

Notes from the Choir

I write this report shortly after the retirement service of my predecessor, Janet Patten, after an epic 37 years of service. The service was one of joyous music, despite Covid regulations marring congregational singing. "O be joyful in the Lord" was still at the heart of the service.

The choir has now broken up for the summer: my grateful thanks to Ian Little and Janet Patten for deputising for me at certain summer services so that I can go on holiday.

With any luck – and a great many prayers, we should all be able to sing in church come September. I plan to have rousing hymns! In addition, I am planning a "songs of praise" type event at which you, the congregation, can request your favourite hymns. The date for this is tbc but is likely to be late afternoon/ early evening on a Sunday in late September or October. You now have plenty of time to get your voices fully prepared for this event!

Looking ahead to Advent, I have proposed a candlelight Advent processional service to take place in the late afternoon of Advent Sunday. This will be followed, four weeks later, by our traditional Service of Lessons and Carols, also by candlelight. Hopefully this year, I will be able to rehearse the choir in person throughout all the preparations for the Christmas services!



You may recall that in my last report I mentioned my plans to start a choir for kids and young people. I am thrilled to say that this will start in mid-September, date and time tbc, so watch for information online and in the Parish pew sheet. If you know of any children/ young people who might be interested (regardless of whether they are church goers, or not), please either let me know, or point them in my direction. (There is no audition). The choir will run for those from in Year 2 at primary school, up to those in Years 11 (& even above). Once the choir is up and running, I am hoping that they will lead the music at the All Age Worship (1st Sunday of the month), in addition to joining the grown-ups for such services as Advent, Christmas and Easter.

As you can see, there is plenty of musical excitement coming up from September onwards. If you would like to be involved in either the grown ups' choir or the kids' choir, please contact me, Glyn, or Connie.

In the meantime, I trust that you and your families have a great summer.

Alison
Alison Forster



Volume 1
Issue 2

St Michael's, Malton

Parish News

Welcome to the second edition of a news sheet for the benefit of all who cannot or do not use facebook

August
2021

Music in Worship-especially the Hymns.

I am sometimes asked what is my favourite hymn. There is no easy answer! There are hymns I love, hymns I like a lot, hymns that I can't stand! It all depends on my mood, the situation, the memories and also whether I enjoy playing them. In all cases the words are as important as the tune, and the hymns I love are those where tune and words are to me, inseparable.

To choose the hymns for my retirement service I made a list over several weeks noting down the ones I really liked as I heard them during the first lockdown when the RSCM had a hymn of the day on their website. I also looked through the hymn book in case I had missed any. The list was obviously far too long for a Parish Communion service so had to be reduced to just 5. Here is what I chose and why:

Angel Voices is a wonderful hymn of praise originally written for a choir festival, and it reminds me of Roger Pope who was a loyal choir member until his death in 2002 and a great help to me personally when I became DOM.

Come down O Love Divine is a great example of a medieval text given a new lease of life with a superb tune by Ralph Vaughan-Williams.

There's a wideness in God's mercy speaks to me very vividly and was a favourite of former vicar Peter Bowes.

I heard the voice of Jesus is one I have loved since I sang in a church choir in my teens.

How shall I sing that Majesty is a grand hymn to finish a service and reminds me of my Godfather Leslie Stanbridge as it was one that he enjoyed.

At my retirement service Glyn spoke about why music is so important to us in worship, and I would like to add my thoughts that music can:

Create an atmosphere and help keep the liturgy flowing.

*Unite the cong in the singing of hymns
Take us beyond ourselves and lead us to God.*

Draw people in and enable talents to be used to enrich the worship.

Be an effective tool for mission and educate through singing about our faith.

Thank you all for your generous gift and the card to mark my retirement which is now complete!

Janet

Thank you to all contributors to this newsheet. Contributions for the next one, which will be out in November, would be very welcome! janetcpatten@aol.com

From Connie Clark, our Churchwarden

No more this no more that!

What a strange sixteen months this has been. It has been so good to have been able to have kept the church building open for private prayer and public worship whenever possible. We will be almost 'back to normal', but not quite!

We want everyone to feel comfortable as our communities open up again. The wearing of masks is entirely at people's discretion. Sitting together or apart is also down to personal preference. Besides the pews, there are lots of chairs out for people to sit where they feel happiest. Congregational singing is again permitted, with masks or without masks. Our sides people will be able to give out service booklets, leaflets and hymn books once more.

Glyn will continue to administer The Host from the chancel step and we would ask that people maintain some distance when going up to receive communion to respect everyone's preference.

The collection plate will be left by the church entrance for your donations as will the Foodbank box.

The servery will not be opening for the time being, so there will be no refreshments after the Sunday service or on Saturdays for Coffee Stop.

One final thing, we shall still have to comply with government regulations and keep a contact list of people present, in our case in the form of a register, so that we could contact you if necessary.

From the Registers

Wedding

10th July Darren Richard North
& Larissa Ann Thompson

Funeral

13th July Thomas William Grayson

Memorial Service

8th July Harry Larcum Green

The fifth Mark of Mission—to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew life of earth.

Heather works as a volunteer for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

I've always 'felt at home' immersed in nature so when I retired and left my 'desk job' I really wanted to do something practical to help the environment. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Volunteer Network offered just what I wanted. I joined a

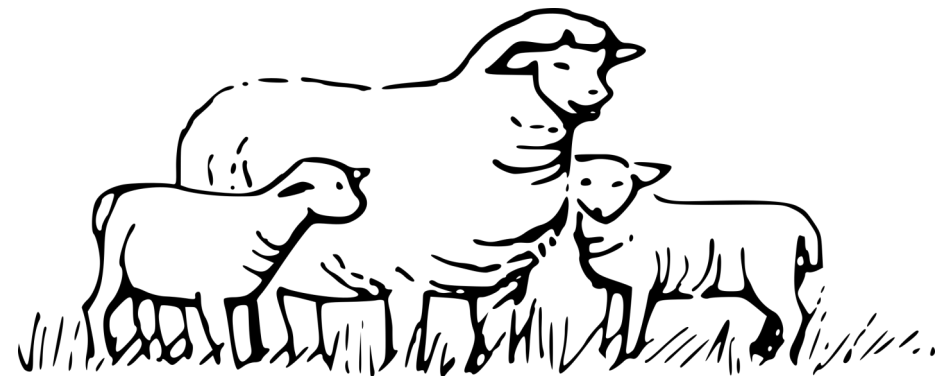
conservation team restoring the wetlands around an abandoned fish farm centred near Driffield, converting it into a Nature Reserve. Each team has a full time 'Living Landscapes Manager who directs the work required and the volunteers provide the hard labour. I learned how to lay a hedge on my first day!

Since then, I've done tree planting, coppicing, mowing, raking, scrub clearance, making willow bundles to restore river banks and building screens for bird-watchers. The highlight of this year's work was building an otter holt in a remote corner of the reserve after otter cubs had been spotted in the river.

When we couldn't meet up during lockdown, I became a Livestock Checker for a flock of Hebridean Sheep based temporarily at Wharram Quarry. (The sheep help keep the grass down so the wild flowers can grow through).

Our current 'mission' is to remove the invasive Himalayan Balsam from the sources and tributaries of the River Hull. Jon, our leader, says this seasonal work will take us 10 – 15 years to complete !!!

All this is hard work, but it is also an absolute joy to 'sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

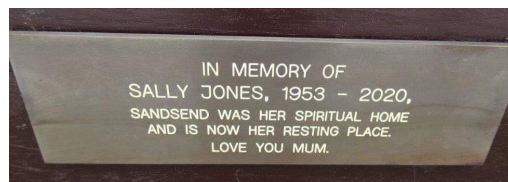


Sally's Bench



Paul Jones has had a bench put up looking over the beach at Sand-send, in memory of his mother, Sally Jones. For anyone who doesn't know, Sally was the widow of our former vicar, Nick Jones.

Paul plans to scatter her ashes there on 11th September.



IN MEMORY OF
SALLY JONES, 1953 - 2020,
SANDSEND WAS HER SPIRITUAL HOME
AND IS NOW HER RESTING PLACE.
LOVE YOU MUM.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush.
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency, through calmness of mind,
and his guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish this day,
I will not fret, for his presence is here.
His timelessness, His all-importance, Will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity by
anointing my head with the oil of tranquillity.
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours, for I shall
walk in the place of my Lord, and dwell in His house forever.

Toki Miyashina (Japanese Poet)
(Heard on R4 Prayer for the day)

Children in Church



The children's corner is back near the pulpit with displays of the activities from the all age services.

Please can used stamps for Oxfam and old pens still be left on my door step and **NOT** in church thank you.
Adrian (26 Crabtree Drive)

Weekday services

Said Communion Service
Wednesdays at 10.30am

Diary Dates

September

Sun 05 All Age Service 9.30am
Sun 26 Patronal Festival
Songs of Praise 6.30pm

October

Sun 03 Harvest Festival 9.30am
Sun 17 Celtic Service 4pm

November

Sun 07 Service of Light 4pm
Sun 28 Advent Sunday



Ex-chorister Will Lyon-Tupman was ordained Deacon at Ely Cathedral on 4th July. It was a glorious sunny day and Janet and John were delighted to have been invited to represent St Michael's at the service. We met Will's girlfriend Laura, his sister Charlotte, and renewed acquaintance with Jim and Roma Farley who some of you may remember helped out during Nick Jones's time at St Michael's. Will is very grateful for all your prayers and good wishes.

Social Events organised by Adrian:

Coffee at Chapter 1 after Wednesday communion starting on 4th August.

Lunch after Wednesday communion :
6th Oct and 1st Dec.

Book a place through Adrian 07870 591142.

Coffee at Costa on 1st Sunday of every month starting on 5th September at 3pm.

Meal at the Queen's Head on 3rd November. There will be a list in church nearer the time.

Do keep the donations coming in for the food bank, there are many families who are in need of our help at this time.

A Celtic style service To celebrate St Luke

October 17th at 4pm.

An opportunity to invite friends and neighbours to a quiet, contemplative service which will be lay-led.



From John Morris, our Treasurer

Inflation

Inflation – a bit like death and taxes – is always with us, whether at the dramatic level that you will have experienced if you’ve recently renewed your domestic energy contract – or at the more typical but insidious level of a few percent points increase in that relentless yearly cycle.

St Michael’s is not immune to the effects of inflation either, be it energy, water, ministry expenses, stationery etc and the York Diocese expects us to increase our contribution to their running costs as well through our Free Will Offering. In 2020 our planned giving [including Gift Aid Tax recovery] was £42,528 and our FWO to the Diocese was £41,240 so you can see the importance of the planned giving. However, like most parishes in the Deanery we’ve not managed to increase our FWO on a consistent basis and it’s well known that the York Diocese is suffering a financial squeeze: it is almost certain that there will be cuts in the number of Clergy Posts *including in our Deanery*. The Diocesan website has more details about its finances if you want to read them.

Inflation has an upside though: the basic State Pension has increased from £113.10 per week at the beginning of 2015 to £137.60 now – that’s an increase of 21.7%. Over the same period the planned giving contributions at St Michael’s have not in general kept pace. Of 36 households who contributed through the giving programme in 2015 more than half have made no increase whatsoever. That’s right: No Increase at All! Only 8 households have increased their giving by at least inflation –ie 21% more over the period. In case you think 2015 was exceptional, that pattern of making an initial gift and not increasing it every year is absolutely typical of all subsequent years.

Giving is an individual matter – and is not for me to tell anybody how much to give, but on the face of it, it’s difficult to understand why giving has not been increasing in line with annual inflation. I would ask you to please reflect on it now and as importantly every year hence – and give more where you can. Thank You in anticipation.

A Special PCC in July

July’s PCC was devoted entirely to considering the Diocesan consultation “Living Christ’s Story”. We had been asked to answer nine questions regarding how we saw the Church developing in the coming years. This revolved around our strengths as a Parish, where we needed support, and the future shape of the C of E, also the role of the laity.

In summary:-

- While the laity in the Parish have little capacity to contribute more, we did see scope for some lay led worship.
- There was scope for developing mission and evangelism, but support was needed in the area of discipleship.
- Two areas of strength were community use of buildings and in online ministry
- We could do with support in developing work with children and families, maintaining and adapting our buildings and in increased giving.
- We saw it as important that within the Diocese the financially strong supported those parishes with financial problems.

The Diocesan website has more details about the consultation.

The results of the consultation are due at the end of the year.

Alan Young, July 2021.

A rebuke to the strategic planners

The river is not a straight line.
It does not run from A to B.
It finds the contours of the land,
arriving in its own good time.

Crows do not fly as the crow flies.
They ride the thermals still and fast;
swooping to a destination,
waiting as the warm airs rise.

Short cuts rarely save much time,
steps becoming functions starved of joy.
Walking is better than driving;
travelling well, not just arriving.

Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York
Featured on BBC Radio3 Breakfast Show

