

Notes from the Choir

Before giving out the details of forthcoming services, I would like to reflect briefly on the Advent and Christmas events. At both the Advent Processional and the Nine Lessons and Carols, we drew the largest congregations since pre-Covid (179 in the congregation at the Nine Lessons). The Junior Choir joined the adults at this service for the first time in many years, coping well with processing while singing and with a host of new repertoire. The adult choir meanwhile showed themselves to be absolute troopers: they had two weeks between the Advent Processional and the Nine Lessons! A major “thanks” should go to both choirs, Ian Little, the various readers and Simon for making these services so successful.

Firstly, please note that the All Age Worship service in March has been changed to **Sunday 10TH March**, in order to celebrate Mothering Sunday. Sunday 3rd March will be a Sung Eucharist.

Sunday 17th March heralds the start of Passiontide. To commemorate this season, there is a service of readings and music entitled “The Way of the Cross” on Sunday 17th March in St Michael’s at 6.30pm. With music by Fauré, Hurford, Purcell and Goss, this is a beautiful, poignant service, well worth attending.



Sunday 24th March is Palm Sunday. After the success of the donkeys last year, we will do the same this year. Although it is not an All Age Worship Sunday, I would encourage everyone, of whatever age, to come. Both the adult and Junior Choirs will be singing music suitable for Palm Sunday.

Maundy Thursday is on 28th March. At 7.30pm we shall be commemorating the Last Supper, the Washing of Feet and the Striping of the Altar with sung Eucharist, music to include Plainsong chants.

Easter Day (31st March) is always such a joyous occasion. 9.30am sung Eucharist, with sung Gospel Alleluias, anthems by Shephard and Thatcher, an extra hymn and Widor’s magnificent “Toccata” with which to finish. (Thereafter, the Director of Music has a lie-down!).

As I am sure you all know, Glyn’s final service with us will be on Sunday 28th April. I am planning to fill the service with some of his favourite hymns – and the Widor may even make a reappearance!

Ascension Day is on Thursday 9th May, with sung Eucharist in the morning. In May, June and July, music will include two of the anthems specially composed for the coronation of King Charles III. I am sure that these pieces will become favourites with the choir and the congregation.

Alison Forster

Quiz answers

1c, 2c, 3c, 4a, 5 True, 6b, 7c, 8b, 9b, 10 True

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



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Issue 1

St Michael's, Malton Parish News

February
2024



Lent, the six week period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, can be seen as a period of Spiritual quest to become closer to God. It is the time when Jesus was in the wilderness, for 40 days after His baptism by John in the river Jordan and was tempted three times by the Devil. However by his knowledge of scripture and the power invested in him by God he was able to overcome Satan (Matthew 4: 1-11). We can use this time as a journey, taken singly or collectively. We don't need to travel this journey alone because Jesus will walk with us every step of the way. You will probably find other Christians friends and acquaintances also making this journey who can offer support if the going gets tough.

Lent is seen as a time for ‘giving up’ temptations such as chocolate, alcohol, smoking etc but shouldn't be seen as a guilt trip or time to dwell on our failures, but a journey of faith and hope that, with every step we take we can move closer to our best – our most fully – human selves. Lent can also be used as a time to ‘take on’ something extra. Maybe by using a Lent daily reading book, there are many available particularly from such organisations as Bible Reading Fellowship and Our Daily Bread. Or you could ask a member of the congregation if they have one you could borrow. You could consider making an additional charitable donation either financial or something ‘extra special’ for the Food Bank.

And look out for the opportunity to ‘take on’ a Prayer Partner for Lent which is a good way of spending a few minutes each day praying for a church member.

Trish Atkinson

SHOE BOX APPEAL : JACOB'S WELL BEVERLEY

Dear St Michael's Church

On behalf of Jacobs Well Appeal I would like to thank your team for all of their hard work and generosity in producing the 29 Shoe Boxes and the donation of the £20 cheque, your support in helping to send aid to some of the poorest people in the world is greatly appreciated. Some of the Shoe boxes will be going to Ukraine in January to children who have lost everything in the war and some of them will be going out in January to another destination yet to be determined, possibly Burkina Faso.

Thanks again

Lucy Mallender

This year **Ash Wednesday** falls on 14th February which is also Valentine's Day.
There will be a communion service as usual at 10.30am



Weekday service

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

World day of Prayer

Friday 1st March 2pm at St Michael's

'I beg you, bear with one another in love'

Prepared by the Christian women of Palestine



**The next Iona style services will be on
3rd March, 7th April and 5th May at 4pm**

Tea and cake afterwards

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

February

Sun	04	9.30am	All Age Worship
		4pm	Iona style Service
Sun	11	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue	13	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
		5—7pm	Pancake Party
Sun	18	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45am	Parish Communion
Sun	25	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion

March

Sun	03	9.30am	Parish Communion
		4pm	Iona style Service
Sun	10	9.30am	Mothering Sunday All Age Worship
Tue	12	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sat	16	7.30pm	Chanticleer Singers Concert
Sun	17	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45am	Parish Communion
		6.30pm	Passiontide service 'The Way of the Cross'
Sun	24	9.30am	Palm Sunday with a donkey!
			Lego church during Parish Communion
Thur	28	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist
Fri	29		Good Friday
Sun	31	9.30am	Parish Communion for Easter Day

April

Sun	07	9.30am	All Age Worship
		4pm	Iona style Service
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	APCM and Lego church during Parish Communion

May

Sun	05	9.30am	All Age Worship
		4pm	Iona style Service
Thu	09	10.30am	Ascension Day service
Sun	12	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue	14	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sun	19	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45am	Parish Communion
Sun	26	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion

A Quiz for Lent and Easter answers on p12

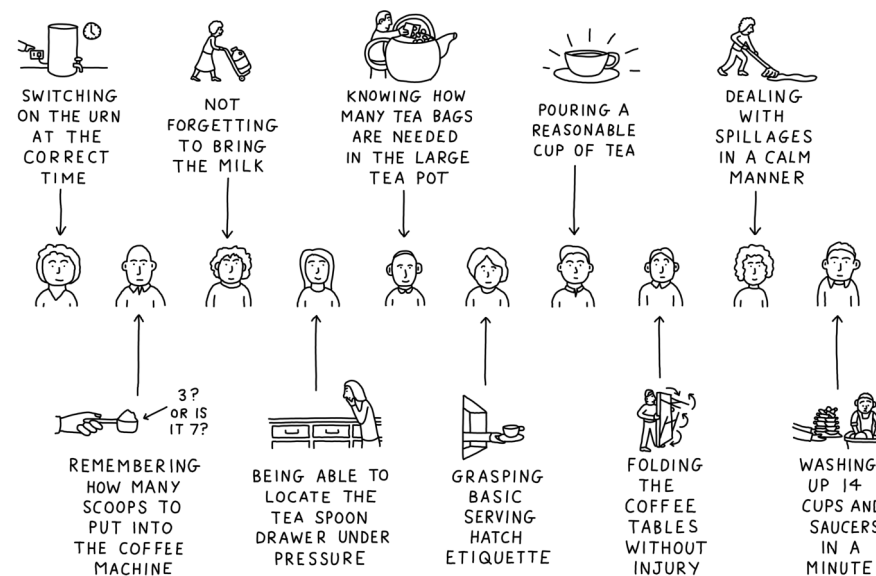


1. What does the term 'Lent' which comes from 'lencten' (in middle English) mean?
a) sacrifice b) time, c) springtime
2. How were the ashes imposed in the early church?
a) the shape of the cross was drawn on the forehead
b) ashes were smeared across closed eyelids
c) ashes were poured or sprinkled over the head
3. Why do people give things up for Lent?
a) to follow the example of Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness
b) To help us focus on prayer and devotion
c) both of the above
4. Why does Lent last 40 days?
a) to represent the time Jesus spent in the desert, being tempted
b) to recall the 40 days and nights the earth was flooded in the OT
c) to remind us of the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert
5. True or False?
Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent
6. Who provided the tomb for Jesus' body to be buried?
a) Nicodemus b) Joseph of Arimathea c) Philip
7. To whom did Jesus appear first after the Resurrection?
a) Peter b) Mary his mother c) Mary Magdalen
8. Which disciple wanted to see the imprint of the nails before he would believe?
a) Andrew b) Thomas c) Bartholomew
9. Jesus appeared to his disciples beside which sea?
a) Red Sea b) Sea of Joppa c) Sea of Tiberias d) Dead sea
10. True or false?
Easter is the most important festival in the Christian Calendar.



SKILLS

GAINED OVER A LIFETIME OF CHURCHGOING



CartoonChurch.com

Ten ways you can join with the St Michael's family for Lent, Passiontide and Easter

1. Take part in the prayer partner scheme
2. Come to the pancake party on Shrove Tuesday
3. Worship with us on Ash Wednesday at 10.30am
4. Reflect with us at the Iona style service on 3rd March at 4pm
5. Be part of the family on Mothering Sunday at 9.30am
6. Enjoy the service of hymns, anthems and readings on Passion Sunday (17th March) at 6.30pm.
7. Follow the donkey on Palm Sunday at 9.30am
8. Commemorate the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm
9. Look out for the CTSR and family events on Good Friday
10. Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day at 9.30am

Glyn made this announcement at the All Age service on 4th February:

My period of Radiotherapy last year and the subsequent time of recuperation has given Maureen and I ample opportunity to reflect on my ministry here in Malton and our future.

We have come to the mutual conclusion (for a multitude of reasons) that the time is right for us to move on. My resignation has been tendered to the Bishop and I have met with the Archdeacon.

While saddened by my departure, they were both fully supportive and understanding of our decision. It has been agreed that my final Sunday will be 28th April.

Maureen and I plan to move back to our house in South Milford, taking a few months off over Spring and Summer to discern what God has in store for us next.

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (411 in Common Praise)

Words by J G Whittier (1807-92), Tune: 'Repton' by Hubert Parry

Dear Lord and Father of mankind is often described as the 'nation's favourite hymn'. It can bring back memories for those who went to the Holy Land and who may have sung it by the Sea of Galilee while on a pilgrimage. It is interesting that neither the author nor the composer had any idea that the text and tune would come together and make both so memorable.

J G Whittier was a Quaker from New England, a poet and journalist. The hymn uses the final six verses of a long poem called *The Brewing of Soma*, soma being an hallucinogenic drink used in Hindu rituals.

Hubert Parry wrote an oratorio *Judith* from which the tune comes. It first appeared 'married' to the words in the Repton School hymn book, and was then included in the *English Hymnal* edition of 1933.

Other music by Parry that you may have heard is the anthem *I was glad* written for the coronation of Edward VII in 1902 and sung at every coronation since. He also wrote the music for *Jerusalem* to words by William Blake.

Father God, who in Jesus' tender voice calls your disciples
to abandon the strivings and stresses of this noisy world;
breathe your Spirit upon us, that as we turn to you in
quiet praise, our lives may be beautified by your peace,
and hallowed by your love. Amen

The Church has many ancient customs and one of the most cherished is called, "criticising the Vicar". Most of us indulge in this to some extent, but Romey never did. That is not to say she would not put the Vicar straight if he was wrong, but that is a different thing. She was always loyal and supportive.

Romey applied her faith to her own life. She was a good neighbour and a good Samaritan in the various places in the area in which she and the family lived. Bringing up four boys, which is no mean achievement in itself and she had to adjust to the arrival of Roger's MS. She and Roger had to make major changes to their lives, but they did this very successfully continuing to support one another in every way. Romey had many friends including the golfing community. It has been said that golf is not really a sport. It is more a disease, one which is very hard to shake off. If so Romey suffered from it and derived a huge amount of pleasure from it. Romey wanted this to be a celebration. There is certainly much to celebrate in her life, above all the faith that led and inspired right through to the end, in the way she coped with her illness and the way she approached her death. She knew the reality of God's presence and that she had nothing to fear. She lived in the knowledge of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and placed her faith in him.

May she rest in peace.

THERE IS NO GOODBYE

There are moments on this planet
Periods of special time
That connects us with our loved ones
By revealing certain signs

For when the vibrations of the earth
Disturb the balance in the air
A message will reveal itself
For you to act upon with care

Then the forces will surround you
To help you if you ask
And smooth a path for you to walk
Unhindered in your task

For your loved ones will be watching
Each day when you awake
To assist you in your struggles
And the errors you might make

Pay attention to their presence
And listen with both ears
For the whisper that will call to you
And the advice that you will hear

Have courage in your footsteps
And use their wisdom without fear
To settle all your worries
From life's troubles that are near

For you travel not alone in time
On the journey that you take
As their spirits stand-by to guide you
On the choices you now make

So, do not say the word 'goodbye'
To loved ones when you part
As they will tap you on the shoulder
To cause a tremor in your heart

And when that movement stirs your soul
Get up and march ahead
As they are looking down on you
To see where you might tread

For through your senses a light will shine
To show you where to turn
As the departed gently teach you
On the lessons you must learn

In this Church today there are bound to be a wide range of people, who knew Romey in different ways, as a family member a friend, a fellow golfer, the farming community, a teaching colleague, church activist or in some other way. Naturally some of things will overlap and many knew her in several capacities, but one task we have today is to bring it all together and perhaps try and put her life into some context.

That context must be the Christian faith which she practised all her life. She did not come to it in a blinding flash as some do, but was brought up in it as many others are. That is a perfectly good way to come to the faith. Romey did not go around pushing her beliefs onto other people, neither did she spend her time agonising over doctrinal niceties. She had decided where she stood and she stood by it. Hers was a very sensible, practical and grounded approach.

There are some particular ways in which it manifested itself and they all concern her deep understanding of the nature of the Church.

First, she knew it was not just a random collection of people who come together to sing hymns and say prayers, but it needed to be a real community, where people knew one another and actually cared about one another. Thus, she organised many social events that brought people together. Many of these were mainly fundraising in nature, Christmas and Summer Fayre, table top sales, garden parties among other things, but Romey understood their social and communal value.

Second, she understood that the Church needed a local presence, a profile. Archbishop Michael Ramsay once said that the Church was the only organisation that exists for those who are not members of it. It is here to serve the community. This is a profoundly important insight. It comes from the very thing we have been celebrating at Christmas. This is that God's love is for all mankind, which is what the life of Jesus Christ made known. This is why Romey organised concerts of visiting choirs and musicians, refreshments during the Food Festival and other town events. She realised that these things created links, they made the introduction to the Church and brought people into the building, "the church in the market place". She was good at recruiting or dragooning volunteers. She was hard to say "no" to. She was brilliant at publicity and getting stuff in the paper including photographs. (Apparently Karen Darley of Malton Gazette and Herald used to hide under her desk if she saw Romey coming.) She organised leaflet drops and posters all over the town. Again, it was all because she understood what the Church is and what it is for. Who knows how many people have come into the church over the years through her activities.

Third Romey understood that the Church needed to do its work well. There was no place for sloppiness. Thus, she served on the Parochial Church Council for many years. She was a churchwarden also for a long period. She did the practical stuff, like flower arranging and organising the decorating of the church for Christmas. In all these things insisting that things were done properly. She understood also that there is a cost. The Church like anyone else has to pay its bills. She must have helped raise tens of thousands over the years.

Rise and Shine and All Age worship



It's been a busy couple of months for the All Age Worship Team. We had some very successful Christmas activities and services which included an Advent All Age, Sticky Christingle, Christmas Rise and Shine and the Crib Service. All events were well attended, especially the Crib service. It was standing room only with around 250 people in church. It is so good to see that so many families want to have contact with their local church during the festive period.

We are now trying to harness that interest as we start the new year. Rise and Shine is now in its second year and we are receiving some very positive feedback from the families who attend. We continue to journey through the Bible and are currently exploring the story of Samuel. Numbers are also growing at All Age Worship and it is very rewarding to see such a range of ages worshipping together. It really is a service for all the St Michael's family. Next month (March) will see a slight change to the monthly arrangements as the All Age service moves to the second Sunday of the month (10th) to coincide with Mothering Sunday.

Last month saw a very busy Lego Church where the children created some amazing lego constructions to retell the story of Simeon and Anna. Our young people speak with such confidence when sharing their ideas

If you have young families as neighbours why not invite them along to one of our services.

Sue Thackray

Rachel is planning to start a group for young people called **'Navigate'**. Keep a lookout for further information on the pewsheets for dates and times, and pass the information on to any young people and their families who might be interested.

Chanticleer Singers - Spring Concert

Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm

Featuring music by female composers



Calling all pancake lovers, young and old,
you are warmly invited to

St Michael's Pancake Party

on Shrove Tuesday, February 13th.

Drop in anytime between 5pm and 7pm in
church.

There will be piles of pancakes, toppings,
refreshments and fun for the children too!



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.

Coffee Stops

on Saturday morning March 9th from 10 - 12 noon.

The charity we are supporting is Crisis.

Dates after Easter have not been planned yet but if you
can help please contact Heather.



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.

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

The first newsletter of the new year gives us an opportunity to look back
over the past year and also to look forward to the possibilities for the
environment in the coming year.

2023 has been confirmed as the hottest year on record globally, with an
average temperature rise of 1.48 C above pre-industrial levels.

Last year saw devastating floods in Libya, forest fires in Europe and Canada,
exceptional sea ice loss in Antarctica and drought in the horn of
Africa. Climate change isn't something which will happen in 2050 (the net
zero target date) it is happening now. People are already losing their lives
because of it.

Climate change is a huge problem that we, as individuals, cannot solve
through our own endeavours. We have to rely on Governments to make
the right decisions and stick to them.

The independent Climate Change Committee (CCC), in a recent report to
the Government warned that it no longer had a policy that would meet its
legally binding 2030 targets. The outgoing chairman of the CCC
(Conservative, Lord Deben) also said this:

*"I urge the Government to regroup on Net Zero and commit to bolder delivery.
This is a period when pace must be prioritised over perfection."*

In an election year, we have the opportunity to ask candidates what their
party plans to do to address the problems of climate change and the poor
state of the environment: river pollution, flooding, loss of biodiversity,
plastic waste etc. We must make politicians aware that these issues are
important to us, their electorate.

Most of all we each need to cast our vote in the general election and cast it
wisely, remembering the fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion:

**'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and
sustain and renew the life of the earth'**

Heather Williams