

CONNECTIONS

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

March 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

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DOWNHOLME

CHURCH OFFICERS

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|------------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
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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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| | | | |
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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

As we enter the season of Lent, it seemed appropriate to use a picture of purple crocuses for this month's front cover, hopefully confirming also that Spring is on its way. After the recent spell of cold and damp weather, a bit of sunshine and warmth will be very welcome.

In the middle of this month's magazine, you will find an explanation from Martin Clarke about the obligatory renewal of the Electoral Roll this Easter. There are also a couple of forms for this purpose, which should be adequate for many households. They are on the centre pages so that they can be detached easily for completion and return without detracting from the rest of the content. If you prefer to use the forms available at the back of the church, then please do so.

Once again, we have a variety of articles in this issue, starting with a 'Letter from Lorna' and a resumé of the courses and activities available during Lent. Jim Jack shares what he has discovered about various dates in March; provides an update on the activities of the Friends; and has also been to find out more about the Marske Choir, which will be performing for us this Easter. Judith MacLeod has paid a visit to York Minster, and Carole McCormack suggests another dog-walk in a scenic and relatively secluded area, rich with industrial heritage. John Pritchard explores the origins of our present-day Bible and summarises the recent 'doings' of the PCC, while Paul Carnell, our Treasurer, has produced his colourful 'pies' and a helpful graph to illustrate the ins-and-outs of the parish finances in 2024. Jane Hatcher has unearthed some fascinating facts about a character associated with Marske, and George Alderson reminds us that goodwill should not be restricted to a certain season of the year. With the welcome return of Wendy Pritchard's 'Garden Notes'; her summary of Trinity Academy's very pleasing recent OfSTED report; and information about the Charity of the Month and other events, we hope you find this issue interesting and informative.

As ever, we would welcome the contribution of items for possible inclusion in future issues. We'd love to hear from you, so don't be shy!

John McCormack

**Cover photo by Jim Jack
Crocuses in Coniston Churchard**



Letter from Lorna

March 2025



The Season of Lent

I've never been particularly 'good' at Lent. At age 15, I decided to give up meat (but not fish), which led me to being huddled in front of the fridge at 3.00am, desperately eating cocktail sausages like some strange carnivorous gremlin. At 20, I packed Lent in completely, because it was just making me miserable: constantly falling short of whatever I chose to give up for those 40 days and 40 nights. All praise to Jesus — it certainly couldn't have been me.

It took going and getting some theological education to see what Lent means to me — it's not a woe-is-me denying of the self to prove that I can do something possibly Jesus related; it's 40 days of actively trying to get closer to God. For some people, that is giving-up something they love, but is quite distracting (like social media), as a way of focussing their minds more easily on the Lord. For others, it's serving God by serving others, giving their time to charity. For yet more, it can be getting to know God in nature, promising to be outside more, appreciating the world around them.

Of course, none of those things may work for you, and that's fine! God speaks to us through different ways. This is why we're offering Lent courses at the church, to help people learn what it means to know God, and to help people know God in their own individual ways.

Now I admit, closeness to God is not just for Lent, it's for life, but there is something special about taking these days to really focus on it. And that's what we should be focussing on — not what we are giving up, but what we are gaining.

Lent is not about shame, but about knowing God yet more.

Blessings,

Lorna





St Mary's Lent Resources 2025



Our regular Home Groups and Book Group will continue to meet during Lent.

**Alongside these, the following resources are available.
For further information please contact Martin.**

St Mary's Lent Groups: 'Alive in Christ'

Led by Martin and Lorna on Tuesday evenings from 11th March
7.00pm at the Rectory
and, from 12th March, on Wednesday afternoons,
2.00pm in church

This 5-week course explores the nature of God's love, and will help us become more confident about serving God as a member of the Body of Christ. Short optional Bible studies for each day of the week follow the group sessions.

For full details see: www.resourcingrenewal.org/alive-in-christ

Benefice Retreat Morning, Saturday 12th April, led by Bishop John

9:30am — 12:30pm at Downholme Church
concluding with a Bring and Share Lunch.

To book a place on either of the above, please add your name to the Sign-Up sheet at the back of the church

Richmond Methodist Church Lent Group

Details to follow.

Diocesan resources

www.leeds.anglican.org

Lent Retreats (including an online Meditation on 6th March, and a Day Retreat on 15th March) led by Bishop Anna at Ripon Cathedral
www.learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/lent-retreats-in-episcopal-areas

Lent Course: **What does it mean to be a disciple in the world today?**

This popular *Rhythm of Life* course explores deepening our commitment to Christ through: resting, creating, sharing, encouraging, celebrating.

Follow this course individually online via:

www.learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/rol-lent-course/

Church of England resources

www.churchofengland.org

See: www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/lent-resources or www.eden.co.uk
for a range of Lent books and reflections, including:

Booklets on **Living Hope** – for adults or children

www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9781781405000/living-hope

Daily Reflections for Lent

www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9781781404843/reflections-for-lent-2025

Paula Gooder's book – **Women of Holy Week**

www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9781781402894/women-of-holy-week

Prayers and reflections of the biblical stations of the cross –

Walking the way of the cross

www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715123447/walking-the-way-of-the-cross

Bible study guides and reflections

Bible Reading Fellowship

These offer a range of Bible reading notes and other resources.

www.brfonline.org.uk/collections/subscriptions

Reflections for Daily Prayer

Daily Bible reflections based on the Common Worship Lectionary

www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9781781404577/reflections-for-daily-prayer

Lectio365: a free daily devotional app that helps us pray the Bible every day

www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365

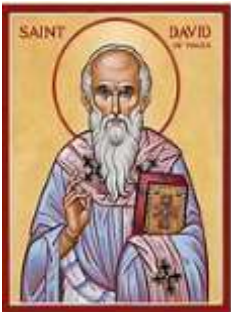


IT'S A DATE

Here comes March — the month of Spring flowers, mad hares and the first knockings of even brighter days ahead, as clocks go forward on 30th March. But let's not get ahead of ourselves just yet as **JIM JACK** gives his update on dates to note, some perhaps of more significance than others. You can judge.

Lighter nights ahead and perhaps the last of this year's snow behind us— although I do recall a cricket match in Derbyshire being called off due to snow in June a few years back. Never say never!

In the Church calendar, celebration of the lives of individual saints such as **St David** (1 March — get your daffs into your lapels), **St Patrick** (exchange flowers for shamrock on 17 March) and, more locally, **St Cuthbert** (whose feast day — 20 March — commemorates the date of his death on Inner Farne in 687 AD) jostle for pre-eminence with the **World Day of Prayer** (Friday 7 March) and **Mothering Sunday** (30 March). But, as David, Patrick and Cuthbert have each featured in this publication in the past, perhaps turning the spotlight on two others whose lives are less well-known would be interesting.



Representations in Art of (L to R) St David, St Patrick, St Cuthbert and St Chad

Take, for example, **St Chad**, whose feast day falls on 2 March. Chad should be the patron saint of any modern bishop whose consecration is questioned by another bishop. Chad was consecrated a bishop, then deposed – and then re-consecrated! It all began about the middle of the 7th Century, when Oswiu, King of Northumbria, made Chad the bishop of the Northumbrian see. But due to a scarcity of appropriate bishops, two dubious bishops did the job of consecrating him. This led to Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, deciding to depose him about three years later.

Chad took his dismissal with good heart, and peacefully retired. But then Theodore had second thoughts: Chad was of excellent character: humble,

devout, and zealous. So, Theodore re-consecrated him – to be the first bishop of the Mercians. Second time around, Chad was a great success – again.

When Chad died in about 672 AD, he was quickly venerated as a saint. People took a great fancy to his bones, believing that they would bring healing. Even today, four large bones, dating from the 7th Century and believed to be Chad's, are in the RC Cathedral in Birmingham. Bishops today may still argue about consecration, but they are unlikely to have their bones disturbed

And then there's **Joseph the Carpenter**, after whom many churches are named and whose feast day is on 19 March. Apparently there is no certainty as to why this date was chosen. Why should St Joseph's day be in March? It would seem more logical to fall in Advent and Christmas, as his place at Mary's side is represented in millions of nativity scenes around the world.

As the 'foster-father' of Christ and husband of Mary, Joseph played a major part in the story of the coming of Jesus Christ, but all that is known about him for sure is in the gospels (especially Matthew 1 & 2). He was of Davidic descent, but his trade as a carpenter shows that he was not at all wealthy.

Joseph's gentleness and decency towards Mary, and his willingness to do God's will when it was revealed to him, portray him as a kind and godly person. He is the patron saint of fathers of families, and makes an excellent example. He comes across as a protective, loyal, thoughtful, self-controlled person, full of integrity, and willing to work hard.



Joseph is also the patron saint of all who desire a holy death. Thus, not only churches, but hospitals and religious houses are dedicated to Joseph.

Closer to home, followers of the recent 'Wolf Hall' series on BBC TV will have been made more aware of the political and religious turbulence of the Tudor years. 21 March commemorates the death of **Thomas Cranmer**, who was central to the creation of the present day Church of England — although he paid for this with his life, when the Catholic Mary Tudor came to the throne.

He was the first ever Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, following King Henry VIII's decision to pull away from Rome, and established the Church of England. Born in Nottingham in 1489, Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533. He was adviser to both Henry VIII and Edward VI; helped Henry with

the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon; and, along with Thomas Cromwell, supported the principle of Royal Supremacy (where the king is sovereign over the Church in his realm).



Thomas Cranmer

Under Edward VI, Thomas Cranmer made major reforms to the C of E. He put the English Bible into parish churches; compiled the first two versions of the Book of Common Prayer; and worked with continental reformers to change doctrine on everything from the Eucharist to the veneration of saints.

But kings and queens, like American presidents, change, and the Catholic Queen Mary I was determined to wipe out Protestantism. Cranmer was imprisoned for two years; found guilty of heresy; and burned at the stake on 21 March 1556.

March sees the much of the **season of Lent this year**, and the celebration of **Mothering Sunday** — always on the fourth Sunday of Lent — falls this year on 30 March. The latter is a celebration dating back over 400 years, when it became the tradition for families to attend a church service in the nearest important church or cathedral — their 'Mother' church.

Attending the church service together was a rare occasion for families to gather as one, and members of the family who worked on that day were often given the day off, so that they could also attend the service.



Off to Church, with lots of flowers, on Mothering Sunday

As time went by, servants and apprentices were still given the day off, but instead of going to the 'mother' church, they would have used the day off to spend time with their families, and indeed their mothers. So, if your family have forgotten to get a gift this Mothering Sunday, don't worry if they can tell you the true non-mother related origin of Mother's Day. You've taught them well or it's a great excuse!!

The fourth Sunday in some Christian traditions was known as '**Refreshment Sunday**', or the 'Sunday of the five loaves', as it was supposedly the day on which the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand took place. Jesus fed five thousand people, despite only having five loaves of bread and two fishes.

Away from church specific days, but still related to God’s creation, 3 March marks the United Nations led **World Wildlife Day**. The theme for 2025 concerns finance and resources for conservation — ‘Investing in People and the Planet’ — and is marked by special events and a major conference. This is



World Wildlife Day

backed up by **Global Re-cycling Day** on 18 March and the **International Day of Forests** on the 21st.

Lots of literary stuff in March, if reading is your particular interest. **World Book Day** falls on the 5th (also **Ash Wednesday**); **World Poetry Day** on the 21st (how will Poetry and Puds mark this day?); **Shakespeare Week** (24-30 March), which also contains **Tolkein Day** on the 24th and **World Theatre Day** on the 27th.

Music is served this month by **Early Music Day**, also on the 21st, and **Piano Day** on 29 March, a date chosen because it is 88 days into the year, the number of keys on a standard piano keyboard.

There’s also a variety of climate-control supporting events, which are designed to ask us to think about the impact on our planet of what we do. 7 March is **Global Unplugging Day**, although this is not to do with switching off the electric kettle, microwave, lights etc., but specifically unplugging from the internet and its communication implications and engage in human connection to remind ourselves of how important this is. No smartphone reading while pushing a buggy; no ‘I must answer those emails’; and writing a letter instead of emailing. If moustaches can be grown for a month, or wine can be set aside for the same period, how easy is it to give one day to non-electronic communication? Mmmm.

More directly related to climate is **Global Recycling day** (above) or **Earth Hour Day** on the 22nd, asking us to turn off all non-essential devices for one hour. The same day is also **United Nations World Water Day**, to raise awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030, and support for the **Save our Glaciers** campaign.

There is significant human focus this month, for example on **International**

Women’s Day (8 March) bringing women’s rights into international focus, and **Single Parents Day** (21 March), an official holiday in the USA. Here in the UK, you can nominate someone you know as Single Parent of the Year to Gingerbread, the charity which supports the work of single parents via their website.



As always there are days whose titles look frivolous on the surface, but may mask a serious cause. We have our well-known **Red-Nose Day** on 21 March, or the less well-known **Wear a Hat Day** on 28 March, which sounds quirky but is, in fact, to support brain tumour research..

I avoided the use of the word ‘batty’ here, because the money raised on such days offers much needed finance for these charitable causes — and also because 7-16 March is **Bat Science Week**, the animal much supported — until it comes to the delays they cause on getting planning-permission or putting extra demands on old church buildings.

Bats do not monopolise the month in terms of God’s creatures. Look out for **World Frog Day** on 20 March, before clearing your throat and cheering for the **International Day of Action for Seals** on the 22nd.

Every month as I research these items, I become aware of the number of important causes which vie for our awareness, attention or action, some asking for our support, some for finance, some for time and some for a change in behaviour— but I become more aware of the days which aren’t mentioned above.

But bide a while. I’ve just noticed that **World Sleep Day** is on my list for 14 March this year. Now that sounds appealing. And the internet search is offering a toolkit (hammer? Night Nurse? Mask? Anti-snore medication and devices?), research into the value of sleep, and membership of the Sleep Society. As long as I don’t forget my birthday. Now there’s a puzzle.



Jim Jack

CELEBRATING CATHEDRALS

As one of our nearest Cathedrals, York Minster is probably familiar to many of our readers, but, for those who haven't been inside, **JUDITH MacLEOD** shares her impressions of what there is to see.

A trip to York from Richmond makes for a pleasant day out and you can get there from here entirely by public transport. But York is very popular with visitors, making it difficult to walk quickly along the streets. If you go early, however, you can move around more easily and enjoy the architecture.

Recently, I arrived just before 9:00am and was due to meet my mother mid-morning. With 2 hours in hand, I started off on the third floor of Marks and Spencer's at the café with its stunning view of the Minster. Even on a dull day, you get the sense of York's history with the Minster in the background and the ancient market and half-timbered building in the foreground.



As many of you will know the Minster well, I was aiming to visit one of York's many churches. In the Middle Ages there were an astonishing 47 churches within the city walls. 19 of them are still used today, but the one I had chosen, however, did not open until 11:00am.

I walked to the Minster with the intention of exploring some lesser-known features of the building, starting with the Roman remains. York was founded in about 71AD, when the Ninth Legion consisting of 5,000 men established a garrison and a non-military settlement between the Ouse and Foss rivers.



Constantine the Great

For a long time, I have been intrigued by the transition from the polytheism of the Roman Empire to Christianity. Early Christians were persecuted in Rome during the Empire, but the change came with Constantine, who was proclaimed Emperor in York in 306. By recognising the civil liberties of his Christian subjects and converting to Christianity, he established the foundations of Western Christendom. His statue greets you on the south side of the Minster.

The Romans stayed in York until the early 5th Century. The garrison occupied most of the site belonging to the current Minster, and Roman remains have been found in the Undercroft below it. The wall paintings probably indicated an officer's quarters.



The Minster, over the site of the fortress



Roman wall paintings

Nearby Petergate and Stonegate are surviving remnants of the Roman street system. It would have been historically neat if the garrison had been replaced by a forerunner of the current Minster, but that did not happen. Photographs in the Undercroft show the site of the Minster relative to the garrison.

York became a bishopric in the 4th Century. The absence of artefacts such as coins dating back to the fifth and sixth centuries has led archeologists to believe that York may have been deserted for a couple centuries before the Anglo-Saxons arrived. In 627, Edwin, the most powerful English ruler of his day and first Christian king of Northumbria, was baptised in York. A wooden church dedicated to St Peter was built to celebrate the occasion. Edwin's conversion to Christianity was inspired by Paulinus, a Roman monk sent by Pope Gregory in 601, to

evangelise the Anglo-Saxons. In 633, a stone church was built around the wooden church and King Edwin was buried there. After Edwin's death, the bishopric moved to Lindisfarne, but was then restored to York in 664 before becoming an archbishopric in 735.

The Minster is dedicated to William Fitzherbert who had 2 periods of appointment – 1141-47 and 1153-4. He was canonised in the 13th Century and his shrine lies below the high altar in the crypt. He is the patron saint of York.



St William's tomb

The present-day Gothic Minster was built from 1220 to 1472 to replace the Romanesque one. It is the largest medieval cathedral north of the Alps. The £20 entry ticket is pricey, but gives you unlimited entry for a year.



The South Transept

I was surprised to discover that the oldest parts of the Gothic building are the transepts which cross the nave. Although the South Transept was badly damaged by the fire of 1984, it has



The Chapter House

been beautifully restored. The glass in the fifteenth-century rose window, which commemorates the end of the War of the Roses in 1487, contained 40,000 cracks as a result of the fire. It was removed and ingeniously welded with ancient glass over

a 3-year period. In the windows below the rose window, you can see scenes from the life of St Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, who died in 687 and whose coffin resides in Durham Cathedral. Information boards near the windows in York give you a full picture of St Cuthbert's life.

You cannot fail to appreciate the stunning elegance of the Gothic building. There is the remarkable nave built in the decorated style over a period of 60 years, with its wooden roof painted so as to appear like stone. There is also the octagonal Chapter House (overleaf) with its intricately patterned ceiling. The latter is where the Dean and Chapter of York administer the cathedral, and it is still used today



West façade, and entrance, York Minster

for this purpose. Its design means that no-one is seated in a central position and everyone is equal in authority.

As I walked away from the west façade, I thought how rich an understanding the Minster gives of the development of early Christianity and medieval religious architecture in this country. The tenacity of the Christian belief and the remarkable human endeavour exemplified in the great cathedrals of our faith are uplifting. I find visiting any of our fine English churches and cathedrals spiritually soothing.

Judith MacLeod

A GENTLE REMINDER

We are very grateful to all who have subscribed to *Connections* for 2025, and to our distributors who kindly bring the magazine to you each month. At the time of writing, however, there are still a few people for whom we do not yet seem to have a record of payment made or arranged. If you receive a letter with your magazine this month, it would be much appreciated if you could attend to it without delay, so that we don't print too many copies. Thank you.

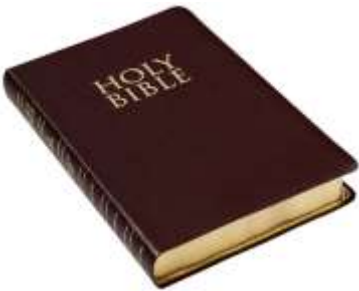
BIBLE POINTERS

Have you ever wondered why some books are included in the Bible, while others were relegated to the Apocrypha? In the latest in his series, this month **JOHN PRITCHARD** provides some fascinating clarity.

Who decided what went into the Bible?

The Jewish Bible was relatively straight-forward, because it had been brought together and used by Jews for centuries, with minor variations. The first five books (the Pentateuch) are **religious law** – the Jewish Torah. Then come the **histories**, Chronicles and Kings, followed by several chunks of **poetry** including the psalms, and then a sizeable number of large and small **prophetic books**. So far so good. The early Christians adopted this Jewish Bible as their Old Testament.

The trouble came with what came next. In the first three centuries of the Christian movement there was no central organisation; Jesus hadn't written a book or left clear instructions on how his followers were to organise themselves after he'd gone. There were no rules about how to be a Christian or run a Christian community. Indeed, for the first three hundred years there were no special buildings – people met in each other's houses. It was very much trial and error.



The time came, however, when more structure was needed for all the fast-growing churches. At first there were letters from prominent leaders like Paul, giving guidance and correction to the young churches, but these original leaders, the disciples and witnesses, began to die out. Who was to teach all the new Christians about the faith and the Jesus story? Christian groups began to gather material

together and some of it was written down – the gospels. Important letters were kept as well.

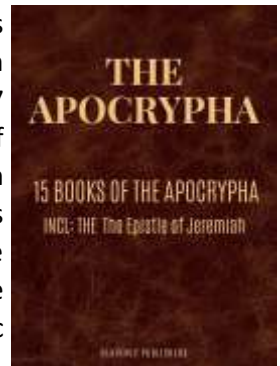
What was the quality of these documents? There would have been hundreds of documents going around, some of them extremely doubtful in terms of their provenance, accuracy and common sense. Some pious Christians let their imagination run away with them, and there were stories about the hidden years of Jesus' childhood and younger life. Some had him married with children; one had him on a grand tour that included England. These unfounded stories occasionally get revived in a novel or in the popular press.

How could people determine true from false? Which books were they to use? This led some Christian leaders to issue official lists (canons) of approved books and letters. But because there was no single organised structure for this 'church' (which didn't yet meet in churches), different lists emerged from different leaders. The first surviving list came around 144 AD from a controversial character called Marcion, who had a strong dislike for Jewish faith and Jewish Christianity, so he omitted all the Old Testament and only included Luke's gospel, but had lots of Paul's letters.

What other lists were around? The so called Muratorian Canon from around 200 AD included in the New Testament the Book of Wisdom, which we now find in the Apocrypha (a mixed bag of books that appeared between the Old and New Testaments). It missed out Hebrews, James and the letters of Peter. Another prominent Christian leader at the time was Iraenus, who missed out 2 Peter and 3 John but kept 1 Peter.

How was all this resolved? There were different lists in different areas right through until 376AD when Bishop Athanasius produced a list that began to gain widespread acceptance. A conference in Rome approved the list in 382 and another in Carthage in 397, and now it's what we know as the New Testament. Revelation only just crept in! What helped was the presumed authorship of an apostle.

What was left out? A stack of books were left out, such as 1 Clement, a genuine letter from a bishop of Rome; seven letters by Ignatius, a prominent leader who died about 107 AD; a letter of Polycarp and one of Barnabas, friend of Paul; the anonymously written Didache containing much basic church teaching; and the gospel of Thomas, with its alleged secret sayings of Jesus. The books called the Apocrypha ('hidden') are found in several Bibles and were reckoned to be a 'second eleven', unsuitable for public reading but recommended for private reading.



And so we get there! There continued to be debate about the Old Testament Song of Songs, because people weren't sure whether it was symbolic of a relationship between God and Israel or simply an erotic love song. Revelation struggled, too, because it was thought (correctly!) to be unlikely to have an apostolic author. But essentially, we have our Bible. Enjoy!

John Pritchard

TAKE THE LEAD

With most of the dog-walks around Richmond being very muddy at this time of year, if you don't mind venturing a bit further afield, **CAROLE McCORMACK** suggests one which combines interest with clean paws.

Surrender Bridge and Old Gang Mine



The Old Gang Mine

Any walks involving the exploration of lead mining in Swaledale inevitably include this spectacular stretch of bridleway and moorland track. Remote and bleakly beautiful, this stunning walk is along a valley between Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. We find that the most convenient way for walkers from Richmond to access it is to go to Reeth, then up Arkengarthdale to just past the village of Langthwaite, the subject of an earlier 'Take the Lead'. Take a sharp left turn (signed Low Row) shortly before the CB Inn onto an unfenced moorland road which leads to Surrender Bridge and off-road parking for several cars. Along this route, there are nostalgic reminders of the opening sequences from the 1970's and 80's series of 'All Creatures Great and Small'.

In terms of facilities, this is a moorland walk and any loos, or refreshments, will need to be accessed in Reeth. (Public toilets are on the right, just after the turn off to Arkengarthdale). There is also a small museum in the village, which is open during the summer months and gives some background to the lead mining history of the area.

There are no poo bins on this walk, so suitable bags should be used as grazing animals can be harmed by uncollected offerings! There is ample water for canine companions as the track follows the Mill Gill, or Old Gang Beck.



Surrender Bridge, looking up the valley

Surrender Bridge is a Grade II Listed Building, as are the nearby Surrender Smelting Mills. The unusual name of "surrender", used also for the nearby Surrender Moss and Surrender Ground, most likely originates from a perversion of the old English word "suran", meaning peaty or damp.

From Roman times to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Yorkshire Dales were one of the main lead mining areas in the country. The mines and spoil heaps now merge back into the landscape, particularly in Swaledale which is a rich location for lead mining remains, including Grinton smelt mill – the best preserved smelt mill in the Yorkshire Dales.

Reeth was the main service centre for the lead industries of both Swaledale and Arkengarthdale and the museum houses artefacts and information from the lead mining period. You will also find stories of the communities that depended on that industry along with geological specimens illustrating the mineral wealth of the area.

The first ore from the profitable Surrender Mines was smelted in 1797 after protracted disputes over ownership which lasted nearly 100 years. The mineral lords fought each other through the courts, while their miners fought and sabotaged each other's work on the ground. One incident involved one faction sinking a shaft which was then filled in by the other side, nearly killing the men still underground.

The present Surrender smelt mill replaced two earlier ones on the site in 1841 and is interesting for its symmetrical layout. A huge waterwheel powered the bellows for the furnaces and its wheel pit can still be seen.

The main fuel for the hearths was peat and the remains of a



Surrender Smelt Mill, from the parking area

fine open-sided peat storehouse can also be seen on the site. It would once have had a heather-thatched roof.

Lead produced here would have been taken by pack-horse or cart to markets in Stockton-on-Tees or to Richmond once the railway station opened. It would have had many uses including paint, water pipes, weights, roof covering, lead shot and water tanks.

The walk itself is straightforward. After parking at Surrender Bridge, opposite the Surrender smelt mill shown in the previous photograph, cross the road and follow the bridle track which leads off to the left, along the valley. Shooting butts can be seen on the hillside to your left and, during nesting times, dogs must be kept on leads. The walk is easy and undulating with a good walking surface for about 1.5 miles, and takes you to Old Gang Mines and a rebuilt hut shelter. The option here is simply to return, or to continue on an approximately 6-mile round walk. Views are wide-ranging and magnificent – but the temperature is always at least 2°C lower than in Richmond!



Looking back down the valley, towards the starting point

Carole McCormack

Friends Annual General Meeting — 9th March

We hope that you will be able to spare the time to attend the AGM, which is straight after the morning service on 9th March. The Friends of St Mary's was established some years ago as a separate charity with its own constitution and objectives and is regulated by the Charity Commission. In summary, the objectives, approved by the Commission are

1. To co-operate with the Parochial Church Council in the preservation and adornment of the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Richmond, North Yorkshire.
2. By assisting with the general upkeep and maintenance of the church, its activities and services, its ornaments and furnishings, its history and its work, bind together in a common fellowship all those who love the parish Church of St Mary the Virgin.
3. To engage in charitable projects within the Parish.

We do this by organising social activities for the church and also fund raising to enable us to pay for projects and one-off work, which would otherwise fall as a burden on the income of the Church. The big one this year has been the Step-free Access project, now completed.

Last month's magazine showed that there is an event each month this year. We would love you to consider offering your help with refreshments, organisation of events, publicity and ideas to enable our church building to be a real support for fellowship and worship for the whole community. Better still, would you become a committee member? Full details are in the leaflets at the back of church.

Spring Quiz — 22nd March

With two events already behind us — Vox Populi concert and Blues in the Pews, we look forward to another of our very popular Quiz Nights in the Town Hall on 22nd March. (see opposite) Tickets are £10 each from Andy Lovell, John Challis or Castle Hill Books. These have always sold out before the event, so do get yours soon. Another great social night in store!



Jim Jack

Upcoming Events

Hold onto your hats – a Fashion Show is coming!

St Mary's is delighted to be hosting a ladies' fashion show on **Thursday 24th April**, at 7.00pm in Richmond Town Hall. This will be brought to us by **Larches of Richmond**, the enticing clothes and accessories shop on Rosemary Lane. The clothes will be modelled by local people, including, we hope, our own Christine Stedman, and will suit adult women of all ages in all our various shapes and sizes. There will be time to try on any of the clothes that Larches have brought for us— all will be lovely and competitively priced, but there will be absolutely no pressure to buy. There will be a licensed bar and raffle, with all profits from this and the ticket sales going to the Friends of St Mary's.

Tickets will be reasonably priced and will be available nearer the time. More information later..... This will be a very popular community event, so please book the date and bring your friends and neighbours too!

Comedy Night with Paul Kerensa, Friday 16th May

On **Friday 16th May**, St Mary's is proud to be hosting an evening with **Paul Kerensa**, the Christian comedian and comedy writer. This is one not to miss, so please book the date and spread the word. A clean comedian, with performance suitable for anyone over 12, be they atheist or bishop, Paul has toured his solo show to thousands of events & festivals, from Spring Harvest, Greenbelt and Keswick, to the Edinburgh Fringe and Montreal Comedy Festival. And now it's Richmond's turn! Paul has written for 'Miranda', 'Not Going Out', 'TFI Friday' etc. and appears on Radio 2's 'Pause for Thought'.

"A brilliant writer, fantastic communicator, deep thinker & philosopher but most importantly, extremely decent bloke." – CHRIS EVANS

"Top comic, top writer, top bloke!" – LEE MACK "

Friends of St Mary's Church
Richmond

Quiz Night

Town Hall Richmond
Sat 22nd March
7:00 pm

With Top Quizmaster
Dave Tucker

Bar, Raffle,
Play Your Cards Right
Tickets £10 including
Pie and Pea Supper
(Vegetarian Option)

Tickets available in advance from:
Castell Hill Bookshop.

Prizes (Top Prize £50)
Call 02924766089 for Details
www.richmondfratsofparish.org.uk

And of course,
don't forget!



Get your tickets
now

Friends of St Mary's Church
Richmond

Quiz Night

Town Hall Richmond
Sat 22nd March
7:00 pm

With Top Quizmaster
Dave Tucker

Bar, Raffle,
Play Your Cards Right
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CHARITY OF THE MONTH – MARCH

This month it is the turn of the Mothers' Union to seek our support for the quiet work they do behind the scenes, as listed below.

St Mary's Richmond Branch has had a very successful year, with a gain of five new members. We continue to support international, national and diocesan appeals. We realise that we are a very small cog in a giant wheel consisting of over four million members, spread over eighty three countries around the world, with consultative status at the United Nations. Locally we have supported The Beacon; St Paul's Pantry; The Methodist Warm Hub; The Colburn Food Bank and Hub; knitted hats for the Special Care Baby Unit at the Friarage; and, of course, we supply the Primulas for the congregation on Mothering Sunday. Part of our remit is the support we give to the families of children brought into our church family to be baptised. There is always a member of MU present at the service, and the child is given the gift of a book with a card of welcome. We gave prayerful support to the sixteen days of activism against gender-based violence in November, and campaigned outside Ripon Cathedral, finishing with a minute of silence.

As ever, we are most grateful for the continuing support of the congregation and clergy for allowing us to be the March Charity of the month.

Susan Scrafton

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

**Prepared by the Christian Women
of the Cook Islands**

**Please join us in this service for
everyone, on Friday 7th March 2025
at 3.00pm**

**St Joseph and St Francis Xavier RC
Church, Newbiggin**

Followed by refreshments in the
Church Hall





Why YOU should be on the St Mary's Electoral Roll.

Every six years all churches must destroy their old electoral rolls and create new ones. 2025 is a sixth year. It might not sound all that exciting, but it is an important thing that we need to do as a church.

What is the Electoral Roll?

It is literally a register of people who can elect other people in the church. It is a bit like being on the civic electoral roll, which allows you to vote in local and Parliamentary elections. Being on the church electoral roll, means that you can vote on any relevant issues at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC (the church council).

Although the electoral roll is the closest thing the Church of England has to official membership, just signing up does not really make you a member of the church. It is more like you are already a 'member', by coming regularly to St Mary's and participating in the life of the church, and that would be your reason for being on the Electoral Roll.

Electoral Rolls should be able to provide a true indication of the real membership and strength of the church, both locally and nationally.

Putting your name on the roll is a way of saying "I belong"; it is an act of commitment to your local church and to the church as a whole. It is also an important statement of witness.

With your name on the Electoral Roll, the strength of the church can be seen in the parish and the diocese. Joining the electoral roll is also a statement of your active and ongoing support for the church.

(Continued on page 28)

PARISH OF ST MARY, RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL

APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Full name.....

Full
address.....

.....

.....

Post
Code.....

Please tick 1 and 2 and either 3 or 4:

1. I am baptised, am a lay person, and am aged 16 or over

2. I am a member of the Church of England (or of a
Church in communion with the Church of England)

3. I am resident in the parish

4. I am not resident in the parish, but have habitually attended
public worship in the parish during the preceding six months

**I declare that the above answers are true and
I apply for inclusion on the Electoral Roll of the parish.**

Signed.....

Date.....

PARISH OF ST MARY, RICHMOND WITH HUDSWELL

APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Full name.....

Full
address.....

.....

.....

Post
Code.....

Please tick 1 and 2 and either 3 or 4:

1. I am baptised, am a lay person, and am aged 16 or over

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Church in communion with the Church of England)

3. I am resident in the parish

4. I am not resident in the parish, but have habitually attended
public worship in the parish during the preceding six months

I declare that the above answers are true and

I apply for inclusion on the Electoral Roll of the parish.

Signed.....

Date.....

(Continued from page 25)

To apply to be on the church electoral roll, you must:

- be baptised;
- be aged 16 or over; and
- **either** live in the parish
- **or** have attended the church regularly for at least 6 months

You are allowed to be on the electoral roll of more than one church.

You can apply by filling in your details on the forms that will be available in church, but to make life a little easier, a couple of abbreviated forms can be found overleaf in the middle pages of this magazine, so that they can be detached for completion. For most people one of these will be sufficient.

Joining the electoral roll can be a way of confirming your commitment to St Mary's and to our vision. But it also allows you to take part in the life of the wider Church of England, at deanery, diocesan and even national levels, if you're interested in that.

The system is intended to enable church people at every level to be in touch with the Church as a whole and to play their part in decision making. The system is also intended to ensure that the laity have their place in every aspect of church life, including its doctrine and services.

The deadline for returning the forms is Easter Day, but because the New Roll must be displayed in church the following Sunday to comply with church rules, I would be very happy if you did not leave it quite as late as that to get them back to me. Completed forms can be handed directly to me or to one of the churchwardens or to a member of the clergy or left in the box at the back of the church.

The only personal information seen on the public roll will be your name. All your other information will be kept secure in line with UK General Data Protection regulations.

Thank you for your help and understanding.

Martin Clarke

Electoral Roll Officer



PCC MEETING

St Mary's PCC last met on 15th January '25. **JOHN PRITCHARD** has kindly summarised the Minutes of the meeting to keep us all informed.

Chair's notices: The APCM will be after the 10.00 service on 18 May. PCC Awayday probably on 31 May.

Church Activities Video progressing well. Five group activities on the church Facebook page, with two more and a compilation to come. It will also be on the new website when that is available.

Finance: Paul Carnell was thanked for his excellent presentation of our finances. We shall try to pay 85% of our parish share this year. The diocese can run with a certain shortfall for a while, but ultimately cuts would have to be made if parish share is not collected. There will be a clearer picture of plans at the next Diocesan Synod.

Friends issues: John Challis and Andy Lovell reported on the success of the Friends, the fund-raising arm of St Mary's. £12,000 had been given for the Step-free Access project and the Friends will pay for the Quinquennial Inspection of the fabric. There are more events (see programme in last month's Connections), more talents on the committee, more participants at events. Ideas for what projects to support should come from the PCC, but the Friends Committee is full of ideas for events. Friends should not pay a hire charge for use of the church.

Step-free access: Thanks to everyone for a successful project, well described by Steph Williamson in the D & S Times.

Mission and Growth: The May Awayday will allow full exploration of a long-term vision and a short-term plan, both of which are becoming increasingly necessary.

Children and young people: Trinity Academy had achieved a much deserved Good rating at the pre-Christmas Ofsted inspection. Junior Church has started, with our children able to join the Methodists. Little Angels going well. Confirmation in June at Ripon cathedral.

Worship and Prayer: Lent resources and further groups and courses are being pursued. There will be a parish Lent Quiet Morning, expected to be on 12 April.

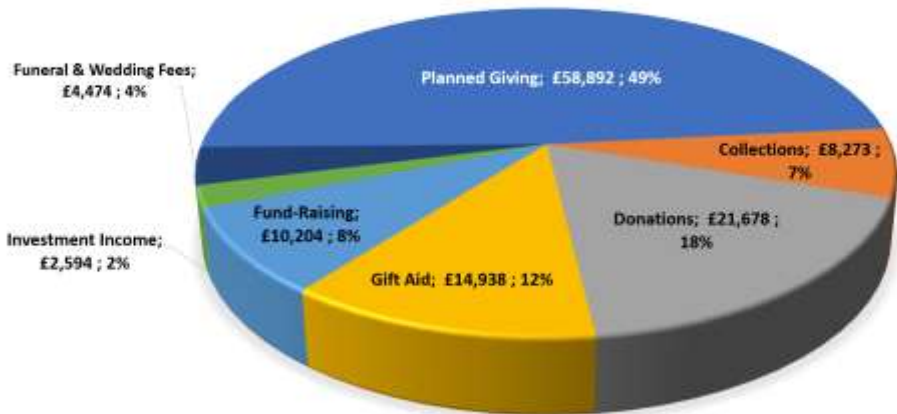
Other Team updates: Safeguarding procedures to be re-booted at 31 Jan meeting. Award winning magazine Connections is in profit. Pastoral Team working well, as is Charitable giving, Bells, and Morning Worship Singing Group.

Next meeting: 19 March '25.

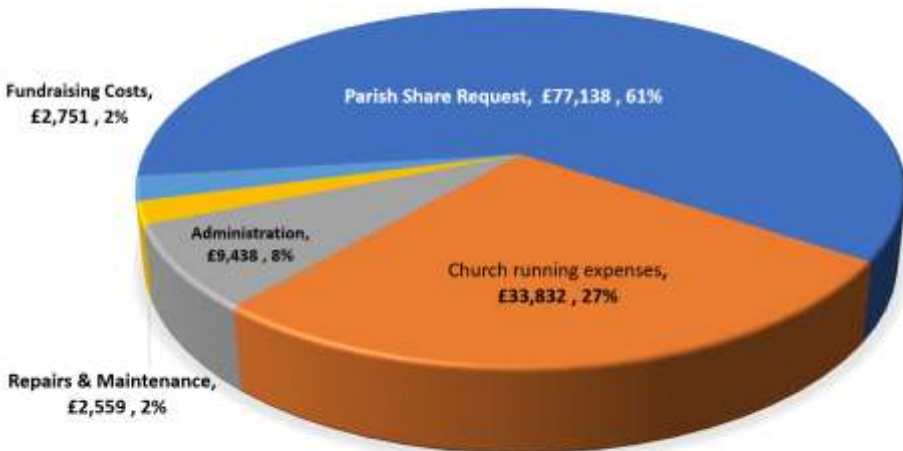
PARISH FINANCES

Our treasurer, **PAUL CARNELL**, has kindly provided the pie-charts below to show the parish income and expenditure and the graph overleaf showing our payments of the Parish Share.

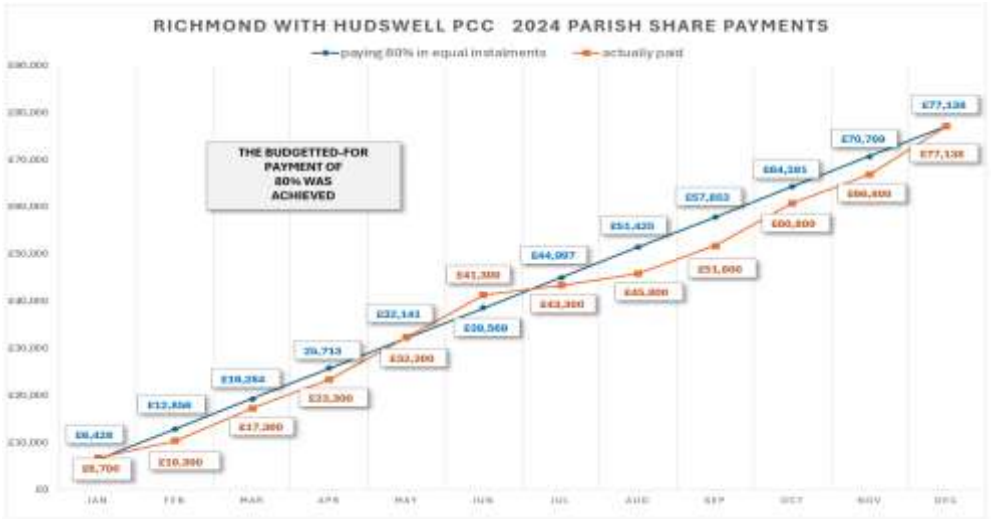
ST MARY'S 2024 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS
TOTAL: £121,053



ST MARY'S 2024 GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS
TOTAL: £125,719



At the beginning of 2024, St Mary's Parochial Church Council set a negative Budget of £3,608, which included the aim of paying 80% of the Parish Share request. By the end of the year, this budget was exceeded by £1,058 to end up at £4,666. This shortfall in the General Fund was not entirely unexpected and was mainly caused by the increased costs of both electricity and gas.



Jan & I would like to thank all those who responded to our presentation at the Stewardship Sunday service in October. There were several very kind donations made; more than one increase in regular giving; and an almost-doubling of the number of people giving via the Parish Giving Scheme. Our grateful thanks go to all those who give regularly to St Mary's.

Paul Carnell

SPOTTED, BY PARISH PUMP, IN CHURCH MAGAZINES

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The cost of the Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

Parish Supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

THE STATION

Singers

aiding
Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team
present

Railway 200 - Journeys in Song

Travel with us - Destination Liverpool

Saturday 29th March 2025

at 6.30pm (Doors open 6pm)

St Mary's Church, Richmond



Advance Tickets £10
On the door £11
Accompanied under 18s free

Please bring cash for raffle
and bucket collection

Tickets available from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-station-singers
Scan the QR code
www.richmondstationsingers.co.uk



For more information or help phone 07773 424744
Ask Choir members or members of
Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team. Charity no 1201870

NOTES FROM THE PAST

This month, **JANE HATCHER** turns her attention to another character associated with Marske Church, who seems to have gone on the greater things in the metropolis, but has left behind a bit of a mystery.

A Story of Marske Church in Former Days

I wonder how long it is since the parish of Marske had a curate all to itself? Doubtless in former days Marske did have curates, but their appointments are not as easy to follow as those of actual incumbents. A small insight into the life of one curate of the early-19th century, however, is provided by a surviving letter written by the famous classical scholar, and Headmaster of Richmond Grammar School, Revd. James Tate (1771-1843).



Revd. James Tate

Tate's salary as headmaster was fairly small, and he had a large family, so he was always looking for ways to supplement his income. His school stipend required him to give free education to bright boys resident in the town, but he could also admit boys from outside the town if their parents paid both their school fees and for them to board with his family.

Tate's own classical scholarship meant that he gained a formidable reputation for getting boys into Cambridge, many of whom met with such academic success that they became known as "Tate's Invincibles", and so he was able to enhance his income considerably from his boarders. But as an ordained clergyman, he could also take up part-time church appointments, as he was not in school on Sundays. Thus Tate held the appointment as Rector of Marske, which was in the 'giving' of his friend John Hutton, the Squire of Marske, from 1808.

Tate was very conscientious in fulfilling this role, and even took with him some of his boarding pupils when he drove out to Marske to take a Sunday service. But there would be many times when he was



St Edmunds Church, Marske

unable to meet the needs of so geographically large a parish, and we know that he employed curates who were able to live in the Marske parsonage house.

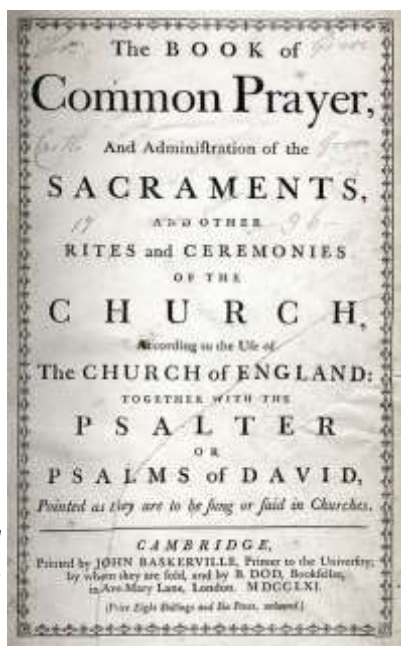
Furthermore, Tate was also Vicar of Downholme, in the 'giving' of John's younger brother Timothy Hutton. Tate had, of course, to resign both positions when he moved to higher things as a Canon Residentiary of St Paul's Cathedral in London in 1834. But we know from this letter, written in 1820 when Tate was still in Richmond, that he remained on affectionate terms with at least one of his curates.

His name was Peter Felix, who had been appointed curate of Marske in 1814. He seems to have belonged to a family of clerics, and to have had at least two brothers in the Church, all of whom, after serving curacies, held livings in Wales. Little seems to be known about the early life of Peter Felix, except that he had not been one of Tate's pupils at Richmond School, although many of these did indeed become clerics.

By the time of the 1820 letter, however, Peter Felix had left Marske for some time, and was now based in London. Tate's letter to him is addressed to The Rev'd. Peter Felix, 29 Air Street, Piccadilly, London, for he was now working in fashionable Chelsea in the West End. Tate wrote the letter on Leap Year Day, and it was in reply to one he had just received from Felix. *"The sight of your handwriting, tho' variously connected with topics of melancholy, was yet most welcome to my eyes."* The weather had been bad in Richmond, and various friends of the Tate family had been ill or had died.

Tate's letter continues, *"I have never ceased to think of you with affection & regret."* Perhaps Tate had hoped he would have stayed at Marske longer, but what becomes clear is that Peter Felix had, when he left, donated to Marske Church a handsome Prayer Book for use by the clergyman taking services there.

And now the snippet which provides this fascinating detail about Marske Church. *"And the Communion Table at Marske, whenever my turn of duty falls there, presents the Quarto Prayer Book with your name inscribed on the*



1662 Prayer Book

blank leaf under mine, to which during the Psalm (we have good singing now) I am led by habit or instinct to turn."

The present Marske Choir will be pleased to know that they follow in such a hallowed tradition! The Marske Church choir had had a slightly earlier boost, in 1790, when the parish clerk recorded in his unusually chatty entries in the parish register that a Mr J Percivall had been training no fewer than 30 (named) singers in 'psalmody'. One of those listed is John York, the 'negro servant' (in the parlance of the day) who had been employed as a manservant by the Hutton family since the 1770s.

Tate's letters were always real epistles, and this one discusses at length various senior clergy in the London area with whom Peter Felix would be coming into contact, including Bishop Law who "resides", as Tate puts it, in Langham Place. Here, shortly afterwards, would be built the famous All Souls' Church, designed by the acclaimed architect John Nash, and now associated with a great musical tradition of many types, from the BBC Singers to gospel choirs.

Tate further spends much time writing – at length – in a gossipy and acerbic way about the publications of various Greek scholars, of which Peter Felix will be well aware, discussing their various merits and shortcomings! Tate signs off with the phrase *"All my family think of you with sentiments of esteem."* And there is a scribbled equivalent of a "P.S." on the outside wrapper of the letter *"I should like to help your brother John. But curacies.... [sic] are very rarely to me with now."*

Peter Felix continued as the Vicar of St Hilary's Church, Llanilar in Cardiganshire, until he was buried there at the age of 69 in 1861. My enquiries in 2017, in John Chambers' time, as to whether Peter Felix's Prayer Book survived in some



St Hilary's Church, Llanilar, Cardiganshire

obscure corner of Marske Church, drew a blank. It would of course have become not only worn in time, but also outdated, as the 1662 Prayer Book was replaced by later versions in the 20th century.

Jane Hatcher

POETRY FROM DOWNHOLME

The official season of goodwill may have passed, but, in his latest offering, **GEORGE ALDERSON** encourages us to continue it anyway.

Kindness

*Let's remember to be kind,
Notwithstanding what we find!
If we do our best to try,
It will rarely go awry!
Showing kindness when it's shown
Should not be shown then, alone,
But should also reappear
When the atmosphere's unclear,
As there is, perhaps, a chance
To improve the circumstance!
Everyone will benefit
When we show the slightest bit!
Then our troubles will be less,
Which ensures more happiness!*

George Alderson

KINDNESS
IS A GIFT
EVERYONE
CAN
AFFORD
TO GIVE.





TRINITY ACADEMY, RICHMOND

Last month, it was mentioned that Trinity Academy had just received a very pleasing OfSTED Report. **WENDY PRITCHARD** is delighted to be able to tell us more.

We are so fortunate in Richmond to have really impressive secondary and primary schools. In the past, Trinity Academy Richmond (our C of E primary and nursery school) has felt like the 'poor relation', much loved by parents and pupils, but not achieving the Ofsted grade which would put it on a par with the other Richmond primary schools. But all that has now changed and Richmond can celebrate having great schools all across the board!

I'm the deputy chair of governors at Trinity Academy, so have travelled with the school along the winding road that has brought us to a very pleasing Ofsted inspection result. In the new system of grading, the school achieved 'Good' in each of the sections inspected — quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development; leadership and management; early years provision. Our headteacher, Simon Robson, and all the staff and governors have worked so hard to achieve this great result.

The full report Ofsted report is proudly displayed on the school's website (search for Trinity Academy Richmond) but here are some quotes from it:

Pupils at Trinity Academy Richmond are happy and safe. The school provides a calm and nurturing environment, where pupils thrive.

The school has high expectations for pupils' learning and behaviour.

Children benefit from a strong foundation to their education in the early years.

Pupils are keen to contribute to lessons. They are proud of the work they produce.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are well supported. They achieve well.

Staff prioritise pupils' well-being. Pupils know that they can discuss any worries with staff. Pupils are polite and respectful towards adults.

Parents and carers are overwhelmingly happy with the education and care that their children receive.

The early years provision is a strength of the school. Staff provide a wealth of opportunities for children to develop knowledge and skills through well designed activities. This includes in the outdoor area, where children take part in challenges to help them remember new learning.

Reading is at the heart of the curriculum. Children begin learning to read as soon as they join Reception. They learn to read quickly and confidently. Pupils who struggle with reading receive extra help each day. The school has invested time and resources to ensure that staff are experts in teaching reading.

Pupils' conduct is calm and purposeful.

The school provides practical help and high-quality pastoral support for families in a timely way.

The school is committed to providing high-quality education for all pupils.

The school looks forward to even stronger links with St Mary's Church and the Richmond community.

Onwards and upwards!

Wendy Pritchard

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

A New Serenity Prayer

*God, grant me the serenity
to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone,
since I'm clearly not you, God.
At least not the last time I checked.*

*And while you're at it, God,
please give me the courage to change what I need to change about
myself,
which is frankly a lot, since, once again,
I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.
It's better for me to focus on changing myself
than to worry about changing other people,
who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying,
I can't change anyway.*

*Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up
whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than everyone else in the
room,
that no one knows what they're talking about except me,
or that I alone have all the answers.*

*Basically, God,
grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you.*

Amen.

Attributed to Fr. James Martin

MARKE COMMUNITY CHOIR

Recently featured in a repeat of a BBC programme, 'The Yorkshire Dales', Marske Choir is a major part of the Evensong service at St Mary's in March. **JIM JACK** took a trip up to Clints to meet Lindsay and Nick Ibbotson, founders of this group over ten years ago, to find out more about how the choir came about.

It's quite a short journey from the outskirts of Richmond to the home of Lindsay and Nick Ibbotson at Clints, with tarmac road giving way to farm track and ultimately negotiating a rough S-bend to an extended stone-built cottage overlooking the valley. Hilltop Cottage is a welcoming place which exudes the Ibbotsons' love of music – instruments to hand, recording equipment easily accessed, music books on shelves. But my journey from home is naught compared with Lindsay and Nick Ibbotson's respective journeys through lives which brought them to Marske, with the active love of music being a constant backdrop.

Take Nick for example. Born in the South West; family emigration to Australia; back to Cambridge to study medicine; a touring tenor singer with Cambridge *a capella* group Cantabile for five years, before settling for twenty years in Aberdeenshire. Here he worked as a television producer with BBC Scotland — 'Beechgrove' and 'Landward' (both still running today and worth a watch through i-player) before returning to North Yorkshire and general practice in the Wetherby area. His music background is in classical choral music and opera, with a parallel love of pop music having an equally important place in his life. Primary school age violinist (briefly), guitarist and pianist, both largely self-taught.

And Lindsay. Initially brought up in the seaside Marske with musical parents: her father (a teacher of Science and Maths) was a Durham Cathedral organ scholar and member of Marske Fishermen's Choir; her mother a keen singer. Music was in Lindsay's blood, too, (including guest singing with the Fisherman's Choir) and



Lindsay — in full flow!

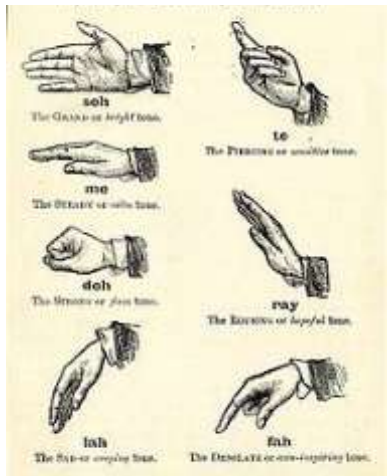
very much part of family life, both at home and on journeys to holiday destinations, often up to Gunnerside. It was on these trips that Lindsay first saw the signpost for our Marske, initially wondering why they could have been in the car for so long and not got very far. After completing an English Linguistics degree, she worked in the charity sector for some time, before

moving to Germany, where her route into the local community was to join a choir, singing in German and taking a babe-in-arms to rehearsals. A return to the UK with three sons led to a return to North Yorkshire, more choral involvement, and a chance meeting with Nick at a madrigal session in a friend's kitchen. Short of a voice in the group, the 'Can you sing tenor?' question was natural one to ask of a fellow musician. This led to a dinner date, sharing of musical interests and ultimately marriage.

Lindsay's enthusiasm for music led to a change of direction with study for a degree in Music and Performance Art at the College of Ripon and York St John, then part of Leeds University. An introduction to the Kodály system of learning singing led to research into how, if at all, learning to sing teaches more than music. Parents will know of how much nursery rhymes teach rhythm, sounds, ways of memorising and whole body skills. Crucially for primary age children, the growth in these skills develops self-confidence, ability to learn, better behaviour control and feelings of self-worth — all precursors of a stable learning platform. The research compared a

randomly selected group, who had a 15-minute daily session of musical songs and games, with a control group not taught in this way. Over the first term, there was little between the groups, but there was significant confidence and behaviour improvement in the music group. By the end of the second term, however, this group not only maintained the behaviour improvement, but moved ahead of the control group in core subjects to a significant degree. Food for thought here for Ofsted and quick-fix solutions to produce 'success' in education of young people? But I digress. What Lindsay's studies had confirmed was that active participation in music, particularly singing, has benefits for, and is open to, all. Anyone can sing.

Looking to find a home further north in the county, and a house that they could afford, Lindsay remembered the childhood sighting of the Marske signpost. Hilltop Cottage provided the answer, with some updating required. Plans for an extension at the rear of the property approved, they moved in. Lindsay and Nick wanted to get to know people and also to offer something to the community. They both speak warmly about what different residents of Marske and Clints bring to the area through offering what they can do. Blending their respective skills and musical interests suggested that a community choir might be what they could offer. But would there be any interest? Initial soundings suggested it was



The Kodály System

worth a go. They are immensely grateful for the support and encouragement of community members – and very practical offers of help as well. Offers of homes for practices were gratefully accepted. Maggie Tillotson also generously offered to do printing for the choir and still does so to this day. And so, with about a dozen people from Marske and the immediate area showing up for the first session, the singing — and the fun — began.

Whilst performing was never the main purpose of establishing the choir, they did commit to singing for the Church Carol Service in 2013. The fact that the choir was developing their singing using well-known carol tunes undoubtedly helped, but with four-part harmony singing added!

Lindsay's ebullient and encouraging leadership of the group, and Nick's supportive leads from the piano, soon got things going. What would also be evident was that the Kodály system, if viewed as one for beginners in singing, rather than a way of teaching younger children, is effective for all ages.

That first Christmas as a community choir encouraged people to want more. Numbers started to grow as the word spread in Marske — and further afield. Not only were the Ibbotsons getting to know more people through sharing their talents, but individual members of the choir also got to know each other too. People well-established in the area, and more recent incomers, chatted over a drink after rehearsals, bringing them together from widespread homes and work.

As numbers grew and rehearsals moved to a completed Hilltop Cottage, it was lovely to hear members starting to suggest things they would like to sing. Once again, performing in front of an audience was never the primary aim — just the satisfaction of doing something together, which initially, perhaps, people didn't think they could do. But invitations to sing for others did come in. The group rose to the challenges, singing everything from 'Bohemian Rhapsody' to Renaissance Verse Anthems.



Summer rehearsal at Hilltop Cottage

Clearly, the choir involves Lindsay and Nick in quite a lot of preparatory work — selecting and scoring chosen pieces, organising printing, etc. Then came COVID, adding an extra layer. Nick's technical background came to the fore here, with singers kept together via Zoom: yet more work in preparing recordings of repertoire items, which people could download and practise at home. Another way of keeping together at Christmas 2020 came from a video, 'Pass the Parcel',

which eventually involved the whole Marske community. With the choir singing the background Christmas track, and Father Christmas being transported around in the Calverts' pony and trap, individuals from the whole Marske community videoed themselves catching a parcel coming in from screen left and lobbing it out screen right. Nick then collated the items and produced the video: fun for the whole community in trying times.

The music has undoubtedly brought members together through new, shared experiences. The choir appeared on BBC television in Paul Rose's 'The Yorkshire Dales'; in Aske Hall Chapel, accompanied by a 'concert of viols'; and have performed at Aldborough St John, Marrick Village Hall, and Tennants in the Wensleydale Tournament of Song. A recent two-night appearance at the Georgian Theatre was a particular highlight for the group. In the pipeline is



The Choir at the Georgian Theatre

an interesting video project for this year's Swaledale Festival, and another self-written project at the Georgian Theatre involving Alice in Wonderland, Donald Trump and Elon Musk! I say no more — just note October 10 & 11 in your diary. Nick is also particularly looking forward to singing some excerpts of Bach's St Matthew Passion at St Mary's on Good Friday.

Choir numbers are now back up to thirty, all squeezing into the Ibbotson's Music Room. No member subscription, but £2 is requested for any drinks consumed after rehearsals. Lindsay and Nick are delighted that they have got a wide-range of singers, from school-age members right through to retirees. One of their younger members, Sophie Montgomery, has gone on to earn a place at Leeds Conservatoire for her singing. Coming behind her is 13 year-old Edie Carr, who is also developing her singing and is a valued member of this community venture.

It seems that this community offering has brought people together, and taken individuals to levels of music they never believed they could achieve, with enjoyment and increasing confidence. 'In all the choir is doing, we want to make music fun for them and to honour the history of their home area and what our ancestors have done to make it the place it is today'. The Ibbotsons have certainly shared their talents with their community to everyone's benefit.

Thank you for the music, Marske.

Jim Jack

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

Well perhaps not from the garden, but **WENDY PRITCHARD** makes a welcome return with her *Garden Notes* and, as the trees and bushes start to show a hint of green – and, with luck, even some blossom— she exhorts us not to ignore them.

At this time of year, I seem to spend a lot of my time outside looking at my feet. There's so much starting to happen at about ankle height in the garden – crocuses, daffodils, new shoots everywhere. But it's important also to look up and appreciate what the trees are doing.



The tree branches formed tiny leaf buds last summer which have been waiting for the warmer weather and lengthening daylight hours to start growing. There's a race to get the new leaves open and ready for the summer sunshine (we hope we get some) so they can use carbon dioxide, sunshine and water to produce the sugars needed for the tree to

grow. The by-product, of course, is the oxygen we need to breathe.

Timing is vital, as if the leaves emerge too soon, they can be damaged by bad weather; too late and they're missing out on sunshine. Different trees come into leaf at different times, but mild weather can start them off too early. Most trees come into leaf between March and the end of April, with conifers, too, sending out bright green new growth.

There's a saying, 'If the oak before the ash, then we'll only have a splash; if the ash before the oak, then we'll surely have a soak', which uses the emerging leaves to supposedly predict how wet or dry a summer we'll have.

If no foliage has turned up on a tree by mid-summer, it could be



that something is seriously wrong, but trees are clever enough to adapt to

different weather conditions so don't despair too soon. Some trees under stress can even revert to the habits of the ancestor they came from, even if that was on another continent in a completely different environment. Beech trees are notoriously late into leaf, with hedges looking wintry well into May. They hail from a time in European history when temperatures were warmer, so have kept the habit of needing 13 hours of daylight to unfurl their delicate pointed buds. To check if a tree is alive or dead, try the 'scratch test' – scrape away just a little bit of the bark, and if it's green underneath, everything is fine. If you see brown, there may be a problem.



So, what can we expect to be bursting into a haze of new green this month? We may get hazels, willows and birches with catkins and new leaves. Our hedges may delight with the frothy white flowers of blackthorn, even before the leaves get going. Apples, pears, cherries and plums might be slowly coming into leaf and everywhere

there will be the promise of new life to raise our spirits. So don't forget to look up!

Wendy 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.

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 — **30th March '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:
28th March '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

6th March '25



WORD SEARCH

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to Him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

Lent
spiritual
easter
preparation
fasting
prayer
desert
selfdenial
repentance
seeking
finding
growing
mothers
love
care
nurture
learning
teaching
disciples
worldwide
flowers
thankyou
nursing
family



Sudoku - Easy

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

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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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



Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku — Easy

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

Sudoku — Medium

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

Wordsearch



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

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