

## Notes from the Choir

At this time of year, I am reminded of the words of an Advent carol which the choir loves to sing: "People, look east: the time is here" (well, *nearly* here!). With November fast approaching, both choirs start looking forward to learning the Advent and Christmas repertoire. (Meanwhile, I started practising certain pieces of seasonal organ music in October!).

Advent Sunday heralds the start of the festivities with the Advent Processional Service, with carols by candlelight. This service, now in its third year, will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.30pm. Alongside suitable readings, there are Advent anthems sung by the choir and congregational carols. There is considerable symbolism in this service: the procession and the lights start at the west end of the church, gradually moving east, showing the coming of Christ – the Light of lights – banishing the darkness. This service is a beautiful way of starting the journey towards Christmas.

Two weeks later, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm, sees the church's traditional Carol Service. The Junior Choir will join the adults for this service, for the first time in many years. This is another highly atmospheric service, with the church decorated in its full Christmas glory.

The Choirs will continue to sing on Christmas Eve: 9.30am Eucharist; Crib Service in the afternoon; and then the midnight Eucharist; and on Christmas Day for the 9.30am Festive Eucharist. Christmas is the busiest time for both choirs, but it is also the most rewarding.

If you would like to sing at events like the Advent Processional or the Carol Service, you might want to consider joining the extended choir who sing at these auspicious occasions. Please contact me or a member of the choir if this is the case. There is no audition and you don't need to be able to read music – although this skill obviously helps. The Junior Choir is open to those children in Years 2 and above. Please contact me (alison.vm.forster@gmail.com). Both choirs rehearse on Thursday evenings: Junior Choir 6.15-7pm; Adults 7.30pm-9pm(ish!). (The extended choir are requested for rehearsals leading up to a particular service.)

Alison



Thank you to all contributors to this newsheet. Contributions for the next one, which will be out in February 2024, would be very welcome! janetcpatten@aol.com



Volume 3  
Issue 4

## St Michael's, Malton Parish News

November  
2023

### All Saints Day - November 1st

#### Where All Saints' Day came from

While now observed in November, All Saints' Day was originally celebrated on May 13, although the origin cannot be traced with certainty, according to Encyclopedia Britannica. Pope Boniface IV formally started what would later be known as All Saints Day on May 13 in 609 AD when he dedicated the Pantheon in Rome as a church in honour of the Virgin Mary and all martyrs.

The current date of November 1 was established by Pope Gregory III during his reign (731-741 AD) when he dedicated a chapel in Rome's St. Peter's Basilica in honour of all saints.

While this celebration was originally limited to Rome, later in 837 Pope Gregory IV ordered the official observance of All Saints Day every November 1 and extended its celebration to the entire Church.

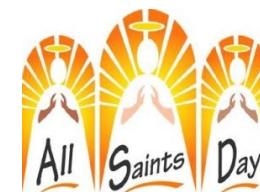
#### All Saints really means ALL saints

While many canonized saints are celebrated with their own individual feast days (such as St. Patrick), saints that have not been canonized have no particular holiday.

All Saints' Day recognizes those whose sainthood is known only to God. It is an opportunity to thank God for the lives of all the saints and for all the faithful who are no longer with us.

"Saints are sinners who say sorry"

So, what does being a saint mean? In its most basic sense, a saint is a "holy one," someone who is set apart for God's special purposes. Therefore, every follower of Jesus Christ is a saint.



## Christmas Services at St Michael's

Candlelit Advent procession - 3rd December at 6.30pm  
 Christingle Service - 10th December 2pm start, 3.30pm Candlelit Service  
 Parish Carol Service - 17th December at 6.30pm  
 Crib Service - 24th December at 3.30pm  
 Midnight Eucharist - 24th December at 11.30pm  
 Christmas Day Parish Communion at 9.30am



## SHOE BOX APPEAL : JACOB'S WELL BEVERLEY

For many years, St Michael's Church has been supporting the Charity Jacob's Well. In the 1980's/1990's in particular an enthusiastic working party headed by Eliza Treasure packed and sent clothing and medical supplies from Malton Vicarage to Poland and one or two members of our congregation drove vans out there. Jacob's Well continues its valuable work and apparently also distributes Shoe Boxes. Jacob's Well does not ask for donations towards transportation or literature as the boxes are sent out on every container or truck to Africa, Ukraine, Moldova and not just at Christmas.

Further information is available at [www.jacobswellappeal.org](http://www.jacobswellappeal.org).

This year we will send our shoe boxes via Jacob's Well. Leaflets will be available in church on Sunday 5 November and can be returned to church on Advent Sunday 3 December.

Part of a statement from the diocese:

We watch with grief and horror as the violence in Israel and Gaza intensifies, following the dreadful terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas. We remember that all people are created in the image of God, and therefore deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, to live lives free of fear and violence.

**O God of all justice and peace**

**we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma  
 of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.**

**Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;**

**we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people  
 of the land.**

**While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of  
 peace,**

**we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.**

**Guide us into your kingdom**

**where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children  
 for, to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father.**

## Diary Dates (check with the weekly pew sheet for any changes)

### November

Sun	05	9.30am	All Age Worship
		4pm	Service of Light
Sun	12	9.30am	Parish Communion for Remembrance Sunday
Tue	14	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sat	18		Church Christmas Fayre
Sun	19	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45am	Parish Communion
Sun	26	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion

### December

Sun	03	9.30am	All Age Worship for Advent Sunday
		6.30pm	Advent Procession
Sun	10	9.30am	Parish Communion
		3.30pm	Christingle Service
Tue	12	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sun	17	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45am	Parish Communion
		6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sun	24	9.30am	Parish Communion
		3.30pm	Crib Service
		11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
Mon	25	9.30am	Parish Communion for Christmas Day
Sun	31	9.30am	Parish Communion

### January 2024

Sun	07	9.30am	All Age Worship
		4pm	Possible Iona style service - check pew sheet
Tue	09	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sun	14	9.30am	Parish Communion
Sun	21	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45am	Parish Communion
Sun	28	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion

### February

Sun	04	9.30am	All Age Worship
		4pm	Iona style Service
Sun	11	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue	13	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sun	18	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45am	Parish Communion
Sun	25	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion

## Progress on Repairs and Reordering St Michael's Church

It seems some while ago that Louise Hampson came to talk to the congregation about the above and I explained what the project group was examining with the Architect Andrew Boyce.

Last week the PCC had a key meeting with both these professionals concerning the work that had been undertaken to cost and quantify all our ideas, and the practicality of raising funds and grants.

With inflation running at 10% and 7% over the last two years together with VAT (which is normally reclaimable) the cost of basic repairs to the wall alone was estimated at £400,000. The larger more complex scheme including redesigning the porch for easy access, new lighting, underfloor heating, insulation and pew replacement together with a carbon neutral footprint came in at £1.7m with figures in-between, depending upon the amount of work added to just doing the repairs.

Whilst these are large figures, the amount of cash needed from ourselves is not proportionate to the size of the project, often large grants once secured, accumulate others as organisations like to be associated with success. As a bonus to us though is the fact that the York Diocese has said it will help us to move to a Carbon Zero footprint, and have put our church forward as a 'pioneer church' which secures extra funding and support from central Cof E funds.

It is most likely that we would receive a grant for repairs to the wall from the Heritage Lottery Fund but to justify a larger grant for a bigger scheme means we have to show how the investment would benefit the local community. This requires us all, from the vicar down to us, the congregation, to engage with the Malton community to see what benefit an improved building might be to other organisations and groups. We have probably not been as active in this area for some while.

The PCC is going to consider at its next meeting what our vision for the future should be, and how this can be interpreted in any work we undertake.

If you have your own views, then do let members of the PCC or the vicar know as soon as possible.

*John Patten*

### Quiz answers

1 c) Patrick, 2 b) Andrew, 3 a) Peter, 4 a) Joan of Arc, 5 Saint Cecilia  
6 St. Francis of Assisi, 7 St Stephen, 8 It will rain for another 40 days  
9. St Luke, 10 St Michael

## O when the saints go marching in

"When the Saints Go Marching In", often referred to as simply "The Saints", is a traditional black spiritual. It originated as a Christian hymn, but is often played by jazz bands. One of the most famous jazz recordings of "The Saints" was made on May 13, 1938, by Louis Armstrong and his orchestra.

The song expresses faith in a new life with Christ after death. The song's lyrics and the melody express the joy of our resurrection. It's a song that has brought hope to countless people in its long history, people celebrating life after death in all its glory.

## To the congregation of St Michael's Church, Malton

**Thank you very much** for your recent donation of 46.20 kilos of food from your Harvest Festival and your continued support of the Ryedale Community Foodbank. You may be interested to know that through our branches in Norton, Pickering and Kirbymoorside we have provided food for 4272 people, 2850 adults and 1407 children, living in Ryedale. The school holidays were particularly busy, we gave out 150 extra children's packs to support families in addition to the usual food parcels. Donations of food have decreased over the last year due to rising food prices. Consequently we had to buy in an extra 1598.45 kilos of food in August to stock our centres and meet rising demand. None of this work would be possible without the generosity of donors like yourselves.

*Ryedale Foodbank*

This year there will be a **Service of Light**  
on 5th November at 4pm.



There will be an opportunity to light a candle  
in memory of loved ones.

Glyn, our vicar, will be on sick leave from 23rd October until 18th December, while he has radiotherapy treatment, and for recovery afterwards. We will all be remembering him in our prayers.

**The next Iona style  
services will be on**

**7th January and  
4th February 2024**

**At 4pm**



Tea and cake afterwards

## Concerts and other events in church

### Saturday 25th November from 10am

St Clements Festival - various music groups will be performing in church throughout the day until 5pm. (see p8 for details)

### Saturday 9th December at 7pm

North Yorkshire Music Therapy Centre

Christmas Concert with Harmonia and an inclusive sing and sign Choir.

### Tuesday Tea

Held on the second Tuesday of each month from 2.15 to 4pm.  
Join us for a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake.



On Saturday 9 September we held an informal 'Workshop' in church to demonstrate arranging flowers using different containers, without oasis (eg wire, glass beads, tape etc). Then everyone 'had a go', with much encouragement from our demonstrators, Sue, Edith, Rosie, Jenny and Barbara. It was fun. We enjoyed our fellowship together which also revealed some serious enthusiasts and very much hope to build up a strong team for the future (whilst reducing our average age!!!!)  
Thank you all, and also a big Thank You to all who have donated to the flower fund.

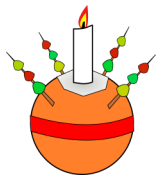
Anne Bell

## Christmas at St Michael's for Families and children

### Sunday 10th December, at 2pm

#### A Sticky Christingle Service

An afternoon full of glue, games and smiles as we get ready for Christmas. We will be making Christingles for our **Candlelit Christingle Service in church at 3.30pm.**  
The collection will be for the Children's Society.



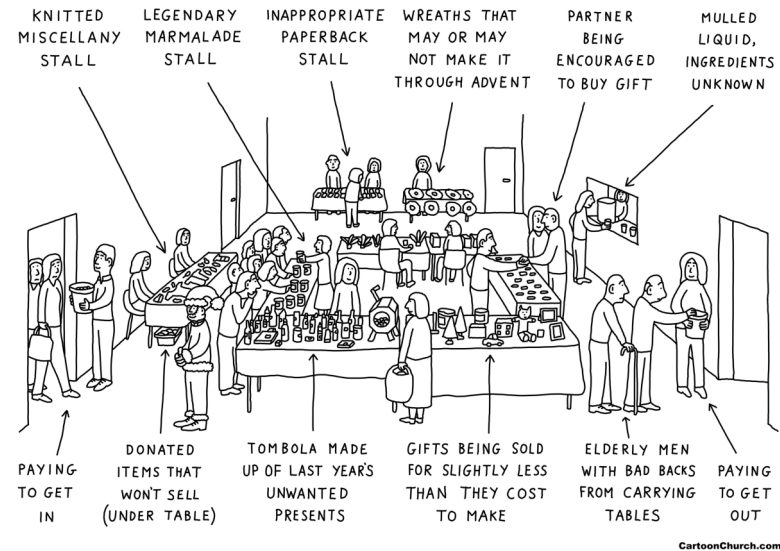
### Sunday 24th December at 3.30pm,

#### Christmas Eve Crib Service

Calling all shepherds and angels for our delightful Christmas Eve Nativity Service. We have costumes for every child.  
Make this the real start to your family Christmas.



## THE CHRISTMAS MARKET



## St. Michael's Christmas Fayre takes place in the Milton Rooms on Saturday 18th November , 9-30 to 12-30 pm.

This is our big fundraiser but also a social event.

We shall be having many of our usual stalls including a Tombola , Whiskey Wheel, Cake Stall, including jam and chutneys. Guess the weight of the cake, Craft Stall and a Book Stall. There will be a Childrens' stall and of course our usual Bacon Rolls, tea, coffee and biscuits.

We would appreciate donations to most of the stalls especially home made cakes.

Always welcome are DVDs and CDs but please check that the correct casing matches the contents and Jigsaws.

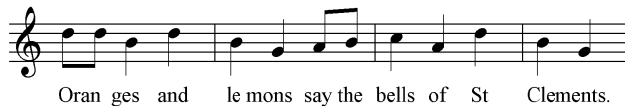
We look forward to seeing you there and welcome any volunteers.

Sue Wright.

### St Clement's Fayre - Saturday 25th November

Various local bands and choirs will be performing in church throughout the day from 10.30am-5pm including, for example, White Star Band, Kirkham Henry children's choir and Harmonia. There will also be events in the market place which will include a demonstration by blacksmiths.

Volunteers are needed to help serve tea/coffee and biscuits. If you can give an hour sometime during the day to help, please sign the list at the back of church.



### Who was St Clement?

He was the Bishop of Rome from about 88 - 99AD. He may have been the Clement mentioned in Philippians 4:3. He wrote a letter to the Christians in Corinth which was highly regarded and was read out alongside the Gospels in churches. He may have been martyred by being thrown into the Black Sea with an anchor tied round his neck. His symbol is an anchor and he is patron saint of mariners, blacksmiths, hatters and tanners! His feast day is 23rd November or 25th November in the Russian Orthodox church.

If you want to find out more about him visit the website of St Clements church in York.

### A Saints Quiz *answers on p10*

1. Which saint is believed to have chased the snakes from Ireland?  
a) Peter b) Paul c) Patrick
2. Who is the patron saint of Scotland?  
a) John b) Andrew c) George
3. According to Roman Catholic tradition, who was the first pope?  
a) Peter b) Paul c) John
4. Which peasant girl led the French army at Orléans during the Hundred Years' War?  
a) Joan of Arc b) Eleanor of Aquitaine c) Mathilde of Frise
5. Who is the patron saint of singers and poets?
6. This simple man is the patron saint of animals.
7. Which Saint's feast is on Boxing Day?
8. According to folklore, what will happen if it rains on St. Swithin's day?
9. Who is the patron saint of doctors?
10. He is the guardian and protector of the Church. He is the patron saint of police officers, grocers, paratroopers, bankers and sickness. His feast day is September 29. Who is he?

### Rise and Shine and Children's worship



In October, Rise and Shine celebrated their first birthday. To celebrate we shared birthday cake with members of the 10.45 service.

We continue to journey through the Bible each month and are currently focusing on the Judges and Kings of the Old Testament. Over recent months we have explored the stories of Joshua, Gideon and Samson and found out how God called upon them as leaders to 'save his people'. Our families enjoy doing this through, story, song, games, activities and prayers. Experiencing the excitement, but also the stillness and reflection with the youngest members of our Church family is what inspires us. If you want an uplifting start to a Sunday morning, do come and join us. Rise and Shine is not only for the young but also the young at heart. You will certainly be made to feel very welcome.

*Sue Thackray*

### Lego church

Continues on the fourth Sunday of the month in the Lady Chapel.

### All Age Worship

Our new lay-led All Age Worship service has been well received. The All Age Team continues to seek ways to involve everyone in the congregation, from all generations, in a variety of creative ways. We have enjoyed performances from both junior and adult choirs, child-led prayers and action songs. October's All Age Worship saw our annual Harvest Festival being celebrated with Glyn showing off his Samba moves! Our services are always finished off with coffee, cake and fellowship.

*Rachel Watson*

### Social Events *organised by Adrian*

Lunch at New Derwent Bistro on the 1st Wednesday of each month (numbers limited)

*Contact Adrian for more information and to book a place (07870 591142)*

Coffee and chat at Costa 3pm on 1st Sunday of the month.

8th November - Dinner at the Queen's Head, Amotherby, 6 for 6.30  
book via Adrian 07870591142



## The Church Visitors Book.

Unfortunately, our Visitors book was quite badly vandalised during 2023 with many pages being ripped out and removed. We now have a new one, let's hope this one is treated with more respect!

The pages for 2022 were in the main undamaged (only 2 missing) so they give a good indication of how popular our church is with both locals and tourists.

It may interest you to know that during 2022 people from 40 English counties visited St Michael's. There were also 9 entries from different parts of Scotland, 4 from Wales and 7 from Ireland.

A surprising number of visitors were from overseas. They came from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, Brazil, Bahamas, Finland, Sweden, Netherlands, Hong Kong, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, France, Argentina, Mauritius, Switzerland, Denmark and Mozambique!

August, unsurprisingly, was the most popular month, recording 109 visitors, but visitor numbers were fairly consistent over the rest of the year, 58 on average per month with the least number recorded in September (45).

The approximate total number of visitors recorded was 680 (some entries were hard to decipher and averages were used for the missing 2 weeks)

Interestingly, when research was carried out at a church in Lincolnshire it was found that less than 5% of visitors actually signed the visitors book so the actual number of visitors we had will have been much, much higher.

'Beautiful' and 'Peaceful' were the most common descriptions and a poignant message read "Spent many hours here in the last 3 years, Came to say 'Thanks'".

On behalf of all our visitors I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to everyone who helps to look after St Michael's church in one way or another. It is very much appreciated, especially by those who are not part of a church family but just drop by looking for a place for quiet reflection.

*Heather*



**Weekday service**  
Said Communion Service  
Wednesdays at 10.30am,  
Followed by coffee at New Derwent Bistro

If anyone would appreciate a home visit and/or Home Communion please contact Connie Clark on 07544 380163.

## Eco Church – Sustain and Renew the Life of the Earth

Winter can be a tough time for wildlife as well as us humans. If you can, give our fellow creatures a helping hand.

### 5 ways to help Wildlife this Autumn

Don't leave pumpkin lanterns outside to rot. They attract rats and can be fatal to hedgehogs as it causes tummy upsets which then results in dehydration.

Give your bird feeders a good clean with hot soapy water. Dirty feeders aid the spread of diseases among the bird population.

Help Hedgehogs prepare for winter by leaving a pile of sticks and leaves in a quiet corner of your garden. Hopefully they will use them to build their own 'hibernaculum'. DO NOT put milk out for hedgehogs as they are lactose intolerant. They will however appreciate access to water at ground level.

Don't cut back your Ivy. Ivy is a very important food source for the wildlife in your garden throughout the winter. The nectar and pollen are important for late flying insects, the fat-rich berries are eaten by birds such as thrushes, blackbirds and blackcaps and the foliage offers shelter for a myriad of tiny animals.

Keep bird feeders and bird baths topped up. Place a small free-floating ball in your bird bath to reduce the likelihood of it freezing over.

For more suggestions see the [woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk) website.

*Heather Williams*



### Coffee Stops

on Saturday mornings from 10 - 12 on 4th and 11th November.

St Michael's will be supporting Farm Africa.

No coffee stop in church on 18th Nov - Christmas Fayre in Milton Rooms  
25th November - St Clements Fayre (see p8 for details)

2nd December - Food Festival, helpers needed from 9am

16th and 23rd December from 10 - 12

The Christmas charity has not been chosen yet.

January 6th and February 3rd 10 - 12

If you can help please contact Heather.