

THE PORCH

FEBRUARY 2023



80p

ST EDWARD'S CHURCH
DRINGHOUSES, YORK

Who's Who in St. Edward's

Vicar: Reverend Canon Richard Carew
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Tel: 01904 709111

Parish Assistant: Louise Walton
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Contact The Porch on porch@stedsdringhouses.org for any submissions or questions.

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Love is

As I am sure you will be aware, the most famous passage about love in the Bible is chapter 13 of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. It is easily the most popular reading at church weddings, and it was even an answer on a recent episode of the BCC quiz show 'Only Connect'. However, it can be all too easy to get shmaltzy the minute that the word 'love' is mentioned, and to think flowers, chocolates and swooning against lampposts like a scene from 'My Fair Lady'.



By contrast, Paul's take on love is incredibly practical. Rather than primarily being a feeling, love is a way of behaving towards others that seeks the very best for them, rather than trying to serve our own personal agenda. And so Paul famously writes, 'Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.'

Patience, kindness, rejoicing, hoping, enduring. This is what an everyday lifestyle of love looks like. A world where we are not at the centre, but genuinely seek to look out for the person next to us before worrying about ourselves. This is a radical, demanding, exhilarating way of living that brings genuine hope and transformation to our relationships.

And also notice that Paul is not writing to some love-struck couple, but to the church as a whole. This is an invitation to a way of life for all of us. Every day we get to choose how we behave towards each other. Imagine what life would be like if this was genuinely the way that we looked after those around us?

One of the most challenging things I have done is to read the passage from 1 Corinthians 13 again, but using the words 'I am' rather than 'love is'. Very quickly I am all too aware of where I fall short of this way of life. And yet there is also encouragement for us, because where we have the words 'Love is' we can also substitute 'God is', as God is love. And so suddenly rather than being a reading that causes us to feel guilty, it becomes a reading full of possibilities as we spend time with God and ask for God's help to live a life of loving well.

As we enter a new year, I wonder where you are feeling hopeful, but equally what fears or concerns you bring with you into this new year? I wonder who helps you to feel loved, and who it is that you find it easy to show love to in return? I also wonder who are the people that you find really difficult, or even unlovable, and what it might look like for God to be at work in this new year making those most difficult of relationships new? It may not be easy, but it is possible. And it is a way of life that is so desperately needed to bring hope and transformation to the world, one relationship at a time. A very happy new year to you, and may you know the love of God with you bringing hope and possibilities in whatever this year may bring.

Richard

A Week in the Life of.....the Vicar

As we all know, clergy just work on a Sunday and conduct a couple of weddings and funerals each year.....so, how do vicars fill the rest of their time? I caught up with the Rev. Canon Richard Carew to find out just what happens in a typical week.

So, Richard, describe your typical week.

Well, the first thing to know about the typical week in the life of a vicar, is that there is no such thing as a typical week! However, the backbone to a typical week is the services, as it is these that provide the structure for the week. So, if I am preaching on Sunday, I will always look at the readings on the previous Monday and let them sit with me through the week. Once I have got my ideas I will check with some commentaries to make sure that I am not preaching heresy, but mostly I mull.

I notice that you don't use notes when you preach.

Well by the time I get to Sunday, I hopefully know what I am going to say, and it is stuck in my brain. If I do have notes, it is a sign that I don't feel prepared enough!

What are the other fixed points in your week?

I always try to practise a discipline of prayer and Bible study each morning. I often use various apps to aid me with my prayers and I use a daily devotional commentary which helps me to read the Bible in a year. I also try to use unfamiliar Bible translations, so for instance I am currently using the New American Standard as I think it is just a useful way of keeping your Bible reading fresh.

The other fixed points are meeting with staff on a Wednesday morning to talk about the past week and look at the week ahead. It is time to discuss any issues that need particular attention. There are also various activities that happen on the church premises throughout the week, such as the Tuesday morning coffee and the surplus food distribution, where I like to pop in and chat with people if I can.

Every week there are always various other meetings, so for instance this week I have had two Deanery meetings, a Discipleship meeting, a Staff Meeting, a Youth Work meeting, a warm spaces meeting, a meeting with Good News for Everyone (Formerly Gideons) and today's interview. Next



week is the PCC. Yesterday I did a couple of pastoral visits, though since Covid I have found that phoning people has been a useful way to keep in touch.

We also have baptisms and I tend to visit the family in their home with one of our baptism visitors and walk the family through the service and explore the promises that they will make. A week before the baptism one of the visitors pops back to check if there are any final questions and then after the baptism, we always invite the family to the following Sunday service to meet the church family.

What are the 'unexpected' elements?

Funerals are part of the 'unplanned' element of any week, and they are a number 1 priority. It is really important to do funerals 'well', to help people say their goodbyes well and hopefully to point them to God. Plus, pastoral issues arise and unexpected visitors arrive...

Administration?

We have a great staff team here at St Ed's, but my responsibility is for the rotas, such as preaching and services. Just recently we have been updating our service booklets which have been looking a bit tired for a while. There is always a stream of emails, but again that can vary from day to day. It can sometimes be all too easy to spend the day in front of a computer screen and so I need to make sure that I get out and do other things as well.

How good are you at delegating?

Not very - though recently I have had to learn a bit more about letting go, but I am a self-confessed control freak! However, one of my anxieties is putting upon people, most of whom are volunteers. I have been really blessed with an amazing preaching team and a congregation full of talent, and appreciate and value the rich resources of St Edward's. One of the key roles of a vicar is to give a sense of direction to the church, and communicating that vision, but I think I haven't yet quite cracked how best to communicate our vision well with everyone, and so it is work in progress.

What do you like best about being a vicar?

I love seeing God do stuff. I love praying with people and I love the sense of God being present in the midst. I love people coming alive in their faith and seeing that this Jesus thing is real. It is about seeing people's lives being transformed as they encounter Jesus. It is such a privilege.

What do you like least?

I don't like the 'petty politics', or the self-seeking games that we sometimes play in the Church where people can be so unkind and hurtful to each other. It is so deeply damaging. For example, in General Synod there are currently discussions about human sexuality, and you can see lines being drawn and people taking up entrenched battle positions. We don't have to agree on everything but in disagreement we can still be kind to each other and honour one another.

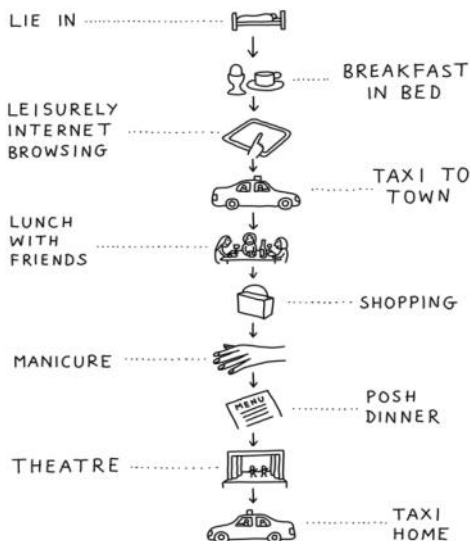
The past three years have been difficult ones for you personally with Rachael's serious illness and then Covid - not to mention a community hall that sprung unwelcome leaks - how have you navigated all of this?

It has been a really tough few years, but both of us agree that we couldn't have been in a more supportive and caring community. There is such genuine love for us as a family. This is a special place and I have been taught more about what it is to be loved and learned how to receive that love. We are so grateful.

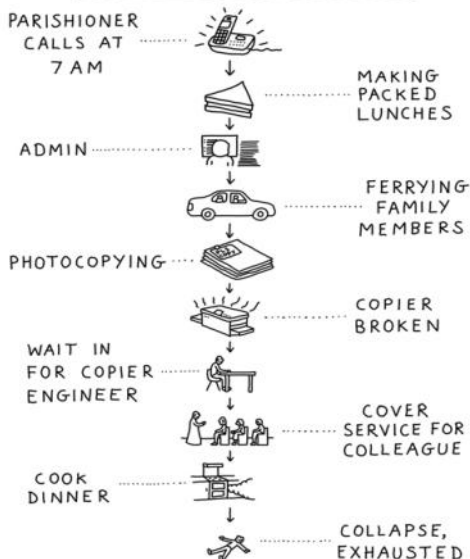
Interview with Helen Wren

THE VICAR'S DAY OFF

WHAT PEOPLE THINK HAPPENS



WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS



CartoonChurch.com

Promise page - Love is...

In preparing to write the Promise page for this month I 'googled' the question 'What is love?'. I will certainly age myself by admitting that I felt compelled to sing the question in the style of Haddaway's early 1990s hit (and if you did too, that is excellent news!).

The more you look into what love is and what it means, the more complex it seems to become. It is the subject of thousands and thousands of songs, the topic of many websites and a discussion point in any article relating to relationships.

To quote a lovesick Christian's love medley in Moulin Rouge 'Love is a many splendored thing, love lifts us up where we belong, all you need is love!'. I have often wondered why as a species we seem so preoccupied with love and its ability to inspire songs of happiness at love found and pain of lost love.

However, when you look at the Bible, I believe it becomes a little clearer. We have been created by a loving God and we have been made in His image. If He is a God of love, it makes sense that we would search this out too. I don't necessarily mean romantic love here of course, but the affection we have for friends and family and the empathy we feel for those around us. God built us to be in relationship with Him and we have been called to love others as He has loved us.

Love is at the absolute centre of our faith and at the core of our being. It's why we were created, why God sent His Son to save us and the commandment that Jesus gave His disciples. If we approach each situation and friendship with this in mind, we will become beacons showing others the love that God has for those He has created. Let's make a conscious decision to love others as we have been loved.

A prayer

Dear God

Thank you that You love us and that love is the centre of our relationship with You. Please help us to love others so that they may also experience Your love.

Amen.

Activity:

Kindness Ninjas!

Choose someone (a friend, a family member, a person in the congregation) and be their kindness ninja for this month! All you have to do is show that person extra kindness this month. You might simply check in with them more often, you might make them a meal or a cup of tea, you might offer to help them with something or even get them a small gift! The trick is to try not to give it away that you are their kindness ninja; simply be kind and show them what love is.

The Wind of Change

Since the early 1960s flower arrangers world-wide have been using floral foam (Oasis) and this has enabled us to create the designs we've all become used to. We were unaware that floral foam is made from plastic and is not bio-degradable, in fact it's only in recent years that any of us discovered how harmful any plastic can be. Research is being done into producing a non-plastic product that will do the same job. In fact, two or three have already come onto the market but have proved to be unsatisfactory.



We understand that this topic has been discussed at General Synod resulting in the request that church flower arrangers no longer use floral foam. We know of churches in the area which have already decided to adhere to this request and so we feel that we should do the same. We've made a start by not using foam to make the candle rings at Christmas.



Over the next few months we will be experimenting and trying different techniques, some of which will be successful and others won't be, so we ask for your patience as we work our way through this. However, we do feel that for weddings and festivals such as Easter we need to produce special arrangements and we will use foam but will keep it to a minimum.

The flower team is getting smaller and smaller and we really would like to recruit some new people. Now would be a perfect opportunity to join the team because none of the flower team has any experience creating arrangements without foam so we will all be learning a new skill. Please contact Jill Harrison or Margaret Titman if you want to know more.

The Grisdale Window -John & Jessie Grisdale

In the December Porch magazine, we printed an archival piece about the dedication of the Grisdale window in 1974. We are delighted to receive the following article from Gillian Barron who was present at the dedication.

'As the oldest of the four surviving grandchildren of John & Jessie Grisdale, I was very interested to read the article about the dedication of the Grisdale window in St. Edward's (Please note that the spelling of the name is incorrect-it is without an E in the middle. Beneath the window the spelling is correct, so the error must be due to the writer of the article the Rev John Henry Molyneux in 1974!) I was present at that occasion, and I am enclosing a copy of the prayer which was used then.

DEDICATION OF THE GRISDALE MEMORIAL WINDOW. May 6 -1974.

Vicar: The Lord be with you.

Reply: And with Thy spirit.

Our Father _____

Vicar: God is the Lord who hath shown us light.

Reply: We have seen His glory; glory as of the only-begotten of the Father.

Vicar: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Reply: Full of Grace and Truth.

Let us Pray.

O Almighty Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, the entrance of whose word giveth light, vouchsafe, we beseech Thee to accept this window at our hands, for the adornment of this Thy house, and to consecrate our gift to Thy glory; for Jesus Christ's Sake. Amen.

In the Faith of Jesus Christ we dedicate this window to the Glory of God, and in memory of Thy servants John and Jessie Grisdale, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

My grandparents John & Jessie were married in August 1900 and 2 weeks later they opened a business in Coney Street at no 22, which was later extended to be 22& 23 and is now where stands WH Smith. They dealt in high class ladies gowns and furs.

They lived above the shop where 3 of their 4 children, including my mother Doris, were born.

In about 1906 they moved to Dringhouses living in Dimier House while their new home, a few doors away was built. They moved into Tollgarth in about 1910. It was so named as it was on the site of the old Toll Bar for the Turnpike Road into York. They lived there until the 1950's.

All this time both John and Jessie were regular attenders at the Church along with my parents John & Doris Saville, and so I would go with them. We lived in Ainsty Grove. My Father was Churchwarden for a time and my Mother was the secretary of the Sanctuary Guild, so I spent time in the vestry with her polishing brasses and seeing to the flowers!

In 1956, my husband and I were married in St Edward's and there are other reminders of the family involvement in the Church. The altar rail and the panelling beside the altar were given by my grandparents in memory of their eldest son John (Jack) who was killed in a car crash in 1940. It is the work of Robert (Mousey) Thompson, as is the font which my brother Michael Saville and I gave in memory of our parents, John and Doris Saville.

John Grisdale was, as last month's article stated, very much a lover of the countryside, not least the Lake District from where he came. Yes, he ran the business with Jessie, but at the same time he kept a horse in the stables at Tollgarth and he would ride twice a week with the York and Ainsty Hunt! They would often drive over to Peckfield to see Jessie's brother in their pony and trap! Meanwhile Jessie got on with running the business leaving a housekeeper in charge of the children and Tollgarth.

Grisdales dealt in high class ladies outfits and furs, with a workroom downstairs employing staff to alter the outfits. The shop closed at lunchtime, the blinds came down



and the staff went upstairs to be served a hot lunch served by Granny and cooked by an employed cook.

Wednesday was of course half day closing and I remember all family weddings had to take place on a Wednesday!



After John and Jessie left Tollgarth, it exchanged hands several times as a private house and then was bought by the Diocese as a house for the Bishop of Selby.

Jessie died in 1961 and John in 1962. John left all the staff of the business £100 each.

So, John and Jessie led busy and active lives of service but always with St Edward's very much at the centre.

I wish to acknowledge the help I have received in preparing this article from Dorothy Reed.

Gillian Barron
January 2023

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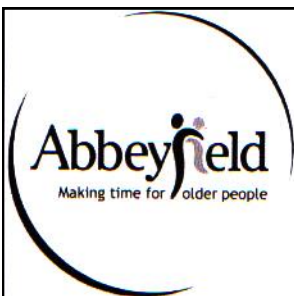

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Update from the Library

Our local librarian Lucy is currently on Maternity leave for the next 12 months. Her position is currently being advertised and we hope to resume regular updates in March.

The Library is open as usual.



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FEBRUARY 2023 SERVICES & EVENTS

Monday - Thursday	Church open during daytime 9.30am - 3.00pm
Friday	Church open 12.30 - 3.00pm
Monday - Thursday	Café open 9.30 -12.00 & 1.30 - 4.00pm (8.45am Monday term time)
Friday	Café open 9.30 -12.00
Mondays 2 - 4pm	Garden Gang (during the season)
Wednesdays	7.00 - 8.30pm Youth Group (term time)
Wednesdays	Wednesday Afternoon Small Group 2.30- 4pm (alternate)
Wednesdays	Moor Lane Group 7.30pm (1st in the Month)
Fridays	10.30am - 12.00 noon Little Teds (term time only)
Fridays (see below for practice dates)	6.30 - 7.30pm Choir practice in Church

Any enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings etc to 01904 709111 or

parishoffice@stedsdriehouses.org

Timings are correct at time of going to press.

Monday	2.00 - 3.00pm	Gentle Yoga
	7.00 - 8.00pm	Yoga
	10.00 - 12.00	St Edward's Needlecraft Group
Tuesday	12.30 - 4.00pm	U3A Bridge
	6.15-7.15pm	Beaver Scouts (in term time) see back page for Wednesday evening session
	7.45 - 9.45pm	Line Dancing
Wednesday	9.30am - 12noon	Probus (fortnightly)
	9.45 - 11.30am	Musical Connections
	9.45 - 10.45am	Aerobics
	1.15 - 3.45pm	Art Group
1st Thurs.	6.15 - 8.15pm	Perfecting Pilates (2 x 1 hour classes)
	1.30 - 3.00pm	Contact
	2.00 - 4.00pm	Townswomen's Guild
3rd Thur in the month	7.30 - 9.00pm	Local History Group
	12.00 - 2.00	Lunches in Hall
Friday	6.15 - 7.15pm	Beaver Scouts (in term-time)

Wednesday 1st February

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00—8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 2nd February—Candlemas

10.00am Holy Communion

Hebrews 2: 14-end: Luke 2: 22-40

2.00—3.00pm

Contact

Friday 3rd February

10.30am—12.00 noon

Little Teds

6.30—7.30pm

Choir Practice

Sunday 5th February—3rd Sunday before Lent

8.30am Holy Communion

I Corinthians 2: 1-12: Matthew 5: 13-20

10.00am All Age Service

6.30pm Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Readings as above

Wednesday 8th February

10.00—11.30am

AGE UK drop-in

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00—8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 9th February

10.00am Holy Communion

Psalms 128: Mark 7: 24-30

Friday 10th February

10.30am—12.00 noon

Little Teds

9.30am—12.00 noon

Living Well Health Community

12.00—2.00pm

Lunches

Sunday 12th February—2nd Sunday before Lent

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

Romans 8: 18-25: Matthew 6: 25-end

10.00am Family Communion

Readings as above

Wednesday 15th February

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00—8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 16th February

10.00am Holy Communion

Psalm 102: 16-23; Mark 8: 27-33

2.00—4.00

Townswomen's Guild

7.30pm

Local History Group

Friday 17th February

12.00—2.00

Lunches

Sunday 19th February—Sunday next before Lent

8.30am Holy Communion

2 Peter 1: 16-end; Matthew 17: 1-9

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

Wednesday 22nd February—Ash Wednesday

12.00 noon Holy Communion with Imposition of

Isaiah 58: 1-12; John 8: 1-11

7.00pm Holy Communion with Imposition of

Readings as above

7.00pm

Youth Group

Thursday 23rd February

10.00am Holy Communion

Deuteronomy 30: 15-end; Luke 9: 22-25

2.00pm Women's Fellowship

Friday 24th February

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Teds

9.30—12.00 noon

Living Well Health Community

12.00—2.00pm

Lunches

Sunday 26th February—1st Sunday of Lent

8.30am Holy Communion

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7; Matthew 4: 1-11

From the Registers

Baptisms

Esther Cross	27th November 2022
Caíomhe Cross	27th November 2022
Ella Rose Love	27th November 2022
Mia Kate Love	27th November 2022

Confirmation

Alfie Thompson	27th November 2022
Blythe Erin Cunningham-Cross	27th November 2022
Elliot Christopher Hammond	27th November 2022

Funerals

Joel Matthew Addyman	14th December 2022
Jean Margaret Richardson	23rd December 2022
Patricia Watson	



MUFFIN TUESDAY!

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'The Post of Christmas Past'

I love a good Christmas card, though perhaps 'love' is too strong a word in this context. Come to think of it, I don't mind a less-than-inspiring one that successfully runs the gauntlet of the Royal Mail, or absence thereof.



So much about Christmas 2022 was 'beyond last-minute', tension-ratcheting and even exciting in a not necessarily good way. I'm especially referring to the 'Christmas card season' or to give it its traditional name, 'Christmas'. We never knew where we were in 2022 with Christmas cards. False frissons (not good for me at my age) rippled through when the postie was due but didn't show up. Card-starved for several days, some householders on sentry duty by the letter box would grab in an unseemly manner when envelopes eventually cascaded through. There's a collision risk between the hand of the Royal Mail employee and the grasping fingers of the eager resident, even threatening injury in extreme cases or the transmission of the dreaded 'postman's cramps'.

With Christmas '22 fast receding, I hope most readers are recovering from that stressful interlude. Thanks to striking postal workers, late Christmas cards extended the festival, as items with a 24 December deadline kept popping through the letter box in dribs and drabs into the New Year. You may not be familiar with the words of the seasonal song, 'I'm dreaming of an elongated Christmas'; maybe that's stretching a point. Arguably, though, without the strikes, Christmas would have been shorter! Already there are mutterings of a Father Christmas strike in 2023; most Father Christmases registered by the Santa Society belong to the Unight Union. Not many people know that.

The card 'crash' started when it became apparent that many would miss the cut-off date. With time running out the mood became frantic...then most of us just resigned ourselves as, after all, we were all in the same boat or, perhaps, postbag.

One objective last Christmas was to reduce Christmas card output to cut expenditure on grounds of mounting postal charges, environmental considerations, delivery uncertainties plus the ease and availability of emails and animated e-cards. Did you send as many as last year? The church pigeon-holes are an excellent facility but have a limited range.

On the other hand many cards support charities and good causes, posing a dilemma. In any case, would an email rather than a traditional card come as a disappointment to the recipient, a demotion from the 'C-list' to the 'E-list'?

The Christmas card-sending ritual can be something of a chore. This attitude hardly reflects the Christmas spirit. It's something to be endured on a yearly basis. The annual 'card fest' is a multi-stage operation: • scrutinising the list of potential recipients, closely modelled on last year • shopping for the cards • checking addresses • linking the right card with the right 'target' • inscribing a pithy greeting or message in addition to that already printed • writing the address, sealing envelopes while taking care to avoid paper cuts around the lips • ensuring sufficient stamps • posting them, having checked that the box isn't so full that your pile sits dangerously near the 'mouth'.

Were your best intentions thrown off course when a card arrived from a name you'd crossed off your list? Panic stations! Did you have a decent one to reciprocate, even though the 'send-by date' had passed? Were there any imminent collections from a box within striking distance? We've all been there. Or should we have steeled ourselves not to respond...after all we were on an economy drive.

Questions that arose during the Christmas card crisis included 'Did I get one from them last year?', 'Will it make it in time?' and 'If they don't get one from us this year, will they notice?' Very occasionally on opening a card, we might even exclaim, 'Who are they? Don't remember them but they seem to know us!' Have you ever played 'First-to-blink' (or 'Blinkety-Blink') in a seasonal card stand-off? It goes like this: 'I'll send them one, if they send me one.' So who sends/blinks first? A bit like a Wild West showdown!

It's nice to send and receive cards at Christmas; however we have to be practical in times of austerity. An old saying that's got many out of a hole is, 'It's the thought that counts'. Why not use that as a principle in December to come. Let's just think Christmassy thoughts and direct them towards the people who were on our card list without actually posting anything tangible...thoughts targeted at individuals with whom we want to stay in touch; call them 'invisible thought-cards'. With Christians these thoughts are transformed into prayers - it's second nature. No delivery problems in this scenario. Invisible but real and they 'get through'. You can do both, of course.

Christmas cards have a fine pedigree. What was good enough for Queen Victoria is good enough for us. However, just to play safe in case 2023 is an action-replay of 2022, I'll start on next year's Christmas cards as soon as I've filed this copy. Or perhaps I should redouble my efforts to perfect the all-round (actually it'll be rectangular in format), super-versatile 365-day Christmas card which can be sent at any time of year to bestow Yuletide greetings on the recipient with an element of surprise. One advantage of this scheme is that the card will never be too late as the sender can always claim it's for next year even if it arrived on Dec. 27th.

In the final analysis, if we're sincere when we sing the words 'I'm dreaming of a White Christmas', as many do, we'd send cartes blanches, which would match the mood, while saving on printing costs.

Derek Reed

LOVE IS.....

a pigsty in the Honde Valley.

Are you intrigued?

Tariro supports young people in Zimbabwe to have hope for the future. From the outset it focused on helping vulnerable teenagers get educated and find work. Initially the focus was on supporting bright academic teenagers at Anglican boarding schools and university. Most of the finances for the young people's educational fees came from churches, including ourselves at St Edward's, and individual donors. However, as the project goes into its second decade it is making a concerted effort to become more self-sufficient and to offer a wider range of opportunities to a growing number of young people.

Zimbabwe is a fertile, predominantly rural economy. In the past it was known for its large commercial farms, with an emphasis on growing cash crops, such as tobacco and wheat.

All this changed in 2000 and now the emphasis is on developing and encouraging small scale enterprises.

The Pig Project, led by Gift and Chengu, is developing well. Recently 5 more pigsties were built bringing the total to 15. It is planned that by the end of 2023 it will be self-sufficient. Currently there are 74 pigs. They are mostly for breeding, but some are sold so that feed can be purchased. Their manure is used for the crops, maize and beans, which in turn enrich the soil as well as being part of the feed for the pigs.



A banana plantation has also been established with 220 plants to increase diversification and to help ground cover and hold the soil from erosion. Solar panels are now installed to power the irrigation pump and to provide enough power for household use.



Phillip Mutasa, the chair of Tariro in Zimbabwe writes:

'The way we manage agricultural land matters. It matters to people; it matters to our society, and it matters to the climate. Please accept our sincere thanks for walking with us on this journey to restore our Planet and to produce healthy, nutritious food.'

Helen Dawe

Thanks from the Addyman Family

We would just like to thank the whole church community at St Edward's for the support and prayers we have received following the tragic death of our son Joel.

It is a great comfort to us at this time as we walk this journey together as a family. We would be grateful if you would continue to hold us in your prayers.

'He will wipe every tear from their eyes.

**There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,
for the old order of things has passed away."**

Revelation 21:4

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tea and coffee

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at St Edward the Confessor Church
Tadcaster Road

Fridays: 13th January to
24th February (NOT 3rd FEB) 2023
£6.00



St Edward the Confessor, Dringhouses, York

SURPLUS FOOD ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

8:30pm - 9pm

St Edward's Church have been invited to receive surplus food from the Pret a Manger Store at the MacArthur Glen outlet to give away free to anyone who may find it helpful.



From 8.30pm each Wednesday there will be a selection of items that are all just before their sell by dates, and so are being given away for free.

If you or anyone you know would appreciate some of this food, please do come to the café area in the Community Hall between 8.30pm-9pm and collect whatever you would like to take on a first come first served basis.

From the Archive

'From the archive' this month comes from the December 1981 issue of The Porch. A reminder perhaps that times haven't changed all that much!



THE PORCH – Next year

It seems that every time we go shopping that the price of everyday things continues to rise. We can all quote examples of price increases that have shocked us.

As we are all aware from articles in the magazine, our church in Dringhouses is no more immune to the everyday price increases than parishioners. In particular, the price of paper and chemicals used in the printing of the magazine has escalated at a greater rate than inflation. In some cases increases of 35% have been recorded. The PCC have always subsidised the magazine, taking the view that it is an important link in the bringing of God's word to the community.

However, with a deficit budget last year, and a deficit projected this coming year, the PCC have reluctantly decided that the subsidy to the magazine will have to be discontinued. Knowing that we have many parishioners on fixed incomes did not make the decision any easier.

The price of the magazine – commencing in January will be 15p per issue. It would help us hold the price if people were prepared to pay a year's subscription in advance. £1.80 for the year.

We hope that readers will appreciate the difficult situation that the PCC were in, and support them by continuing to take the magazine. One thought has already been expressed that the new price is equivalent to that of a first class stamp in the new year.



Ed's Note: Royal Mail has now overtaken us as a first class stamp is 95p and The Porch is 80p!

Just a Minute - January Notes from the PCC

Finance

The budget for 2023 will operate at a forecast deficit of £35,000, which is an improvement on 2022, but still not sustainable. The Diocese has paid £2,500 towards heating costs and this was very much welcomed. The original projected budget of £10,000 for gas and electricity needed to be amended to £14,000 per year. In terms of planned giving, there are 92 giving 'units' of which 33 account for 75% of the income. Not unusually in any parish, a small number of people account for a majority of the giving. Planned giving is certainly helpful when it comes to establishing budgets. There is still some hiring capacity for the hall and extension as bookings have still to return to a pre-Covid level. The deficit budget was approved, with the recognition of needing to work hard to return to balanced budgets.

Public Worship Review - Christmas 2022.

This was the first near 'normal' Christmas since 2019 with a return to Ged Bell's Carols, a Crib Service and in-person Carol Service. The Family Nativity Afternoon was a lovely event for those who attended, but numbers were generally disappointing. However, the carols outside attracted the attention of passers by. The Carol Service was well-attended but there was capacity for greater numbers - and it was acknowledged that the timing of the World Cup Final may have deflected some people. Unfortunately, the sound quality of the live stream was poor quality, and this currently seems to be an issue and needs addressing. New ideas are being explored for Christmas 2023 to try and help us engage with more people.

Premises

Meeting is later this month, but blowers in the extension are still not working properly and awaiting the return of the heating engineer.

Communications

Many thanks to everyone who helped to deliver the Christmas flyers around the parish.

Safeguarding

The church has signed up to a CofE Safeguarding Dashboard that will provide the PCC with an action plan.

Whither 2023?

Richard gave a presentation on where we might develop as a church as we focus on the 'Committed' element of our vision statement. Looking back at 2022 and the 'Caring', there is now an established Pastoral Network/Tuesday morning Happy Hour in the Café/Friday lunches/Pret a Manger food distribution on Wednesday evenings/regular collections for Food Bank and Carecent/a warm space and clothing rail/Bronze Rocha Environment award - to name some of the developments.

In Committed, we are going to focus on Discipleship and so the Lent Course will be the Bible Society course exploring the Bible. We will also seek to expand the Church's prayer life and support existing small groups and develop new ones.

The APCM will be Sunday 21st May following the 10AM service.

The Porch themes for coming months:

March 'On The Move'

April 'Son Rise'

May 'Kings'

June 'Blooming'

Please submit contributions to: porch@stedsdringhouses.org

You Are The Beloved: Henri J M Nouwen

Daily Meditations for Spiritual Living.

Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) was a Dutch-born Catholic priest, who is considered to be one of the most influential Christian writers of the twentieth century. He spent a great deal of his adult life in N America, gaining an international reputation as a professor (at the University of Notre Dame, Yale and Harvard Divinity Schools) and writer.

Despite his popularity and widespread acclaim, he often felt alone, anxious and craving intimacy. During one such period he devoted large parts of his day in solitude, seeking God. The result of this was the life-changing recognition that *"You are the Beloved of God"*. Bit by bit, he was able to claim this and allow it to transform his inner being. Thereafter, his teaching and writing was centred on this theme of God's immense compassion and love for us.

He wrote several books on this theme: *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, *Life of the Beloved*, *The Way of the Heart* etc.

This book of daily meditations was compiled and edited after his death, from writings, talks and letters. The daily readings begin in January and end in December, but the book can be started at any point in the year and it is quite easy to dip in and out. The topics covered include solitude, contemplation, community, pain and loss, but the underlying and unifying theme is God's immeasurable love for us.

"God loved you before you were born, and God will love you after you die. He says "I have loved you with an everlasting love". You belong to God from eternity to eternity.

Life is just a little opportunity for you, during a few years, to say "I love you too".

Henri came to believe that the greatest trap or problem was not power, success or popularity, but self-rejection. He saw this as a major obstacle in the spiritual life *"because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved". Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence."*

In a world that judges us on our achievements, appearance, education and status, it is easy to feel that we under-perform or can't keep up. This feeling of inadequacy can also spill over into our spiritual life as we compare ourselves with other people and their experiences. Yet all the time God is saying to us "You are enough. There is nothing that you can do to make me love you more, and nothing you can do to make me love you less".

Believing and trusting that we are loved by God, has the power to transform our lives, making us more compassionate towards ourselves and others. It gives us courage to face our weaknesses and the things which have caused us pain. It makes us more interested in being rather than doing.

A Prayer

Dear God,

I am so afraid to open my clenched fists!

Who will I be when I have nothing left to hold on to?

Who will I be when I stand before you with my empty hands?

Please help me to gradually open my hands

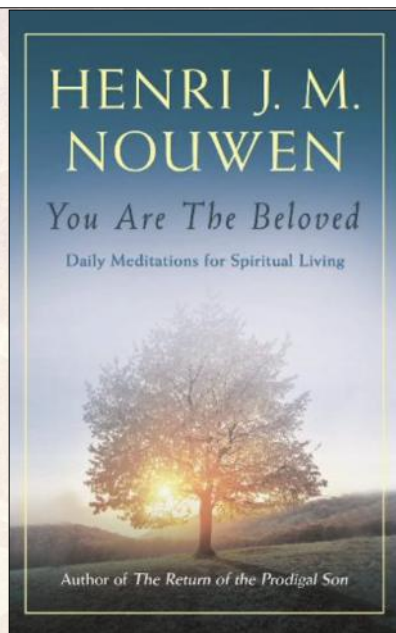
and discover that I am not what I own,

but what you want to give me.

And what you want to give me is love -

unconditional, everlasting love.

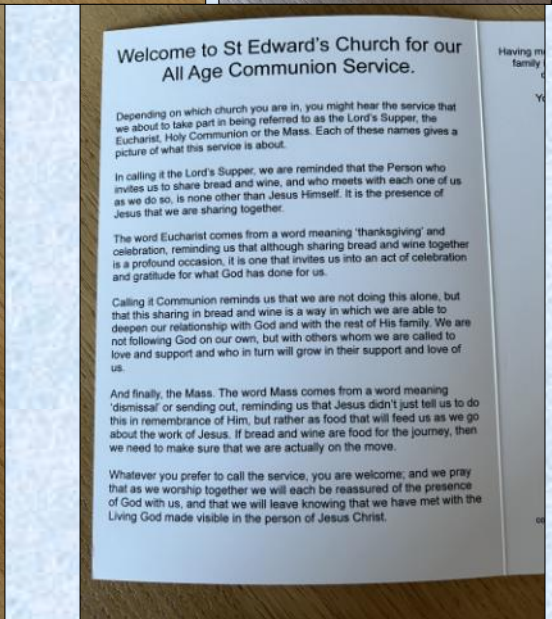
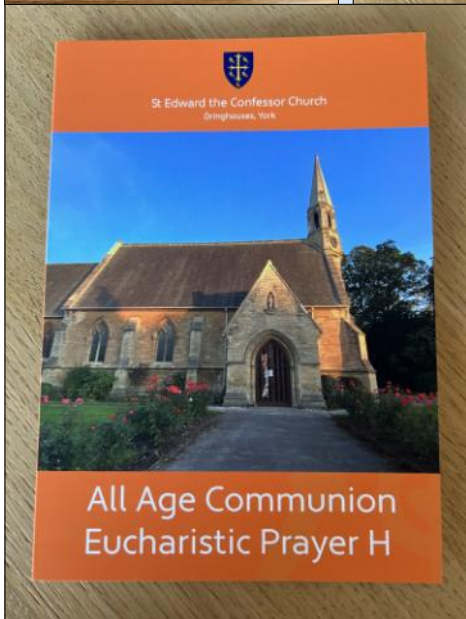
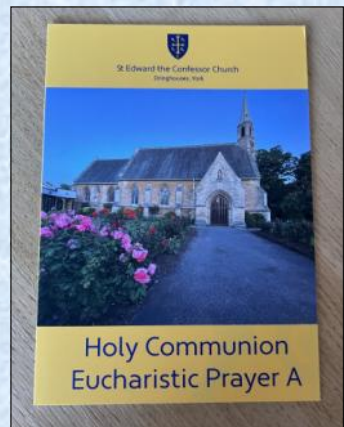
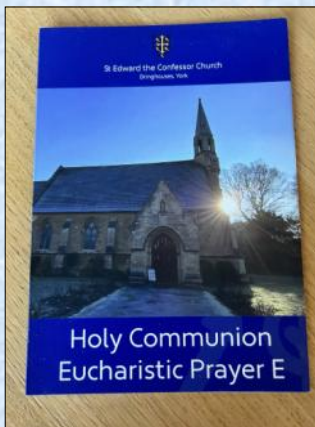
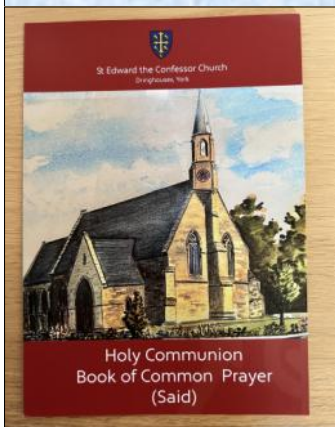
Amen



Service Booklets

The observant may have noticed that some new service booklets have started to appear. The originals we think dated back to Rev. Andrew Girling's day, so high time for an update! The outside covers all follow a similar theme, and the inside contains an explanation about the Eucharist.

We are grateful to Jim Wilson's sponsorship of the new service booklets in dedication of his wife Joy Wilson (1930-2016). We are also grateful to John Dowell who stapled and trimmed all the booklets to size!



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