

## Notes from the Choir



I write this report with the glorious and joyful music of Easter Day still ringing in my ears. Having not been allowed to sing in church on Easter Day since Easter 2019 made the singing of hymns and anthems even more special. The choir also robed and processed for the first time since the first lockdown.

I am very proud of what the choir has accomplished over the past few months. As is becoming my trademark, I have introduced them to a considerable quantity of new repertoire, some distinctly challenging. The choir has responded with enthusiasm, energy and a willingness that would put many amateur adult choirs to shame!

The service of music and readings for Passiontide was particularly evocative and emotional.

March saw the re-starting of the Junior Choir. We have 8 very energetic and enthusiastic children thus far, rehearsing on a Thursday evening, prior to the adult choir's rehearsal. It will take a while before the Junior Choir is ready to sing at a Sunday service, but I hear progress every week from them. We finished the term with the excitement of an Easter egg hunt around the church.

Looking forward to spring and summer, the adult choir will be singing on Ascension Day, in addition to all the usual Sunday services.

We do not propose to do anything special to mark the actual Jubilee Weekend as some of the choir will be away and there is a multitude of things going on in Malton and further afield. However, this weekend also marks the feast of Pentecost, so the remaining choir will be leading at the Eucharist as usual.

Later in the year though, I am hoping to host a "Come and Sing Music from the Coronation". This will take place on a Saturday in September or October and will be open to other churches and choirs in Malton and surrounding area. More information to follow.

Going back to July, I am planning that the choir's final Sunday service before they break up for the summer (Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July) should be one celebrating music. If you love singing, this is a service not to be missed.

In the meantime, if any of you would like to join the extended Choir, the usual Choir or the Junior Choir please contact me (or a member of the choir).

*Alison*

### From the Registers

Baptisms: None

Weddings: Abby Masters and Chris Johnson on 26th March

Funerals: Patricia Johnson on 1st February

Anne Elvy on 28th April



Volume 2  
Issue 2

May 2022

## St Michael's, Malton Parish News

### Are We Caring For God's Holy Temple?

We as a church will shortly be holding our Annual Church Meeting, as will all the other Church of England churches across our Diocese and Nation. As part of that process, we will publish our Annual Accounts and after the Freewill Offering to the Diocese, our largest expenditure will probably be in relation to maintaining the fabric of our church building. If I were a betting man, I believe the odds would be in my favour that this situation would be reflected in virtually all other church accounts, be it St. Luke's, St. Phillip's or St. Barnabas. Not only do we spend vast amounts of money but we also expend equal amounts of time and effort in this cause.

This reality leaves me pondering a critical question; if we are prepared to "invest" so much in a place of worship, should we not be spending in equal measure on maintaining God's Holy Temple? "But wait" I hear you cry, isn't our church building the Temple you speak of? Well, not in accordance with Scripture. If you recall from the Gospel accounts, when Jesus died on the cross, the curtain in the Holy Of Hollies in the Jerusalem Temple was ripped in half, from top to bottom, indicating that God no longer resided in that location. The Apostle Paul in I Corinthians tells us where God now resides;

"Do you not know that your **bodies** are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your **bodies**." - I Corinthians 6: 19-20 (TNIV)  
Our physical bodies are important to God and the Bible is littered with clues to this fact:

- We are created in God's image.
- Our bodies are a gift from God.
- Jesus was incarnate in bodily form.
- Jesus was resurrected in bodily form.
- Jesus ascended to Heaven in bodily form.

One of the only things the Bible tells us about life after death is that we will have a bodily resurrection.

If we display so much care and attention in relation to our beloved place of worship (the church building), shouldn't we show as much care and attention for the Temple that God now resides in?

We all know that we should eat better and be more physically active but it's hard to find the right motivation. Let me encourage you to look at your health as a spiritual matter, as much as a physical health issue. If our bodies are truly the Temple of God's Holy Spirit, shouldn't we Steward them as effectively (even more so I would argue) than we do our church buildings?

*Glyn*

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

## From Connie Clark, our Churchwarden

Many hands make light work, so the saying goes.

St. Michael's has a wonderful tradition of people volunteering their time whether to assist the vicar and warden in services or keeping the building sparkling and welcoming or offering hospitality.

It will soon be time for us all to put our efforts into our next major project. It is highly likely that we will all have to work hard to find funds for the clerestory window repairs on the south side of church. A working party has been set up to liaise with our church architect and oversee funding. Now that all surveys have been completed the PCC have tasked Andrew Boyce, our church architect, to draw up plans for the repair and send the works out to tender. All this is taking some considerable time but we are assured it is in hand. Once we have specific details, the application for grants and fundraising can begin in earnest.

We really will need many hands to complete this task and I am convinced everyone will rise to the challenge.

This is my last article to you as churchwarden. I thank you all for your generosity of time and willingness to ensure the church building is cared for and remains a symbol of Christianity in this town.

*Connie Clark*

## Iona style service

The next service will be on  
May 22nd at 4pm.



We will pray for for peace and  
justice throughout the world.

## Celebrate Ascension Day at St Michael's!

10.30am on Thursday 26th May  
with the choir

(please note this replaces the usual  
Wednesday communion service)

## A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine.  
We pray for peace and the laying down  
of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for  
tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort  
would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war  
or peace, for wisdom, discernment and  
compassion to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for your precious  
children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus,  
the Prince of Peace. Amen

## Handbells

Do you know that St Michael's owns 2 sets of handbells? There are 28 in total. If there is sufficient interest, we could get a group going. No previous experience needed - we can all learn together! There are you tube demonstrations to watch and you don't necessarily need to read music. If you think you might be interested contact Janet or Barry.



A credit card reader has  
been installed in St  
Michael's for online  
donations. It will make it  
easier for visitors to the  
church to make a  
donation if they want to.

## Weekday service

Said Communion Service  
Wednesdays at 10.30am,  
(except 25th May)  
Followed by coffee at  
Malton Relish

St Michael's APCM will take place  
during the Parish Communion  
service on 8th May.

Thanks to our outgoing treasurer and  
churchwarden for all their time and  
efforts over the past few years.

## SHARING THE PEACE



CartoonChurch.com

## Verger

St Michael's now has a verger.  
Andrew Nicholson started on 1st  
March, and has taken on this role  
with dedication and enthusiasm.

## Diary Dates

### May

Sun 01 9.30am All Age Worship  
Sun 08 APCM during the 9.30 Eucharist  
Thu 26 10.30am Ascension Day Eucharist

### June

3-5 Platinum Jubilee weekend  
Sun 05 9.30am All Age Worship for Pentecost  
Sun 12 Trinity Sunday

### July

Sun 03 9.30am All Age Worship  
Sun 10 9.30am Celebrating music - the choir's final service before  
their summer break.  
Sat 16 3pm Ryedale Festival event at St Michael's  
Thu 21 3pm Ryedale Festival event at St Michael's

## Ralph Vaughan Williams

This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams (RVW), one of England's greatest composers. You may wonder what this has to do with us at St Michael's! 40 years ago the English Hymnal was our hymn book, and some of you will remember that small green book when Ron Treasure was our vicar. RVW was the musical editor of the English Hymnal which was first published in 1906. He was very thorough and decided that "besides being a compendium of all the tunes of worth that were already in use, the book should, in addition, be a thesaurus of all the finest hymn tunes in the world." In some cases he adapted folk tunes (e.g. *Kingsfold* for 'I heard the voice of Jesus say', and *Monks Gate* for 'He who would valiant be'). In all he used 35 folk tunes and also wrote four new tunes himself. You will probably know *Sine Nomine* (For all the Saints). The most well known is *Down Ampney* for 'Come down O Love Divine'. The tune is named after the village in Gloucestershire where his father was the vicar. In my opinion this is a hymn where words and music complement each other perfectly. The words were written by an Italian monk, Bianco da Siena (1350-1434). It is one of a number of poems he wrote in Italian (not latin!) which were published and then translated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Discendi, Amor santo  
Visita la mie mente  
Del tuo amore ardente,  
Si che di te m'infiammi tutto quanto.*

Proof of it's enduring popularity is it's inclusion in nearly every hymn book. It is number 175 in our blue hymn books.



A prayer inspired by this hymn:

Gracious Father, send down upon us your Holy Spirit, to inhabit our souls, that through your presence in us, our hearts may be filled with compassion, our minds with humility and our lives with the light of your divine love, revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Other pieces by RVW to listen out for are 'The Lark Ascending' and 'Fantasia on Greensleeves'.

*Janet Patten*

## What our young people are doing.



### Family Easter Adventure

On Good Friday, we invited families to come and join us in church to explore the Easter story through story, song, eggs, glue and icing and come they did! We have a long tradition at St Michael's of making the large Easter Garden with our families and as the years have gone on this has grown to being a morning full of fun and faith.

We explored the Easter story using 'resurrection eggs' and then set out to find out more at a variety of activities for all the family. Sarah supported the children to create the Easter Garden scene, reflecting on the elements of the Good Friday story to guide placing the hill, tomb and garden. Using stones, peat, sticks and all sorts of foliage, the Easter garden came to life. Families were also invited to make their own Easter Garden to take home, so all that donated foliage was well used!

Eggs were also a big part of our morning, no surprise there. Everyone took up the challenge to decorate a hard boiled egg and then make a vehicle for their egg out of lego or duplo. A course was set to race the eggs between the servery and the font and many eggs didn't quite make it!! More egg fun involved wrapping eggs in anything to hand, be that bubble wrap, cotton wool, paper cups, tubes, straws and egg cartons in order to protect them from breaking when

dropped from a height! The children particularly enjoyed climbing the tallest ladder in church to drop (or hurl) their insulated eggs and then claim a prize chocolate egg if they had survived the fall. Some eggs came to grief but happily many survived and chocolate eggs were devoured.

Families had a chance to be quiet and reflective in the Lady Chapel as they scratched prayers onto rainbow card or nailed wooded rounds they had decorated onto our large wooden cross. It is always impressive to sit alongside children as they express their hopes, thanks and prayers in this way.

Our busy morning also included decorating Easter biscuits, making Easter book marks and scratch art egg decorating and Easter themed playdough. We even had time for hot cross buns. To end we watched a super, child-acted 'Easter Story' video and then raised the roof with a very loud rendition of the song 'God's not dead....no!' and left with the echoes of 'He is Alive' in our ears. Our morning of fun and faith was truly brilliant and the families who came left in no doubt about the glorious message of love and hope we all received at Easter.

PS Huge thanks to all who helped make all this happen! Tracey

LEGO CHURCH - Every 4th Sunday during the 9.30am service

Children (of all ages) are invited to join us for Lego Church, where we respond to a Bible story or the theme of the readings using LEGO. The children share their own thoughts and ideas about elements of the chosen story, and use our lego bricks to build something that shows their response. The session is finished with prayers offered by the children. We hope to be able to show the LEGO offerings to the rest of the church congregation at the end of the service.

## Library of Things Malton & Norton

Have you heard of The Library of Things? It is like a library – but for...things! LOTs enables communities to share items they only need occasionally, such as tools, party supplies, travel equipment and games and we need your help!

We are starting a LOT for our two towns as a green, money-saving, & community-driven initiative. As you Spring Clean, move house or de-clutter you will come across that tile cutter you only used once, it's nearly new; the sewing machine you won't thread up again; a good power washer you won't pick up again; that new tent you never used. All these and many other items are all too good to go to landfill or sit in your garage unused. Bring them to the Library of Things Malton & Norton!

The LOTMN is here to rescue good domestic useful items from being thrown away. We are looking for good quality gear used only occasionally such as gazebos, party plates & glasses, carpet cleaners, garden tools, bike racks, power tools. There is even a shout out for a Glitterball! The list is as wide as you can imagine and more. We will check them over, ensure they are fully safe, then lend them out on a not-for-profit basis. They will have all necessary tests, insurance, accessories, instructions & safety equipment as needed.

We want to help you to afford to do home improvements, take the family camping, make curtains, sort the garden. If you are involved with a charity or youth group, we may be able to lend you tents and portable BBQs. We are here for you – and we need you, too!

Our recent survey showed that people want to borrow power washers, sewing machines, & carpet cleaners and we need these items to be donated. Perhaps you have some of these things that need a good home? De-cluttering feels wonderful and helps the community! We are also looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us get up and running soon.

Items are posted and booked online and then picked up and returned once a week. Donated objects may also be brought to this point as well as to Bring & Take events hosted by DerwentEco. LOT Malton & Norton are working closely with DerwentEco, who are also planning a Repair Cafe, & Circular Malton who plan to upcycle objects.

LOTMN is working towards charitable status & plan to launch early this summer. Watch the papers, follow Lot MN on Facebook and Instagram & look for notices in the town to follow our progress. Ideas & comments are very welcome. We want to be responsive to your need.

Contact us with queries or comments at [libraryofthingsmn@gmail.com](mailto:libraryofthingsmn@gmail.com)

*Lindsay Wrightson*

## Thy Kingdom Come - From Ascension Day to Pentecost

Tuesday 31st May - Prayer walk

Thursday 2nd June Jubilee Songs of Praise at St Peter's to sing the Queen's favourite hymns, followed by a cream tea.

70 hours of prayer in the Lady Chapel

Saturday 4th June - Evangelical event outside St Michael's

Coffee stop with 'sanctuary' for families to relax

Sunday 5th June - Jubilee Fete at St Peter's church house

-----  
For anyone who is not sure what this is all about, here is an extract from the CofE website explaining what it is and how it all started:

"Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

*Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*

*Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*

*Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'.

We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable."