

Notes from the Choir



I write this report after almost a whole year as Director of Music at St Michael's. It has been lovely meeting you all: my continued thanks for such a warm welcome.

Since I wrote the last report, the congregation has, at last, been allowed to sing! I cannot tell you how exciting and spine tingling it was to hear you all sing for the first time.

To quote the Advent carol, "People look East! The time is here" – or at least, nearly here! The choir and I are becoming very excited about the first candlelit Advent processional. This service will take place on Sunday 28th November at 5pm. All are very welcome.

Thereafter, we shall be celebrating a Christmas when we can ALL sing again (hopefully!). Our traditional Service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday 19th December at 6pm. Please have the traditional descants at the ready!

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By Christmas, I should have the beginnings of the children's choir up and running. I am planning to visit both Malton primary schools for some choral outreach and help drum up support. The weekly rehearsals will take place on a Thursday evening, prior to the adult's choir. First rehearsal tbc. I am hoping that their first service will be the Crib/Christingle service on Christmas Eve: a lovely and fitting way for the children's choir to commence. 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).

Christmas is a magical time for those of us who love singing: if you would like to be involved in either the grown ups' choir or the kids' choir, please contact me.

Alison
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Thank you to all contributors to this newsheet. Contributions for the next one, which will be out in February 2022, would be very welcome! janetcpatten@aol.com



Volume 1
Issue 3



St Michael's, Malton Parish News

November
2021

November 27th is the start of Advent, but what is Advent?

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, a time to prepare for the coming of Christ. We prepare not just for celebrating his birth, but we get ready for the second coming and remember how he comes to us in our daily lives. The time of the year is hectic and busy with activities at school, work, church, and in the community, as well as all the family expectations.

In the midst of all this activity it can be easy to forget that Advent is more than some kind of pre-Christmas. The characteristic note of Advent is expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come'. There are no flowers in Church, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

'Lo he comes with clouds descending'

The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice.

On the first Sunday of Advent we light a purple candle for the Matriarchs and Patriarchs who brought HOPE.

'Come thou long expected Jesus'

On the second Sunday we light another purple candle for the Prophets who preached PEACE. **'Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come born a Jew'**

On the third Sunday, which is called *Gaudete Sunday*, we light the pink candle for John the Baptist and anticipate the birth of Jesus with JOY.

'On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry'

On the fourth Sunday LOVE is the theme as we light the third purple candle for Mary the mother of Jesus.

'The angel Gabriel from heaven came'

The white candle in the centre is for Christmas Day.

'Of the Father's love begotten'

*Make Advent Sunday special
by joining us for a candlelit
Advent Procession at 5pm*

From Connie Clark, our Churchwarden

Our church building

You will have noticed a boarded up window on the South Side of the Church. This is one of four Clerestory windows and whilst the visible problem seems to be limited to the stonework around the windows, a preliminary survey has revealed potential problems more widely with the wall. The church architect has advised the PCC that further investigations are required from a structural engineer and this preparatory work needs to be completed before the repair work can be put out to tender. At some stage continuous scaffolding will need to be erected both inside and out. The cost of the preliminary survey already completed was £1,300 and the further investigation and architect's fees will cost an additional £12,315. This is all before we start on the work proper. All of these costs are exclusive of VAT.

Inside, the architect advised us to cordon off two pews for the time being.

Celtic style services

Fourteen people enjoyed a quiet and contemplative service on 17th October to celebrate St Luke.



More of this type of afternoon service was requested, and the next one will be in February 2022.

Service of Light– 7th Nov at 4pm

At this service the names of departed loved-ones are read out and candles may be lit in remembrance.

If you would like the name of a departed loved-one read out at the service, then please write their name on the list at the back of church.

From the Registers

Baptisms

Louie STOCKELL - 15th August
Ivy JOHNSON - 22nd August

Weddings

Adrian WRAY & Justine AINLEY - 7th August
Adam VAUGHAN & Lauren WARDLE - 11th August
Ashley COOKE & Sophie MARWOOD - 21st August
Craig STORTON & Amanda SCARFE - 11th September

Funerals

None



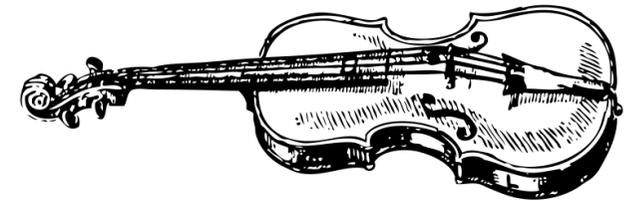
Many people will remember Peter Burrows, who passed away on 20th October. The funeral will be at St Peter's Norton, on 9th November at 1pm. Peter and his wife Dorothy and daughter Renate used to join our choir for special services.

Notes from a Luthier by Barry Gillespie

The Yellow Pages phone directory for West Sussex, where I lived with my parents in 1977, listed only two musical instrument makers. When my mother rang the nearest one, it struck as more than coincidence they were interviewing for an apprentice the next day. With over a hundred applicants, it seemed still more remarkable they interviewed me and took me on as one of two apprentices that year. I've always seen my entry to musical instrument making as a generous gift. I spent four years with Arnold Dolmetsch Ltd. in their keyboard department, learning to make harpsichords, spinets and clavichords.

Violins took over when I was teaching, needed to keep creativity alive in a small home and discovered the Cambridge Violin Workshops, where I redirected my skills. I've been making violins ever since. The process breaks down into four complex stages: a fragile, resonant sound box with back and sides of very thin maple and a top of spruce; a neck and head carved from the same maple; varnishing (a legendary blend of chemistry and art); and 'setting up' - fitting an ebony fingerboard, tuning pegs, strings, bridge, soundpost, etc. Each of these has elements with scope for unique creativity, allowing individual makers to express their own approach. Together they take hundreds of hours to complete.

Among the most exciting moments in my work are when a newly completed instrument is first played. It's a profoundly rewarding moment but has the potential to be really disappointing too so carries a measure of dread. The best moment of all is to hear a great piece, performed by a good musician on an instrument of mine; it's thrilling to be part of a unique moment of creativity that needs composer, maker, player and audience. It still feels like a privilege and I remain grateful.



Church decorating for Christmas

This will be done during the week leading up to the Carol Service (19th Dec). Full details will be on the pew sheet nearer the time. If anyone would like to join the team who do this important job, please get in touch with Anne Bell. The church always looks beautiful by candlelight at Christmas.

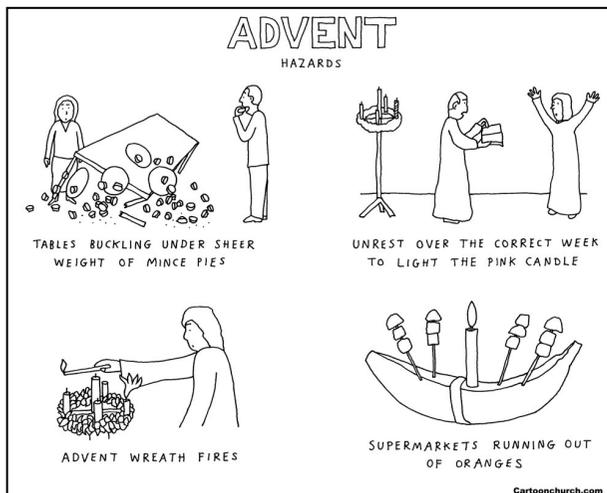
EXHIBITION OF CHILDHOOD TOYS

Planning is underway to mount an exhibition of childhood toys in St Michael's over the weekend of 4th & 5th December. There will be a Christmas Market running in town over that weekend, so the aim is to capitalize on the visitors coming for that and draw them into church. It is hoped to have a preview evening on Friday 3rd, where entry will be by ticket, in exchange for a glass of something and possibly a festive mince pie. Any funds raised over the event will go towards the rebuilding of the south aisle, where we currently have one of the high-level windows boarded up for safety reasons.

My first venture into the world of events was an exhibition of wedding dresses back in 2017 and I followed this with a Vintage Fashion Show in 2019. Both events were enormously well received, and I was very struck how they brought people together and enabled so many conversations. People loved being able to talk about their weddings again, or a time in their life when they had been a keen follower of fashion. So, the idea is to take another walk down memory lane and this time, bring people together and allow them to reminisce about their childhood. Already some interesting toys have been offered and I am keen to show items with a story behind them – the more poignant the story the better! I would also like to display old photos of the toys being played with and, if enough of them can be mustered, make a film show of them to accompany the event.

So, put the date in your diary and, in the meantime, if you have any old toys stashed away in your attic, preferably with a story attached, then please get in touch with me.

Helen Shaw (01653) 692149



ALL AGE WORSHIP - Reflections

From Ceri and Leo



The All Age services at St Michael's have been going from strength to strength in recent months, with more than 20 children being present at the latest one. That represents a good number of families who come specifically for this service, who look forward to it, and feel it is a service where they and their children are welcome. Talking to a few other parents, it becomes clear that many parents of very young children are still worried about their children "making a noise", and the more informal atmosphere, as well as the presence of a lot of other children, seems to make the All Age service more comfortable for them.

Talking to my own little boy Leo (aged nearly 6, if the congregation can believe that!) about what he likes about coming to the All Age Worship, the fact that the children get to "come up the front" stood out. It is wonderful to see a whole group of children clustered round Glyn or Simon, answering questions and giving their thoughts. Leo particularly remembers the occasion when "we got to eat grapes" in the sermon.

The children enjoy seeing each other, with church friendships starting to blossom amongst them, and they seem to really love making the joint activities that Tracey Young and others work so hard to facilitate. A recent highlight was the huge Harvest banner crammed with pictures of all the world's produce, animals and food-stuffs added by the children. They also love making crafts that can be taken away and proudly displayed at home!

As a parent what I particularly love to see is Leo interacting with other members of the congregation of many different ages, truly living up to the name of 'All Age Worship'. After the October service, home made cakes were handed out (by some of the children and adults) and the mixing that then happened was a delight to see. Children can truly become part of a church 'Family' that includes members of the congregation of all ages and with many different experiences – what an enriching and nourishing experience this is, not only for those under 18, but I would say for those long beyond 18 as well. How lucky we are at St Michael's to have such a wide range as part of our Family!

Sylvia Aynsley passed away peacefully on October 25th. Simon will be taking the funeral service which has not yet been arranged.

Weekday service
Said Communion Service
Wednesdays at 10.30am,
Followed by coffee at
Malton Relish

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

20th NOVEMBER

At our last meeting of the P.C.C. it was agreed that we would go ahead with our annual Christmas Fayre. All the stallholders have been very positive and are getting their teams together, for which we are very grateful.

The event will be on Saturday 20th November opening at 9.30am in the Milton Rooms. We are hoping to start setting up on the Friday evening, but stallholders will be notified about this. We could do with a few men to help set up tables and chairs and to put them away again when the event has finished. Help is also needed with moving goods from the Church to the Milton Rooms.

The Stalls will be:

Craft Goods , Cakes, Jams and Preserves, Tombola, Raffle, Children's Stall, Books and DVD, Guess the Weight of the Cake, Whisky Wheel and Refreshments including of course our usual bacon butties.

All contributions will be gratefully received and may be left in Church.

If possible cakes should be delivered on Friday night or on Saturday.

Tombola gifts are needed please in good time to attach tickets to them.

If anybody would like to help on the day, who has not yet volunteered, they would be most welcome.

We hope you will all come and support the parish on the day.

Sue Wright

SHOE BOX APPEAL- LEAFLETS AND BOXES ARE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH

We are struggling to obtain boxes so, if you have a box at home, please help us out by using it. We do hope to have more covered boxes NEXT SUNDAY for those who still need one. Also, there are a few 'as new toy cars' - please feel free to take them.

RETURN OF BOXES: Boxes will be received in Church on Sunday morning, 21 November. I will be taking the boxes to a collection point in Norton on Monday 22 November which is the final day for collection - so no late boxes please.

REMINDER: PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids, used or damaged items, war related items, seeds, food items, sharp or fragile items.

TIP Don't fill your shoe box to the top. (a) it is less expensive and (b) it prevents the contents spilling out when they are being stacked for dispatch.

Thank you all for your continued support

Anne Bell Tel: 01653489423

New e-mail address: thebells.orchard@gmail.com



Alternatively you can donate a box online at www.shoebonline.co.uk

If you donate online please let Anne know so that it can be added to our total.

Sash — our Christmas charity

Sash - Safe and Sound Homes

Back in 1994 a group of parents in York heard about the first ever Nightstop Project, which had been set up in Leeds.

It made them think: "If our child was in trouble, would we want them to be homeless in the streets with nowhere to go?"

The answer, of course, was no. And so York Nightstop was born. Just a handful of volunteers in York offering overnight accommodation for young people in a crisis. In that year, they offered 39 nights of accommodation to young people who had nowhere to go.

Since then, we have grown considerably in terms of geographical coverage, in the services that we offer and in the number of young people that we help.

We changed our name to Safe and Sound Homes (SASH) in 2009 to reflect these changes.

What has not changed is our mission. We provide vulnerable young people with a lasting solution to the problems that have led them to become homeless, all thanks to a network of amazing volunteers who provide a spare room and time to help.

Visit www.sash-uk.org.uk for more information

Diary Dates

November

Wed 03	Meal at the Queen's Head, 6.30pm
Sat 06	Coffee stop in church in aid of our Harvest Charity
Sun 07	All age service 9.30am Service of Light 4pm
Sun 14	Remembrance Sunday
Sat 20	Christmas Fayre in the Milton Rooms
Sun 28	Advent Procession by Candlelight 5pm

December

Sat 04	Coffee Stop in aid of Sash our Christmas Charity
Sun 05	All age service 9.30am
Sat 11	Coffee morning 10-12 for the World Day of Prayer
Sun 19	Carol Service 6pm
Fri 24	Christingle and Crib service 3.30pm Midnight Eucharist 11.30pm
Sat 25	Parish Communion 9.30am
Sun 26	St Stephen

January 2022

Sun 02	All age service 9.30am
Sun 09	Epiphany

