

GALATIANS 22-23

# Link

## Upper Wharfedale and Littondale Parish Magazine

[www.upperwharfedalechurches.org](http://www.upperwharfedalechurches.org)



### This Month... 'The Word'

**ABOUT...** *A Day in the Dales*

**POEMS...** *in memory of Max Leefe*

**Words..** *of Upper Wharfedale & Littondale*

**ABOUT...** *UWALS*

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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 Area Dean...

I have been asked to write a piece for the Link on the theme 'The Word'. It is good to share with you as your Area Dean and this is a good topic to consider in our culture of instant messaging and fake news. Words are powerful. The saying sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me is sometimes, unfortunately, not always true. Just this last week news headlines included stories of racist abuse via Twitter and Instagram. This showed how the newer modes of mass communications can so often be abused by anonymous, ill meaning, individuals.

In contrast Jesus is described as the life-giving Word in John's gospel:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

Jesus is the life-giving Word, his actions as well as his words had a great impact. 'Follow me', Jesus said to the disciples and he says the same to us.

The Church of England Lent material for this year has the title 'Gods story, Our

story'. Stories can only be unfolded and understood by using words. Words that describe and build a picture that then enables us all to share our experiences. The Word made flesh came amongst us and was one of us, he became part of our story. The Word is our foundation and strengthens us in growth. The Word, Christ, calls us to be salt and light in the world and calls us to make words a positive force for good, not a means to undermine.

So, it is up to us as individual Christians to stand up against negative speaking, against words that divide and break down. Rather we need to be part of the narrative that builds up and uses words that encourage and empower others, especially those who are vulnerable. Jesus looked out for the ones who were on the outside and on the edge. He looked out for them and made it a priority to speak to them and spend time with them.

This penitential liturgy reminds us of how we often ignore God's call on our lives. The words that struck me were:

*You asked for my mouth to speak out  
against injustice  
I gave you a whisper that I might not be  
accused*

It is not a soft option to speak up and speak out but we are encouraged by Christ to do just that, especially when we see injustice and inequality.

Holocaust Memorial Day was on January 27<sup>th</sup>, and in my former existence as a part time FE chaplain I came across this poem:

**First They Came**  
**by Pastor Martin Niemoller**

*First they came for the Communists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Communist*

*Then they came for the Socialists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Socialist*

*Then they came for the trade unionists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a trade unionist*

*Then they came for the Jews  
And I did not speak out*

*Because I was not a Jew*

*Then they came for me  
And there was no one left  
To speak out for me.*

So perhaps we need to be aware of how our words are received and how those words can have an impact for good or bad. I pray that we will all be inspired by Christ, that we will share lifegiving words to encourage, empower and give consolation in these difficult times.

With love in Christ,

*Ruth Harris,  
Skipton Area Dean*

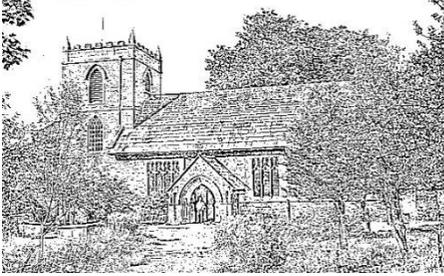


*Dales Barns by Alan Parker, Buckden Art group*

# From the Churches & Villages

## Parish News

### *St Mary's Kettlewell*



### *Grand Easter Stall*

Following the success of the Christmas Stall in the Lychgate at Kettlewell in aid of church funds, a similar one is being planned for Saturday, 27th March from 10.30am (Covid restrictions permitting, of course) selling produce akin to Easter:

-  Knitted Easter Toys
-  Decorated Easter Cakes
-  Cakes – large and small
-  Simnel Cakes
-  Chocolate Crispie Nests
-  Easter Biscuits
-  Tarts and Crumbles
-  Easter Fudge
-  Seville Orange Marmalade
-  Grand Raffle of an Easter Hamper containing some of the above.

Please come along and help to make this event another success as, after this last year, the church is in great need of funds.

### *Kettlewell Churchyard Bird Watch*

As part of the Churchyard Project's aim to gather information on the diversity of wildlife in our churchyard, we are inviting villagers of any age throughout our parish

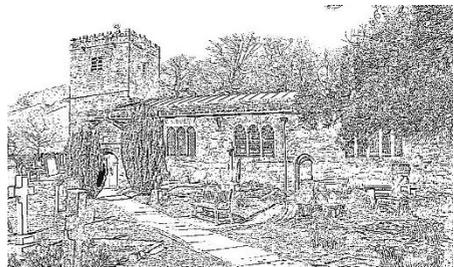
to take part in the Kettlewell Churchyard Bird Watch between the dates of Saturday 6th - Sunday 14th March.

All you need to do is plan to spend a 30 minute or 60 minute session in the churchyard spotting any birds you see and noting down your observations. If you can take any photographs of birds you spot that would be brilliant. If you catch sight of any wildlife other than birds, then please note that down too. Of course, any photographs of wildlife would be wonderful. Please email your observation notes, any images, and the date and time of your session to:

[diwilliams.labyrinth@gmail.com](mailto:diwilliams.labyrinth@gmail.com)

Please note clearly the date and time you were in the churchyard in your email.

### *St Michael and All Angels, Hubberholme Church*



### *Easter Lilies at Hubberholme*

At the time of writing (early February) our churches are closed, and we have no idea when they will reopen. By the time you read this, in early March, perhaps the future will be a little clearer and we may

know whether we will be celebrating by decorating our Church for Easter in early April. As is traditional, we invite you to dedicate lilies in memory of loved ones, in appreciation of family, friends or simply our surroundings....the reasons are numerous. If you would like to sponsor a lily or lilies, please send your dedication(s) and donations (cheques made payable to UW&L PCC) to Mrs Avril Harrison, Ghyll End, Beckermonds,

Nr Skipton BD23 5JL. If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to gift aid your donation, please add your name and address. Dedications can also be made in church during the Easter period, or left with Sue Lusted at 11 Dalegarth, Buckden. Please check the church website [www.upperwharfedalechurches.org](http://www.upperwharfedalechurches.org) for up to date information on the reopening of our churches.

## Village News

### *Arncliffe Annual Parish Meeting*

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held by zoom call on Wednesday 31st March 2021 at 7:30pm. Details for the call will be sent via the parish mailing list. All residents welcome. If you are not on the list and would like to attend the zoom call please contact Michelle Miller for details at: [mbmaloney@hotmail.com](mailto:mbmaloney@hotmail.com)

### *Supermobile Library: Buckden*

The next visit will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00-12.00. (This date may be subject to change at short notice in response to changing Covid guidance.

During lockdown we are offering a select and collect service. To pre-order a selection of books call 01609 533878 or email [supermobile@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:supermobile@northyorks.gov.uk). Alternatively, a selection can be made for you from the vehicle on the day of visit.

If you wish to request a specific title, please browse our online catalogue at <https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/northyorkshire> and place a reservation using your borrower number and your PIN, selecting 'Supermobile' as your pick-up location.

There may be a small charge for this service. Free downloads of eBooks and audiobooks are available from our website at:

[www.northyorks.gov.uk/digital-library](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/digital-library)

If you are not a member of our libraries, you can join at the Supermobile Library. It is FREE! For enquiries please call 01609 533878 or email:

[supermobile@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:supermobile@northyorks.gov.uk)

### *Death of Dr Andrew Jackson*

Many people will be saddened to hear of the death Dr Andrew Jackson, who passed away on 17 February. Those who have lived in Upper Wharfedale and Littondale for some time will remember the days when the doctors came up from Grassington to Kettlewell village hall on a Wednesday and Saturday morning to take surgery. He was involved in many community organisations in the Dales and will be greatly missed.

### *Rainfall for January 2021*

**Arncliffe:** 264.0 mm/ 10.4 ins

**Litton:** 291.87 mm/ ins

## ABOUT...A Day in the Dales

**A**s an author and gardener who is Lancashire born and bred, I've always appreciated having the Yorkshire Dales so close and am a regular visitor (under normal circumstances). Studying horticulture at college in Skipton was a pleasure, not least because I loved the drive along the A59 through Lancashire and into the Dales each week, appreciating the stunning views changing with the seasons throughout the year.

Walking is something I love to do with my family, and perhaps you would agree that some walks are more memorable than others. Many of us will have experienced a soaking in the middle of summer, bright sunshine in winter or the pleasure of discovering a pub or tearoom for that all important hearty lunch or slice of cake.

A walk I did with friends some years ago is one that has always stayed with me, and not only because of the pleasure we found in exploring parts of Littondale and Wharfedale. We began at Arncliffe, walked on to Kettlewell and returned via Hawkswick. These villages and the landscape around them became the inspiration for my first novel, *The Cottage of New Beginnings*. At the heart of my story is the fictional village of Thorndale, which I wrote to be a lively and vibrant Dales community with people at its centre.

For inspiration and romance, I look to the landscape around me and the people who inhabit it. As I wandered that day around the narrow lanes and village green at Arncliffe, I knew I had found a home for the story growing in my mind. For Thorndale I made the village a little



bigger but still wanted to retain that sense of community. I added a shallow, bustling river along a high street, turned an old shop with its single petrol pump into an art gallery and created a post office selling local produce.

One of my characters is a volunteer with a fell rescue service and I set the headquarters of the association within Thorndale, liking its immediacy to the community it serves. It was only later that I discovered Arncliffe's connection to *Emmerdale* as the original setting for the television series. Today of course, many people are enjoying the new series of *All Creatures Great and Small*, and it was wonderful to see the Dales featured again on television last autumn. The church plays a part in Thorndale, and the characters of Charlie and Sam Stewart, the ex-professional rugby-playing vicar and his mischievous wife, are proving popular with readers. They return later in the series and I found them a joy to write, their hearts firmly set on the community and people they serve.

On that lovely July day, we left Arncliffe and walked on to Kettlewell, stopping for that pub lunch and enjoying a drink of something local. Another village to explore, more ideas to tuck away in my mind and I remember going back later to collect a picture from the gallery to hang at home. I've always loved rural communities, imagining families down the generations who might live there still, and who might be recently arrived and why.

We left Kettlewell, crossing the river to climb through Knipe Wood and reached the top of the moor, pausing to enjoy the glorious view before dropping down towards Hawswick. Here I found the cottage which became the inspiration for mine, a path running through the centre of the garden to the front door. My garden was created by a formidable woman and her beloved home has become rather sad since her death, waiting for someone to breathe new life into it.

We crossed the footbridge at Old Gang Lane over the River Skirfare. This crossing makes it into the book, although I have described it differently. It was very nearly the place where my two main

characters first met but I changed that version of the story and the bridge pops up later on. We finished our walk a bit further on, delighted with our day in the Dales and certain to return.

Thorndale features in my second and third books, along with Charlie and Sam, and other characters who feel as real to me as another person I see around me. In the future I plan to set a different story in Lancashire, return to Cumbria and explore another setting in Connemara. In truth, I think Thorndale will always be at the heart of my writing, and the beauty of Littondale and Wharfedale the inspiration behind it.

*Suzanne Snow*

*Suzanne writes romantic and uplifting fiction with a strong sense of setting and community connecting the lives of her characters. When she's not writing or spending time with her family, she can usually be found in a garden or looking to the landscape around her for inspiration. Her first novel, The Cottage of New Beginnings, was published by Canelo in September.*



## POEMS...in memory of Max Leefe

*Children from across the Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation put pen to paper, to describe their favourite place to be, for a poetry anthology in memory of Max Leefe from Kettlewell, who passed away in 2018. The poems were gathered over a period of months, including during workshops held to celebrate World Book Day in 2019, led by Yorkshire poet Gill Lambert. Max's friends from the dale felt that such an anthology would be a fitting tribute in the spirit of Max's love of poetry, and her involvement in school life, through her children, Albert and Alice, who attended Kettlewell Primary School. The anthology will be printed locally in spring 2021, and copies will be distributed through Kettlewell School and the Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation.*

### Spring

Spring spring, birds sing,  
Dancing snowy snowdrops  
In the wonderful gardens.  
Winter is over.  
It's time to grow in the meadows  
And the flowers are blooming.  
Bunnies are hopping in the juicy grass  
Spiky hedgehogs go out  
of their leaf houses  
Trees are getting their leaves back.

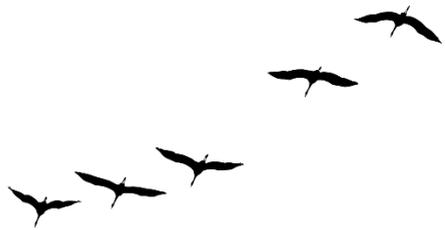
Alice



### Imagination world

Going back to the past,  
To imagination world,  
With my family and dogs close by.  
Playing in leaves with a stick as a sword  
In a place far far away or maybe just 10  
minutes,  
In my corner of Grass Woods,  
Love it now, love it forever.

Jake



### The wind

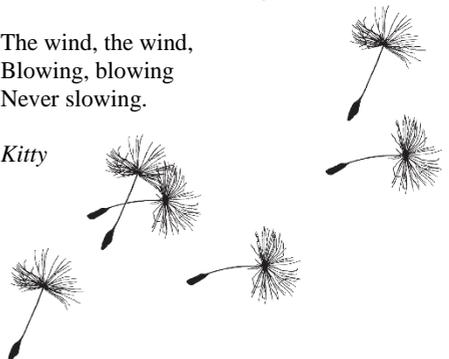
The wind, the wind,  
Blowing, blowing  
Never slowing,

Where is it going?  
A gentle breeze or a roaring gale,  
The wind will never fail.

The wind always amazes me.  
What could it be?  
Maybe it's a herd of horses  
Galloping along  
Their force is ever so strong.

The wind, the wind,  
Blowing, blowing  
Never slowing.

Kitty



## Autumn Play Day

We had lunch  
In the park.  
Kicked a football,  
And some leaves  
Before it got dark.

*Jack*



## The little beck

When I've got a fret, I go to my little beck  
Where the water runs free and calms me.  
My little beck so quiet and alone  
I smell the freshness of the trees  
Although I'm sad I always remember  
To forget the sad  
And forget the past  
And instead  
Remember the future.

*Maddie*

## My room

It's cuddly in my room,  
When inside my head goes boom.  
My sister's room is next to mine,  
She is eight and I am nine.

*Kye*





## WORDS....of Upper Wharfedale & Littondale

*Upper Wharfedale and Littondale has also provided inspiration for many well-known novelists and poets – here are just a few of the famous, and the less well known*

### *William Wordsworth*

In his poem ‘the White Doe of Rylstone’, written shortly after a visit to Bolton Priory and the surrounding area in 1807, Wordsworth includes a fleeting reference to Littondale, using the ancient name of Amerdale, and to Darnbrook, which he presumably had visited during his stay in the area:

*Unwooded, yet unforbidden,  
The White Doe followed up the vale,  
Up to another cottage, hidden  
In the deep fork of Amerdale;  
And there may Emily restore  
Herself, in spots unseen before.  
- Why tell of mossy rock, or tree,  
By lurking Dernbrook's pathless side,  
Haunts of a strengthening amity  
That calmed her, cheered, and fortified?*

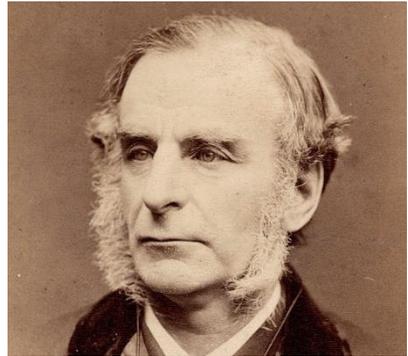


### *Charles Kingsley*

Clergyman, social activist and author, Charles Kingsley visited Arncliffe in July 1858, probably to pursue his passion for trout fishing, while staying at Malham Tarn House. Five years later, Kingsley wrote ‘The Water Babies’, much of which is based on his visit to

Malham and Arncliffe, including the following poem:

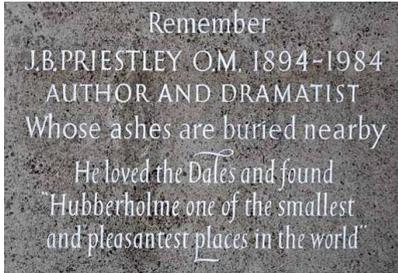
*“Clear and cool, clear and cool,  
By laughing shallow, and dreaming pool;  
Cool and clear, cool and clear,  
By shining shingle, and foaming wear;  
Under the crag where the ouzel sings,  
And the ivied wall where the church-bell  
rings,  
Undeified, for the undeified;  
Play by me, bathe in me, mother and child.”*



### *JB Priestley*

In the opening words of his short story, ‘The Other Place’, JB Priestley describes the characteristics of the perfect village; “A short walk beyond Buckden, in Upper Wharfedale, is Hubberholme, one of the smallest and pleasantest places in the world. It consists of an old church, a pub, and a bridge, set in a dale among high moors. In summer, long after the snows have melted, there is rarely much water in the river, so that it glitters and winks; and a man who has been

walking for an hour or two can loiter on that bridge for quite a time, waiting for the pub to open and staring at the river.” So much did he love the place, his ashes were interred in the churchyard, with a memorial in the church.



### Miles Wilson

Perhaps the earliest, and certainly one of the most remarkable writers from the parish, was Miles Wilson, curate in Halton Gill from 1732 to 1776. In 1757 he published a remarkable novel, *The History of Israel Jobson*, based on the myth of the wandering Jew, in which his character, a cobbler, travels from Pen Y Ghent round the solar system with an angel in a chariot, meeting the inhabitants of the moon and planets. Perhaps to maintain some anonymity, he claims the book is ‘translated from the original Chinese’ and signs the preface, M.W., H-lt--g-ll. The novel is a remarkable lesson in astronomy and science – possibly his intention in writing it, as he also taught the local children.

A T length I arriv'd upon the Summit of *Penegent-Hill*, † from whence I had a Prospect of the Western Seas, and the adjacent Country, all which fill'd me with such unspeakable Horror, and being dispirited with Toil, and overcome with Grief and Delpair, I kneel'd down, and heartily wish'd I might end my Days

### William Shuffrey

Another curate of Halton Gill from 1881 and later vicar of Arncliffe from 1893, William Shuffrey was a prolific writer about life in Craven, transcribing the parish registers of Arncliffe and Halton Gill, co-authoring *'Littondale: Past and Present'* with the then vicar of Arncliffe, William Boyd, and publishing books on *'Some Craven Worthies'* and *'North Craven Churches'*, as well as transcribing some of his sermons in *'Lessons from the Dale'*.



### Janet Taylor

Born and brought up in New Zealand, Janet came to England in the 1950s and moved to Littondale with her family in 1979, where she was sub-postmistress until 1997. In 1984 she published her first book *'Brigie: A Life'*, the moving story of the life and death of her daughter. She also authored *'Littondale Life'*, a remarkably detailed history of the dale from 1870 to 1990, with numerous photographs from the period.



UWALS (the Upper Wharfedale Arts and Literature Society) was founded on words. The society grew from Arncliffe Book Club and the title of our first talk (by Ron Norman) was A Story of Englishes. Ron's entertaining and thought-provoking presentation fed people's curiosity about the rich diversity of dialect and accents which characterise these islands. The funds it generated also allowed us to approach Barrie Rutter, actor and founder of Northern BroadSides based in Halifax. His generosity in coming to The Octagon for a derisory fee and "a bottle of decent red" led to a sell-out evening of poetry, anecdote and celebration of words. UWALS was up and running with one of our key themes – 'Northern Voices'.



*Jack Paul meeting Roger McGough after the UWALS gig*

Next up was that most famous and prolific of living experts in the English Language, Professor David Crystal, who on a cold February evening in 2018 led

us on a journey through our shared language history. He fascinated the audience with his encyclopaedic knowledge of dialect, accent and sheer variety of what the simple word 'English' covers. One of the most impressive parts of the evening was the Q&A element when David settled back to enlighten the questioners and explore any aspect of language raised by his engrossed audience. It was only David's wife suggesting they ought to be heading back to their hotel before midnight that ended the evening!

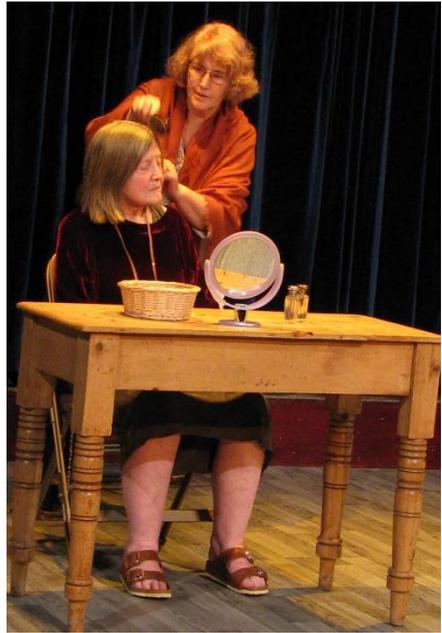
The Society continued to celebrate language and literature by hosting speakers such as Sophie Hannah (the only writer allowed by the Christie family to produce more Poirot novels as well as writing her own novels), Richard Harris (entertaining us with those anecdotes about Yorkshire which he couldn't fit into his novel Yorkshire, A Lyrical History of England's Greatest County), Lauren Livesey of The Bronte Society (celebrating the 200th anniversary of Emily Bronte's birth) and Ian Clayton, a consummate raconteur whose fascinating stories prompted a demand for him to return to lead a writing workshop.

UWALS has also invited poets to demonstrate how they make words work for them. Most striking about these wordsmiths is how different they are. On the one hand, there was the Bard of Barnsley, Ian McMillan, holding everyone spellbound and in paroxysms of laughter by playing with the audience's ideas and invoking our childlike delight in imposing meaning on

the joyful nonsense that ensued. As I type this, I can see on the wall a memento of that night drawn by Tony Husband, the cartoonist who illustrated the poetry as it appeared. The quotation across the top of the cartoon says, “Our square ring is a wondrous thing, Awaah” – you definitely had to be there!

By contrast, our soon-to-be-appointed Poet Laureate Simon Armitage brought his engaging air of dry curmudgeonliness to *The Octagon* when he read from his poems and books. His apparent reluctance as a walker always adds to the humour of his accounts of trudging the Pennine Way, earning food and board from reading his poems at his nightly stopovers – a modern troubadour. However, it is Simon’s poetry that people know him for and we were a little surprised to discover that amongst a few there was almost a fear of spending the evening listening to a ‘proper poet’. Some had already decided, ‘I don’t do poetry.’ So, it was wonderful to find the fears and barriers swept aside on the night by an actual encounter at close quarters with Simon.

Time and again we were approached at the end of the night to be told how enjoyable the event had been and how much Simon’s writing had resonated with people. It was a conversation I had with Simon himself which was most gratifying. He said that the events he enjoyed the most were ones such as ours, where he could see that some of the audience were wary of him and his writing but by the end, they had lost that wariness. Apparently, somebody had come up to him and said how much they had dreaded the evening because they thought they hated poetry but had been fully converted. For Simon that meant



everything, as he sees it as part of his role to help everyone enjoy poetry.

Somewhere between Ian McMillan and Simon Armitage, but another equally eminent ‘Northern Voice’, was Roger McGough, veteran of Radio 4’s Poetry Please (and of ‘The Scaffold’ for those old enough!). Still very much ‘in the pink’ (thanks no doubt to some of Lily’s medicinal compound!), Roger showed that his work is still (like Ian McMillan’s) touched by the whimsically childlike and surreal, and like Armitage’s, confronts us smilingly with the pathos and occasional absurdity of everyday experience.

In a more dramatic vein, at our 2018 exhibition ‘Upper Wharfedale 1918’, local actor and writer Irene Lofthouse took people’s breath away with her one woman show introducing us to the lost voices of forgotten but influential women: “Words, Women and War: Forgotten Voices of the Great War.” In

the course of an extended dramatic monologue, Irene metamorphosed before our eyes from one character to another, assuming not just the sartorial but also the linguistic guises of four very different but remarkable women - northern voices all of them, though less often heard than some. And of course our Shakespeare group has been meeting on and off for three years now, with Ron Norman leading our exploration of the language of his plays through practical exercises, giving life to the words on the page as they are owned and voiced anew in accents proudly northern.

So as a Society we continue to relish the power of words, a glue that keeps us together and which many people have relied on to keep them going over the past year. Our future plans are to

continue in that vein. The publication of our book *Present in the Past*, (as covered in a previous edition of *The Link* – copies still available!) was the culmination of a year's endeavours by our own group of talented writers and is a celebration of the language, the landscape, history and people of Upper Wharfedale. And as we dare to look towards a time when we may be able to come together once more, we will be welcoming Ian Clayton to lead that writing workshop as soon as circumstances allow.....

In the meantime, if you are interested in what else we have planned, do visit our website: [www.uwals.co.uk](http://www.uwals.co.uk)

*Geraldine Norman, Secretary UWALS*



*1Semerwater in Winter by Alison Woods, Buckden Art Group*

**Y**ou can find out about Skipton Food Bank by visiting their web-site, in brief, it is run by Skipton Baptist Church, but operates out of St. Andrew's Methodist Church on New Market Street. It has a part-time manager and many volunteers from across Craven. Their volunteers have a range of different stories and backgrounds, but come together to fight poverty and restore hope to people who are struggling in our communities even more so in this time of pandemic. They welcome donations of time, money and food, and look to work together with local agencies, schools, and businesses to support people in crisis.

They support people through a referral system with local agency partners, and are able to provide for people with special dietary needs and can also tailor parcels for each family or person to make sure that it suits their needs as best they can. The food parcels are designed to last for up to a week as they know Craven is a rural area and people may not have transport to get into Skipton often to access further support.

At the start of the pandemic, James, our then Vicar, organised boxes at each of the churches in our Parish, as 'drop off' points and collected produce from these points every Monday. This has

continued since James departure, but the 'drop off' points have evolved and perhaps need clarification:

For **Littondale** there is a box for contributions in St. Oswald's Church Porch from which produce is collected every Monday

For **Hubberholme to Kettlewell** produce can be purchased and left at Kettlewell Village Store and also the box in St. Mary's Church Lychgate. Again produce is collected from both of these sites every Monday.

**Conistone and Kilnsey** have their own arrangements organised by their Parish Meeting.

More than ever our contributions are necessary to help those in need within the rural setting of Craven. A brief look at the web-site each week will give information regarding what is needed in particular that week. For instance, at the time of writing, they were in need of Coffee, Custard, Tinned Spaghetti, Children's Toothpaste and Hand Soap. They DID NOT NEED pasta, cereal, soup, beans, biscuits or tea bags.

Should you need to contact The Food Bank telephone numbers are:

For parcels: 07856 080194

For everything else: 07933 149031



## 🔗 POEM... 'Breaking'

First, I was a grain of corn.

Life was a breeze, a sun-bath,  
A warm, dizzy dance on the waving  
stalk.

Jesus came by one day and I thought  
he might pick me  
On his afternoon stroll  
But he didn't.

Then came the cruel blade,  
The sickle I could not escape.  
I was cut, toppled, crushed, beaten,  
pulverised,  
Ground away to nothing  
By hands that didn't care.  
I fell apart.

Then other hands began to put me  
together.  
Picked up the pieces  
And made something of me: a loaf of  
bread.  
Smell me: Hovis, cobbles, childhood,  
Life as it ought to be,  
Rich and slow.

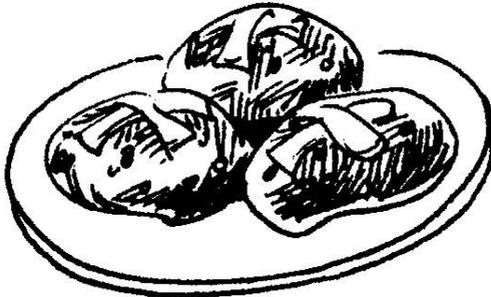
And then it began again.

The hands that took me away roughly,  
Off the shelf, God knows where.  
Just when I thought I had it all  
together.

Men gathered round me, hungry men  
who smelled of fear.  
And Jesus was there.  
A different Jesus.  
A mixture of joy and anguish I'd never  
seen before,  
I'll swear his hands shook as they  
picked me up.  
'This is my body,' he said.  
And I wanted to say, 'I don't know, it  
feels more like mine.'

But he was right.  
It was his body.  
And he knew what was going to  
happen to him,  
What he was going to do.  
He was going to walk right into it,  
Lay himself down between the  
millstones,  
And crack them for ever.

*Patrick Baker, Easter 1994*



## REMEMBER....Marjorie Davies 1922 - 2020

Marjorie was born in Manchester to Maria & James Tennant, the first of three children. Bernard & Derek were welcomed into the family a little while later. Marjorie attended Brentwood boarding school in Southport during her teenage years enjoying activities such as lacrosse, cricket & rowing with fellow pupils.



Whilst at home in Manchester, Marjorie was a member of St Edmund's Church where she met John at the age of sixteen.

When war broke out in 1939 and John joined the regular Army from the T.A., Marjorie signed up to join the Women's Land Army, being posted to Maesllwch Castle in Powys, Wales where she joined a group of similar girls from Lancashire. Marjorie spent two happy years there looking after cattle, tending poultry and performing a myriad of farming duties.

Marjorie and John became engaged on May 2nd 1941 and a little later Marjorie was posted to Sussex where she

worked for a market gardener as part of the war effort. On 12th January 1944 the couple were married at St Edmund's Church, spending only few days in Llandudno for their honeymoon before John was sent back to France.

After leaving the Land Army Marjorie became a full-time wife and eventually mother to Ann and Christian, the family attending St. Werburgh's Church, Manchester for many years before moving up to Buckden to live in the Tennant family home of Manor House, accompanied by Marjorie's father whose own father had originally purchased the house.

Marjorie and John attended St. Michael's Church Hubberholme where Marjorie was one of a band of ladies who arranged flowers on a regular basis. They both enjoyed the Art Group and also bowling in the Institute.

Her children, grandchildren and great grandchild were a joy to Marjorie, always relishing their visits and providing sound advice to them all. She will be greatly missed by both close and extended family.

Re-united with John, Rest in Peace.





## REMEMBER.....Holidays in Cray 1940 - 2021

I was born in Sunderland (before motorways) and lived there until my late twenties when my career took me to the south where I still live in East Sussex. My parents first took me and my sister Muriel to Cray in 1940 for the family annual two week holiday. We were able to have the sole use of Mount Pleasant farmhouse for the duration of the war, by the generosity of the land owner, Tom Jacques. The latter also owned Manor Farm and the White Lion Inn and the respective farms.

Apart from the family two weeks I was taken to Cray on my own, staying at the White Lion, where I joined the Parker family in various activities. Similarly, I stayed at Manor farmhouse with the Spencelys and the George Inn with the Mitton family. For a young lad these were magic times and I am sure was helpful to me health wise.

I realised that the reason my father took me up to Cray was to avoid bombing in Sunderland which was the most heavily bombed town in England. Their targets were the twelve shipbuilding yards within the town boundaries, the Wear harbour and docks with oil tanks two coal mines, important rail junction and other manufacturing activities.

At Cray, in those days Mount Pleasant had no running water; one of my daily duties was to transport buckets of water up to Mount Pleasant from Manor Farm.. Bath was a zinc tub in front of the fireplace; the toilet was a ‘ hole ‘ in the ground with a half shed cover. The bedrooms had curtains as doors. Lighting was by oil lamps. The

views from the house over the fells to Buckden Pike were wonderful. My father, James, had been a P.O.W. in WW1 and was never happier than being at Cray when he would arise before anyone and, being a fishing addict, would go to the Ghyll and we would have fresh trout for breakfast.

We attended regularly at St. Michael and All Angels church where I seem to recall the vicar at that time was Rev. Isherwood ( I may have the timing wrong) he lived in the vicarage, now owned by Wilf and Pat and we have stayed with them in recent years.

Another name I recall is the Huck family living in the farmhouse adjacent to the church and I believe descendants are there, still farming.

Other memories include walking up the fells to the Pike, checking livestock and or bringing cattle or sheep back down to the farm for calving or dipping/shearing and feeding the chickens and calves. These were the days of horses, hay making (jam sandwiches and a flask of tea in a wicker basket), no tractors or quad bikes. I also remember a Dale’s wedding - my sister was a bridesmaid for Mary Parker and Aubrey Spink and the reception was in Buckden village hall where the food was plentiful as well as ale (and coke), music provided by accordions and drums and this was my first venture, I seem to remember, in dancing.

These are some of my memories - I usually manage a visit to the area every year and agree with my late father “ This is God’s country”

*Gordon Cairns*

## REFLECT.....'The Word'

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

This gospel reading turned my immediate thoughts back to Christmas and carol services, although they certainly didn't happen in the way we were used to this Christmas past.

For me this reading from John always reminds me of school carol services. There would be the traditional readings and carols and the last reading would always be this passage from John, as is often the case in our church carol services.

But the school carol service must have been the first time I really registered this reading and although I became familiar with the words and could recite some of them by heart, I'm not sure I ever understood what John was saying. It's a complex passage but by having the reading set for today, it reminds us that Jesus isn't just for Christmas. Here we are beginning to journey towards Lent and Easter and we are again hearing these words from John.

We may be familiar with the Christmas advertising campaigns that say a dog isn't just for Christmas, a reminder that they will need looking after throughout the year. Well here

we're reminded that Jesus isn't just for Christmas. We don't pack him away with the crib and decorations until next December. We need Jesus to be central in our lives all year.

This passage from John is so different from the birth narratives we read in Matthew and Luke's gospels. John goes back beyond Jesus' human birth, back to the beginning of time.

He starts with the same words that we read right at the start of the Bible in the first verse of Genesis 'In the beginning'. John goes beyond the birth of Jesus, showing to us who Jesus was and is, and the importance of this.

John is describing God's creative work and God's purpose to communicate with us and allow us to communicate with him. God speaks the Word, and the Word by definition is a means of communication.

Communication is a characteristic of being human, although we know plenty of animals that are able to communicate



with each other. But being able to communicate is important.

How our communication has had to change since last March. We zoom now when we didn't even know of its existence before then. We telephone to chat to one another. because we aren't able to meet in person. We have to gauge how people are from the tone of their voice when we can't see their face and read their expression.

Despite the lockdown situation we find ourselves in, we still want and need to communicate with one another.



Words are important. Human words have existed for around 2 million years. We've only had them written on paper for about 1000 years and only had them printed for around 500 years. I wonder if you've come to rely on printed words more since these lockdowns? How many books have you read? Despite all the technology available, sometimes you can't beat just sitting down with a good book, getting immersed in the story and letting your mind create the pictures of what you are reading.

Are you a person who will read a book more than once? Reading something again is never quite the same as reading something for the first time. Not least because you will remember

something about the plot, but there will be things you had forgotten or maybe even missed the first time around. This can be true of the Bible as well.

We've read and heard the well-known stories of Moses and the burning bush, David and Goliath, Joan and the whale (or was it a big fish)?, Daniel in the lion's den, to name but a few, but as we look deeper we find that there is always more to discover. New insights are teased out, details we've overlooked suddenly jump out of the page.

Why? Because the stories aren't confined to the written word but it's about the Word made flesh. The Bible isn't simply a story of history but it speaks to us now. It's about a God of the past, present and future. Not just what God has done, but what he continues to do. John reminds us that the story of Jesus is special, for if we respond to it, it is our story too.

God speaks in a language we were designed to understand and yet we don't always recognise it. If we learn a foreign language it takes time to become familiar with the words, tenses, sentence structures. We wouldn't start by picking up a novel in a new language and expect to read it from cover to cover. We gradually become familiar with the words and phrases as we study and practice.

The same is true with God's word – the written word in the Bible but also the Word made flesh.

When we first read passages like this one from John we might be completely baffled – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

It's so different from a list of the family tree of Jesus that Matthew choose to start his Gospel with to help us

understand Jesus's background. Matthew was focussing on the human genealogy where as John is telling us about another part of the story. It can feel like it's one of those stories that are difficult to get into at first. Should we continue and hope the story becomes clearer or are we tempted to give up because it is too confusing, it's not the sort of thing we are used to reading.

And yet if we persist, spend time with the passage, read other passages in the bible and start to piece things together, understand how things relate to each other, we start to understand the story. God's story and our part in it.

We learn what God is like by looking at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. As we are drawn to words or phrases we've not seen before, we can

become aware of how God is speaking to us through these words afresh even when we've heard or read them so many times before.

As we approach Lent we often think about the things we might give up – chocolate, biscuits, alcohol or caffeine are often popular things to give up, but what about making a commitment to take something on – to spend more time studying the written words in the bible, to spend more time getting to understand more about Jesus, the Word made flesh, so that we progress from hearing familiar words and stories to them speaking to us, God speaking to us, that we might see his glory and know his truth and grace.

*Tracy Darling  
Probationer Presbyter  
Grassington Methodist Church*



*Kettlewell by Vale Emerson, Buckden Art Group*

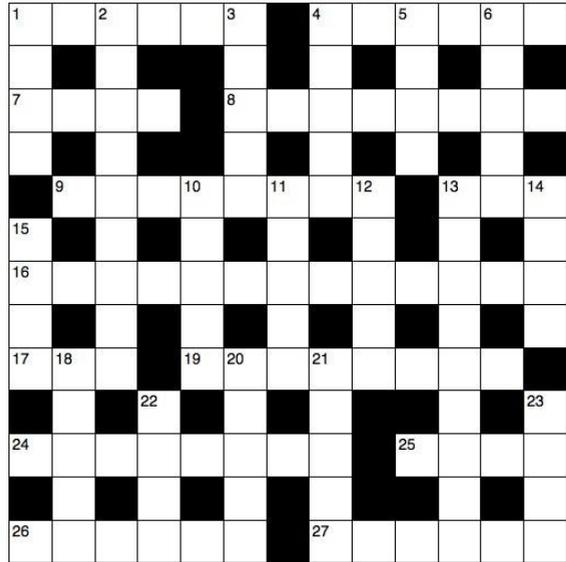
# Crossword

## Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)  
 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)  
 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)  
 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)  
 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)  
 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)  
 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)  
 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)  
 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)  
 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)  
 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)  
 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)  
 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

## Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)  
 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)  
 3 Gospel leaflet (5)  
 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)  
 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)  
 6 To put forth (5)



- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)  
 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)  
 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel'(Genesis 25:26) (5)  
 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)  
 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke22:34) (4)  
 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)  
 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)  
 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)  
 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)  
 22 Does (anag.) (4)  
 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this(Genesis 41:19) (4)

*Solution on next page!*

### Answers to Crossword

**ACROSS:** 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.

**DOWN:** 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

### 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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**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.**



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.

John 1:1-3