich rhythms is to share in God's love of this world in a unique way. And you don't even need a garden – looking after house plants gets us in touch with God's care for creation too.



Bee on Flowering Cherry



Forget-me-nots

In April, tiny seeds start their journey to turn into luxurious plants, and you can almost see the stems growing. Every day the garden looks different – more green, more colour, more work! In Genesis, there's a lovely description of God walking in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day. Walking slowly round a garden (and it doesn't need to be yours) can be deeply spiritual. To look at the intricate details of a flower or a leaf, and to marvel at its beauty, is to see a little into the heart of God. I've been known to burst into tears at the unspeakable

beauty of a rose. Each little detail is so perfect that it blows away our jaded view of life and opens us up to awe and wonder. When we walk with God round a garden, we can hear him speaking of ultimate victory and the triumph of beauty and goodness. So, gardeners, please remember to stop weeding, shredding and moving the compost heap and spend a little time just looking!



Primroses

In a garden, we can get in touch with the rhythms of life, not forcing the pace but cooperating with God in his purposes. It's a place to be still and shake off pressures, so that unexpected glimpses of glory can break through. There's no need to be a gardener to feel the presence of God in nature: we just have to slow down and open up. Then we may hear the trees of the field clapping their hands.



Wendy Pritchard

THE POWER OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

When asked to write a Haiku celebrating Springtime, look what ChatGPT came up with. Could you have done better?

Blossoms kiss the breeze

Gentle rain on green leaves falls

Warmth wakes earth from sleep.

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 — **27th April '25**
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:
25th April '25



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

3rd April '25



WORD SEARCH

Easter

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter — the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life. But because He does live, we have a sure and certain hope for our future.

passover
bread
wine
body
blood
betrayal
jerusalem
pilate
judas
trial
crucifixion
soldiers
cross
nails
vinegar
temple
curtain
tomb
angel
stone
risen
gethsemane
gardener
Mary



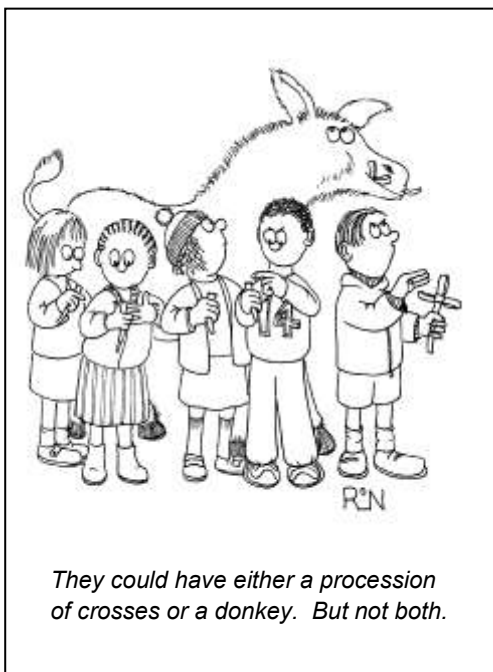
Sudoku - Easy

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

Sudoku - Medium

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

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They could have either a procession of crosses or a donkey. But not both.



"The new Curate is really cool, Dad. Did you know that God emailed the Ten Commandments to Moses' Tablet PC?"

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



Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku — Medium

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

Wordsearch



**Deadline for May '25 edition; Monday 14th April.
To contribute letters, articles, etc. please contact
connections.ed24@gmail.com or 07866 033263**

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