

## Notes from the Choir

As might be expected, Lent, Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter were a busy and exciting time for the choir. The moving service 'The Way of the Cross' was marked by plainsong and choral music by Purcell, Mozart, Bach, Stainer and Tallis. Thereafter, Palm Sunday followed our now traditional donkey-led procession around the Market Place. This was a joint Benefice service with St Mary's. Our Methodist friends also joined us to mark the occasion.

Canon Richard introduced the Easter Vigil Service on Easter Eve, complete with howling gale (which was suitably reflected in the first reading: "a wind from God swept over the face of the water"!); a fire; anthems by Bach and Shephard; and lots of fanfares, with the congregation joining in to welcome Christ's resurrection on percussion instruments – and even on a sackbut!

Easter Day saw a packed church with Family Communion. As is the norm, the choristers had had an Easter egg hunt at their final pre-Easter rehearsal, but that didn't stop them eating as much chocolate as possible after the Easter Day service! Anthems by Richard Shephard and Malcolm Archer were sung, along with sky-high descants, and Widor's "Toccata" to finish.

Ascension Day and Pentecost are now being rehearsed, with the choristers being introduced to plainsong for Pentecost.

On the subject of choristers, I am delighted to report that George was presented with his Light Blue RSCM medal in March. He worked very hard to achieve this and is to be congratulated.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 4pm, St Michael's will host the Deanery 'Songs of Praise' for the second year running. Hymns are chosen by local congregations and sung with tremendous vigour and enthusiasm. The service is followed by refreshments. If you like a good sing, please come.

RSCM Music Sunday will be marked on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June at the 9.30am Eucharist service, with hymns and anthems reflecting the importance and power of music in worshipping God. This is another service to attend if you love to sing!

Finally, to mark and celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the West Buckrose Choir, the St Michael's choir will join with them to sing a combined Evensong at Burythorpe church on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Again, all are welcome.

Alison Forster



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Issue 2

## St Michael's, Malton Parish News

May  
2026



### From the Vicar

It is such a relief that the cold weather is disappearing at last: my chilblains are gone! This is not the only change I am enjoying. As we are settling into our new home, we are appreciating the time in our lovely garden as it starts to take shape. This wonderful time of year is a seamless procession of plants, providing such a diverse array of flowers and colours. Everywhere, we see the vivid greens in our hedges and with them the daffodils, and tulips are starting to give way to magnolias and lilacs. It is such a joy to observe these changes, which so often coincide with Easter. It's not surprising then that Eastertide songs connect with these ready-made themes. I am reminded of John Macleod Campbell Crum's hymn, *Now the green blade riseth*, that likens the resurrection to the appearance of the first green blade from its buried grain. Crum declares, *Love lives again*. It is the beginning of the fourth verse that resonates for me: *When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Jesus' touch can call us back to life again*. The Easter message that Jesus is alive is the ground of hope offered to each of us. We can encounter him as he stands with us in our difficulties and find that

***Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.***

Best wishes from Canon Richard.

Thank you to all contributors to this newsheet. Contributions for the next one, which will be out in August 2026, would be very welcome! [janetcpatten@aol.com](mailto:janetcpatten@aol.com)

## Tuesday Tea

Held on the second Tuesday of each month from 2.15 to 4pm. Followed by Evening Prayer. Join us for a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake. Why not bring a friend along too!



The next Iona style services will be on  
3rd May, and 5th July at 4pm

Tea and cake afterwards

## Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast happens on the last Saturday of the month at the slightly later time of 8.30am (we all needed a bit more beauty sleep!). We have a faithful group who enjoy being challenged by a bible reading, sharing testimonies and real life examples of how God has impacted our lives. The coffee is always strong, the food is always eaten and the faith is certainly growing! We always welcome new people and enjoy hearing how the spirit is at work in Malton today, so please do drop in for free coffee and sausage sandwich, even if it is only for a few minutes!



*Andrew Watson*

All parishioners are encouraged to attend the **APCM** which will take place after the 9.30 service on May 10th.

## Weekday services

Said Communion Service on Wednesdays at 10.30am,  
Evening Prayer on Tuesdays at 3.45pm

Choral Service for Ascension Day on 14th May at 10.30am

## Choral Evensong

If you have been a regular at St Michael's for over 20 years you may remember the joint Choral Evensong services we had with the West Buckrose Parish. The choir rehearsal was always followed by a picnic tea (including home made strawberry scones!) before the service. This was an annual event right up until 2020. This year it will happen again at **Burythorpe church on 5<sup>th</sup> July**. The service will be at 6pm. Everyone is welcome.



St Michael's Choir at Burythorpe Church in 2015

Deanery Songs of Praise



Sunday 7th June at 4pm

At St Michael's

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

**Diary Dates** (it is important to check with the weekly pew sheet for any changes)

**May**

Sun	03	9.30am	Family Communion
		4pm	Iona style Service
Sun	10	9.30am	Parish Communion followed by the APCM
		3pm	Rogation service at St Mary's with blessing of pets
Tue	12	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea followed by Evening Prayer at 3.45
Thurs	14	10.30am	<b>Ascension Day Communion</b>
Sun	17	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45	Parish Communion
Sun	24	9.30am	Parish Communion for Pentecost
		5pm	Navigate
Thu	28		Messy Church for Pentecost
Sun	31	10.45am	Trinity Sunday Joint benefice Service at St Mary's

**June**

Sun	07	9.30am	Family Communion
		4pm	<b>Deanery Songs of Praise</b>
Tue	09	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea followed by Evening Prayer at 3.45
Sun	14	9.30am	Parish Communion
Sun	21	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45	Parish Communion
Sun	28	9.30am	Parish Communion
		2pm	Benefice Pilgrimage and picnic
		5pm	Navigate

**July**

Sun	05	9.30am	Family Communion
		4pm	Iona style Service
		6pm	<b>Joint Evensong with West Buckrose at Burythorpe</b>
Sun	12	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue	14	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea followed by Evening Prayer at 3.45
Sun	19	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45	Parish Communion
Sun	26	9.30am	Parish Communion
		5pm	Navigate

**August**

Sun	02	9.30am	Family Communion
		4pm	Iona style Service
Sun	09	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue	11	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea followed by Evening Prayer at 3.45
Sun	16	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
		10.45	Parish Communion
Sun	23	9.30am	Parish Communion
		5pm	Navigate
Sun	30	10.45am	Joint benefice Service at St Michael's

**Children and families at St Michael's**

We had a very busy and successful time at Easter for our families and young people. Many turned up for Palm Sunday to meet Daisy the Donkey and join in our Palm Sunday procession. This coincided with **Leggo Church** which was very well attended, with some wonderful interpretations of the events of Palm Sunday created from Lego.

A new event this year was **Messy Church at Easter**, which over 60 people attended. There was a wonderful buzz in Church as young and 'not so young' explored the Easter story through a range of craft and creative activities. The morning finished with a short act of worship followed by lunch. The team were grateful to all church members who volunteered to help out. We plan to hold a Messy Church event each school holidays, the next being **Messy Church for Pentecost on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May**. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved.

**Rise and Shine** continues on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

From Easter there is a change to All Age worship on the first Sunday of each month. This will now be a Family Communion Service, and we hope it will be well received. As a team we continue to work and pray together to develop the best ways to include young people and their families in the life of St Michael's.



**Navigate**

Our youth discipleship group, Navigate, is going strong with around 10 young people meeting monthly to explore what it means to be a Christian today. Over the last few months, we have been working our way through 'How to Pray' by Pete Grieg, looking how we can Pause, Reflect, Ask and Yield as we pray. As a result of this month's session, the young people have been inspired to think about ways we could deepen prayer in our church community- so watch this space! Navigate sessions are filled with fun, food, games and faith based discussions that often challenge the adults as much as the young people! We meet on the 4th Sunday at 5pm in St Michael's Church and are open to young people in Year 6 and above. As always, thank you for your prayers and to everyone who gives up time to help out; it wouldn't be possible without you!

*Andrew Watson*

## Eco Church

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

### **Hooray for Pollinators !**

What a joy it is to see the spring flowers blossom in our gardens, the birds nesting in the bushes and the swallows and house martins returning from their travels abroad. God’s creation is brimming with exuberance, but as we appreciate and enjoy it, we should also tend and take care of it. According to government statistics, gardens cover up to a quarter of the land surface in our towns and cities, so how we manage those gardens can make an enormous difference to the wildlife struggling to live alongside us. Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May is World Bee Day. Bees are famous for making honey, but much more importantly, they pollinate the flowers and enables them to produce fruits, nuts, oil-seed etc. About a third of our global food production relies on pollinators like bees. So please do all you can to help our pollinators:

- Encourage wild flowers.
- Use pesticides sparingly.
- Mow less frequently.
- Avoid planting ‘double blooms’. (These may look great but often produce no pollen at all!)

Remember, even if you are not ‘a gardener’, just being outside with nature around you will reduce anxiety and stress and improve your mental health.

‘All good gifts around us are sent from heav’n above  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His Love’

### RSPB Request

Recently there has been a worrying decline in the finch populations due to a disease called trichomonas which researchers believe spreads more easily when birds congregate around a bird feeder.

In an attempt to reduce the spread of this and other diseases within the wild bird population, the RSPB is recommending that we stop feeding our garden birds seeds and peanuts at the end of April and don’t begin feeding them again until the beginning of November. There should be plenty of healthy food, naturally available for them, throughout the summer and autumn.

See [rspb.org.uk/keep-garden-birds-healthy](http://rspb.org.uk/keep-garden-birds-healthy) for the latest advice

*Heather Williams*

## Coffee Stops

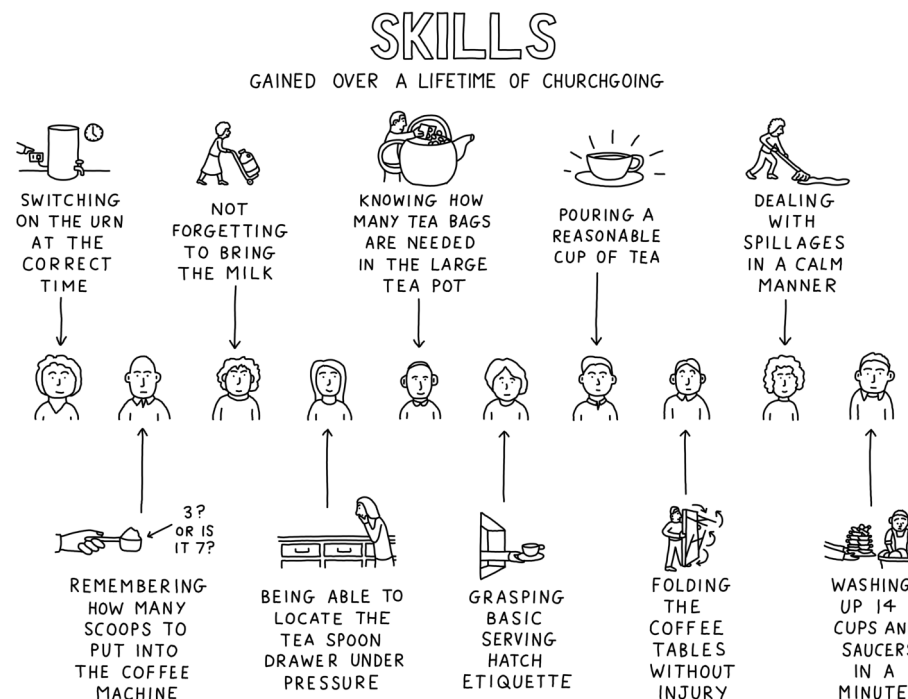
on Saturday mornings 10 - 12 noon.  
The charity we will be supporting from April onwards is **Project Marigold**.  
If you can help please contact Heather.



**Project Marigold is a local charity dedicated to helping children thrive by supporting their emotional wellbeing and mental health.**

It is a new children's mental health charity with a bold strategy to provide primary school children with the emotional support they need to thrive and achieve.

Focusing on early intervention, the aim is to tackle mental health challenges as they arise, to prevent further crisis and minimise the impact of poor



## A reflection on the Lent Course 2026

When the couple going home to Emmaus had recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread, they hurried back to Jerusalem and found the eleven and their friends, breathlessly telling them the story. Jesus appeared among them, put their hearts at peace, ate with them and said,

*'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.'* (Luke 24:44 & 45 (NIV))

Don't you wish you'd been there? Jesus himself, unpacking the Jewish scriptures, revealing how they point to Him and are fulfilled in Him. A bible study to beat all bible studies; what a night!

Many of us find it easier to read the New Testament than the Old. If we study the Old, it's perhaps usually narrative passages. But notice how Luke tells us that Jesus spoke of fulfilling the Law, Prophets and Psalms. How appropriate, this last Lent, to be led by Canon Richard in five excellently prepared studies from the Psalms:

Psalm 19: The God who gives Wisdom

Psalm 20: The God who Delivers

Psalm 22: The God who Hears

Psalm 23: The God who Guides

Psalm 24: The God who Reigns

Gathering from both St Mary's and St Michael's, a good number met each week and got to know one another better as we prayed, sang, read, listened, looked, laughed and learned together around God's word. Canon Richard engaged us in music, art, literature, liturgy, history and theological scholarship to shed light and deepen understanding.

Learning how Psalms work and thinking about their authors, historical settings, language and poetry; reflecting on how Jesus knew and used them; seeing afresh how they point towards Him and have fulfilment in Him – our minds, hearts and spirits were moved as these ancient words spoke directly into our present lives.

*Barry Gillespie*

## RIP

**Barbara Adamson** passed away peacefully at the beginning of March in St Catherine's Hospice in Scarborough. John and I visited her just a few days earlier, and I was privileged to share in her home communion shortly before she went to the hospice. Barbara and John (who died in 2022) were the most wonderful neighbours, looking after our house and garden while we were away on our many foreign trips. Barbara has always been a good supporter of St Michael's and for major festivals she used her talents as a flower arranger to produce a superb pedestal display in the church porch. Recently she has enjoyed the peace and quiet of the monthly Iona services.

*Janet Patten*

**Roger Willis** was born and bred in Malton and after schooldays he farmed locally for all his adult life. Roger and Romey had four children. Although farming kept him very busy, when he could be spared he was a very 'hands on' Dad.

He was a creative doer and a master mender. His advice: if it doesn't move, but needs to, use WD40. If you don't want it to move, use insulating tape or baling twine. Add a hammer, adjustable spanner, pen-knife and saw, and he had a complete toolkit.

The boys remember both Romey and Roger showing them how you should live life. Be helpful (many hands make light work) and be kind (do unto others....) So far as St Michael's was concerned, Roger undertook numerous behind the scenes jobs, leaflet delivering, advertising of events, covering shoe boxes for the Christmas appeals, keeping all the Christmas decorations in good order.

Roger was a community man. It might have been a carnival float, a bed push, a pram race or a "trap the rat" stall at the church fete. He was Town Cryer for 10 years which afforded him the opportunity to play a few practical jokes such as the time when he went into R Yates & Sons shouting "Oh yeah, oh yeah, everything half price today".

As his health failed Roger still managed to come to church in his trusty buggy – though we all believed that he had a guardian angel as he 'navigated' the town traffic in his own particular way.

The town – and especially St Michael's will miss his cheerful personality. He was truly 'one of a kind'.

*Anne Bell*

## Activity Program for NHLF 2026

When applying for the National Heritage Lottery Fund Grant we had to design our bid around ALL of the NHLF's four investment principles:

- Saving heritage,
- Protecting the environment,
- Inclusion, access and participation,
- Organisational sustainability.

We couldn't just say 'we need to repair the south wall of the church'!

Fortunately, NHLF gave examples of what this might include:

**Saving Heritage** also means making heritage accessible, valued and understood.

**Protecting the environment** can apply to urban landscapes not just natural ones.

**Inclusion/Accessibility/Participation** includes research into our heritage and preserving that knowledge digitally, making it widely available on the internet as well as to visitors and school children.

**Organisational sustainability** includes encouraging visitors, supporting heritage skills and local businesses.

To address all these aspects, we have devised a small number of projects to run alongside the vital repairs to the clerestory window part of the south wall.

**Stories in Stone and Glass:** This will involve photographing the monuments in stone and glass around the church and researching the families mentioned. This information will be digitised and made available in church and on our website. Other aspects of the history of the church will be researched to provide further background information for a new guide booklet. Hopefully, we will have some volunteers who will be willing to act as Guides on organised 'Heritage Days'



**Heritage in translation:** A 'Welcoming Guide' will be translated into 3 European languages and will include a short history of the church as well as information on local services.

**Church in the Curriculum:** An optional part of the National Curriculum involves a 'local history' study. The project group will explore how St Michael's church can be used as a local history topic for the 7-11 age group. This will involve making work packs that can be used by visiting families and schools.

**New Website and Research Hub:** Our current website is very limited and difficult for us to update. The new website will have a more modern design and be built on an 'easily editable' platform. This will enable us to give the general public more information on church activities and services as well as access to the research that has been done on the church's history and the monuments in 'Stone and Glass'.

These activities are a vital part of the Repair project and the NHLF has included the money to fund them in its grant.

It may look like a lot of 'extra work' on top of what we already do, but it will all help the church and its history, to be more accessible and relevant to our local community and to our visitors.

If anyone would like to be involved in any of the four exciting projects described above, please contact Canon Richard (Vicar) or Heather (Church Warden).

### Project News – New Church Website and more.....

Heather has updated above about some of the activities we are completing as part of the Lottery Funding, whilst the main contract is being specified and put out to tender later this Summer.

One of those tasks is to produce a new website and a group of us have been working hard to make this happen. The site, which will be fully available shortly, will have most of the information that visitors and parishioners want including a schedule of services and events, details about the building, latest news and how to get in touch about regular 'life events' e.g. weddings.

Concerning the main scheme, we have now received donations from the Fitzwilliam Malton Estates and the Benefact Trust.

*John Patten (on behalf of the Project Group)*