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Link

Upper Wharfedale and Litchford Parish Magazine

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This Month...Music!

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A Dales Prayer

*May the Father's grace abound in you as the flowing water of the beck.
May the Son's love and hope invigorate you as the rising slopes of fell and dale.
May the Spirit's companionship be with you as the glory of the golden meadows.*

From the Vicar

As a family we have been a few times to the Cropredy Festival, hosted by the band Fairport Convention. Listening to music, sitting in the middle of a field in rural Oxfordshire, amongst thousands of others, on an English summer's day, is just wonderful.

The music seems to speak to you and you alone; and yet, as well, you feel close to and accepting of everyone else, sharing a sense of meaning, the meaning of which you don't quite know. And, as the music drifts and echoes, rising and falling upon the breeze, it seems to be dancing with the rhythm of the natural world, itself singing and playing an original tune and beat....

There I go...waxing lyrical...trying to explain the power of music but falling short.

Music is a sensual medium; physical, intellectual, emotional, without defined and set meaning. It tells a truth that we are not one dimensional creatures, but beings with myriad and rich interweaving pathways of meaning and sense, communicating with a universe that is itself wondrously alive with meaning and wisdom, adorned with spirituality – what we call our spirit is closely allied to music and what is most beautiful is that we don't all need to be musicians to interpret it.

When people talk and write about the angelic chorus, I think I know what they mean. The final song on the Saturday night of Cropredy is always Richard

Thompson's *Meet on the Ledge*. The chorus goes like this:

*Meet on the ledge,
We're gonna meet on the ledge
When my time is up,
I'm gonna see all my friends
Meet on the ledge,
We're gonna meet on the ledge
If you really mean it,
It all comes around again.*

As I've joined in with this chorus at different times of my life, it's held different meanings. Richard Thompson says that the ledge refers to a branch of a tree he and his friends used to sit on in their youth. Many people think it refers to death in some way; indeed, Richard's mother asked him to sing it at her funeral. Most people think it holds some sort of sense of 'goodbye' and certainly when the crowd of festival goers join in, it has a feeling of delight and resolute joy for what has been, tinged with wistful longing and a sense of never wanting it to end. Thompson himself is quoted as saying:

"It's a fairly vague song open to a lot of different interpretations, I'm proud people can find different things in it. I certainly don't know what I was thinking when I wrote it – a 19 year old trying to take on big subjects, like transition, youth, old age, friendship, blah blah blah. Sometimes you just hit on something. Being young sometimes means you've experienced nothing, but in moments you see everything."

We are about to depart. This is our final month living in this beautiful parish and being amongst such wonderful people.

So we say 'goodbye' (a contracted form of God be with ye) and rejoice at all we have received and had the privilege to be involved with.

Thank you. We will miss being here. We will miss you.

There will always be things left to do and left unsaid. That's the puzzle of life - so much abundance, and we so small but always desiring so much - like music, resplendent, alive with melody and

harmony, beat and pulse, clashing and unifying, sonorous and symphonic, vibrant yet strangely still: our journey through life holds more than we can possibly describe, it should always overwhelm the senses, so that we find ourselves compelled to release ourselves and one another into the presence of God who alone holds the span of existence, who alone blesses our song, our entry and our exit:

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face to shine upon you:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Thank you James, Mo and family!

What a joy it was to meet James, Mo, and the family five years ago at his Induction service! A joy on three counts really; we now had a very musically talented vicar (and family) in our midst; he engaged with the children when he visited the school on our 'values' day; he was ecumenical in his approach and attitudes.

Musical...because he began a very happy association with Buckden Singers as an occasional member and performer, and also as being 'instrumental' in inviting us to join worship at key moments of the liturgical year, to enhance (hopefully) the prayer life at St. Michaels's, Hubberholme. We sang at the Patronal Feast, Palm Sunday and Carols by Candlelight on many joyous occasions where our music was an integrated part of the liturgy – a real opportunity for us to share with and be part of the Church community.

Engaged...with our children, because that is what he did on many occasions, not least through collective worship at school, and the

Playhouse, ably supported by Mo, Caroline, Clare and others. It became common place to see children dramatising liturgy in our churches, taking part in the Nativity around the village at Christmas, drawing scores of people into the procession, and riding the 'donkey' on Palm Sunday as we processed from Buckden to Hubberholme.

Ecumenical...which I experienced as a member of the community at St Margaret's, Threshfield who was always made welcome and accepted at all services in the Parish, and who derived great spiritual benefit from the distinctive and thought provoking worship at Sanctuary@6 and other similar acts of worship, latterly in a virtual environment.

Thank you, James. You will be truly missed.....

Anne Vetch, on behalf of Buckden Singers, the Governors of UWPF... and all of us!

From the Churches & Villages

Skipton Food Bank

James continues to collect contributions for the Skipton Foodbank every Monday from the following locations:

-  Buckden School Room Porch
-  Kettlewell Church Lychgate
-  Kettlewell Shop
-  Hawskwick Notice board
-  Arncliffe Church Lychgate



Urgent needs this month:

- Tinned meat
- Rice (al kinds)
- Tinned rice pudding
- Custard
- Tinned spaghetti

- Toothpaste – adults and children
- Toothbrushes – adults and children
- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Soap

Rainfall for May 2020

Arncliffe Rainfall: 31.7 mm/1.25 inches.
Bit more than April, but still quite light!

We hope to provide the complete tables of monthly rainfall soon and the missing monthly figures when available.

Church and Village News

St Oswald's Arncliffe

The project to make vital repairs to the tower of St Oswald's Church in Arncliffe has begun after being put on hold due to the impact of the coronavirus crisis.

Scaffolding went up early in June on the 15th-century tower, which is the oldest part of the church and has been suffering from the effects of moisture within its structure.

The repairs were due to start earlier in the year to coincide with the warmer spring weather, but the restrictions brought in due to the coronavirus crisis meant that timetable was impossible. However, the gradual easing of those restrictions has meant contractor Enoch Harrison & Son Ltd, of Cononley, has been able to start on the project, which includes picking out existing cement mortar, flushing out the joints with clean water and repointing the stonework with a lime-based mortar. Other work will include building up deep

voids in layers and protecting pointing from the weather as necessary. We hope to bring further news of the project as it reaches completion.



Littondale Duck Race

We are delighted to confirm that the Littondale Duck Race WILL go ahead, on Saturday 18th July at 3pm.! It will be an altered format with a limited number of ducks, costing £5 each. Spectators will be welcomed at their own risk - current social distancing guidelines must be observed. Please note that Ducks need to be bought prior to the event as they will not be available on the day, and refreshments and toilet facilities will also not be available. For more details or to buy a duck, please email Sarah Paul at carrfarm@littondale.com or phone 01756 770282.

All proceeds to the Churches of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale.

News from Amerdale Hall

Amerdale Hall needs you! We are looking for two new trustees to be opted as soon as possible to our friendly Management Committee, which meets quarterly. Our current Chair, Heather Lane and Treasurer, Jane Sheard had both indicated their intention to step down at this year's AGM. However, this has had to be postponed because of the current crisis and will be rescheduled as soon as it is safe to do so. Please look out for further information, which will be posted in The Link and on village notice boards.



The Committee is appealing for new members to help progress exciting plans for the redevelopment of the Hall. We are particularly keen to find someone willing to take on the role of Treasurer. If you would like to join us, please contact either Richard Miller (Correspondence Secretary): Richard.Miller@ramboll.co.uk or Sarah Paul (Minuting Secretary): carrfarm@littondale.com

Littondale Fête 2020

It is with great sadness that the Amerdale Hall Entertainments Committee has reluctantly taken the difficult decision to cancel the Littondale Fête 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of our community and everyone involved is of paramount importance to us. We hope to see you in 2021! We understand that announcements regarding the Road Race and BOFRA Fell races will be made shortly. We are exploring avenues for future events (virtual or otherwise). We send our best wishes to all and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

BREAKING NEWS...!

Further to the news that Littondale Fête 2020 has been cancelled, we are now happy to announce that there will be a Treasure Hunt on Saturday 8th August and virtual competitions open to all Littondale residents:

- 🔗 **A photo taken during lockdown**
- 🔗 **A junk model, the bigger the better**
- 🔗 **A planted container - to be publicly displayed outside your house**

Further details will follow soon but start planning now!

Kettlewell & District Horticultural Society Show

It will come as no surprise that the decision has been made to cancel the Show due to take place on Sunday, 13th September in Kettlewell Village Hall. However, if you have been happily snapping away during the beautiful Spring weather we have just

experienced, please keep those photographs safe as the Committee will probably decide on the same themes for next year's Show - 'Spring', 'Bridges' and 'Any subject'.

News from Kettlewell Primary School

The Year 6, Reception and Year 1 children have been back at Kettlewell Primary School for a few weeks now, and both they and the staff are very happy to be back; we're all working hard and enjoying the learning. The children have all been very sensible and have worked hard to maintain social distancing and remain vigilant with hygiene. We've been spending as much time as possible outside in the fresh air, taking advantage of our huge field and woodland area, exploring the plants and wildlife and enjoying the stunning scenery around us, all of which is fantastic for our mental health.

Across the school, as well as our core learning of English and maths skills, there has been lots of hands-on learning, which has been great fun: in Class 2 the children have become expert potters; building, painting and glazing superb pots and bowls. We have also started building our own Ancient Greek temples based on the Parthenon. Class 1 have been studying the different seasons. The children designed and built their own kites, which they tested on a windy day in our field, and they have been growing cress from seed to understand the life cycle of plants. We are excited to welcome back our other children to school and the children are looking forward to seeing their friends again – at a safe distance!

Features

One of the new elements we have introduced in the Link is a series of 'Feature' articles.

- 🔗 **Meet:** A short interview with someone involved in parish and community life
 - 🔗 **About:** A brief description of a local parish/community organization, initiative or event, or information on aspects of life in the dales
 - 🔗 **Remember:** A look back in time to an event of the past; people and places.
 - 🔗 **Try:** Useful ideas and tips that are locally relevant, and encourage stewardship of creation, for example, tips to save energy, conservation, recipes, craft ideas, etc
- If you have any suggestions for future 'Feature' articles, do please let us know.

🔗 MEET...*Anne Vetch and the Buckden Singers*



🔗 *Anne, tell us a bit about the Buckden Singers*

Buckden Singers is a non-auditioned Community choir open to all. A group of twelve villagers came together in January 2007, simply to enjoy the experience of singing. From there, we have expanded to

a four-part choir of just over 40 people: 93 people have passed through our ranks at various times: our youngest member was 9 and our oldest 84. We come from all parts of the Dales communities, from all walks of life and have varied experiences



and knowledge of music: some have formal qualifications, others had never seen a piece of music until they joined us. I have no musical training, or formal qualification, although I have been running choirs for more than 25 years. Until COVID-19 we met weekly during term time in Buckden Village Institute.

We sing a wide variety of music from Pop to Opera, from Classical to Gospel, from Musicals to Sacred. We generally perform at Christmas, and in the summer in our own concerts in Buckden Institute, at St. Michael's Hubberholme, and St. Margaret's Threshfield. In addition, we have supported worship at both Churches and occasionally sing at weddings and funerals. We have sung in a huge variety of venues from the Dickensian in Grassington, to the Armed Forces Day in Skipton, from the Methodist Chapel in Hebden, to the Madeleine in Paris.

§ *What have been some of the highlights over the last few years?*

We have had some extremely exciting times: possibly the most memorable was

appearing in several episodes of the ITV series 'The Dales' alongside Ade Edmondson. We also featured in the BBC series 'In England's Green and Pleasant Lands' with Selena Scott and Radio 3 'Meet my Choir'.

§ *The COVID-19 pandemic must have brought meetings to a stop. Have you tried other activities, like singing 'virtually'?*

One of our guiding principles is that above all we should be, and I hope are, a supportive group, and though singing and making music is our purpose, we also have fun together and help each other out when the need arises. Singing of course has multiple benefits for physical and mental health, and emotional well-being which is why I personally miss it so much at the present time. We had our last rehearsal on March 7th, 2020 and since then have been meeting virtually, via Zoom, largely to chat, share musical highlights, share quizzes, and do some virtual recording. The majority of choir members have been willing and able to

participate in these sessions and they have been good for keeping us together with a shared purpose.

Sadly, singing has also proven to be one of the most 'dangerous' activities in which to engage in terms of spreading infection so it may be some time before we can meet to have full rehearsal. I am considering various possibilities!

🔗 *If your fairy godmother gave you one wish for the Buckden Singers, what would it be?*

If I had a wish list it would include:

- Being able to meet again as in pre COVID-19 days
- Being more musically able myself, so I could produce arrangements and accompaniments
- Attracting more men - make of that what you will.....!

Please do feel free to join us whatever your musical experience: you would always be made very welcome.

Thanks Anne! And if you want to find out more, go to www.buckdensingers.org



ABOUT...*the Funk Wire!*

What seems like a lifetime ago – in March - with rousing renditions of *Proud, Reach Out, Sailing* and *Is this the Way to Amarillo?*, the *Funk Wire* concluded their regular fortnightly Thursday afternoon session in the Hall in Arncliffe. This was the last time I hugged someone who isn't my wife – one of our regulars was taking her leave to re-locate to Leicestershire – and as we packed away, locked up, and then locked down, there was no sense of how long it might be until the hall would again be alive with the sound of music.....

At our next session we would have celebrated our fourth birthday. What was at first called the '*Tone Deaf Choir*' had arisen from a suggestion that lots of people who 'can't sing' (or been bullied into believing so) would really enjoy the chance to belt out their favourite tunes in a sociable setting. So right from the start,

this was the point. There would be no auditions; no need to read music; no Handel's Messiah, no membership forms,



no obligation to attend every session, no dress code or funky tee-shirts, no pressure to perform, and absolutely no Gareth Malone! Build it, and they will come, they said. Well, 8 people did, at first, and one rainy afternoon we bashed through a selection of old favourites round the piano for a couple of hours.

People also shared what seems to have been a dismally common experience – of having been painfully excluded from music-making very early in life, castigated as 'tone deaf' or whatever, and convinced that singing is what other, more gifted people did. Several admitted that they had not even dared sing in the shower for fear of frightening the animals.

But in recent years we have heard a great deal about the many pleasures and benefits of collective



singing. There was something in the air. In time, the 8 multiplied. It wasn't exactly viral – but by Christmas of 2016 there was enough folk with the collective confidence to have a go at a 'singalong' in The Falcon, and a change of name acknowledged that 'fun' was not limited to the so-called 'tone deaf'.

In fact, the increasing numbers of perfectly competent singers joining us each fortnight helped the *Funk Wire* reach a kind of critical mass. As part of *UWALS*, we've been able to attract financial support to buy various bits of kit. As of March, we always seem to manage 20-30 singers, and on good days can exceed 40. People come and go, but it's great to see so many of the stalwarts from those early days still with us. It was beginning to feel as if we had come a long way. The Christmas Singalong - now held in the Hall, due to sheer pressure of numbers – has become a fixture, and there was a 'flash mob' style appearance in the square during last year's Grassington Festival. At times we even have a go at 2 or 3-part harmonies! But we hope it still feels like a choir for people who don't usually join 'Choirs'. We sing like no-one is listening. And we don't perform – just facilitate singalongs.

Last Christmas.....

It's both sad and encouraging to hear how much *Funk Wire* regulars are missing not just the singing, but the chatter, the cake and above all the laughter. But the current singing bug has been spreading in various online forms almost as virulently as Coronavirus itself. It seems to have

started on those Italian balconies and surfaced in innumerable virtual vocalisations on 'Zoom'. Not quite so tech-savvy ourselves, nevertheless since March we've tried to keep the flame aflicker with weekly YouTube clips of singalong daftness. One of them has had 106 views. Clearly people have time on their hands. We're using these sessions to learn new songs - starting with *Lean on Me*, followed by the winners of our online 'Ewerovision' poll, *He Ain't Heavy*. Sadly, but appropriately for Ewerovision, *Anarchy in the UK* limped in last.

Things We Did Last Summer.....

But how long before we can meet again *en masse* and face to face? Tricky. Certainly, the idea of getting 30+ folks in an enclosed space for a couple of hours'

energetic
vocal



projection already seems quaintly historic. It's all a bit hard to handle at the moment. Is there a chance we might be able to do something socially-distanced *al fresco* – possibly even up on the roof a la *Let it Be* - before summer's end? Who knows? In the meantime, it's comforting to imagine the 40 + regular *Funk Wire* members singing along throughout Littondale and

Upper Wharfedale in splendid solitude - even if they are frightening the animals!

But whenever we do meet again (don't know where, don't know when....) there'll be dancing in the street, in the dark, in the moonlight, cheek to cheek, all over the show.....and we'll be looking forward to building a new repertoire. *Night Fever*, perhaps. Clapton's *Behind the Mask*? Certainly. Add The Police's *Don't Stand Too Close To Me* (but definitely not Berlin's *Take My Breath Away*). Until then, the whole *Funk Wire/UWALS* team send our very best wishes to all *Funk Oristers*, wherever you are. Wish you were here! We also hope that many more domestic divas and patio Pavarottis may feel tempted to give us a go when the time is right.

So - come what may, one day we'll be back - nothing's going to stop us!

Ron Norman

You can keep in touch with the Funk Wire's activities, including any plans to resume their singing sessions, via the UWALS Website:

<http://www.uwals.co.uk/funk-wire/>

There you will also find links to the weekly Lockdown Singalong videos on YouTube, and details of any other UWALS events post-lockdown as soon as they are known!

(Song Search: You may have noticed taht apart from the songs actually named above, a few more – well, 17 in fact - have been 'smuggled' into this piece. Can you spot them? Answers on a postcard, please. Or see page 25!)



Remembering.....Ted Salmon

The funeral of Ted Salmon of Buckden was held on 12 May under the coronavirus lock down rules, attended by only 10 mourners. Scores more would have attended in normal circumstances. This eulogy was given by Richard Barlow, a neighbour of Ted's.

Ted was born at Skelmersdale in Lancashire on 14 July 1942. He was the son of Ernest and Annie Salmon. He was christened Edward James but was always known as Ted. He had two brothers Ernest and Raelton (died as a baby) and a sister Anita (who couldn't be here today) and Ted was the youngest of the family. Ted married Margaret Green at St James Parish Church in Burnley on 1 June 1963. They had three children Robert (who died as a baby), Barry and Jane.

Jane is married to Steven Giles and they have three children Sam (27), Robbie (25) and Henry (22) so Ted had the pleasure of seeing them all into adulthood. Barry is married to Tina and they have one child Marcus who is 20 months old.

Ted left school at 15 and worked as a mechanic before becoming a landscape gardener which was his occupation for most of his life. He spent most of his working life in the Burnley area and worked on many projects there both large and small including work at private houses and larger premises such as Burnley Football Club. His interest in gardening and mechanical equipment

continued in his retirement and he always kept an immaculate garden at home and he restored a Ferguson tractor and a Fordson Dexter tractor to pristine condition which he took a great deal of pleasure in taking to meetings and events winning prizes for the restorations.



Ted and Margaret lived in Ormskirk at the start of their marriage, but they soon moved to Burnley and they lived there from 1964 until 2002 when they moved to Buckden. For the next eight years they shared a home with the Giles family (Jane, Steven and the three older grandchildren) until Ted and Margaret moved to Rosemary Cottage where they lived together until Ted died in Airedale Hospital of the corona virus on 25 April 2020 after a short illness. Sam and Margaret were with Ted.

Ted became a much loved and valued member of the Buckden community from the day he arrived there. His friendly way and his pleasant character were evident from the start and everyone from Buckden will have memories of Ted that they will cherish for ever. You could write a book or a TV series about Ted and the things he did in and for Buckden. The words escapades and japes

come to mind as well as acts of kindness and just pleasant neighbourly meetings. He was a great talker and many residents and visitors alike will recollect enjoyable conversations with Ted.

I will mention a few examples of Ted's contributions to the life of Buckden but really, they are just a few of many that could be and will be recalled by his friends and neighbours.

Ted organised a keep fit class in the Village Hall. He organised a treasure hunt round the village. He organised and judged a Christmas Lights competition

which I think he always won. At the time of our Gala (the village fete) he drove his tractor back and forwards from and to the Village Hall carrying the equipment

needed to the Gala Field. He was a member of the Village Hall Committee for many years. He helped to set up and run numerous events in the Hall memorably including for example a Lancashire Night.

He took part in many of the 'entertainments' (using that term loosely) put on in conjunction with the Buckden Singers' concerts. These were often dances put on by some of the men of the Village. One memorable such event involved some of the men dressing up as ballerinas in frilly tutu style dresses albeit wearing hiking boots rather than ballet slippers. After the performance in the Village Hall the men went straight to the pub and did a shorter version of the

dance for the rather startled visitors who had no idea why this spectacle was occurring. Ted enjoyed this and other similar occasions to the full. On another occasion Ted auctioned off a cardboard replica of an American car that had been scenery for a performance of 'Greased Lightning' and made a surprisingly large amount of money for the Village Hall funds.

Ted was proud of his Lancashire roots. He once enquired at the Library Van whether they had a Lancashire Bible. The librarian, unaware that he was having his leg gently pulled, checked the shelves but found no Lancashire Bible. He checked on the Library computer as well with no success. Ted loved retelling that story and we loved hearing it.



Ted was a great talker. Margaret often found

that after Ted had set out to buy a newspaper at the shop which is about five minutes' walk from Rosemary Cottage, if that, an hour and half would pass before he was back. He'd stopped to chat to everyone he met often including visitors to the area.

Some of the regular visitors got to know Ted and to value his company whenever they came to Buckden. There were many who enjoyed his company in this way none more so than Tom Jones and his daughter Karen who became very good friends of Ted and indeed of the Village. I know how much Ted will be missed and how much the many people he met will have been left with a very good

impression of Buckden from having talked to him. He was Buckden's ambassador to the rest of the world.

I'd like to mention one visitor's memory of Ted as an example of his friendliness and kindness. A family with a young son aged about eight came to the Village a year or two ago and Ted befriended the boy, gave him a ride round the Village on the Fordson tractor and gave him a medal he'd won for the tractor at Kilnsey Show. The boy has such fond memories of Ted that he has kept the medal by his bed ever since. He was very upset when his parents told him Ted had died and he now keeps a photo of Ted by his bed. That young boy learned something from Ted about how to be kind that he will know for the rest of his life.

Much of what I have said relates to Ted's time in Buckden but I am quite sure that Ted would be described in the same way by those who knew him in Skelmersdale and Burnley or anywhere else he might have been.



Sam asked me on behalf of his grandmother to 'say a few words' at the funeral and I'd like to say how much joy Ted had in seeing what a fine young man Sam has become and how much he has helped his grandmother at this difficult time. The few words that first came to mind about Ted are that he was 'a good

man'. That is easy enough to say about anyone but how many could we say it about without thinking yes but what about this or that or maybe he had this fault or that. But really in Ted's case it is he was 'a good man' no ifs, no buts. You could add he was a kind man, an honest man, a hard-working man, an amusing man ... a good friend, a good neighbour, a good family man, a good husband, no doubt we could all add to that list but what it comes down to is that he was as good a man as you'd find.

Ted and Margaret met at Butlins' Holiday Camp in North Wales in 1960 when they were both teenagers. Margaret says he was the "best looking lad" at Butlins and the photo of Ted at that age which is on the order of service certainly bears that out, as Sam said, "grandad looked like a film star". Anyway, Ted thought the same about Margaret because for the next three years he travelled from Skelmersdale to Burnley nearly every weekend to see Margaret. This involved a journey of about 40 miles which involved four different buses and a twenty minute walk.

Everyone who knew Ted and Margaret saw a devoted couple and it is right to finish with Margaret's words:

"Teddie and I considered ourselves to be the luckiest of people. We had each other for almost 60 years. We lived in the most beautiful place in the world with lovely neighbours and we were given the privilege of helping to bring up our three grandsons and then to crown it all, along came Marcus his grandad's "little bugger lugs" – the icing on the cake".

Goodbye Ted you were a good man.

REMEMBERING.... *Arncliffe Choir*

Patsy Campbell describes 50 years of the Arncliffe church choir from the 1870s to the 1920s – a period when the choir was particularly active!

In the early 1870s the Arncliffe choir numbered about 20 adults – there was no mention of any children. Mrs Isabella Boyd (the Vicar's wife) was in charge in 1873, followed by Miss Dorothy Hammond and Mr Robinson the school master. Miss Dorothy was choir mistress until her early death in 1907, which was a calamity for the choir at that time. She never missed the choir practice as well as the services, and Mr James Hammond – her brother, never missed the practices although he was not musical! But the fact of him being there made the other members of the choir attend. It had what you might call a steady effect!

Festivals

The choir attended the North Craven Choir Festival several times, the first in 1880 was at Gargrave, the most notable thing of the day was apparently the gardens being open at Eshton Hall, such gardens as had never been seen. Eshton Hall at that time was owned by Mr Johnson who also owned an estate in Littondale. The anthem was Stainer's 'What are These Arrayed in White Robes?'

In 1881 the festival was held at Kirkby Malham Church when they were entertained by Walter Morrison of Malham Tarn and were invited for lunch and a sail on the Tarn as well as

refreshments after they came back from the service. The anthem was 'The Glory of the Lord shall Endure for Ever' by Goss. This was called a Red-letter Day by one of the choir members.

1887 was again in Gargrave and the anthem by Stainer this time was 'Let Every Soul be Subject to the Higher Power', but no mention of being entertained at Eshton this year.

June 2nd 1888 saw them again at Kirkby Malham when Mr Hammond invited them to lunch at Gordale Scar and tea at his home in Scosthrop, which was something to be remembered! It was said to be "A real treat, these times don't come so often in a lifetime." The anthem on that day was 'O Ye That Love the Lord' by Dr. Naylor.

There was also a festival at Skipton Parish church which finished with the *Hallelujah Chorus*. The last one mentioned was at Kildwick Parish Church with no less than three anthems and sung evening prayer with music by Bunnett.

Choir Trips

In 1873 the choir went to Aysgarth Falls, with lunch under the falls and tea in a tent. A member noted that they were building the railway to Hawes, and seeing the horses tipping the wagon just where the line crosses the road to Carpeby, not far from Aysgarth station.

August 1876 saw them travelling to Bolton Abbey, the Strid and Ilkley, with Miss Hammond providing lunch at the Strid and tea at Ilkley.

They went to Morecambe a few times, including a steamer ride to Grange, twice to Blackpool and twice to Southport Flower Show. They also went to York to a flower show, but it wasn't as good as Southport. A really adventurous trip saw them go through Kettlewell over Kidstones, Leyburn, Richmond, then onto Barnard Castle. Breakfast at the Kings Arms and then a few hours in the Bowes Museum, through Brough to Appleby, Penrith where they spent an hour and then on to Keswick, down the Lakes to Windermere for tea and a sail

no the lake, after that Kendal, Kirkby Lonsdale, Settle, Gargrave and home.

But the best they ever had was leaving Arncliffe at 6am, to Kettlewell, Leyburn, Richmond for the first stop, over the Tees at the toll bridge, onto Barnard Castle, up Middleton in Teesdale to High Force for lunch at the hotel, to Langdale Beck and Alston, which is all moor! On to Penrith for an hour, then to Lowther Castle to see the gardens. Then to Pooley Bridge to catch the steamer across Ullswater to Glenridding for tea, over the Kirkstone pass, Windermere, Kendal for an hour then home by Settle and Gargrave. It was noted that they crossed 11 rivers that day. They certainly packed a lot into a day out!

Patsy Campbell



Arncliffe Choir trip of 1932 - anyone you recognise?

Try....*the Meadow Labyrinth*

Towards the end of 2018 the PCC of St. Mary's Church, Kettlewell invited a small group of local villagers to begin research on a proposal for a churchyard-wide project. Their remit was to find a way to save the inscription and story of a Grade II listed grave slab, discover ways of ensuring the biodiversity of life in the churchyard continued to thrive, and work on creative and imaginative ways to offer personal and spiritual support to visitors and locals alike who spend time in the churchyard. In 2019 the groups subsequent proposals and budget were accepted unanimously by the PCC of Upper Wharfedale & Littondale, were also warmly greeted by an open village presentation and finally, were given complete approval by the diocese. So the work began. And over the coming year we hope to offer insights into the differing areas of St Mary's Churchyard Project in the Link. This month we begin with the creation of a stone labyrinth in the south-west third of the churchyard meadow.

So what is a labyrinth.....



.....and where are they found?

Yorkshire's oldest recorded labyrinth, from the early 4th century, is a mosaic labyrinth laid in the floor of the bath house of a Roman villa in Harpham, East Riding, and was discovered by archaeologists in 1905. It is now in the Hull and East Riding Museum. In present day Yorkshire, just outside the village of Dalby, the villagers have cut

the grass of a small turf labyrinth which has been walked for well over a hundred years. In our time and in our own diocese, a beautiful 21st century stone labyrinth has been laid in the floor of the west end of Wakefield Cathedral. It is open for walking by anyone who passes through the cathedral.

Although labyrinths pre-date Christianity, the earliest documented church labyrinth in the world was created in stone in the basilica of St Reparata of El Asnam, in modern day Algeria, in 324 AD. 1,700 years later it is very fitting that we have our own stone labyrinth laid in St. Mary's churchyard.

For many people, of all faiths and none, labyrinths are inclusive and welcome paths for reflection, prayer or general well-being. It is no surprise then that we find more local labyrinths in places such as Wakefield Hospice, St. Peter's Church, Addingham, and even Shipley town centre where shoppers can take a moment out to de-stress after a heavy shop!

Historians don't know why they were created in the first place, but what we are learning is that labyrinths, which are archetypes of wholeness, seemed to have come into focus and use at times when we need help in recovering a more balanced, reflective and inclusive way of living together on this planet.

Scientific research is beginning to indicate that particular labyrinth patterns help still the body, calm the mind and help us connect with our inner life more deeply. In this time of world-wide pandemic, the labyrinth is becoming a useful resource for those of us who need to decompress and face the new reality with renewed courage and compassion.

Walking the Meadow Labyrinth

Labyrinths are not mazes with their many dead ends and constant choice of paths. You don't have to worry about

getting lost. Rather, walking the one winding yet simple path of the labyrinth has the potential to help us release and quieten our mind. We don't have to work out where we go next. We just place one foot in front of the other and walk. It becomes a path of trust.

In a labyrinth we walk a unique space that safely 'holds' us. It can be a place to take our uncertainties, questions, sorrows and fears as well as our thanks, celebrations, hopes and joys. Each time we walk the labyrinth our experience will be different. No two walks are ever the same. We bring to the path what is going on in our life every time we walk it. For many people to step into a labyrinth is a kind of homecoming to our soul, to what is most sacred in our lives.

As the months move through summer the meadow will revive around the site of the labyrinth and it will become an even more beautiful place to be. I encourage you to find the labyrinth and if you feel you want to walk it, firstly, take a moment to unburden yourself of expectation. Become aware of the present moment, the breath of life in you, then...

...walking in, keep releasing the thoughts and feelings you need not carry for a while - allow your mind to quieten - open your heart

...in the centre, be attentive to the stillness and to what feelings or intuitions may arise in you

...as you return along the same path, reflect on your experience and gently take it out into your life

Rev Di Blakey Williams



"It is solved by walking"
St. Augustine of Hippo

*"Prayers lay in the road where you will
plant your feet."*
Maya Angelou

*"Blessings on this place where we stand
between tree and stone and grass.
Blessings on all who walk this path
that they may find here peace and
quietness."*
Catriona Mackie

Reflections

Ever been to Choral Evensong?

According to national statistics (before COVID-19), Choral Evensong in our English Cathedrals is one of the few services bucking CofE trends and recording an increase in congregations.

At Westminster Abbey, five or six hundred people join the Choral Evensong congregation every weekday; its Sunday Evensong attendance routinely exceeds 1,500, even on ordinary Sundays. And I can attest to this having preached at the Abbey on a Sunday Evensong a few years back – I was quite taken aback by the vast congregation (and I had to get my act together quickly!)

Back in 2009, Tom Service, writing in *The Guardian*, wrote this:

I'm mostly allergic to the austere Anglican charms of choral evensong when I hear it broadcast on the wireless. But when you see this intimate performance live in one of our great cathedrals, it's a completely different experience. Walking into Lincoln Cathedral out of the rain and cold yesterday, after a miserable pilgrimage up Lincoln's Steep Hill – well named, the only significant contour for miles and miles around in Lincolnshire's relentless flatness – this astonishing medieval building hosted its girls' choir singing Monday's Evensong with the Cathedral's director of music, Aric Prentice. The way

the sounds of their few voices carried in Lincoln's transcendent architecture and massive acoustic was miraculous; every note shimmered with a halo of resonance...

... if I lived in Lincoln, or next to one of our other great cathedrals, I reckon evensong could become a regular musical ritual. It's one of the England's richest heritages – a living tradition that costs precisely nothing to experience live.

The listener data for BBC Radio 3's Choral Evensong is another story of growth. In 2016, after many years of a stable, loyal audience, listener numbers leapt to more than 300,000, an annual increase of 34 per cent, and a larger audience than at any other time in the programme's 92-year history.

The service of Choral Evensong that you hear in our Cathedrals and larger parish churches is uniquely British, formed out of a combination of Benedictine monastic discipline and Cranmer's Prayer Book. There is a vast musical repertoire that has built up around it over centuries and an act of worship has formed that resounds with a synthesis of inspiring architecture and melodic harmony.

Cranmer's Evensong starts with Sung Responses calling on God to open the lips of the singers. Then follows the

chanting of the Old Testament Psalms. Their mantra-like repetition, sung to a distinctly English melodic harmony of Anglican Chant, often helps create a peaceful atmosphere, but one that is soon interrupted by the exuberant burst of the 'Magnificat' - the song of a young woman, Mary, rejoicing at the prospect of the birth of her child, Jesus. This exuberance becomes solemn by the singing of the New Testament's 'Nunc Dimittis' - the song of an old man, Simeon, gently facing his death, eye-to-eye, now his life has been fulfilled by meeting Jesus. A major aspect of the genius of the service is the balance between female and male, young and old, and Old and New Testament in these 'Canticles'. An anthem follows that fits the mood of the day, and the service then finishes, sometimes with the singing of a hymn. Afterwards the church resonates with the playing of the organ, often one of the great organ works of Bach.

The interspersing of these varied musical forms amongst passages of beautiful spoken liturgy and moments of contemplative silence lends a balance, completeness, and complex psychology to the form of the service.

The high proportion of music in the Evensong service is arguably what distinguishes it from other church services. Being a public act of worship, it is free to enter, to sit (even if not part of the service) and listen to music, performed live and to an incredibly high standard. And music is very good at carrying us beyond the limitations of human words towards those things we cannot articulate. The Magnificat is a joyful song, the Nunc Dimittis a sung plea, the Psalms pure praise or

lamentation. Music's communication of these feelings is immediate.

Between us, our family has spent quite a bit of time in Cathedrals – not all as musicians, but all part of the rhythm of uplifting liturgy (the worship of the people).

When I asked them what they thought of Choral Evensong, the comments were as follows:

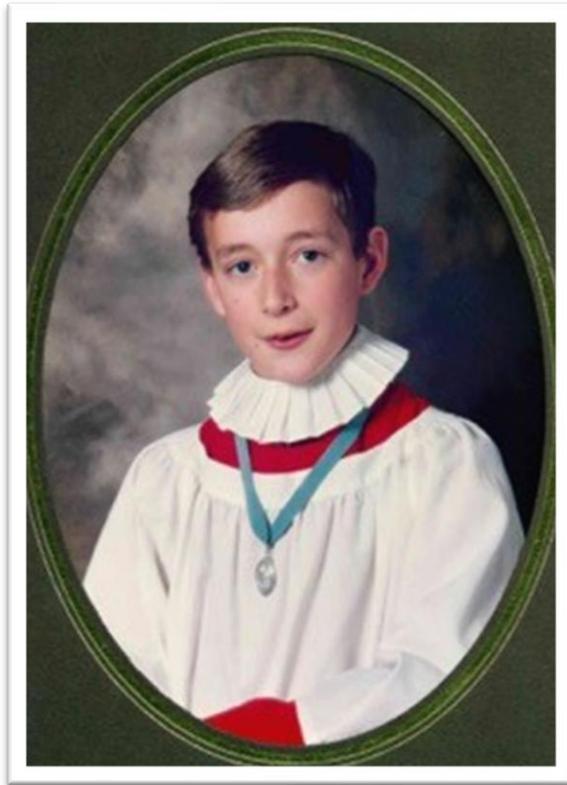
It's a meditative, contemplative space that allows a chance for reflection; it's important that it continues, day in day out, so that people can come and go and get caught up in something beautiful; the building, the space and the music all at one; you can lose yourself, just listen, barely take part, but be present; gives me time to think; it's uplifting, prayerful; even if I didn't want to go, I still ended up feeling content. It allows people to understand something of the vastness and transcendence of God; people think that the church is just about some out of date nice story which no one can believe anymore, Choral Evensong in a Cathedral points towards something bigger and beyond, less parochial, full of wonder.

Personally, when I try to imagine the universe, I perceive it unfolding in the presence of a vibrant eternal choir full of mystery, and singing to the glory of God. I imagine that creation, in its early days (which may still be now) hasn't the time and the ability to listen as there's so much chaos and clashing, birth-pangs, bringing forth life and so the choir just sings to itself, so beautifully and wonderfully, the music is enough to grace the choir with everlasting

contentment. Yet slowly and surely, creation begins to hear, to notice the sound resounding throughout the cosmos; a melodic, harmonious chorus that compels and gently urges us to join in. Some join the musical chorus; others find themselves uttering words and writing poetry, prose; some begin to dance, others create and build, still more paint and design and play and run with skill and adept manoeuvre - whatever and however, the call, the chorus and music beyond and within creation stirs the heart and wills a communion that is

always heading towards transcendence, a deep desire to join in the song.

Maybe this is the point of Choral Evensong - a music that sings from out of Britain into a universe that is happy to receive, delighting in the communion of spirit, rejoicing in the ancient voices from scripture, marvelling at the awe-inspired architecture and enlivening the voices of the contemporary heart, dancing the way of the composer and conductor, the Christ, day in day out.



Guess who??

Care in the time of COVID (2)

For the last three months it has been a privilege to link-up every week by Zoom from my little study in Arncliffe with others who work in public health, relief, and development across the globe. As colleagues, we are all facing new challenges thrown up by this pandemic and grappled with many of the same questions.... but in very different circumstances.



As I look out of my window at the morning light on the fell, and then down at my screen, I have a window on the world through the eyes and ears of colleagues on the Anglican Alliance¹ Global working group on COVID-19 in

Malaysia, Brazil, South Africa, Sri-Lanka, London, Uganda and the USA to name a few. This vision is very different to the one presented on the TV news each night.

The first phase of our response was to figure out fast what information churches, their hospitals, clinics, development, and relief programmes needed to respond immediately to this pandemic. We worked together to select the most relevant pieces from the tsunami of information and mis-information and worked quickly to translate key information from the technical agencies into simple English, and other languages for the resource hub on the website COVID-19 resource hub (<https://anglicanalliance.org/covid-19-resources-hub/>).

Questions like; how do you care for someone living with COVID-19 in a very small house, and how can you divide up the living quarters and quarantine effectively? How can we prepare our loved ones for burial and what can we do to remember them if we can't attend the funeral? How can you talk to children about death and grief? What can ordinary doctors and nurses do to provide palliative care to sick and dying patients in really limited conditions? And how can we cope with food shortages, rising incidence of domestic violence and acute mental health issues under lock down?

¹The Alliance works for a world free of poverty, inequality and injustice, to raise the voices of the

vulnerable, to reconcile those in conflict, and to safeguard the earth <https://anglicanalliance.org/>

In countries where public health and social services are limited it is often the church which provides these essential services to the local community. Many of you have given over the years through the Christian Aid envelopes to support work like this and today those gifts are more important than ever.

But then our discussions began to shift; somewhere along the line there was a pivot from the ‘immediate’ crisis and a focus on ‘individual’ needs to some of the more structural injustices and human rights abuses highlighted by the pandemic. How to respond when the military are policing the lock down, and target those already on the margins of society, the ethnic, religious or gender minority groups, the refugees and those who are different and stigmatized in other ways? How come those recovering from COVID-19 and the health workers are the target of stigma and abuse and what can we do to help? To what extent is this disease a result of climate change? And as the planet begins to breathe again, what can we do to re-imagine our world, and reverse the damage we are doing to the planet? What can we do together to bring the voices of those most affected by these injustices to the ears of those who have the power to make decisions that will affect our future?

As a faith community, we ask what is COVID-19 showing us about the world

as it is and what is God telling us about the world as it could be? We also recognise that we are entering a new phase when the focus on controlling the health pandemic must connect with the deeper emergencies of our world – social, racial and economic injustices, and the climate and ecological emergencies.

We are beginning a conversation around the Anglican Alliance family on what kind of world we want to emerge from this crisis. This extraordinary period is a time of great challenge and distress, but it is also a time for reimagining our world. We invite you to join this conversation and encourage you to have a look at the resource hub at:

<https://anglicanalliance.org/anglican-communions-response-to-covid-19-latest-on-resource-hub/>

Sally Smith



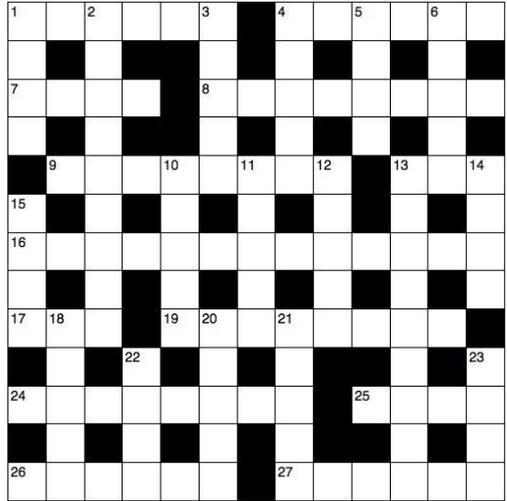
Crossword

Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you...' (Eph 3:16) (6)
 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Sam 14:51) (6)
 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
 8 See 5 Down
 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Tim 3:15) (4)
 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
 3 Early 20th-century Indian evangelist, — Sundar Singh (5)



- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
 5 and 8 Across 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Eph 6:14) (5)
 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
 11 Easily frightened (1 Thess 5:14) (5)
 12 Ability to perceive (Eccles 10:3) (5)
 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me"" (Mark 14:20) (4)
 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
 23 Darius, king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

Solution on next page!

Puzzle!!

Congratulations to Ann Peters who was the 'first responder' to last month's puzzle, finding the five spelling mistakes and reorganizing the words to make the line of the hymn 'When Peace Like A River'. Second and third this month - Miriam Case and Mary Myers.

This month - find seven spelling mistakes and make the title of a famous hymn (if you need a clue a clue, listen to the church service for 21 June). If you find it, Send me an email (smithiwho@gmail.com) the answer will be in next month's edition, along with the names of those who solve the puzzle!

Answers to the Funk Wire Music Quiz: 'Smuggled' songs include....

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Paul Simon, <i>The Sound of Silence</i> | 11. Martha & the Vandellas, <i>Dancing in the Street</i> |
| 2. <i>The Sound of Music</i> | 12. Bruce Springsteen, <i>Dancing in the Dark</i> |
| 3. Phil Collins, <i>Something in the Air</i> | 13. Toploader, <i>Dancing in the Moonlight</i> |
| 4. Wham, <i>Last Christmas</i> | 14. Chris de Burgh, <i>Lady in Red</i> ('dancing cheek to cheek') |
| 5. Dean Martin, <i>Things We Did Last Summer</i> | 15. Pink Floyd, <i>Wish You Were Here</i> |
| 6. Daft Punk, <i>Face to Face</i> | 16. <i>Come What May</i> (from <i>Moulin Rouge</i>) |
| 7. Otis Redding, <i>Hard to Handle</i> | 17. Starship, <i>Nothing's Gonna Stop Us</i> |
| 8. The Drifters, <i>Up on the Roof</i> | |
| 9. John Lennon, <i>Imagine</i> | |
| 10. Vera Lynn, <i>We'll Meet Again</i> | |

Answers to Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Riches. 4, Abner's. 7, Soul. 8, Damascus. 9, Statutes. 13, Add. 16, Craftsmanship. 17, Old. 19, Redeemer. 24, Walls are. 25, Wise. 26, Target. 27, Thief.

DOWN: 1, Rest. 2, Courtyard. 3, Sadhu. 4, Arm he. 5, Nose. 6, Round. 10, Tutor. 11, Timid. 12, Sense. 13, Ashbelite. 14, Dips. 15, Echo. 18, Lhasa. 20, Exact. 21, Erect. 22, Flog. 23, Mede.

The Link

The **Link** is the magazine and notice-board for the Parish of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale, sharing news, reports and items of interest from the churches and our community. If you have something to contribute, please email it to your local correspondent by the 10th of the preceding month.

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Church Services

The church communities of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale aim to be open to welcoming to everyone. We extend the hospitality of Jesus to people of all faiths and none, whatever your background or identity. Currently, because of the coronavirus, our church buildings are closed, but you can watch or listen to our church services on the Parish website – do have a look:

<https://www.upperwharfedalechurches.org/>

You can also find them on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYwoAjWguP6DyiBVAn6TbFg/videos>

Whether you are seeking God's presence, looking for information or some help with prayer and worship, we hope that you will discover that God's love is unconditional and within all things.

**Keep us, good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy
In this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
And lift up all who are brought low;
That we may rejoice in your comfort,
Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Peace to all who enter.
God's grace to all who depart**

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