

Notes from the Choir

As Alison has just started writing this report, a copy of Carols for Choirs 5 has just landed on her doormat. She now possesses every one of the Carols for Choirs series, having bought Book 6 last year. Christmas might come but once a year, but it takes more repertoire, both choral and organ, than any other festival. This is why the choristers have been learning Christmas music since mid-October. ('In Dulci Jubilo' is currently ringing around the church on a Thursday evening: the choristers are coping with their first piece in Latin very successfully). Meanwhile, the adults will get their first taste of Advent music at tomorrow's rehearsal.

The now established **Advent Processional Service** with candles takes place on Sunday 1st December at 6.30pm, complete with Sam Rushton, Archdeacon, leading the service.

Three weeks later, on **Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm**, it is the **Nine Lessons and Carols Service**, again by candlelight, sung by both the choristers and the adults. This is becoming a very popular service, so if you would like to be in the congregation, please arrive early for a good seat!

Repertoire for both services is familiar and less well known, with several contemporary composers making appearances, including James McMillan, Alan Bullard and Bob Chilcott.



Before the Christmas hype begins fully though, a couple of recent notable choral events at St Michael's should be mentioned. Firstly, our All Ages' Harvest Festival Service at the start of October. Apart from drawing a very good congregation of every generation, both the choristers and the adults sang Rutter's anthem 'Look at the World'. Very fitting on International Chorister Day! Secondly, the epic "Come and Sing Evensong" service, details of which you can find separately.

The young choristers continue to develop very pleasingly, in terms of their singing ability, services sung and repertoire mastered. The original six members have almost finished working for their RSCM White Award, while George has already made a start on the Pale Blue Award.

Meanwhile, the adults rise to every challenge which Alison sets. Their enthusiasm, receptiveness and clear pleasure when singing are joyous to behold. (Alison is convinced that they all laugh more in rehearsals than they sing!).

Both the adults, the choristers and Alison look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at one or more of the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services.



Volume 4
Issue 4

St Michael's, Malton Parish News

November
2024

What is a Saint?

The dictionary definition says:

'a person acknowledged as holy or virtuous and regarded in Christian faith as being in heaven after death.'

Saints Days in November

11th - Martin of Tours, patron saint of beggars, drunks and the poor.

17th - St Hilda of Whitby who convened the Synod of Whitby in 664 to resolve the rival claims of the Celtic and Roman liturgies. She was disappointed that the Roman liturgy triumphed.

22nd - St Cecilia, patron saint of musicians and instrument makers.

30th - St Andrew, one of the first disciples, brother of Simon Peter. Patron saint of Scotland, he was crucified on an X shaped cross.



Saints Days in December

6th - St Nicholas who rescued three poor sisters from a life of prostitution by throwing 3 bags of dowry gold into their house. This could be the origin of Christmas gifts and the idea of Santa Claus (Father Christmas).

26th - St Stephen the first Christian martyr who was stoned to death. Saul of Tarsus (later St Paul) was present as an observer.

27th - John the evangelist was the son of Zebedee, a Galilean fisherman. He wrote the fourth gospel and is referred to as 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'. Of the gospels his is the one most likely to have been written from experience.

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

Christmas Services at St Michael's

Candlelit Advent Procession - 1st December at 6.30pm

Christingle Service - 8th December 2pm start, 3.30pm Candlelit Service

Parish Carol Service - 22nd 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



This year is the 350th anniversary of the birth of the hymn writer
Isaac Watts

Born in 1674, Isaac Watts, like many young boys, was dissatisfied with the tedium of Sunday worship; repetitive chants and hour-long sermons failed to ignite his fledgling faith. By age 28, as the minister of Mark Lane Chapel in London, he was a lively pastor determined to move his congregation away from dreary metrical psalms. The standard austere fare displeased him so much that his father challenged him to improve it.

His first collection of 'Hymns and Spiritual Songs' was published in 1707. The second edition in 1709 had another 150 hymns. There are three main reasons why his hymns have been and still are so successful. Firstly, they are faithful to the bible, and full of biblical references. Secondly they are practical, using short words and familiar simple language written in the most popular metres so that they could be sung to well known tunes. Thirdly, the quality of the texts shows that Watts was a skilled poet.

In our Common Praise hymn book there are 28 hymns by Watts, only exceeded by Charles Wesley (39). You may like to look up the most popular ones which are:

57	Joy to the world	
127	When I survey	Gal 6:14
382	Awake our souls, away our fears	Isaiah 40:28-31
401	Come let us join our cheerful songs	Rev 5:11-13
490	Jesus shall reign where'er the sun	Psalms 72
537	O God our help in ages past	Psalms 90

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

November

Sun	03	9.30am	All Age Worship
		4pm	Service of Light
Sun	10	9.30am	Parish Communion for Remembrance Sunday
Tue	12	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sat	16		Church Christmas Fayre in Milton Rooms
Sun	17	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45am	Parish Communion
Sat	23	10am	St Clement's Fair
Sun	26	9.30am	Parish Communion
		5pm	Navigate

December

Sun	01	9.30am	All Age Worship for Advent Sunday
		6.30pm	Advent Procession Choral Service
Sun	08	9.30am	Parish Communion
		3.30pm	Christingle Service
Tue	10	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sun	15	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45am	Parish Communion
Sun	22	9.30am	Parish Communion
		6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Tue	24	3.30pm	Crib Service
		11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
Wed	25	9.30am	Parish Communion for Christmas Day
Sun	29	10.45am	Joint service with St Mary's at St Michael's

January 2024

Sun	05	9.30am	All Age Worship
		10.45am	Methodist Covenant Service (communion)
		4pm	Iona style 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	Parish Communion
		5pm	Navigate

February

Sun	02	9.30am	All Age Worship
		4pm	Iona style Service
Sun	09	9.30am	Parish Communion

"Come and Sing" Evensong

Saturday 19th October saw the very first "Come and Sing" Evensong hosted at St Michael's, and a highly rewarding, enjoyable and joyous event it was.

Singers had been invited from across the Moors and Wolds, with only one combined rehearsal on the afternoon. A choir of 26 adults came together to sing a full Choral Evensong. Philip Moore, Organist Emeritus at York Minster kindly agreed to play and Rt. Rev. Paul Ferguson, former Bishop of Whitby, led the service.

Alison did not make the singers' lives easy with her chosen repertoire, but they all rose to the occasion with clear enthusiasm. In fact, one of the visiting altos wrote after the service that "Alison made it feel like we weren't actually working"! (The introit was 'Cantate Domino' by Pitoni; Smith in 4 parts; Stanford in C; while the anthem was S.S. Wesley's mighty 'Blessed be the God and Father').



Apart from the obvious purpose of making music with which to worship God, the aim of this event was to start raising money in order to replace choir robes that are becoming very shabby. Over £280 was raised, which is an excellent start to this project.

From the churchwardens

Parish Profile

The Parish Profile is almost ready to send to the Diocesan Office. We are currently working with St Mary's to finalise the common Benefice sections. Gill Baldwin, the Archdeacon's assistant has volunteered to format it and add the sections written by the Bishop and the Area and Lay Deans and produce a cover. The Diocese will also put together the Job advert using the information in the Profile.

Vicarage

At the request of the Diocese, the PCC has signed a form to allow for 'shortened procedures'. This should cut out some of the 'red tape' to allow the sale of the vicarage to proceed more quickly. Cundalls have been to inspect the vicarage and will write a survey report and give the Diocese a valuation. Diocesan procedures require 2 more valuations to be obtained so that should be happening during the next couple of weeks.

Quiz answers

1 b) 2 b) 3 c) 4 a) 5 b) 6 a) 7 b) 8 true

This year the **Service of Light** will be on Sunday 3rd November at 4pm.



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

Margaret Makins, a former choir member, died on 17th October. The funeral will be on Tuesday 12th November at Octon Crematorium at 3.30pm. RIP

St Michael's congregation have been invited to join the Methodists at their Covenant Service with Communion on January 5th 2025. See the pew sheet nearer the time for details of the time and venue.

A series of 10 **Confirmation Classes** will begin after Christmas

Led by Andrew, Rachel and Connie these are the dates so far planned: 12th, 19th January, 2nd and 9th February, 2nd and 9th March from 5-6pm.

Simon will also lead a couple of sessions.

Contact Rachel for more details.

Another new venture, led by Andrew Watson, is a **Men's Breakfast**. Taking place on the last Saturday of every month from 8-9am in church. The main objective is fellowship - a space for men to be together and build connections in church.

The next Iona style services will be on

5th January and
2nd February
2nd March

At 4pm



Tea and cake afterwards

All welcome

Weekday service
Said Communion Service
Wednesdays at 10.30am,
Check the pew sheet during the interregnum

Concerts and other events in church

Saturday 23rd November from 10am

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

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.

Why not bring a friend along too!

Nov 12th, Dec 10th

2025 Jan 14th, Feb 11th, Mar 11th



Coffee Stops

on Saturday mornings from 10 - 12 on 2nd, 9th and 30th November.

St Michael's will be supporting Ryedale Food Bank.

No coffee stop in church on 16th Nov - Christmas Fayre in Milton Rooms

23rd November - St Clements Fayre (see p8 for details)

7th December - Food Festival, helpers needed from 9am

7th 14th and 21st December from 10 - 12

The Christmas charity has not been chosen yet.

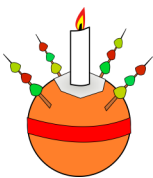
January 4th and February 1st 10 - 12

If you can help please contact Heather.

Christmas at St Michael's for Families and children

Sunday 8th 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.

Tuesday 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.



St. Michael's Christmas Fayre takes place in the Milton Rooms on Saturday 16th November , 9-30 to 12-30 pm.

This is our big fundraiser but also a social event.

Stalls will include a Book stall with CD's and DVD's, Raffle, Craft, Tombola, Cakes with Jams and pickles, Whiskey game, Refreshments with Bacon butties, and Tracey is doing a table for the children.

Donations to all stalls needed please . They can be left in the old vestry or given to me.

Volunteers of all age always welcome, but most important is your support on the day.

Sue Wright.



An Autumn Quiz *answers on p10*

1. What causes the change from summer to autumn?
a) earth's magnetic field b) earth's tilt c) earth's orbital speed
2. Hedgehogs start to hibernate in Autumn, but what is a baby hedge hog called?
a) Hogling b) Hoglet c) Hedgekit
3. What is the name for a group of hedgehogs?
a) army b) colony c) array
4. What is another name for a Mountain Ash whose berries are a major food for waxwings?
a) rowan b) hawthorn c) Douglas fir
5. In Autumn, Swallows from the UK migrate to Africa. On average, how many miles a day will they cover?
a) 2,000 b) 200 c) 20
6. A spectacular sight at this time of year, a Murmuration is a huge, swirling cloud formed of what type of bird flying together?
a) Starling b) magpie c) wren
7. Which of the following is the official end of Autumn
a) Autumn equinox b) winter solstice c) bonfire night
8. Pumpkins are a fruit, true or false?

St Clement's Fayre - Saturday 23rd November

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.

The Flower displays will be by the Malton Flower Club

Live Music Programme at St Michael's Church*

- 10.30 - 11.15: Malton White Star Band
- 11.45 - 12.15: Ryelarks
- 12.20 - 12.50: Young Crescendos
- 13.00 - 13.30: Rirkham Henry Choir
- 13.35 - 14.00: The Notables
- 14.30 - 15.15: The Swinton Training Band
- 15.35 - 16.00: Ryedale Voices
- 16.05 - 16.35: Malton School Chamber Choir
- 16.30 - 17.00: Harmonia



*Timings may be subject to change.

Photo Credit: Tony Horsfield from [Malton & District Camera Club](#)

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.

This year, for a variety of reasons, we are not supporting the Samaritan's purse project. If you would like to support a Christmas Box appeal take a look at:

The 12 Days of Christmas Boxes - in partnership with Ryedale Community Foodbank.

There is a feature in the recent Handymag and full details can be found at:

<https://the12daysofchristmasboxes.com>

Boxes need to be in by 15th November

All Age Worship, and Rise and Shine Children's worship

Our Rise and Shine and All Age services continue to attract a number of young families. It has been very rewarding to have a number of these families approach the team about Baptism at St Michael's over recent months.



Our annual Light and Sparkle Party (our alternative approach to Halloween) has gone from strength to strength. Last Friday we welcomed around 30 families into church to join in activities all around the importance of light. We explored Jesus being the light in our world. The evening ended with hot dogs and sparklers. What was really encouraging was the number of families attending who wouldn't normally come to church. With this number of participants we realised the need for additional helpers at these sort of events. We are also looking to increase our All Age Team. If you would like to help out or feel you can contribute to the All Age Team in any way please get in touch.

Sue Thackray

Navigate continues to meet in church on the 4th Sunday of every month. The young people have invited a few friends to join the group, so we have seen navigate grow in numbers and we thank God for this. It is challenging for young people to 'navigate' their way as Christians and we hope this group gives them a space to chat, ask questions and explore. We have enjoyed hearing from a variety of speakers, including visiting vicars and parents of the young people.



We are finding that everyone's story is so different but so interesting!

Rachel Watson

The Church Visitors Book.

From the Visitor's Book In September:

I always enjoy looking through the church visitor's book from time to time. it's very heartwarming to read how people appreciate the beautiful building, it's peaceful atmosphere and the welcome they get from the people they meet there.

I thought you would be interested in this little snippet from September:

"Visiting Memorial window of Alfred Simpson, my 4x Great Uncle.

Thank you. It's beautiful"

E Cottel, Nottingham

The window in question is the round window at the east end, above the altar. Ms Cottell left her email address so I contacted her and she has volunteered to send us any information that she finds about him and his family. She said that she was 'quite taken aback' by the window, its position and its beauty.

Heather

As a follow up, Alfred Simpson was the grandfather of Sarah Simpson, who set up the local charity 'The Simpson's Trust' which St Michael's supported last year with proceeds from coffee stops.



Many small people, who in many small places do many small things, can alter the face of the world.

African proverb

Harvest Festival Gifts

There is a letter on the noticeboard from the Food Bank to thank St Michael's congregation for the 50.45 kilos of food we donated from our Harvest Festival.

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

EDNA VIVIAN MADELINE POPE (VIV)

1 April 1934 - 12 September 2024

It is with sadness that we report the death of Viv Pope, a District Nurse/ Midwife and longstanding friend of St Michael's. Viv was born in Hampshire on Easter Day; the daughter of a Methodist Minister and as such her family moved regularly until she was evacuated during the war to the Methodist Public School of Hunmanby Hall where she forged lifetime friendships.

Her nursing career began with training at Great Ormond Street progressing to midwifery - her career continuing in the East End of London (her real-life version of 'Call the Midwife').

Viv met her husband Roger in Reading in 1961. They became engaged 4 months after that and married within another 4 months. Viv's children were born (Adrian just over one year later, followed by Christopher and Jenny) and through a move with British Rail the family relocated to Malton in 1976. The family made a valuable contribution to the life of St Michael's.

Roger held various positions, including Treasurer and was a member of the choir, as were the two boys, whilst Jenny attended and subsequently taught at Sunday School. Viv worshipped here and for a period, was also a Churchwarden. (A whole family commitment)

Viv's skills as a nurse were quickly recognised and she was appointed as midwife on the District delivering babies in many homes. She then took up an appointment with Dr (now Revd) Lynn Grove at Rillington surgery as Community Sister, a job which she loved.

After Roger's untimely death 22 years ago, Viv carried on caring for her family and threw herself into volunteering for causes she was passionate about including the Arboretum at Castle Howard, Marie Currie and Abbeyfield House.

The Revd Lynn Grove commented that apart from being work colleagues Viv became a very good friend. She remembers Viv as someone who cared deeply for her patients, prepared literally to go that extra mile. There were no local hospices and, as far as possible, the Practice cared for patients at home during their final illnesses. There were also no Marie Currie nurses, so no system of carers for the terminally ill as there is now, and certainly no equipment such as syringe drivers to administer drugs. She remembers 2 patients on the Wolds where Viv took turns to do the injections in the middle of the night. Quite an expedition in winter at 2.00 am!!

We celebrate her life and all her achievements and thank her for her dedicated service to our community.

Her work is done - may she now Rest in Peace.

Anne Bell