

Notes from the Choir

The choirs have enjoyed a busy few months, with Passiontide and Easter services. The evening Passiontide service was better attended than in the past few years and Palm Sunday, whilst we couldn't procure a donkey, was a fitting commemoration of the triumphant entry into Jerusalem and then Christ's Passion. Easter morning heralded not only Christ's glorious Resurrection but also the clocks going forward! Despite losing an hour's sleep, both choirs were rehearsing with verve at 8.55am! The Junior Choir joined the adults to sing on both Palm Sunday and Easter Day. These two services were the first sung Eucharists at which the Junior Choir has sung. They coped very well with different processions, plus a large quantity of repertoire. The music on Easter Day was superb and utterly joyous, complete two anthems (including Richard Shephard's "The Easter Hymn of Praise"), six hymns (two with descants), the sung Easter Gospel Alleluias and Widor's mighty "Toccata" to conclude. As usual, I must give my profound and grateful thanks to both choirs (plus the parents of the Junior Choir) for their commitment, enthusiasm and singing!



Ascension Day is the 9th May and will be celebrated with sung Eucharist at 10.30am. Pentecost and Trinity follow quickly and will feature plainsong, Schubert and Pitoni.

In June or July, I am hoping to have a Sunday morning service which will be a thanksgiving for music. The RSCM have Music Sunday on 9th June. We may make use of this date but look in the Parish pew sheet where I shall advertise this service. The music will include "Make A Joyful Noise" by Andrew Lloyd Webber which was specially composed for the coronation of King Charles III, almost a year ago.

Both choirs have a well-deserved break for the summer: Sunday 21st July will be their final service until 8th September. Whilst I shall publish more details nearer the time, I am planning to host a "Come and Sing Evensong" at St Michael's in the autumn. This event will celebrate 100 years since the composer, Stanford, died, while also starting to raise money to replace the choir's cassocks. These items are showing their age now and the choir and I are keen to purchase new ones once we have raised sufficient sums. Other potential fund raisers include a sponsored hymn sing (or carol sing), so there is much to look forward chorally in the next year.

Alison Forster



Volume 4
Issue 2

St Michael's, Malton Parish News

May
2024

*Let us thank God
for the joy of springtime and new growth*



*For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.*

Isaiah 61:11

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

From the Churchwarden

What happens next?

Now we have waved good bye and wished Glyn Godspeed what happens next? As some of you already know, Alison Hutchinson, an ordained curate, will be taking the Sunday services for the next two months. Alison is not available midweek so the Wednesday Holy Communion services will be taken by Judy Duke/Simon Wright/Doreen Brown.

In July, Alison will return to her usual Benefice and Veronica James and Simon will conduct the Sunday services. Wednesday services will continue to be covered by Judy, Simon and Doreen. The Service rota from 1/5/2024 – 23/6/2024 (showing St Mary's as well as St Michaels's) is displayed on the notice board near the toilet. The noticeboard also shows the rota for who is closing the church.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help in this way.

Cover for services in August onwards has not been arranged but the Area Dean will help make sure that all Sunday Communion services have cover. We are not expecting any problems as there are a couple of extra retired clergy who have also offered to help out when necessary.

We are very grateful to the All age Worship Team for their continuing work on the first Sunday of the month and for the Rise and Shine service.

Requests for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are to be directed to the Church Wardens who will then liaise with the Area Dean to find suitable times/dates and clergy.

There will be a joint meeting between St Michael's PCC, St Mary's PCC, the Archdeacon and the Area Dean on 14th May to discuss the vacancy process. I'm sure there will be further benefice meetings down the line and of course a Parish Profile to write before the post can be advertised. The Archdeacon has assured us that there will be no stalling by diocese. The post will be advertised as soon as the benefice has agreed the type of vicar we want, how the benefice wants to operate and the Parish Profile has been compiled and approved.

It may be a little unsettling for a while but I'm sure we will all pull together and everything will go swimmingly.....

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

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
		4pm	Pentecost and Pizza party
Sun	26	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion
		5pm	Navigate

June

Sun	02	9.30am	All Age Worship
		4pm	Iona style Service
Sun	09	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue	11	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sun	16	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45am	Parish Communion
Sun	23	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion
		5pm	Navigate
Sun	30	9.30am	Parish Communion

July

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	Lego church during Parish Communion
		5pm	Navigate

August

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
		5pm	Navigate

Church Warden's Staves

A few weeks ago, we were very saddened to find the church warden's staves had been vandalised. Both staves had been broken in two and left on the pews at the back of church. The wood is too badly damaged to be repaired but it may be possible to attach new poles to the existing brass fittings, so we are looking into this option before contemplating buying new ones.

We serve the community by making the church available to everyone, every day, and we thank God that this kind of vandalism is very rare and we pray for the person responsible who must have been a very troubled individual.

The Staves or Wands are the church warden's symbol of office and signify that a warden is an officer of the diocese and is responsible directly to the bishop (not the vicar). They are usually carried by the wardens as they escort the Bishop when he is on an official visit to the church. They are only symbolic now but originally the staves were pointed sticks that were used to maintain order and decorum during divine services and to put down any rowdiness inside or outside in the churchyard. In the 1600s they were known as prodders as they were used to prod parishioners to keep them awake during long sermons!



Update from Ryedale Community Foodbank.

Now that all the Easter eggs have gone, we are concentrating on building stocks towards our Children's School Holiday Packs. We are aiming for foods we would normally stock, but giving them out in larger quantities, so the parents can provide a meal at lunchtime to replace school dinners. Please contribute any of the following: cereals, baked beans/baked beans with sausages, tinned pasta in sauce, instant mash, tinned hot dogs, tinned meat balls, meat in sauce, large tins of ham, tins of tuna, no added sugar orange squash, fruit in juice, rice pudding, custard, sponge puddings, biscuits, jam & tomato ketchup.

Thank you,

Sue Fitter

Do you remember Ladybird Books? *From the Parish Pump*

I'm really excited about a new exhibition running at my local museum this summer. It promises to prompt joyful memories of childhood for many older people – and maybe remind them of when they first learnt about Jesus.



'The Wonderful World of the Ladybird Artists' aims to "uncover the story of the talented artists who illustrated Ladybird books for more than 30 years." It's a fascinating exhibition that has already been staged in cities from Canterbury to Northumberland and is at the St Albans Museum until 8th September. The organisers say: "This colourful, family-friendly exhibition includes rare books, original artwork and artefacts, and reveals how illustrators played such an enormous role in Ladybird's extraordinary success."

Ladybird Books also played a vital role in thousands of Sunday Schools and churches in the UK and many other English-speaking countries from the 1940s until well into the 1970s.

For many children and young people, these books were their first introduction to the Bible, with numerous parents, grandparents and carers reading them as bedtime stories. 'Easy Reading' versions helped many children read about Jesus for themselves.

I've been collecting some of the Bible-based copies of the Ladybird books from local charity shops, with titles such as 'Stories about Jesus the Helper,' 'Children of the Bible' and 'Two Stories Jesus Told,' featuring the classic parables, the Good Samaritan and The Prodigal Son. I've been struck by the faithful retelling of the Bible stories, and the quality of the illustrations.

These colourful books were a staple of many Scripture classes and Sunday School prize-giving and helped form the Biblical understanding of a generation of children. Today, the books have become very collectible, with prices on the rise.

Ladybird books were, naturally, a product of their times with, for example, the skin tones of Jesus and the apostles often lighter than what reality might have been. The books were produced for a time when Bible stories were more widely known, and families were routinely depicted as mum, dad, a son and a daughter.

Author unknown

St Patrick's Breastplate (I Bind unto myself today – Hymn 203)

This is a great hymn for Trinity Sunday. It dates from the early 8th century and is reputedly by St Patrick. The original Gaelic version is said to have been written as a kind of spiritual defence as he made a missionary journey to Tara in County Meath. According to legend, the local Druidic leader set an ambush for Patrick and his companions, but as they sang the hymn they were mistaken for deer and escaped harm. Therefore the hymn is also known as The Deer's Cry. The original was not in metrical form, was translated by George Petrie in 1839, and was worked into a metrical paraphrase by Fanny Alexander and first sung on St Patrick's Day in 1891.

There are 5 verses in the hymn book :

- 1 invocation of the Trinity.
- 2 invocation of the virtues of the natural world:
the sun, fire, lightning, wind, etc.
- 3 invocation of various aspects of God –
his wisdom, his eye, his ear, his hand, etc.
- 4 repeated invocation of Christ to be ever present
(Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, etc.)
- 5 repetition of the first verse

It was included in the 1906 English Hymnal set to the magnificent tune by Stanford. It is unusual in having a different tune for one of the verses (v4). Stanford was an Irish composer born in 1852 and whose death 100 years ago is being commemorated this year. If you have sung Choral Evensong in a choir you may well have sung his Mag and Nunc in B flat. He also wrote symphonies and other instrumental and choral music. He taught the following composers at the Royal College of Music: Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Ireland, Rebecca Clarke, Frank Bridge and Arthur Bliss. You may not have heard of all of them but one or two may be familiar.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Children and Youth Work at St Michael's

As a PCC we believe that God is calling St Michael's to reach out to more young people in our community. We have a willing team of volunteers but our capacity is stretched to its limit. For a time we have been discussing and praying for ways we can employ a Children's Worker for St Michael's to support the team, bring in more volunteers and expand the work we do. We are in the process of applying for a grant, which if successful will cover a substantial amount of the cost. However there will still be a shortfall. As a Church, it is everyone's responsibility to support our members, including the youngest. We are appealing to all of our congregation to consider whether you would be able to increase your regular giving to help us fund this project. If everyone who currently gives felt able to give an extra £5 or £10 a month to their giving, this would make a real difference. If you don't already give regularly to the Church, then perhaps this is something you would like to consider. Even if the amount you can give is only small, it will really make a difference. If you do think this is something you are able to do then please speak to either our treasurer, Rob Hall, our Church Wardens, Mike or Heather or the project leader, Sue Thackray. Rob will be talking to the congregation about this in the near future. We ask that everyone holds this project in their prayers.

[How do we grow the number of children and young people in our churches? | Growth Research](#)

Here are some miscellaneous light-hearted observations on life:

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him. – *Dereke Bruce*

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall. – *Anon*

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis. – *Anon*

Acupuncture is a jab well done. – *Anon*

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds. – *Anon*

The APCM was held during the Parish Communion on 28th April.

PCC members from 1st May 2024 are: Rob Hall, Sue Wright, Tracey Young, Samantha Free, Barry Gillespie, Janet Patten, Sue Thackray, Rachel Watson, Andrew Watson and Trish Atkinson.

Wardens: Heather Williams and Mike Rhodes.

The next Iona style services will be on

2nd June, 7th July, 4th August,

and 1st September at 4pm

Tea and cake afterwards



Weekday service

Said Communion Service

Wednesdays at 10.30am,

Followed by coffee at Malton Relish



Christian Aid

A partnership of people, churches and local organisations committed to ending poverty worldwide.

Christian Aid Week 2024 – 12-18 May

Seven days, so many ways to make a difference.

Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal runs from 12–18 May and is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Rise and Shine, All Age Worship and Navigate



Our children and youth work continues to go from strength to strength. Over recent months we have seen a continual increase in families attending our services. Children and young people's involvement is certainly growing and they are growing in confidence in the way they lead parts of our services, especially **All Age Worship** on the first Sunday of each month.

Our **Family Easter Adventure** on Good Friday was great fun and very well attended. Our young people enjoyed creating the Easter garden and arranging flowers to decorate the Church for all to enjoy over the Easter period. Lego skills were put to great use as they built their own interpretations of the Easter Story.



Rise and Shine, which takes place on the 3rd Sunday of the month, is an uplifting 45 minutes where our youngest members explore Bible stories through games, song and prayer. Don't forget **Lego Church** on the 4th Sunday of the month, when our young people are invited to create Bible stories with Lego.

Our newest venture **Navigate**, is a discipleship group for young people and adults, aged 10 and over. We meet on the 4th Sunday of every month at 5pm in church. So far we have covered themes such as faith, hope, courage and purpose. We do this through discussion, games, activities and creative prayer. Each month a speaker inspires us by sharing their testimony which inspires our young people to explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Thank you to the team of volunteers who organise all these services and events.



Tuesday Tea in Church - all welcome!

Held on the second Tuesday of each month from 2.15 to 4pm.
14th May, 11th June, 9th July, 13th August
Join us for a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake.
Why not bring a friend along too!

Pentecost and Pizza Party

The next family event is our 'Pentecost and Pizza Party'. This is for all members of the congregation and will take place in Church at 4pm on Sunday 19th May. Watch out for more details which will be coming soon.



Coffee Stops

on Saturday mornings from 10 - 12 noon.
Apart from Christian Aid week, the charity we are supporting this quarter is the **Camphill Village Trust**.

Camphill Village Trust The Croft Community in Malton

We are supported living providers of adult social care for those with learning difficulties, autism, mental ill-health and complex needs; we offer shared living with support staff, independent housing with comprehensive back up support and accommodation with support. We also offer a wide variety of day opportunities, available to our residents and the wider, local communities. Our day opportunities offer a variety of different workshops from farms, gardens, craft workshops, café, shops and food and other production enterprises. Their main purpose is to provide sustainability and an opportunity for all community members to contribute. We also offer supported work experience, training and courses from retail to catering; these are courses designed around each person.

The Ryedale festival are coming to St Michael's for a late night Candlelit Concert on 23rd July at 9.30pm, with music from the Baroque era.

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

As some of you know I volunteer for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust so I thought I'd share my experience of what has been happening on the front line in the battle to preserve wild landscapes and increase biodiversity in our own backyard. I'm a member of a conservation team that is working on a project at Skerne near Driffield to 're-wild' a fish farm. It is a very important site because it has a chalk river flowing through it. (There are only 200 chalk rivers in the whole world, and 80% of those are in the UK !). A highlight, last Autumn, was a visit by Natural England when they confirmed the presence at Skerne, of the Brook Lamprey, one of our endangered species that particularly likes chalk rivers. (King Henry I is alleged to have died of 'a surfeit of Lampreys', but they didn't look very appetising to me!)

In January and February, we were busy hedge laying. We do a few hundred yards every year so there is always a mixture of habitats with old and new growth. It's hard work but a well laid hedge will last a lifetime. Since then, the site has often been too wet to work on so the Team has been literally 'farmed out'. On a farm near Beverly we removed plastic tree guards, stakes and tie wraps from regenerated woodland. We collected everything up, recycled the broken plastic, and kept the rest for re-use. A few weeks later we joined forces with 'Humber Forest' and planted 800 trees, (utilising our saved tree guards etc) on a farm near North Frodingham, to form a wildlife corridor between two patches of woodland. Just last week we were back working at the Beverley farm when we heard the elusive Bittern making its unmistakable booming call. It's unexpected moments like this that give us hope for the future and real joy in God's Creation.

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

Heather Williams

Social Events organised by Adrian

Coffee at Malton Relish after Wednesday morning communion.
Dinner at the Queen's Head on 13th November - details later
Contact Adrian for more information (07870 591142)