

## Notes from the Choir

Both choirs had a very busy Advent and Christmas period. The Candlelight Advent service was a fitting start to the season, with our largest congregation for this event yet. Archdeacon Sam Rushton led the service and was deeply impressed by the atmosphere and the choir's singing.

Then came the traditional Carol Service with the augmented choir and choristers combining to make a choir of 25. I do not make the choir's life easy, choosing a considerable number of unfamiliar carols including those by the contemporary composers and arrangers Nigel Hess, Alan Bullard and Bob Chilcott.

Although certain rehearsals leading up to the service proved slightly stressful (at least to the Director of Music!), the actual service could not have gone better. The church was packed and the choir sounded magnificent. I would like to give a big and sincere thanks to all the choir and, not least, to Ian Little for playing the organ.

As the choir was disrobing after the Carol Service, Heather Williams asked me, with a twinkle in her eye, what was programmed for Easter! Even if this festival is rather late this year, both choirs have already started one of the anthems for Easter Day: a joyous and rhythmic number by Malcolm Archer called "Good Christians all, Rejoice and Sing".

Before Easter Day, there are several note-worthy services:

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April has our evening service of Music and Words by the Cross at 6.30pm. This event provides a beautiful, thought-provoking start to Passiontide. Music will include "God so Loved the World", the plainsong Lenten Prose and music by Purcell.

The following Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup> April, is Palm Sunday, complete with the Bishop of Selby, both choirs, the Palm Sunday procession and the Passion Drama. Who knows, there just might be a donkey too.

The service is at 9.30am.

Maundy Thursday sees the deeply moving Stripping of the Altar service at 6.30pm.

Easter Day is on the third Sunday of the month but the service will be at **9.30am**. We shall be celebrating the Resurrection with a Family Communion service, both choirs and plenty of joyful Easter music and Alleluias!

*Alison Forster*



Quiz answers

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

Thank you to all contributors to this newsheet. Contributions for the next one, which will be out in May 2025, would be very welcome! [janetcpatten@aol.com](mailto:janetcpatten@aol.com)



Volume 5  
Issue 1



## Candlemas



# St Michael's, Malton Parish News

February  
2025

In the heart of winter, when the days are short and the nights long, there is a glimmer of hope that lights up the darkness. This ancient tradition, known as Candlemas, has been celebrated for centuries, and it continues to hold a special place in the hearts of many.

The name "Candlemas" itself derives from the practice of blessing and lighting candles during the church service on this day. These candles symbolize the light of Christ, dispelling the darkness both literally and spiritually.

Candlemas is also known for its folklore surrounding the weather.

The old saying goes:

"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,  
Winter will have another flight;  
If Candlemas Day be wind and rain,  
Winter has gone and will not come again."

In the depths of winter, Candlemas serves as a reminder that spring is on the horizon. The days are getting longer, and the earth begins to stir beneath the frosty surface. It's a time to reflect on our own lives, to shed the darkness of our doubts and fears, and to welcome the light of Christ.

With the festive season officially over, the focus now shifts towards Lent and Passiontide.

We celebrated Candlemas on 2nd February

## Prayer Partners

We will be taking part in Prayer Partners during Lent and there will be forms available in church each Sunday from 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

If you would like to take part please take a form, fill in your details as requested, place it in one of the plain unmarked envelopes provided and put it in the box.



On or before 2<sup>nd</sup> March please take an envelope from the box and then pray for the person whose name is on the form throughout Lent. If you pick out your own form please let me know and I can swap it for you.

*Trish*



This year **Ash Wednesday** falls on 5th March  
There will be a communion service as usual at 10.30am

## **World Day of Prayer**

This year's service will be on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March and the material, based around a theme of "I made you wonderful", is being written by the women of the Cook Islands. Check the pew sheet nearer the time for further details.



**The next Iona style services will be on  
2nd March and 4th May at 4pm  
Tea and cake afterwards**

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

### **February**

Sun	09	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue	11	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
		5—7pm	Pancake Party
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 (including Confirmation class)

### **March**

Sun	02	9.30am	All Age Worship
		4pm	Iona style Service
Tue	11	5—7pm	Pancake Party
Wed	05	10.30am	Ash Wednesday Communion
Sun	09	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue	11	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sun	16	10.45am	Parish Communion
Sun	23	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion
		5pm	Navigate
Sun	30	9.30am	<b>Mothing Sunday Rise and Shine</b>
		10.45am	Joint benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's

### **April**

Sun	06	9.30am	All Age Worship
		6.30pm	Passiontide service 'The Way of the Cross'
Tue	08	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea
Sun	13	9.30am	Palm Sunday Parish Communion
Thu	17	6.30pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist
Fri	18	9.30am	<b>Rise and Shine for Good Friday</b>
Sun	20	9.30am	<b>Easter Day Family Service</b>
Sun	27	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion
		5pm	Navigate (including Confirmation class)

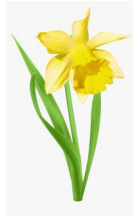


### **May**

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	APCM during Parish Communion
Sun	25	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion
		5pm	Navigate (including Confirmation class)
Thu	29	10.30am	Ascension Day sung Eucharist

## A Springtime Quiz *answers on p12*

- 1 What date is Saint Patrick's Day?  
a) March 1<sup>st</sup> b) March 17<sup>th</sup> c) March 30<sup>th</sup>
- 2 To the nearest million, how many Easter eggs are sold every year in the UK?  
a) 80 million b) 100 million c) 50 million
- 3 What spring flower is often associated with Wales  
a) snowdrop b) crocus c) daffodil
- 4 Which is the meteorological first day of spring?  
a) 1<sup>st</sup> March b) 21<sup>st</sup> March c) 19<sup>th</sup> March
- 5 Which Saint is celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> March?  
a) David b) Swithin c) Cuthbert
- 6 In which country do cherry blossom trees signify the beginning of spring?  
a) Thailand b) China c) Japan
- 7 How many months are female sheep pregnant for before they give birth to a lamb?  
a) 4 months b) 5 months c) 6 months
- 8 What is the earliest date that Easter can be?  
a) March 26<sup>th</sup> b) March 24<sup>th</sup> c) March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 9 Which country did the Easter Bunny tradition originate from?  
a) Italy b) Germany c) Ireland
- 10 What is the Sunday before Easter called?  
a) Holy Sunday b) Palm Sunday c) Good Sunday



### **Weekday service**

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

### **Please note alterations to regular pattern of services:**

March - Rise and Shine moved from 16th to 30th for Mothering Sunday

April - Rise and Shine moved to Good Friday

Easter Day will be a Family Communion at 9.30am

## **Vacancy Update**

After a very busy Christmas season we are glad to report that the profiles of both parishes have been sent to the Archdeacon's office for review and formatting. When this is completed, the final document will be sent to the two PCCs for approval. The Archdeacon will use the information in the profile to draw up a job advert tailored to our particular circumstances. If all goes to plan, we expect interviews to take place in the run up to Easter.

Progress with the vicarage has been very slow but an Estate Agent (Carter Jones) has now been appointed by the Diocese. The photographer from Carter Jones' visited the property last week so it should be advertised soon. The Diocese is currently looking for a property with vicarage potential, which has 2-3 reception rooms or the ability to provide separate office space. Please get in touch if you know of anything suitable which is on, or coming onto, the market. In the meantime, it is expected that Pinfold Garth will be used temporarily as a vicarage until a more suitable vicarage is purchased. The Archdeacon assures us that this will not stop any appointment going ahead.

### **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 for 'Rise and Shine' at St Michael's or Holy Communion at 10.45 at St Mary's
6. Enjoy the service of hymns, anthems and readings on Passion Sunday (6th April) at 6.30pm.
7. Come and meet our new Bishop 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

**The Wardens and PCC** would like to thank everyone who helped make the Christmas season at St Michaels so meaningful as well as enjoyable. A lot of hard work was put in by a lot of people but a huge thank you must go to:

The All age worship team who organised the Christingle service and the record breaking Crib Service!

All those who decorated the church with greenery and candles which gave the church such a lovely atmosphere.

Alison and the augmented choir who worked hard on the music that enhanced our worship and Ian Little for playing so that Alison could conduct.

We would also like to thank all our visiting clergy who have taken our services and given us their support not just over Christmas but throughout our interregnum in 2024.

### Men's Breakfast

We have had 4 meetings of Men's Breakfast and served a wide range of food including sausage sandwiches, fresh fruit salad and particularly good homemade porridge! It is a great space for guys to meet, chat and share ideas, stories and good coffee! We have people who come for the full hour and those who just drop in before getting on with their day. Our hope is to continue to connect with men in the community and share faith and fellowship with each other. We meet at 8am on the last Saturday of the month in St Michael's church - come along and join us for a free coffee and breakfast!

*Andrew Watson*



Lego church returned on Sunday 26th January after a long break.

We look forward to it on the fourth Sunday of each month during the Parish Communion service!

This year the **APCM** will take place during the service on May 18th at 10.45am.

### Electoral Roll Renewal Year - 2025

The electoral roll (ER) is basically the church's membership list and as its name suggests gives voting rights at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). It's too big a job to renew membership annually but every 6 years we have to scrap the old roll and start afresh.

This is done throughout all the Anglican churches in the country in time for the APCMs and so it is able to give a reasonably good indication of membership nationally.

Application Forms for the Electoral Roll will be distributed in church in February and with the weekly sheet to those who receive it by email. Forms will be available at the back of church up until the end of April. Completed forms on paper can be given to the church wardens or sidespersons to pass on to the Electoral Roll officer. The form, delivered via email, has been adapted so that it can be filled in electronically and should be returned to me (the Electoral Roll officer) by email at [hevwilliams@icloud.com](mailto:hevwilliams@icloud.com).

The form requires a postal address and requests an email address. An email address is not essential but if you use email it is very useful for passing on information. (eg. the weekly sheet and newsletter!). We only use addresses supplied for church business and do not disclose any personal information without your permission. Since the Data Protection Act we no longer publish the electoral roll with addresses, but we must publish the new roll (names only) at least 2 weeks before the APCM. (18th May at 10.45am) If you were on the previous roll, please fill in a new form. If you were not previously on the roll but are baptized and over 16, please use a form and apply by ticking the relevant box.

Many thanks to you all for your help with this, numbers often dip during a vacancy, let's hope that doesn't apply to us at St Michael's or St Mary's!

Thank you, Heather.  
Electoral Roll Officer at St Michael's

**Many thanks to Rosie Miller** who has been quietly and diligently looking after the plants and shrubs in the Church garden for a number of years. She has recently hung up her trowel to take a well-earned rest and we need someone (or a small team of friends) to replace her. If you like tending plants or you know someone who might help, please get in touch with the church wardens. Rosie has kindly given us a list of tasks that she normally does, and it doesn't involve lawn mowing, so don't worry about that!



### **Peter Clark 1936 to 2024**

Peter and Margaret moved to Broughton in 1989 and started attending St Michael's in 1990. During the time Peter was able, he performed many and varied roles for the church. During Nick Jones time he started the Parish Plodders which was a group that went on 4/5 mile walks on a Sunday afternoon after the service and latterly he formed a Men's Lunch Club to provide fellowship and support for male members of the congregation.

In his time Peter served on the PCC, was electoral role officer, performed side persons duties, did readings and administered the chalice. He also used woodwork-ing skills to repair several church items.

Because of his 'tree' knowledge Peter was involved in the felling of the overgrown lime trees on the north side of the church and planting the holly trees and in pruning the holly trees when they became too big. He also cut the grass for many years.

Peter was well respected for his gentle nature, impeccable manners, generosity of spirit and always offering a friendly word of encouragement to whoever he happened to meet, both in and out of church.

On a personal note I am eternally grateful to have been considered a friend of Peters. He and Margaret both made me very welcome when I first joined the congregation in 2011 and over the years we became good companions. We enjoyed numerous outings together to various places of interest in the area and attended the Stephen Joseph theatre together, following the performance with Fish and Chips at Mother Hubbards !!

St Michael's has lost a stalwart member of its congregation, we have all lost a good and faithful friend and Margaret the best husband anyone could hope for.

(Trish Atkinson)

### **Many hands make LIGHT work!**

One of the great things about St Michael's is the lay participation in services and this participation is even more important during a vacancy. Each Sunday service requires 8 or 9 volunteers to help the service go smoothly. As you can imagine this needs a huge pool of people able and willing to help. Marg Rhodes compiles the Rota for every Sunday but would appreciate a few more volunteers. If you are new to the congregation, please consider being a sidesperson. It's an excellent way to get to know people and feel more connected and 'at home'.

Marg also needs more people to help with coffee and to do intercessions but more volunteers for any role will be much appreciated, as they say 'the more the merrier'!

If you are able to help or require more information, please get in touch with Marg, the church wardens or any sidesperson (who will be able to pass on your contact details to Marg). Many thanks from Heather and Mike.

### **Rise and Shine and All Age worship**

Christmas was a very busy time at St Michael's for our young family's team.

We had an increased number of attendees at our Crib service on Christmas Eve, just short of 300 and a good number at our Christmas Rise and Shine. At All Age worship we have celebrated Advent, Epiphany and Candlemas. These services are a lovely way to bring our whole church family together. Although we are pleased with attendance and the responses we get to what we plan, we are always looking for ways to encourage more young families to attend. We would also welcome new people on our team. So if you are interested in getting more involved in the children and young families work at St Michael's do let us know.



We have lots planned for the coming weeks including our All Age Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday which everyone is welcome to attend between 5 and 7 in church. We are moving Rise and Shine in March to coincide with Mothering Sunday. This will not affect any services in St Michael's as it is our Benefice Service at St Mary's on this Sunday at 10.45. Plans are well underway for our Easter celebrations. We are on the lookout for a donkey for our Palm Sunday service. Rise and Shine will be held at 9.30 on Good Friday to make way for a Family Communion service to celebrate Easter Sunday together as a church family.

*Sue Thackray*

### **Confirmation preparation and Navigate - Rachel writes:**

The confirmation preparation is happening during the navigate sessions. We have young people at navigate who are interested in being confirmed as well as some who do not want to be confirmed. Therefore, we thought it was easier to explore the session content during normal navigate sessions. So navigate is still happening and anyone can still come along at 5pm on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Confirmation sessions to be held at 5pm on 23 Feb, 27 April, 25 May

Confirmation service on Trinity Sunday 15th June at 10.45am



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

### St Michael's Pancake Party

on Shrove Tuesday, March 4th.

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

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



### Coffee Stops

on Saturday morning March 9th then every  
Saturday from 5th April. 10 - 12 noon.

The charity we will be supporting from April  
onwards is Sight Support.

If you can help please contact Heather.



### 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.

There will not be an Iona Style service on 6th April.

Alison and the choir are preparing music for a special  
service for Passiontide at 6.30pm.

**Music and Words by the Cross** will include Stainer's  
"God so Loved the World", the plainsong Lenten Prose  
and music by Purcell. Also Lenten hymns and readings.



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

## Eco Church

The news about the climate has been very disheartening recently, last year's global average temperature increase exceeding the 1.5C Paris agreed limit and now a climate change sceptic whose slogan is "drill, baby, drill" has become President of the USA. It is very easy to lose hope and get a bit depressed about the future and, in particular, about the climate.

Take heart, we are far from powerless, there are things we as individuals are able to do.

We can do our bit by trying to be ever mindful of our own impact on the environment: take public transport more often, look after the wildlife in our gardens, reduce food waste, recycle as much as we can and much more.

We can support others working for social and environmental justice: donate to organisations like Christian Aid or Tearfund or the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC).

We can make our views known and support politicians locally and nationally who are serious about tackling climate change: write to your local councillors or MP.

We can look at nature and be inspired by God's creation to care for it in whatever ways we can.

Perhaps more importantly we have hope and trust in the Lord. We have the power of prayer. We can bring our hopes and fears before God and put our lives into his hands. It may be many years before we notice that our prayers are being answered but answered they most surely will be. Don't let bad news get you down, remain confident in His love and travel with hope in your heart.

*Heather Williams*

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