

# THE PORCH

OCTOBER 2024



80p

ST EDWARD'S CHURCH  
DRINGHOUSES, YORK

## Who's Who in St. Edward's

**Vicar:** Reverend Canon Richard Carew  
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**Parish Secretary:** Wendy Hewitt  
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Office Hours: Monday 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Tuesday - Friday  
9.00am - 4.00pm  
(closed for lunch 1.30-2.00pm) Tel: 01904 709111



**Parish Assistant:** Louise Walton  
[parishassistant@stedsdringhouses.org](mailto:parishassistant@stedsdringhouses.org)

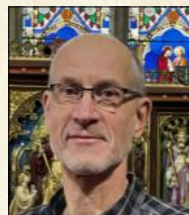
Office Hours: Monday 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Tuesday - Friday 9.00am -  
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**Children and Youth Coordinator:** Helen Cross  
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Contact The Porch on [porch@stedsdringhouses.org](mailto:porch@stedsdringhouses.org)  
for any submissions or questions.

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## The Porch - Fruitfulness

Soon after we had moved into the Vicarage, there was a special offer on at Tesco's on apple trees. We duly planted three of them in the garden, but until now they have stubbornly refused to produce any fruit whatsoever. And then suddenly this year, three apples! I have no idea what has suddenly changed in the conditions, but clearly this year they have been good enough for one particular tree to decide to produce some fruit! The other two continue in their fruitless protest...



In the Bible fruitfulness most often refers to the development of our character. And each of our characters is constantly being shaped and formed by the world around us.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes that the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Like our struggling vicarage apple trees, sometimes our life conditions mean that it feels difficult for our character to thrive and for the fruit of the Spirit to grow. But the promise of God is that He will be with us in all and every circumstance, enabling that fruit to continue to develop, even when the prevailing conditions seem unduly hostile. But unlike the vicarage apple trees, we do have a say in the development of our characters.



I was chatting to someone a while ago who was struggling to adapt to various things going on around them and them saying that they couldn't change, and that they just were who they were, and that was that. However, we need to acknowledge that all of us are changing all the time. We are not the same person we were a month, a year or ten years ago. The question is therefore what sort of person are we becoming? How is our character being

transformed? Because we do have a say in this.

Our poor old apple trees had no say in where and when they were planted, or what weather they have had to endure. We, however, do have choices that we make each day that can affect the sort of person that we are becoming. Our choices become patterns, our patterns become habits, and our habits ultimately shape our characters.

And one of the most important choices that we can make is to open ourselves up to the presence of God in our lives. It is the presence of God at work in us, shaping our characters that ultimately makes the real difference. And it is the presence of God that will enable the flourishing of the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control to grow and to flourish even when the conditions of life feel arid or even hostile.

And so I do pray that whatever we may be facing at the moment, that we will know that transforming presence of God with us, breathing the life of the Holy Spirit into us, and enabling us to choose wisely in the little things that, baby step by baby step, we might see God at work enabling us to flourish in all that we have been created to be. If it can happen for an apple tree in the vicarage garden, then surely all things are possible!

Richard

## **Dringhouses Community Day @ St Edward's Church**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 10am-3pm**

**A day of fun, games, workshops and activities for all ages.**

**Look out for more details in the coming weeks.**

## Apple - what's in a name?

When I was a boy, we had a big crab apple tree in our front garden. My Dad couldn't find a good way of harvesting the fruit and had the idea of sending me up the tree to shake the branches (health and safety experts, please look away - it was the 60s ...). He would spread decorating sheets under the tree to catch the



apples when they fell. Well, you can imagine what a young lad who liked physical activity made of that. I was not only being allowed to clamber up a tree, I was being positively encouraged! Every autumn for quite a few years I gladly did my duty and had great fun in the process. Crab apples are too tart to be eaten, but my Mum used to make a jelly-like preserve out of them. My Dad even had a go at making crab apple wine.

I wouldn't have had a clue that the small, rather unimpressive fruit I was shaking out of the tree was actually the ancestor of all the wonderful types of apple we enjoy today. By clever selective breeding of wild apple trees, humans have managed to create a versatile fruit that can be put to a myriad of excellent uses. In many parts of England, especially counties like Herefordshire, the humble apple is celebrated at this time of year with foody tasting sessions and festivals - we had one recently at St Ed's. Most people could probably name a few varieties of apple, which is more than they could do for almost any other fruit: Cox's Orange Pippin (the best, in my view), Bramley, Gala, Braeburn, Worcester Pearmain, Jonagold, Granny Smith, Golden Delicious (now there's an exaggeration, if you ask me), the romantically named, and very tasty, Pink Lady, and over 5000 more.

The word *apple* itself has very ancient roots (warning: here's where my inner language nerd will be given too much free rein). Other Germanic languages have a very similar word, e.g. Dutch *appel*, but related names also crop up in languages as diverse as Welsh (*afal*), Scots Gaelic (*ubhal*), Lithuanian (*obuolys*) and Russian (*yabloko*). Curiously, other major Western European languages tend to have settled on names from other roots, such as French *pomme*, Italian *mela* and Spanish *manzana*.



In medieval English and as late as the 17<sup>th</sup> century, *apple* could be used as a generic term for any kind of fruit (other than berries). So, dates were often called "finger apples", and cucumbers "earth apples". Bananas earned the name "apples of paradise." *Pineapple* originally meant a pine cone, but when the first specimens of a large, knobbly fruit with a delicious yellow interior appeared in Britain in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the name was gradually transferred to the fruit we now enjoy eating out of tins or (much better) fresh.

Some believe that the earlier use of *apple* to cover all sorts of fruit could have



influenced the identification of "forbidden fruit" in Genesis with the apple. After all, the Bible text doesn't mention apple, or any other specific fruit, for that matter. Nonetheless, this identification has been the norm in

most European countries for centuries. In other cultural traditions, fruits as diverse as grape, fig, pomegranate, apricot and even banana have taken the place of the Garden of Eden apple.

The Bible does mention the apple in that beautiful phrase *apple of the/my eye*. In fact, apples find their way into lots of nice expressions. If you're not the apple of someone's eye, then you might just be the rotten or bad apple that spoils the whole barrel. Perhaps



you're behaving just like your parents, because, after all, the apple never falls far from the tree. For a healthy life, maybe you should eat an apple a day, for it will keep the doctor away! Who knows, it may have been the apple's association with health and wellbeing that led Steve Jobs and his friends to found the Apple Computer Company in 1976. That's probably the sort of apple that millions are most attached to now.

One last little curiosity: the Big Apple. The reason why New York has this nickname is obscure and linked, bizarrely, to horse-racing (check it out if you're interested), but I can't resist mentioning that, for a brief period in 1673, when the Dutch had recaptured present-day New York from the English, it was called New Orange. This was in honour of William III of Orange, who later became our own King William III.

So, there's often more to a fruit than meets the eye - especially when that fruit is the good old apple. Just ask Sir Isaac Newton.

Martin Bailes

## Promise Page – Fruitfulness

It has been a little while since I have written the Promise Page in the Porch. I last wrote before Holiday Club when plans were beginning to take shape for the week. The article in the September Porch spoke volumes about just how fruitful that week turned out to be! If you haven't read the article or seen the video of Holiday Club highlights (available on the website), I would urge you to do so as it really was an incredible few days with some really wonderful moments.

As we head towards the end of the first half term of the school year, we will have seen those seeds planted in previous years starting to bear fruit as children and young people begin to apply the things they have learnt previously. There will be friendships blooming and there will perhaps be the start of some progress being made.

Never a natural gardener, I did some research on how to maximise the fruitfulness of fruit trees. It seems that beyond watering and mulching, it's important to prune trees too. The PTES says that "Pruning trees allows you to direct the energy of your tree where you want it, whether that is growth or fruit." So, as we build on the things we've previously learnt, let's try to unlearn those things that were unhelpful to us. Let's cut away negativity and words that made us feel less than fruitful and instead invest in those branches that allow growth and let light through. Let's direct our energy towards growth (perhaps literal for those of us young enough to still be growing taller!) and fruit -perhaps in friendships, perhaps becoming more ourselves, perhaps making progress in a particular subject area.

I hope that your year continues to be a fruitful one.

**A prayer:**

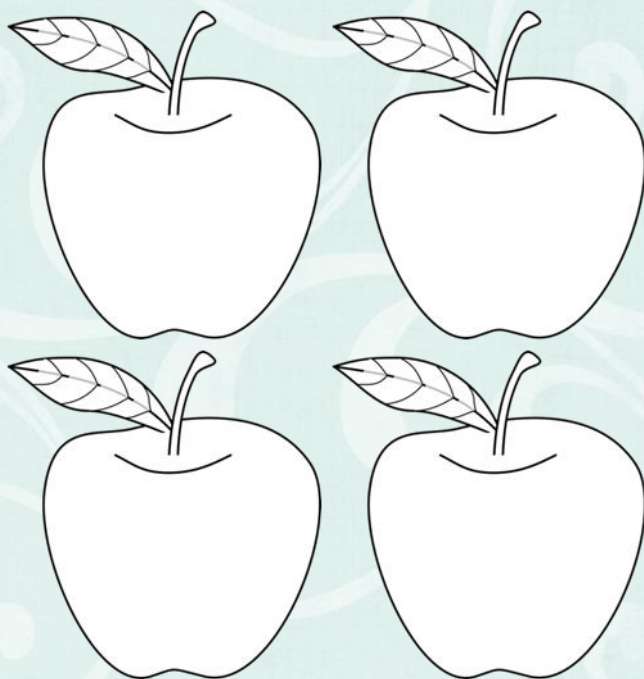
Dear God

We thank you for the friendships, foundations and other things in our lives that help us to grow and to bear fruit. Please help us to continue to grow this year.

Amen.

**An activity:**

Here are some apples, perhaps write in each one an area in your life you'd like to see bear fruit this year and then add this to your prayers this year.



*Image by Clker-Free-Vector-Images from Pixabay*

## Fifteen Years of Support

### Update on Accomplish Trust

Geoff and I hold a garage social every year for charity. This year, we chose Accomplish Children's Trust, a charity which has been supported by St Edward's, and also by myself, since it was founded in 2008. A big thank you to all who contributed to the £185 raised.



I like this small charity because :

- ◇ It was founded by a former St Edward's parishioner, dedicated physiotherapist, Rebecca Cornish, later awarded an MBE for her work
- ◇ It makes a difference to the lives of many children with disabilities, who otherwise would be overlooked
- ◇ Its trustees are all volunteers, and every penny raised is spent on the projects and not on costly administration or premises.

2024 has been a tough year for the locally run African projects which Accomplish supports. In Uganda there have been murderous raids by gangs from the D.R.C., disastrous flooding making hundreds homeless and now Monkeypox. In Malawi, three years of harvest failures due to poor rains and galloping inflation have created food shortage and severe malnutrition. Despite these eye-watering difficulties, which we find hard to imagine, these projects are growing and reaching even more children with disabilities.



So many children now have a brighter future due to the support St Edward's has given over the last 15 years. One such child, Mebo Claire, who has physical disabilities, attended our primary school for blind, deaf and physically disabled children in Kasese, western Uganda, and went onto the integrated St Agnes Secondary School, also supported by Accomplish. From there she has qualified from Kyambogo University to teach Braille. She is now teaching visually impaired children at the primary school.

Kule Godfrey is a blind pupil from both schools and has fulfilled his dream to become a teacher and is teaching Braille in the special needs department at the St Agnes Secondary School where his sister is a pupil. Utterly brilliant!!



Through connections with Accomplish, these schools have received 17 huge books of the Bible in Braille this year which has brought great delight to both blind pupils and their teachers.

So thank you so much for all the support St Edward's has given to Accomplish, both during 2024 and for so many years before. It has made a world of difference to hundreds of children, such as Claire and Godfrey.

Gill Stamp

## Bearing Fruit

*'..go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last' (John 15:16)*



I wonder what your favourite fruit is? I like a range of different ones.

This time of the year I particularly like nectarines. They are deliciously juicy and sweet and taste especially good if they have come straight from the fridge!

For many years my parents had a photo on their wall of me as a 4 year old tucking into a nectarine. (see above!) It was taken while on a camping holiday in France. In those days they were rare in the UK, especially in Scotland, where I was brought up, so it was a special treat!

Those of you who grow fruit or have fruit trees in their gardens will know that the quality of the fruit produced at the harvest depends largely on the weather conditions and the type of soil the plant or tree is placed in.

There are many references to 'fruit' in the bible. One of the verses that I have found motivating has been the instruction to 'Go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last'.

There have been times when it has seemed relatively easy to be fruitful in my endeavours. Things have worked out and I have seen that my efforts have flourished. At other times however, the conditions have been such that it has been difficult to thrive. This has been especially true during times of illness, bereavement, or unhappy relationships at work.

However, we are told elsewhere in the bible that the 'fruits of the spirit' are 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self - control.'

These are fruits that we can try (with God's help) to grow whatever we are facing. This is very challenging. However, we have the perfect Gardener to guide, prune and nurture us along the way, whatever the weather or the condition of the soil!

Rachel Bailes

The image features a collage of various magazine covers, including 'The Porch' and 'The Church', arranged around a central white text box with a black border. The background of the collage is a pattern of green and blue circles. The central text box contains the following text:

Why not write for The Porch?

Future Themes:

November - Remember  
December/Jan - Hope

Thank you to all who take the  
time to put pen to paper.  
It is appreciated.

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The LORD will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;  
the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

**Psalms 121:7-8**



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## October 2024 SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>Monday-Thursday</b>	Church open during daytime 9.30am-3.00pm (Friday 12.30-3.00pm)
<b>Monday-Thursday</b>	Café open 9.30am-12.00 & 1.30pm-4.00pm
<b>Friday</b>	Café open 9.30am-12.00
<b>Mondays</b>	Garden Gang (during the season) 2.00pm-4.00pm
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Youth Group 7.00pm-8.30pm
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Wednesday Afternoon Small Group 2.30pm-4.00pm (alternate)
<b>Fridays</b>	Little Teds 10.30am-12.00pm (term time only)
<b>Fridays (see below for practice dates)</b>	6.30-7.30pm Choir practice in Church
Any enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings etc to 01904 709111 or parishoffice@stedsdrawinghouses.org	
Timings are correct at time of going to press.	

<b>Monday</b>	10.00-12.00	Needlecraft Group
	2.00—3.15	Cindy's Vitality Yoga
	7.00—8.00pm	My Yoga Journey
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00-11.00am	Exercise for Fitness & Health
	10.20—11.20	Gillyflower Baby Massage Class
	11.10-12.10	Mindful Yoga
	12.30-4.00pm	U3A Bridge
	6.15-7.15pm	Beaver Scouts (in term time) see back page for Wednesday evening session
<b>Wednesday</b>	7.45-9.45pm	Line Dancing
	9.30am-12noon	Probus (fortnightly)
	10.00-11.00 am	Aerobics
	1.15-3.45 pm	Art Group
	6.15-8.15pm	Perfecting Pilates (2 x 1 hour classes)
<b>1st Thursday</b>	2.00-3.00pm	Contact
	11.30—12.30	Yorkshire Club
<b>3rd Thursday</b>	2.00-4.00pm	Townswomen's Guild
	7.30-9.30pm	Local History Group
<b>Thursday</b>	9.15-10.30	Cindy's Vitality Yoga
	12.45—1.45	Chair Yoga with Cindy
	7.15—9.15pm	Occasion Choir
<b>Friday</b>	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)

## **Tuesday 1st October**

9.30am

Quinquennial Inspection

7.00pm

Alpha Course part 3

## **Wednesday 2nd October**

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00—8.30pm

Youth Group

## **Thursday 3rd October**

10.00am Holy Communion

Philippians 4:4-9: Luke 11: 1-13

2.00—3.00pm

Contact

## **Friday 4th October**

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Teds

## **Saturday 5th October**

6.30 for 7.00pm

Harvest Supper

## **Sunday 6th October—Harvest**

8.30am Holy Communion

Philippians 4:4-9: Luke 11: 1-13

10.00am All Age Service

Readings as above

6.30pm Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Readings as above

## **Monday 7th October**

10.00—12.00 noon

St Edwards Needlecraft Group

## **Tuesday 8th October**

10.00—11.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.00pm

Alpha Course Part 4

## **Wednesday 9th October**

Praying in Company

12.00 noon

Youth Group

7.00—8.30pm

## **Thursday 10th October**

10.00am Holy Communion

2 Timothy 3: 10-17: John 5: 31-46

## **Friday 11th October**

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Teds

12.00 –2.00pm

Lunches

## **Saturday 12th October**

11.30am

Wedding of Sean Coffey & Sophie Bradley

## **Sunday 13th October**

8.30am Holy Communion

2 Timothy 3: 10-17: John 5: 31-46

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

## **Monday 14th October**

9.00am

Dringhouses Primary School Harvest Service

10.00—12.00 noon

St Edwards Needlecraft Group

## **Tuesday 15th October**

10.00—11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.00pm

Alpha Course part 5

## **Wednesday 16th October**

Praying in Company

12.00 noon

Wednesday Afternoon Small Group

2.30pm

Youth Group

7.00-8.30pm

## **Thursday 17th October**

10.00am Holy Communion

Psalm 25: 8-end: John 10: 11-18

7.30—9.00pm

Local History Group

## **Friday 18th October**

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Teds

## **Saturday 19th October**

10.00am –4.00pm

Community Day

## **Sunday 20th October**

8.30am Holy Communion

Psalm 25: 8-end: John 10: 1-18

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

## **Monday 21st October**

10.00—12.00noon

St Edwards Needlecraft Group

## **Tuesday 22nd October**

10.00-11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.00pm

Alpha Course Part 6

## **Wednesday 23rd October**

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00—8.30pm

Youth Group

## **Thursday 24th October**

10.00am Holy Communion

1 Peter 2: 1-10: John 10: 22-29

## **Friday 25th October**

10.30—12.00

Little Teds

12.00—2.00pm

Lunches

## **Saturday 26th October**

10.00am

Sally's Felting Workshop

## **Sunday 27th October**

8.30am Holy Communion

1 Peter 2: 1-10: John 10: 22-29

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

## **Monday 28th October**

10.00-12.00 noon

St Edwards Needlecraft Group

## **Tuesday 29th October**

10.00—11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.00pm

Alpha Course part 7

## Wednesday 30th October

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00—8.30pm

Youth Group

## Thursday 31st October

10.00am Holy Communion

Galatians 5: 16-25: John 16: 4a-15

2.00pm

Women's Fellowship

### From the Registers

#### Funerals

Cynthia Stilborn

16 September 2024

#### Baptisms

Isabelle Iris Hatfield

1st September 2024

### Ruby 40 and counting...

I'm not normally a huge birthday celebrant, and not just huge ones either, any birthday or similar anniversary. As they come round they're just another number or date to me. It's when they don't come round I start to worry!

However, there is an anniversary I'd like to share with you. 2024 marks forty years since our debut at St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses. If memory serves, and it doesn't always, it was either Sunday 7th or 14th October 1984. Unknown to Dorothy and me at the time it was close to St Edward the Confessor Day which falls on 13th October, an excuse for all manner of joyousness, jollity, jousting, joking, joshing and junketing.

There are still St Edward's members whose time at Dringhouses parish church far predates our arrival. 'Well done thou good and faithful servants'. So many long-serving worshippers signify to me just what a good church St Edward's is in many ways though we mustn't get complacent. That doesn't alter the fact that compared to some St Edward's stalwarts we're new kids on the Dringhouses block. Or are we?

Dorothy and I can pinpoint when we first attended a Sunday service at St. Edward's because it was Harvest Festival. We had been attending a flagship city-centre church, no names; no pack drill, where we never really felt at home or welcome, with a growing lack of enthusiasm and momentum.

Our daughter had school friends who attended St Edward's so she suggested we give it a try. We did, even though we didn't live in the parish then. We were attending a book launch at Goddards about the renowned York architect Walter Brierley. Following that literary event we strolled down to St. Edward's to peruse the church notice board to see if there was an upcoming service we could sneak into, and out of, unnoticed. Sure enough, the next Sunday was Harvest. Thus, we reasoned, it would be busy, enabling us to slip in unnoticed below the radar, or so we thought. Seemingly foolproof but, as it turned out, not 'Frankproof'...some will understand that nostalgic reference.

So, the following Sunday we ventured to St. Edward's. Our planned anonymity failed and our cover was blown, thanks to the duty sidesperson, a meeting and greeting champion and Olympic gold medalist in Welcoming, no less. Before you could say 'Jack Robinson', though that wasn't his name, we'd been enthusiastically, even energetically, welcomed and linked up with a church couple, roughly in our age range, a meal invitation followed in short order, and we were hooked.

Forty years later...here we still are, 'Teddy's veterans'. We're grateful for that first whirlwind of a welcome that mellow morning. It just goes to show how crucial is that initial greeting and the importance of the role of the sides person. (When it's a man on duty with a new haircut; 'short back and sides person!' Indulge me). If it hadn't been for that initial warm welcome we might not be part of the St Edward's fellowship today!

Since then Dorothy has served as youth worker/Explorer leader, Sunday School teacher, funeral verger, Church Archivist, St. Edward's vicars researcher & chronicler, PCC member and brass polisher. For our first twenty years at St Edward's I was heavily involved with the Yorkshire Air Museum where I had far more to do with aircraft than I ever did in the RAF! That's the thing about the Air Force - shortage of aeroplanes. I was just 'pew fodder' at St Edward's, for that period.

However, I was eventually reassigned from acting assistant general super-  
viser (kneelers) of the St Ed's branch of the Association of Hassock Fettleers  
to other more significant roles including PCC, lesson reader, church warden, fu-  
neral verger, occasional contributor to the Porch Monthly, like now for instance,  
and most important of all, brass buffer (or bufferer?) and keeper of the parish  
eagle which subsists on a diet of Thompson mice, though there's one quite close  
to 'Eddie' whose talons have yet to thwack the little wooden rodent.

Mind you, and I don't - rest assured, D&D weren't exactly new to the parish  
back in 1984, a year which we were glad to survive, thinking of the book of the  
same title by ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair, or was it his brother Eric? Dorothy  
was born in Dringhouses. I came close...Acomb.

My Mater and Pater (we only ever spoke French in our family) were married at  
St Edward's in 1935 by the Revd. Angelo Raine, St. Edward's vicar no. 6.



*The wedding party in 1935 with a familiar church in  
the background.*

Mum and her family lived at no. 1 NER Cottages at  
the end of a gloomy and eerie Nelson's Lane said to  
be haunted by the original one-eyed naval hero though how Popeye got involved  
beats me.

*'The family that lived down the Lane'...Nelson's  
Lane. 'Mater', Elsie Banks, on right & the 'name  
on the Dringhouses war memorial' (see below) on  
his father's knees. The Banks family in posed  
formation outside their humble cot-  
tage. C1918/19.*



23 My Mother attended Sunday school at St Edward's, alternating with the Meth-  
odist chapel which she preferred. Sorry, but that's what she said.

Various aunts were wedded at St E's, a cousin practised on the church organ, an uncle sang in the choir and most poignantly, my uncle and godfather has left his mark as his name is the first, C. Banks, engraved on the WW2 face of the Dringhouses war memorial. Have a look.

Gran's humble cottage finally succumbed in the late 1950s and now no trace remains.



*The 'matriarch' in her 'mansion'. Gran in the Nelson's Lane railway cottage as I remember her. A few yards behind the cottage was a sea of railway lines including the ECML (Edward's Church Model Layout'.\* Wrong - this was the real thing!)*

*\*Note: There are several current St Edwardians including a retired clergy person who crave a garden railway around the church grounds. "All change for Atrium, Vestry, Hollyhocks and Extension" (where the track is already laid). How would the Diocesan 'Faculty wallahs' deal with that? Probably blow a gasket, burst a boiler or snap a garter. Come to think of it that might be worth watching.*

I seem to be guilty of gross digression there. Must get back on track! Forty years before the mast (or Cross?) at St. Edward's! We have form with Dringhouses and its parish church, going so far back as to be part obscured by the mists of time as measured by the church clock. Nevertheless, we're ever thankful for that bright Autumn morning forty years ago when we furtively sidled into 'the Confessor' to be greeted by all manner of marrows, apples, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, carrots, tins of stuff, seasonal flowers\*\* and Mr F. H. 'Amen' to that.

*Derek Reed*

*Class of '84'    \*\* PS.    and 'rhubarb'. After all, this was Yorkshire.*

# FRIDAY LUNCHES



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

12.00-2.00pm

Hot & cold food with a vegetarian option.

A selection of delicious desserts.

Tea & Coffee

£6.00

Friday 27th September

Friday 11th October

Friday 25th October

Friday 8th November

Friday 29th November

Friday 13th December

Friday 20th December will be the  
Christmas lunch with all the trimmings.

£9.00

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

St Edward's Community Hall, Tadcaster Road



## MUFFIN TUESDAY!

Join us for a free hot drink and cake

10.30AM -11.30AM on Tuesday mornings

in the Atrium Café and small meeting room.

A chance to meet old friends and make new ones.

Transport may be possible: please contact the Parish Office on 01904 709111

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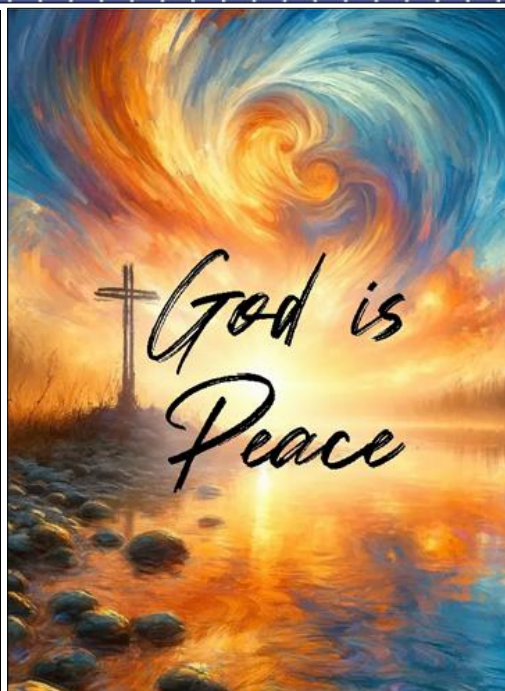
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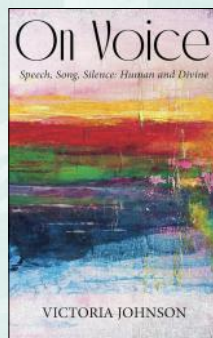


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## Book Review: "On Voice " by Victoria Johnson

This is a remarkable new book by someone known to a few of us here in York. Victoria Johnson - "Canon Vicky" - was until this year, the Precentor at the Minster. She has just left us for the even more prestigious post as Dean of St. John's College, Cambridge with its world-famous choir. She therefore writes with authority and true insight. Her book is subtitled *Speech, Song, Silence: Human and Divine* and 'it does what it says on the tin'.



The breadth of Vicky's canvas is amazing (excuse the mixed metaphors!), because she writes as both a singer and a theologian. Did you know that "Precentor" means "First Singer"? And as Precentor here in York, I can testify both to her accurate singing of Evensong and also to her beautiful voice when chanting the Passion on Good Friday last year. Vicky knows what she is talking (and singing) about.

Inevitably, there is autobiography in her book, but it is never inappropriate; it always serves to illustrate her basic theme of exploring the God-given mystery of the human voice. As a priest, she cannot resist some (not so) subtle "digs" at male chauvinism in the Church, notably its centuries-long refusal to allow women to have a lead in singing at worship. In that last respect, I was rather shocked to read her critique of the Castrati era; a disingenuous attempt by the Catholic Church to obviate the loss of sopranos when boys' voices "broke".

The extracts about York you will find fascinating, e.g. she has a whole chapter on the restoration of the grand organ in the Minster and another amusing piece about the 15<sup>th</sup> century activist Margery Kempe, who was hauled before the Dean and Chapter for being too noisy in church! Another female celebrity in Vicky's eyes is of course Julian of Norwich.

A point Vicky makes which intrigued me, is her experience of singing at football matches. She went to Old Trafford and found the massed singing "almost sacramental " although she adds that it was not exactly "spiritually edifying!" She remarks on the fact that such singing often goes to familiar tunes, and I regret that she does not quote my favourite example of the genre, which is the crowd at Leyton Orient F.C. who belt out "We, the fans of Orient are" to a Christmas tune you all know.....

To be serious, Vicky's book ranges far beyond the human voice "per se". She has moving chapters entitled *Vox Dei* and *Vox Christi* describing God's Word in Creation and very specifically God's voice at the Baptism of Jesus and at His Transfiguration. There is also a salutary chapter on "Silence" and an amazing and very balanced chapter on Artificial Intelligence (not necessarily a "monster").

I will admit that my simple brain did not wholly understand some of Vicky's profound insights, but the book as a whole is extremely well written and I urge you to read it. The Minster shop has it on sale at £14.99.

*Philip Cousins*

On Voice

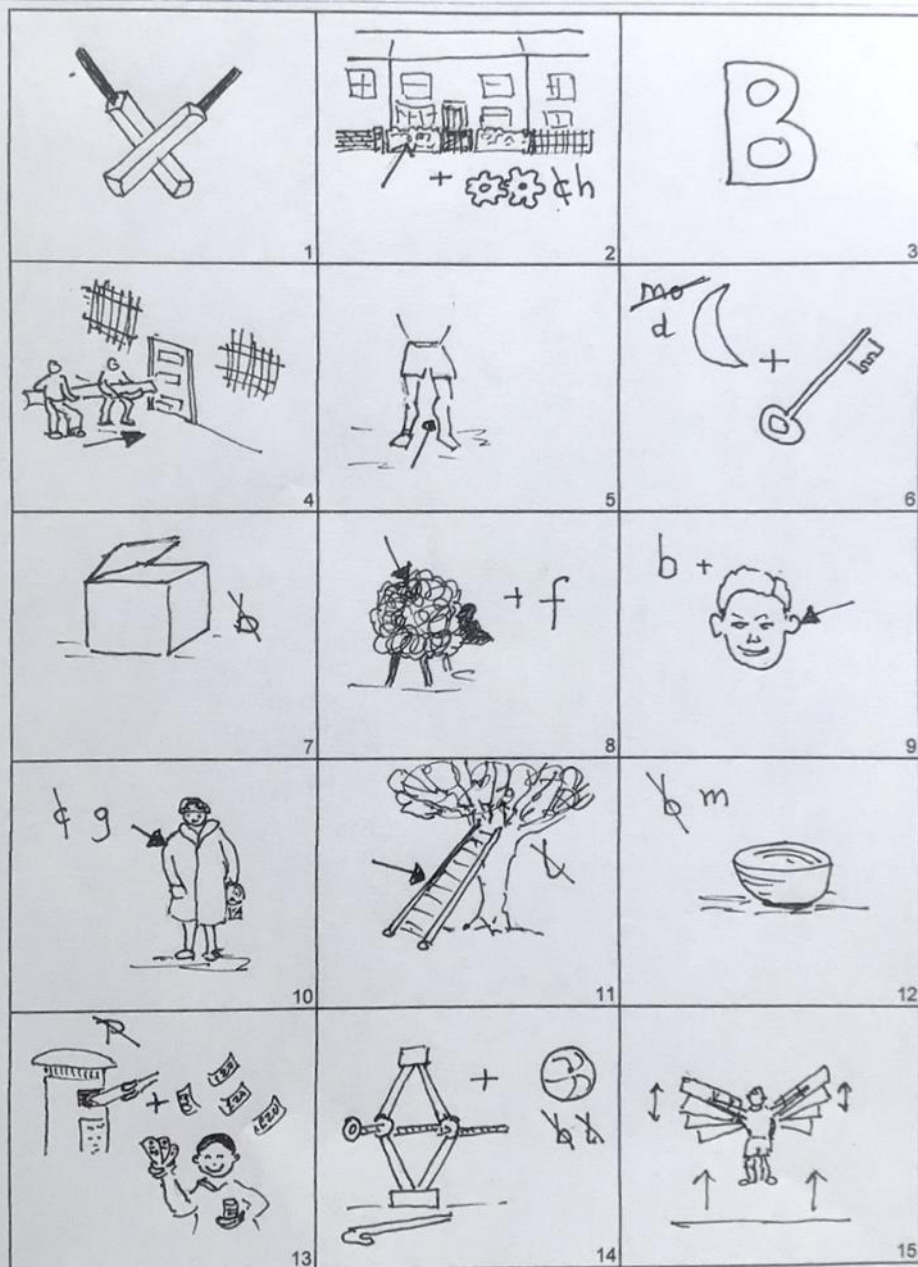
Publisher: Darton, Longman & Todd

© 2024

ISBN: 1913657981

£14.99

# QUIZ - all the answers are animals mentioned in the Bible.





St Edward the Confessor, Dringhouses, York



# Memorial Service

**Sunday 3rd November 2024**

**6.30PM**

*An opportunity to remember loved ones who have died.*

During the service you will be invited, if you wish, to light a candle in memory of your relative or friend.

*If you would like someone remembered by name during the service, please fill in a form and return before Sunday 27th October, to Michael Sargent at 70, Dringthorpe Road, York YO24 1LG. Alternatively, you can email him at [msargent@btinternet.com](mailto:msargent@btinternet.com) or phone 01904 709111 to leave a message at the Parish Office or put it in the 'S' pigeonhole at the back of the church.*

## Hello from Dringhouses Library!



Autumn is well and truly here, and as the nights draw in, what better than to cosy up with a good book from the library?

We're holding a **big autumn booksale** all half term, from **Monday 28 October - Saturday 2 November**. Buying a preloved book is a great way to support your library, while getting a fabulous read that doesn't cost the earth. Bargain reads for all ages: fiction, fact, audio and good old fashioned paperback. Pop in anytime we're open to browse the goods!

This half term, our **Hallows afternoon** is back! Join Lucy and the team for spooky children's crafts and fun all afternoon, **Thursday 31 October. 2.30-5pm**. Feel free to come in costume, expect some treats and maybe a few tricks! No need to book, just zoom along on your broom.



Our **Parents Place get-together for new and expectant parents** is up and running every **Tuesday from 11am-12.30pm**. Meet other parents and parents to be, chat, have a cuppa, let the babies have a wriggle, and share the amazing, demanding experience of parenthood! All welcome, free.

Our **Lego Club** is on every **Tuesday 3.30pm to 4.30pm**. Expect building challenges and creative fun with Lego every week. 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.**

**Children's Craft Club** has restarted after the summer holidays. Come in **every Thursday 3.30-4.30pm** for messy creative fun. No need to book, all welcome.

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



**WATCH THIS SPACE:**

We're bringing the Samuel Parsons' 1624 map of Dringhouses back in November!

*Lucy*

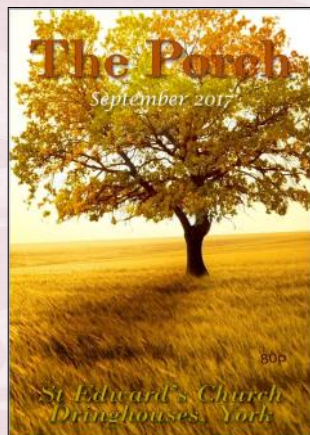
### **Advance Notice: Porch Subscription**

In 2017, the cost of The Porch magazine was increased to 80p. Over the last 7 years, printing costs have increased year on year to the extent that we now must increase the price of the magazine to continue production.

From **February 2025**, the cost of each magazine will increase to £1.00, which will make an annual subscription of £10.00 for 10 copies. Given that a book of 10 First Class stamps costs £11.35, we do hope that you, our subscribers, will consider the magazine good value for money.

We are grateful for your ongoing support.

The Porch Team



## Fruitful Branches

Oh, Lord, my vine, Your tender care,  
Has nurtured me, I do declare.  
Your loving hand has pruned me deep,  
To make my fruit more rich and sweet.

I long to bear Your fruit, divine,  
A life of love, a joy that's mine.  
To shine Your light, a beacon bright,  
Guiding lost souls through the night.

Let faith be root, deep in the ground,  
And hope the sap, where life is found.  
Your love the sun, that warms and gleams,  
And patience waters, flowing streams.

So, Lord, I pray, let me abide,  
In You, my vine, my strength and guide.  
That I may bear Your fruit so true,  
A life of love, forever new.

Anon

## Quiz Answers: Animals

Answers:

1 Bats. 2 Hedgehogs. 3 Bee. 4 Ram. 5 Calf. 6 Donkey. 7 Ox. 8 Wolf  
9 Bear. 10 Goat. 11 Adder. 12 Mole. 13 Ostrich. 14 Jackal. 15 Flies

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