

THE PORCH

SEPTEMBER 2023



80p

ST EDWARD'S CHURCH
DRINGHOUSES, YORK

Photo by Aziz Acharki on Unsplash

Who's Who in St. Edward's

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Contact The Porch on porch@stedsdringhouses.org for any submissions or questions.

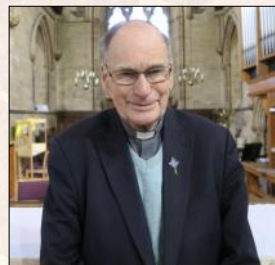
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In this month's Porch, Revd. Canon Philip Cousins writes our welcome letter.

For obvious reasons, this welcome is not being written by the Vicar. Richard - quite properly - has been on compassionate leave following the long illness and death of his beloved wife, Rachael. It is therefore a privilege to have been invited to write this month's letter in his stead.

When in late June it became clear that Rachael's cancer had returned, a shadow fell over our summer. My colleagues on the preaching team then delivered some superb addresses that sought to 'earth' our feelings at the situation, with insights from the Bible. Among these was first, the vital distinction between physical 'cure' and real deep-down 'healing'. Then there was facing the pain of death with hope, and even joy. I cannot improve on these great truths. Rachael died in late July, this letter has to be written in mid-August and will not appear in print until after her funeral on 21st August, but here are some of my reflections.



As we share the anguish of our vicarage family, we stand with them as one family in Christ. If I have learnt anything in my nineteen years at St Edward's, I know that we are indeed a caring family under God. We matter to each other. Quite a few of us have experienced the death of a close relative; spouse, sibling, child, parent and so we can quietly and sincerely 'come alongside' Richard, the children and Rachael's own family in genuine solidarity.

The secular media are fond of using the word, 'devastated' when someone (usually a celebrity) dies and this leads me to question whether as Christians, we should ever be devastated? Grieving, yes, but not devastated in that final and negative sense, because we have within us the sacrifice and example of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know something of the grim sadness of Good Friday, the bleak emptiness of Holy Saturday and the joyous renewal of Easter Day. All of this offers a pattern of meaning to our own earthly losses.

For us, priest and parish, this September will no doubt be difficult and different. In time honoured Church of England fashion, we shall resume our post-summer activities alongside the worship, which never ceases, and which keeps us close to God, despite all that has happened. So, to use another current media term, it will be a case of 'moving on' under the leadership of the one I am proud to call a brother in Christ.

I was recently able to go away on a retreat to Wistaston Hall, a Catholic centre in Cheshire. Walking in the spacious grounds one day, I came across a life-size statue of Jesus carrying in his arms an obviously distressed woman with long hair and bare feet. It was framed in front of a lovely semi-circular wall made of local stone, and on it, carved in huge capital letters, were the words 'DO NOT BE AFRAID FOR I AM WITH YOU'. I suddenly remembered that this was the title of the anthem we had sung at our Choral Evensong the previous Sunday. Charles in his sermon that evening, commented that the anthem might have been composed for the needs of our parish at this particular juncture of the St Edward's story.

'When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you, you will never sink beneath the waves... do not be afraid....I have called you by your name.... you are mine.'

How right he was. Our God reigns. The Lord is here. Philip

Following the theme of this month's Porch, 'Time to Shine', I interviewed Phil Lewis, who once had a successful running career.

Can you tell us a little bit about your past as an athlete?

Well, like most youngsters when I was at school, I wanted to play football. I was in the school football team and could run faster than anyone else, but sadly I couldn't keep a ball at my feet. I was quite a little too squirt when I was young but running replaced football. As a 15-year-old, I was fifth in the national running championships, and by 18 I'd won a national three-day championship. I was an 800 metre runner and so, it was one of those unusual talents that one discovers.



I went to university and at 19 experienced my first international against Finland. I think the first internationals are always important in running for Great Britain. I got a buzz out of that really, although I just missed the European Championships. I represented Wales at the Commonwealth Games held in Edinburgh in 1970.

I was much more successful indoors then outdoors. I had these very sharp elbows and could negotiate the tight bends on indoor tracks! My best



achievement came in 1971 when I was 21. I was silver medallist in the European Championships in Hungary. That surprised me and surprised everyone else too. But then it went downhill, as I had a serious injury at university. Although I ended up as part of an Olympic preparation squad, I missed selection for the Olympics in 1972. It was my finals at university and so just came at the wrong time.

In 1976 I was preparing for the Olympics, and I was in Munich at the indoor championships. This time I was 'Spiked' by a Yugoslavian called 'Savage' (Quite ironic name really) who punched me in my ribs. At the time I didn't know how serious it was, and thought I'd be training again in a few weeks - but actually it caused quite a lot of damage.



I therefore missed the Olympics due to injury and was a bit disappointed but had a lot of fun. I travelled all over the world to be in running competitions with a university student team. We toured South Africa, and we had a fascinating time travelling from Johannesburg to Cape Town, visiting places and running against athletes.

However, when in New Zealand, I realised, there were some athletes in a different league to me. In the semi-final I was towed round by the Kenyans, who were one and a half seconds ahead of me and so fast. I realised that these guys have the edge; very tall and used to training in high altitudes. Not surprising that they were international athletes. However, I did make the final.

I had enormous fun in running. At 19 you think you're going to be world champion, but at 26 I realised I wasn't.

What were the highs and lows of your running?

Well, a high point I suppose was at university in 1970. I ran for Oxford against Cambridge and beat the previous record holders (Herb Elloit) time. I got a real buzz about beating his record, and 10 years later it was still unbeaten. My grandchildren can't believe it - that this middle-aged grandad holds an all-time record for running. In fact, one of my grandchildren is actually a good little runner and we'll see when he gets a bit older if he can be inspired to compete.

Other high points are often linked with the people you meet. I once travelled with Polish athletes, who were so funny and entertaining, and they could laugh even at their situation post-WW2. I made some Polish friends and their ability not to take themselves too seriously was humbling. On another occasion, I was in Germany going through Checkpoint Charlie at the Berlin wall. I always remember the bus stopped and armed guards came with mirrors, which they put under the bus. It was quite frightening really.

In terms of lows, I guess athletics is a very individualistic sport, and you must go out to run at all hours of the day and night. You train in bad weather, on roads and so on. When you focus on one thing, it precludes other things of course – it requires sacrifice. However, I think what impressed me most were the coaches, who as volunteers, were out in all weathers too, coaching through the winter months with no pay! There was a wonderful camaraderie among athletes training, but unlike football it's not a team game. However, I have no regrets because it opened up the wider world of travel. Until my running career took off, I'd never travelled out of Britain, but now I have been all over the world.

Looking back, I can see training developed my discipline, which is one of the greatest things for me. After I finished my athletics career, I ended up with the Church Missionary Society working in Pakistan. I joined CMS at about 27yrs old. I think that being self-contained helped me with that kind of work, living in a foreign culture and being quite lonely at times. Therefore, I like to think my running career has helped develop my character. I certainly have very fond memories!

Thank you Phil

Phil Lewis was interviewed by Ian Addyman





CONNECTIONS

Join us on **Saturday 9th September** from 10-4pm to discover the wide-range of community and global organisations supported by our St Edward's community.

We want to celebrate our activities and interests, inform ourselves of new opportunities to get involved, and inspire us to prayer, giving and doing - both locally and around the world.

There will be people to chat to, stalls to visit, videos to watch and activities in which to participate. Light refreshments will be available throughout the day.

The Connections Day will provide an opportunity to meet people, learn more and widen our commitment to becoming disciples of Jesus.

It will be FUN!

We hope all ages will come and join us both on Saturday and at the All Age Worship on Sunday 10th September when there will be input from YOYO. We also begin our exciting new sermon series based upon the life of King David.

On Saturday evening, there will be a meal with a speaker from Accomplish Children's Trust for which booking is essential. Please see details opposite.

Please Join Us!

GANDA



Connections

Invite you to a meal, with an opportunity to learn more about Accomplish and their work in Africa from **Chris Acton**, one of their Trustees who has visited projects in Uganda.

**Saturday 9th
September**

7.00pm

The Community Hall
St Edward the Confessor Church
Tadcaster Road, York, YO24 1QG

40 places available.

When they are gone - they are gone! Donations on the night to support **Accomplish Children's Trust**.

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ringhouses



Welcome to THE WONDERZONE (oooooh), Holiday Club 2023.



Once again the blue t-shirt brigade commandeered the church, transforming it into Professor Proton's Lab for 3 days. We welcomed 49 children for 4-hour days as they made crafts, played games, conducted experiments and much more. This year we changed the timing of the days as Dringhouses didn't finish term until the Tuesday. Because of

this, each day started at 10 and finished at 2 with half an hour for lunch.

Neuron and Beaker worked - somewhat unsuccessfully - with Professor Proton to solve each day's conundrum.

As usual the children were split into teams of mixed age groups, but each activity, craft and experiment were in age specific groups. These groups were Amazing Atoms, Marvellous Microbes, Excellent Enzymes and Perfect Pipettes. As you can see, we had a strong science theme this year.

Each day started with the main input upfront with Professor Proton, Neuron and Beaker, including quizzes, memory games, unscrambling of words, a visitor with a story - Moses, Peter, John and, of course, plenty of songs. They then went off for activities and crafts, playing sciencey variations of hot potato, bowls and 4 corners, while also decorating biscuits, making hama bead creations and working together on a banner. Then regrouping for a retelling of the day's story, time to make things to put in the Super -Duper Scanner and, you guessed it, singing more songs.



The groups then had lunch, sung more songs and watched a video on the story of the day before conducting experiments relating to said story, which was subsequently followed by a helper's challenge, more songs and then home time.

Day One: Moses parting the Red Sea, Experiment with water, a jar and a lit candle ...

Day Two: Peter walking on the water to Jesus, oobleck experiment - for those



who don't know it is a substance which is solid when pressure is applied to it but when left alone it becomes a liquid.

Day Three: John and the calming of the storm, Lava lamps with oil, bicarbonate of soda and vinegar.

Every day we also watched an episode of the game show 'Water You On About?' a mixture of general water questions and also questions relating to the day's story, recorded by Helen, Mary and Emma.

We had a vast array of wonderful helpers, (between 13 and 85+), performing a variety of tasks whether that was leading a team, running games, making tea or helping to set up/take down. Not forgetting the amazing cakes made - and consumed - each day, all those who helped cut out crafts and prepare activities and those who prayed for us and for an amazing week. We could not have done it without them!

We finished the Holiday Club week with a service on Sunday morning where we followed a similar, but shortened, format. We heard about the Miracle at Cana - turning the water into wine from Rueben, watched 'Water You On About?' and tried our hand at turning water from a jug into wine - well squash. We also did LOTS of action songs and showed everyone what a great week it had been.

Afterwards we returned the church to 'normal' and finished with a barbecue. All in all, another very successful Holiday Club.

Elliot Hammond

a.k.a. Neuron



Friday Lunches

12.00 - 2.00pm

St Edward's Community Hall

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vegetarian option**

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£6.00

Dates:

Friday 8th September
Friday 22nd September
Friday 13th October
Friday 27th October
Friday 10th November
Friday 24th November
Friday 8th December

Friday 22nd December will be a
Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings
£8.00

**Please
join us!**

L.M.S.B

Prayer

Holy Spirit, will You give me again the
laughter of a child?

I want to peer into Your word with my eyes
and heart wide-open.

I want to dance in Your presence without
inhibition.

I want to laugh, caught off guard by the
kindness of Your love.

I surrender to You my places of jaded
cynicism.

Reawaken my delight in Your presence.

Amen

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If so, please let me know and I will invite them.

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SEPTEMBER 2023 SERVICES & EVENTS

Monday -Thursday	Church open during daytime 9.30am-3.00pm (Friday 12.30-3.00pm)
Monday -Thursday	Café open 9.30am-12.00 & 1.30pm-4.00pm
Friday	Café open 9.30am-12.00
Mondays	Garden Gang (during the season) 2.00pm-4.00pm
Wednesdays	Youth Group 7.00pm-8.30pm
Wednesdays	Wednesday Afternoon Small Group 2.30pm-4.00pm (alternate)
Wednesdays	Moor Lane Group 7.30pm (1st in the Month)
Fridays	Little Teds 10.30am-12.00pm (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@stedsdtringhouses.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 noon	St Edward's Needlecraft Group
Tuesday	10.00-11.00am	Exercise for Fitness & Health
	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
	10.00-11.00 am	Aerobics
	1.15-3.45 pm	Art Group
	6.15-8.15pm	Perfecting Pilates (2 x 1 hour classes)
1st Thursday	2.00-3.00pm	Contact
3rd Thursday	2.00-4.00pm	Townswomen's Guild
	7.30-9.30pm	Local History Group
Thursday	9.30-11.45am	Rhythm Time
Friday	9.30-12.00	Living Well Health Community (2nd & 4th in month)
	12.00-2.00	Lunches in the Community Hall (see poster for dates)
	6.15-7.15pm	Beavers Scouts (in term-time)

Friday 1st September

10.00—12.00 noon

Oddfellows/St Edwards 'Big Cuppa & Chat' event
in the Atrium café area

Sunday 3rd September

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

Romans 12: 9—end; Matthew 16: 21-end

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

Tuesday 5th September

10.00am

Premises Committee Meeting

10.00—11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

2.00pm

Women's Fellowship Committee Meeting

Wednesday 6th September

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00—8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 7th September

10.00am Holy Communion

2.00pm

Contact

Friday 8th September

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Teds

12.00—2.00pm

Lunches

Saturday 9th September

All day event

Connections Fair

Sunday 10th September

8.30am Holy Communion

I Samuel 16:1-13; Matthew 18: 15-20

10.00am All Age Service with YOYO

6.30pm Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Readings as above

Wednesday 13th September

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00—8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 14th September

10.00am Holy Communion

7.30—9.00pm

Chasing David part 1

Friday 15th September

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Teds

Sunday 17th September

8.30am Holy Communion

1 Samuel 17:19-51: Matthew 18: 21-35

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

12.30—5.00pm

Tadcaster Road Improvement Scheme open after-noon

Tuesday 19th September

5.00—8.00pm

Tadcaster Road Improvement Scheme open evening

7.00pm

Praying Together

Wednesday 20th September

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday Afternoon Small Group

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 21st September

10.00am Holy Communion

2.00-4.00pm

Townswomen's Guild

7.30pm

Chasing David part 2

7.30pm

Local History Group

Friday 22nd September

10.30am—12.00 noon

Little Teds

12.00—2.00pm

Lunches

Sunday 24th September

8.30am Holy Communion

I Samuel 18: 28-19:18: Matthew 20: 1-18

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

3.00pm

Baptism Service

Monday 25th September

7.30pm

PCC Meeting

Wednesday 27th September

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 28th September

10.00am Holy Communion

2.00pm

Women's Fellowship

7.30pm

Chasing David part 3

Friday 29th September

10.20am—12.00 noon

Little Teds

From the Registers

Funerals

Ian Conrad Everard

19th July 2023

Baptisms

Marnie Lee Simpson

30th July 2023

Lily May Bilham

30th July 2023

Nola Anne Church

30th July 2023

The Best of British

In a church, there are many volunteering job and, my interviewee this month has done most of them at one time or another. However, as I discovered, the church is just one of the many places she volunteers. As she approaches a 'significant' birthday this year, I ask from where she finds the hours in the day and the energy? Read on.



Louise, tell me a bit about your background?

I was born and bred in York and went to school in Fulford. Most of my working life was spent with British Telecom in Accounts and Sales. I loved the job and was really pleased to be involved in a business initiative with Joseph Rowntree School. We ran industry classes and took the students on for work experience. It was a great scheme and I loved working alongside the young people. In fact, it was through BT that I started to welcome students into our own home. My manager decided to start links with the York Twinning Association. At that time York was twinned with Dijon in France and Münster in Germany and we had various students come over, and I helped to place them in BT for work experience.

So, when everyone left home, we started to host students who are over in the UK learning languages. A company based in York called Home Stay places students in family homes for four or five days and I provide full board and hopefully introduce them to the culture of York! You normally have two, but because we have the room, we often have four. In the 'olden days' someone used to meet you in the school car park and pay you with pound notes! It's a bit more sophisticated now. I'm also involved with Pippa's Guardians which help look after boarding school pupils in school holidays when they are unable to travel home, such as those from China. I am still in touch with many of our Home Stay students, who now are grown up and living in far flung corners of the world. Their continued friendship has been a real joy.

However, when I retired from BT at 60, I had more opportunities to take on other ventures.

Such as?

I have always been interested in social justice and supporting others in difficulties. For 10 years I worked as a JP in the Magistrate Courts and was involved with the Youth Courts. I found it incredibly rewarding but you have to retire at 70. I therefore decided to apply for victim support and witness care, but couldn't decide which to do, and so did both. I did victim support for 6 years and am still with witness care. I have also worked with the Citizens Advice. So many people get into difficulties and just need some support and guidance.

What is your connection with St Edward's?

We moved into the area in the early 70's and I took my two sons to cubs in 1975. This was the start of my long association with the church. I was Churchwarden for 6 years and became involved in the premises committee. In that time of course I've seen the church extension built and the community hall refurbished.

I have helped to organise the sides people too. This is a really important role, as they are the first people to meet and greet people as they enter church, and so it is more than simply handing out service booklets. It has been a very loyal team, but as with many volunteering roles, numbers are dwindling, and so new blood would be very much welcomed. I am involved with the Communications Committee and started 'Round the Houses' with George Lewis some years ago. However, Dringhouses has expanded and delivery to every home is quite a task. Likewise, I have been involved with the Women's Fellowship for 19 years - and I do keep hoping someone else might like to take on the organisation!

How did you become involved in the catering?

I had worked at one time for West Riding Caterers and became the social secretary for BT, organising many events over the years, and so when Ann Hardy asked for catering help, I simply agreed. A team of us started Friday lunches back in 2015 with the profits going to the various lighting projects and the hall refurbishment. My husband Roy and friend Beryl have worked with me as a core team, but there have been many others who have helped over the years.

Of course, what we discovered, was a real need within the community for a place to meet, have some good conversation and share some hearty food. The weekly lunches then expanded to include special events such as Valentines, Harvest and Christmas. There have been numerous 'one offs', often to raise funds for charities such as St Leonard's Hospice, Accomplish Children's Trust and Sport Aid. The 'Events team' comprised Michael and Moya Sargent and Marion and Charles Croft, and again with several others helping out. I couldn't have done it without all these key helpers.



In 2020, the church closed for 539 days due to the Pandemic - did that mean your oven gloves were put on a peg?

Initially, like everyone, we simply stayed at home. However, a few more freedoms meant that we started to deliver Sunday lunches to people's front doors. After all, it's not that difficult if you are cooking for four to include a few more people - you know 15 or 18 or so.....

You recently had a hip replacement, and when we asked if Roy could cook, you replied he could only cater for 20 plus! Which brings me to my next question - a significant birthday looms - but does this mean retirement?

Well, firstly I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and flowers and for taking the time to ring and chat. I am so much better, but I really appreciated people's care over these last weeks. So, in answer to your question, I am continuing with lunches, but just doing two per month still on a Friday and also offering a Christmas lunch. In fact, I would like my 'swansong' to be a new lighting system in the church!

Thank you, Louise, for your time and for all that you have given and continue to give.

Helen Wren was in conversation with Louise Robinson.

Dates for Friday Lunches 12.00pm to 2.00pm in the Community Hall:

Friday 8th September; Friday 22nd September; Friday 13th October; Friday 27th October; Friday 10th November; Friday 24th November; Friday 8th December.
All at £6.00

Friday 22nd December will be Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings. £8.00

Heart of Mercy, Malawi

In June this year, 3 representatives of Accomplish Children's Trust went to Malawi to visit The Heart of Mercy Project which they support. They took with them some of the hats, cardigans and sweaters that had been knitted by members and friends of St Edward's.



The H of M Project is based in and around Zomba, South Malawi. The project aims to support disabled children living in the town of Zomba, and the surrounding villages.

The communities are extremely poor and living conditions very challenging. Most properties are made of clay bricks with earth floors. The doors and windows are covered by rags. Water is collected from a central village pump.

The project has been running since 2016 and Accomplish began its involvement in 2017 with a goat project. Most of the families are subsistence farmers, living hand to mouth. The project provides one goat to a family. When the goat produces kids, the first one has to be passed on to help start up another family. Subsequent kids can be sold to support the families.

In 2019 Accomplish increased its support to establish a team of 4 local people to run the project. Initially there were 20 children enrolled, this has subsequently increased to 30.

The children who are supported by the project have very significant problems, which are compounded by severe poverty, lack of resources and cultural attitudes to disability. 50% of the children in the project cannot speak and 75% are malnourished. The families of these children previously felt isolated and unsupported. The networks and awareness raising work done by the team has had a large positive impact on this. Many families report that they no longer feel on their own and have ongoing support to face the enormous challenges and heartaches in their lives.



Sign language training for parents and children was started in 2022. The impact of this has been tremendous, with children and parents being able to communicate for the very first time. It has also given the children opportunity to be involved in the support groups.

Other practical support has been to provide mattresses, soap, and some electric wheelchairs, which are able to cope with the rough terrain.

We tend to think of Africa as a continent with hot weather, but in certain months of the year the nights and early mornings in Malawi are quite cold. Combine this with inadequate housing and poor diet and it is not surprising that many children suffer from illness and infections and often die. The knitwear sent out in June was gratefully received, will be well used and passed on to other children.



Accomplish will be happy to receive more knitwear and blankets made from knitted squares. So, when you are sitting in the café, please pick up a pair of needles and knit us a square or two.

Many people at St Ed's already support Accomplish in its work in Malawi and Uganda.

Even if you are not part of the church, Accomplish would be very grateful for your support.

If you would like to know more, Chris Acton, one of the trustees, will be speaking at a special meal at 7pm on Saturday 9th September. (Tickets available from Helen Dawe 01904 264784 or ehdawe@hotmail.co.uk.)



Alternatively, check out their website www.accomplishtrust.org.uk



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Hello from Dringhouses Library!

Join us for a **Booksale** at Dringhouses
Library on **Saturday, September 2**
from **10am to 12pm**. Stop by the


library to browse a variety of books for sale from the withdrawn library stock. It's a great way to support your local library and pick up something to read!



The **Summer Reading Challenge** is ending **Saturday, September 9**. We have had a great Summer Reading Challenge so far this year with lots of excellent reading going on! There is still some time to get your reading done and complete the challenge before September 9. **Visit the library to participate and earn some fun prizes!**

We have had a lovely time at our summer children's events this year. Take a look at some of the fun crafts we have been making at the library! Thank you to all our volunteers and the Friends of Dringhouses Library for making these events possible.

The Friends of Dringhouses Library will be holding their **Annual General Meeting** on **Thursday, September 14** from **6pm to 7:30pm**. There also will be a special talk by the **Foxwood Local History Group** titled "There's no history in Foxwood!". Join us for a lovely evening of community fellowship and local history!



Our **Lego Club** is on every **Tuesday 3.30pm to 4.30pm**. Expect building challenges and creative fun with Lego every week. Lego Club will continue to meet over the summer holidays. Free and no booking required.



Under 5s Storytime is on every **Thursday and Saturday, 11am to 11.30am**, with songs, rhymes, and stories for children under 5 and their carers. **Free and no booking required.**

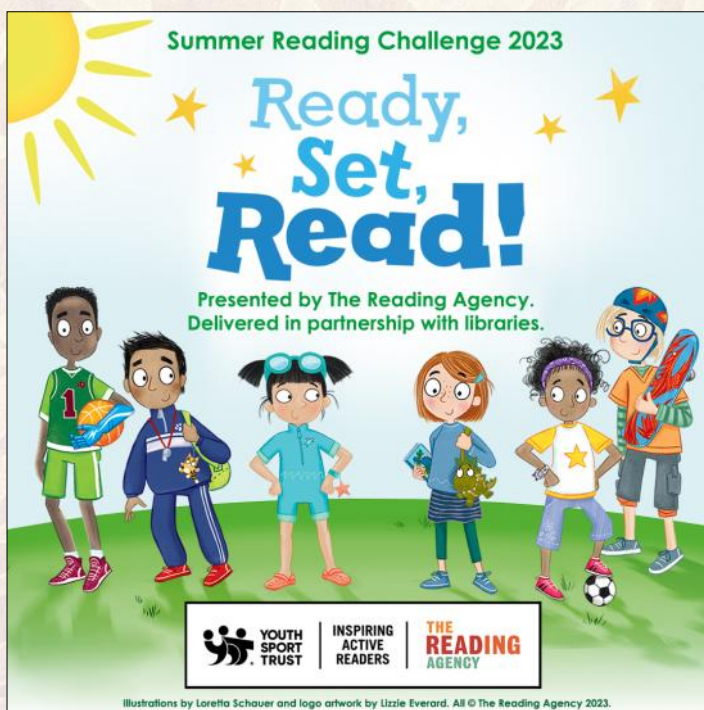
Our friendly **Knit and Natter** group meets **every Tuesday, 10am to 12pm**, for coffee, chat, knitting, crocheting, and fun. **Free and no booking required.**

Looking for somewhere to enjoy a book outdoors? The **Dringhouses Library garden is open** for the spring and summer season. Stop by to enjoy the flowers arced for by the Friends of Dringhouses Library or read a book outside on good weather days. **Help yourselves to some of the herbs and lettuce growing in the garden!**

WATCH THIS SPACE:

Upcoming in October - Pauline Kirk will be holding an author talk and reading of her new PJ Quinn mystery novel *Skull Days*.

Abigayle



Time to Shine..... A Correspondence with Some Brass Cleaners

Hello

Whilst clearing the church loft earlier in the week, I rescued a box of brass or copper receptacles so was hoping to pick up top tips for cleaning. We do have a tin of Brasso or similar, but was wondering what the specialists use?



Lindy Lacklustre



Dear Lindy Lacklustre

Inspired by holiday club experiments, this is stage one of the brass cleaning! The M A H Falkner dedication on this vase was Mary Ann Harriet, the wife of lovely Thomas, our kindly Vicar no.2. (1867-1875).

The date coincides with her death in their Kent parish long after leaving Dringhouses. She was our first female organist. (Angela is only our second!). More detective work below!

Yours Brassed Off

That is transformational already- and a story! Thank you.

Lindy Lacklustre

Dear Lindy Lacklustre

Copper load of this! Not perfect but much improved. After much buffing and huffing (Much Buffing is a Cotswolds village) we present the Jugular of Jugs. We had to remove two stowaways and a ship's cat before we could start. Once we got the old, deeply traditional polishing songs going, we were fine and struck our natural rhythm.



We will of course insist it's given pride of place in every church procession. Perhaps borne aloft (no; that's where it came from!) behind the processional cross by a member of the line-dancing class, just so long as they don't make a beeline for the nearest well.

Alternatively, just fill it brim-full with cream and let people drown in a state of pleasurable bliss, or just stick some flowers in it (sorry, arrange a floral decoration in it). Or it could be placed near the font in the event of an outsize baby being proffered for baptismal rites. It's up to the PCC so it's up to ewer...boom! boom! Mind you, problem is, if it is introduced into public usage or display, it's one extra big jug for the polishing rota, so they may demand overtime.

Brassed Off

Additional Etchings

Mary Ann Harriet Falkner died of pneumonia on 9th January 1900, and this beautiful window in St Andrew's Church, Shepherdswell depicting the Kings presenting gifts to the infant Jesus, is dedicated to her memory. She had been Revd. Thomas Falkner's partner in ministry over many years, a significant role for a vicar's wife using her musical skills. Thomas also gave a jug like the one we are polishing to his second parish of Burton Leonard which was thought to be of use at baptismal services. So, my guess is that he donated something (window, large jug, vases) to each of the parishes in which he had served in memory of his



In honour of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in loving memory of Mary Ann Harriet who died January 9 1900, the wife of Thomas Falkner, Clerk in Holy Orders, and Vicar of this Parish, this window is dedicated. Live in peace and the love of God and peace shall be with you. 2 Cor 13:11



Just a Minute: Notes from the PCC. Monday 17th July 2023

The Chairman, Revd. Canon Richard Carew is on compassionate leave with the permission of the Archbishop of York. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rachael, Richard and the family. Helen Wren chaired the meeting.

Revd. Angela Morrison celebrated Eucharist at the start of a new PCC cycle.

Louise Robinson was welcomed back to the PCC.

Officers were elected with no change to the previous representatives.

Safeguarding: PCC members are required to undertake Basic, Foundation and Domestic Violence online training. Several have now completed these courses. Office staff have also agreed to undertake the Basic training.

The PCC requires a Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders. The paperwork was presented and discussed, and following unanimous agreement, is now on the church website.

IT Provision: It has been discussed in the past that the church staff would benefit from IT support. Following advice from the Diocese, we asked Fusion Systems to carry out an audit of all our hardware, software and security. They were certainly thorough, and outlined a number of recommendations, some of which were essential, such as our cybersecurity, which was weak. The Standing Committee, with backing from the Finance Committee, approved the work. The cost of £5000 included three new laptops, a refurbishment of an existing laptop, moving all the emails on to the Microsoft 365 platform and establishing shared drives across the team. A new hard drive was fitted to the Parish Office computer. Most importantly, cyber security was added to cover all the hardware and software. The final piece of the jigsaw will be IT training from Fusion in September.

Expenditure Approval Policy: The Finance Committee have created a policy to clarify areas of responsibility in terms of the budget. The key is to ensure that there is an approved budget, before making a purchase, and that limits are not exceeded without PCC/Standing Committee approval. There was unanimous agreement.

Hall Hire Rates: There have been slight increases to the Hire rates for 2024 between 50p - £1.00. The rates will be published on the website and the Parish Office will notify our existing hirers.

Premises Committee: We are plagued by pigeons under the solar panels, not least as their waste has blocked the gutters. Vermex have now completed work to keep them out.

Scaffolding will be in place in the Chancel for one week in August as the mortar needs redoing in one section of the stonework. This will affect services.

The fixed wiring tests have resulted in further electrical works being needed. This will take place in August.

Connections weekend: on Saturday 9th and 10th were discussed - with more details now available on the website and in The Porch magazine.

Common Cup: It was agreed to return to the Common Cup on Sunday 23rd July. The meeting closed with prayer from Psalm 57.

Chasing David

This autumn, in a new and exciting sermon series, we will be following the life of David, the most famous of all the biblical Kings of Israel. Recent archaeological discoveries have shed new light on this intriguing character, bringing his dramatic and sometimes conflicted experiences to life. Alongside the sermons, there will also be an opportunity to go deeper into the bible readings, watch fascinating videos, reflect together on new ideas and spend time in prayer and fellowship, as we discover how David's faith in God can inspire our own faith today.

King David is next only to Jesus in terms of Biblical footage. His story is packed with battles and betrayals, triumph and tragedy. But who was he *really*?

Join us as we explore this exciting character together.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Charles Anelay and Anna Burr.

Thursday Evenings
7.30-9.00pm

September 14th, 21st, 28th,
October 19th, 26th, November
2nd in the Meeting Room, and
November 23rd and 30th in
the Community Hall.

June Fawcett

The Porch team would like to give thanks for the life of June Fawcett, who sadly passed away recently. June worked behind the scenes on The Porch as proofreader for very many years. She did this diligently and with great patience through out this time. She is sadly missed.

Ian, Helen and Linda



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