

# THE PORCH

FEBRUARY 2025



£1

ST EDWARD'S CHURCH  
DRINGHOUSES, YORK

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

**Vicar:** Reverend Canon Richard Carew  
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**Assistant Curate:** Reverend Angela Morrison  
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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



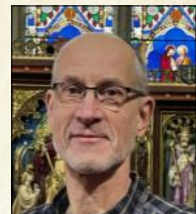
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Walton  
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**Children and Youth Coordinator:** Helen Cross  
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**Children's Worker:** Sally Gatus  
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**Caretaker:** Mike Hewitt  
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Contact The Porch on [porch@stedsdringhouses.org](mailto:porch@stedsdringhouses.org)  
for any submissions or questions.

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## Aslan is on the move.

*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is set in the land of Narnia, a place where it is always winter but never Christmas due to the spell cast by the White Witch who calls herself the Queen of Narnia. It is a picture of all the trials and hardship of winter, but without the joy.

And yet even in this bleak environment, little bits of hygge do break in. When Lucy first finds herself in Narnia, she meets a faun called Mr Tumnus and enjoys a lovely tea with him in his cave, involving toast and sardines and sugared cakes. At another point Lucy has now been joined by her siblings, and together that have a homely meal of fish with Mr and Mrs Beaver as the snow lies thickly above the dam where they live. These are moments of warmth and familiarity- hygge- that punctuate the darkness of the land of perpetual winter, but the overall feeling in Narnia is still that of helplessness and hopelessness.

Until.... there are rumours that the Great Lion, Aslan, is on the move.

As the rumours spread, a sense of excitement and expectation builds in Narnia, and in a dramatic moment when they are terrified that they are being hunted down by the White Witch, the children instead find themselves confronted by Father Christmas. The spell is breaking down and the joy of Christmas has again become a reality in Narnia.

There is an even more dramatic episode when Aslan and some of his followers break into the Witch's castle and find there statues of their friends who have been turned to stone by the Witch. As Aslan breathes on the cold, lifeless statues they begin to shake off their enchantment and return to the vibrant land of the living. Hope and joy are being restored.

As you will be aware, C S Lewis didn't just write the Narnia stories as fantasy, but rather as Christian allegory. Aslan is a Christ figure come to rescue the land from the destructive powers that seek to enslave the Narnian creatures and to rob them of any joy.



(Spoiler alert here!) In order to destroy the power of evil for ever, Aslan gives himself over to the powers of the White Witch who duly kills Aslan at the Stone Table, only to find that there was a deeper magic which brings Aslan back to life and robs her of her powers. Apparently, there is nothing that is beyond Aslan's power to make a difference, not even death.

In Narnia, winter is not the end of the story. Whilst there have been moments of joy and contentment breaking in, it is the arrival of spring that announces that life is being restored. Whilst the presence of God in our midst does indeed provide strength and comfort even in the harshest of times, the promise of God goes beyond strength for today to the bringing of life and hope for tomorrow.

Hygge is a glorious concept- that we can find contentment in the little things and that we can begin to appreciate again the simple pleasures in life. But the promise of God, goes beyond tea with Mr Tumnus or supper with Mr and Mrs Beaver in the dam- those moments of hygge in the hardship- and instead points to a wholesale transformation of life and a restoration of joy that can transfigure each and every situation.

Whatever we may be experiencing at the moment, whether it feels like we are living through a harsh Narnia winter, or whether it feels like spring is genuinely on the way, I pray that we will each know the presence of God with us bringing us not just hygge, but life and hope.

Richard

## Adventurers' Journey on the St Aelred Pilgrim Trail

The morning sun glistened across the rolling hills of Bilsdale as we laced our boots and prepared to embark on a journey unlike any other. The air was unusually mild for October, but a palpable energy coursed through us as Mum, my son, and I arrived at the historic All Saints Church in Helmsley. Our hearts swelled with purpose, knowing that our steps on the St Aelred Pilgrim Trail (SAPT) would raise funds for Growing Hope, a charity supporting children with special educational needs. This was no ordinary walk; it was the first fundraiser of its kind on this newly opened trail—a path paved with faith and determination.

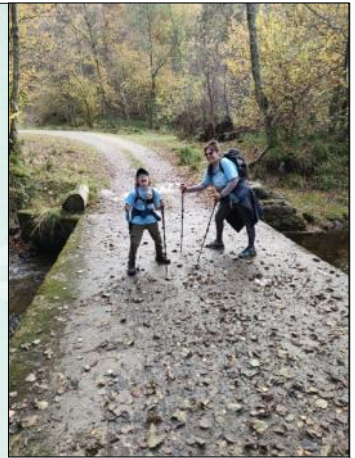


As we stood before All Saints Church, the starting point of our pilgrimage, I couldn't help but marvel at its timeless beauty, a testament to the enduring spirit of worship and devotion. With our SAPT passports stamped, we set off to conquer the trail, guided not by GPS or maps but solely by the notes within those little booklets. It felt like stepping back into a simpler time, embracing the challenge of navigating by faith and instinct.

The path to St Mary Magdalene Church, East Moor, proved more demanding than we anticipated. Somewhere along the way, a missed turn sent us on an unexpected detour. Though our spirits wavered briefly, divine intervention seemed to smile upon us when a kind soul offered us a lift to our final destination of the day, St John the Evangelist's Church in Bilsdale.



As the day gave way to dusk, we returned to Coniser Farm, where the crackle of a log fire and the warmth of Yorkshire hospitality awaited us. Our gracious hosts, Fiona and Stephen, treated us to hearty meals and shared stories that made us feel like family. Their generosity was a blessing that fortified us for the days ahead.



Day Two greeted us with a crisp breeze, a reminder of autumn's gentle embrace. Departing from St John the Evangelist's Church, we crossed the enchanting Ladhill Valley, the landscape unfolding like a painter's masterpiece. Each step brought us closer to All Saints Church in Hawnby, where we paused to soak in its serene presence. Though tempted by the cosy allure of The Owl Public House, we pressed on, our resolve firm as we neared the end of another arduous day.

Our final morning began with a moment of simple joy—feeding the ducks on the farm, their carefree chatter a delightful contrast to the epic journey we'd undertaken. With renewed vigour, we set out from St Mary's Church in Scawton, altering our route to ensure a grand finale at the majestic Rievaulx Abbey.

As we approached the Abbey, its ancient walls seemed to rise from the earth like a hymn frozen in stone. The kind staff at English Heritage welcomed us in, their generosity a fitting end to our pilgrimage. Within the Abbey's sacred embrace, we felt the weight of history and the presence of God, a reminder of the divine thread that weaves through every step of our lives.

That evening, as we rested our tired feet and reflected on the journey, a deep sense of gratitude washed over us. We had faced the unexpected, witnessed breathtaking beauty, and met extraordinary kindness along the way. By God's grace, we achieved our fundraising goal of £500, a sum that will help Growing Hope bring much-needed support to children with special needs, including a new clinic in York in 2025.



The St Aelred Pilgrim Trail tested our endurance and deepened our faith. It was more than a walk—it was a testament to the strength found in community, the beauty of creation, and the power of purpose.

**Claudine Pelser**



## 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

St Edward the Confessor Church, Tadcaster Road, Dringhouses, York, YO24 1QG

*In this month's Porch we are exploring the concept of 'hygge' and what it means to 'winter well'.*

## Wintering Well

We British have an unusual fascination with the weather. Even the shortest conversational encounters usually make reference to the weather, and we are rarely satisfied. It's either too hot, too cold, too wet or it has, yet again, ruined an outdoor activity or gathering. Perhaps it's because we live in a temperate climate zone, surrounded by water, and never experience the more predictable and more extreme temperatures of the large continents. This probably explains why we are usually taken by surprise when we have a sudden cold snap, and a few centimetres of snow cause the country to grind to a halt!



There is no doubt that the last two or three years have brought increased winter misery to many, due to the increase in fuel prices and just recently the withdrawal of the winter fuel allowance. So, just how can we "winter well"?

One solution is to become a "Snowbird". This term was coined to describe those who live in northern climes but choose to fly south for the worst of the winter. Places like Florida, the Costas, and The Algarve are popular destinations and have chosen to extend their season to cater for those with enough money and time to be able to do this. However, this option is unlikely to be available to the majority. For those of us who have to stay at home, what are the alternatives?

Perhaps a change in attitude and expectation is a start. Having been fortunate enough to visit Scandinavia on several occasions, I never cease to be amazed at how cheerful and unfazed people are, even in the dead of winter. They accept

7 that it's cold, and dark but intend to make the most of it, and have a firm belief that there is no such thing as bad weather, just inadequate clothing.



In recent years the Danish have become famous for exporting the concept of "hygge" (pronounced "hoo-gah") which the Norwegians call "koselig" and the Swedes "mysig". No doubt everybody has their own interpretation, but in essence it means "cosiness" and "contentment" and in practice is about celebrating the small joys in life and sharing time and meals with family and friends. In the winter it involves wrapping up warm, lighting candles and creating a relaxing atmosphere where we can wind down and re-charge.



This altered state is also seen in the natural world. Some animals hunker down, become less active or hibernate. Many plants go into a resting phase, quietly waiting for the change of temperature and light which trigger a new season of growth.

We too can use this time to rest and reflect, maybe take up a new hobby, join a night class or get stuck into the pile of books we have been meaning to read. And who doesn't feel just a small spark of joy at seeing the first shoots appear through the soil bringing the promise of the first snowdrops and other brave little flowers.

In this month's edition of the Porch, you will find articles which may inspire you to make the most of the winter months be it exercising, learning a new skill or taking up a challenge. And if you would like to share your tips for "wintering well", please email us at [Porch@stedsdringhouses.org](mailto:Porch@stedsdringhouses.org)

Linda Sykes

## **Promise page - Hygge**

According to denmark.dk, *hygge* is about taking time away from the daily rush to be together with people you care about to relax and enjoy life's quieter pleasures. It's also about coming together to look after the equality and well-being of everyone.

Certainly, in the past few weeks it has indeed been tempting to cosy together at home under blankets and shut out the cold and dark. However, I think there is something really wonderful about applying the ideals behind *hygge* to our life here at church. Whilst there have been times when we have quite literally huddled together under the blankets at church to keep out the cold, the idea that we as people might huddle together against the darkness around us in the world sounds inviting. When we look out for one another and find ways to create a positive environment that promotes everyone's well-being, we create a true community.

In this year of invitation, let us strive to create a community that is inviting, and that we would like to invite people to.

Helen Cross

*C & Y Coordinator*

### **A prayer:**

Dear God

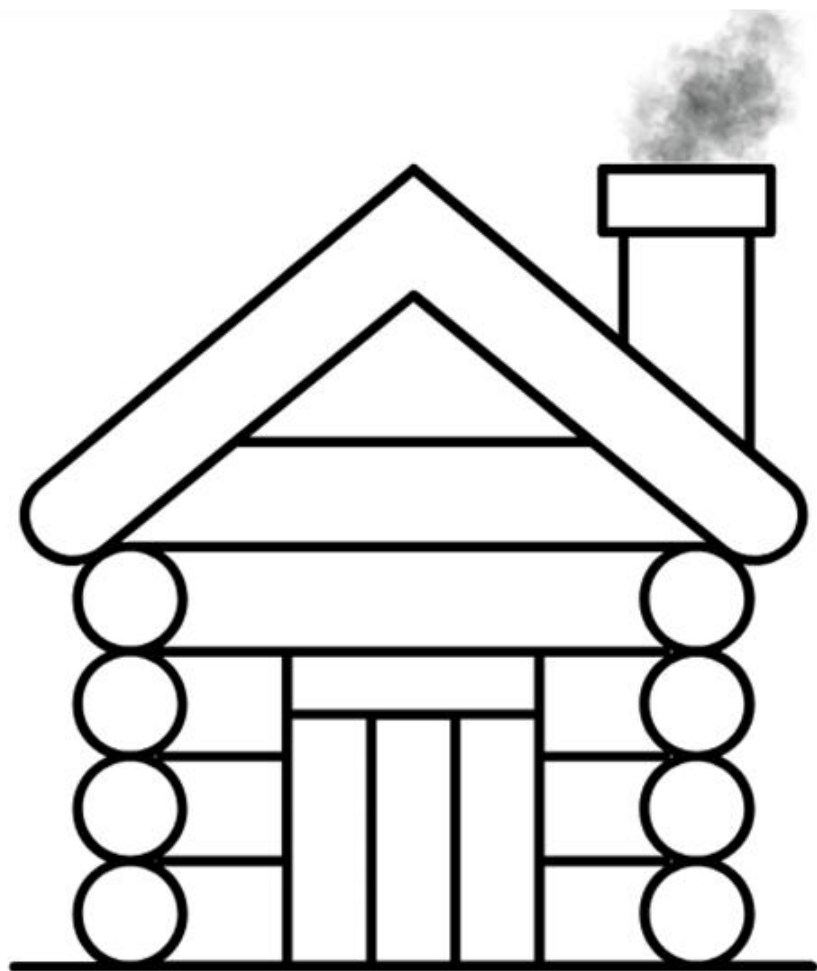
Thank you for our community at St Eds. Please help us to grow closer together and become a place of invitation that others want to join.

Amen.

### **An activity:**

What might *hygge* look like for you?

Write your ideas inside the cosy lodge.





## Prayer using Hygge principals

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the simple joys of life: the warmth of the winter sun on my face, the comfort of my home, the laughter of loved ones.

Help me to cultivate a spirit of gratitude for the present moment, to savour the quiet beauty of everyday life.

May I find peace in stillness, contentment in simplicity, and joy in the company of those I love.

Bless my home with warmth, light, and a sense of peace. May it be a refuge from the world, a place where I can connect with you and with those I cherish.

Amen.



Welcome



# FRIDAY LUNCHES

10TH JANUARY

24TH JANUARY

7TH FEBRUARY

21ST FEBRUARY

14TH MARCH

28TH MARCH

11TH APRIL

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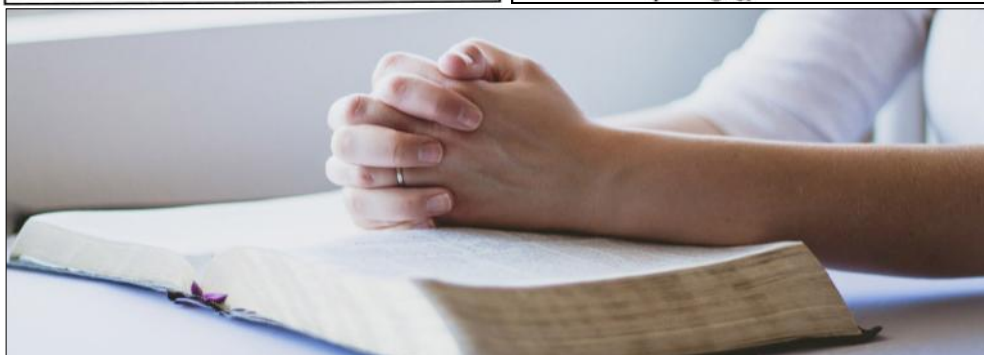
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## FEBRUARY 2025 SERVICES & EVENTS

<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@stedsdriehouses.org](mailto:parishoffice@stedsdriehouses.org)

Timings are correct at time of going to press.

<b>Monday</b>	10.00-12.00	Needlecraft Group
	7.00—8.00pm	My Yoga Journey
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00-11.00am	Exercise for Fitness & Health
	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
	7.45-9.45pm	Line Dancing
<b>Wednesday</b>	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>	11.30-am12.30pm	Yorkshire Club
	2.00-3.00pm	Contact
<b>3rd Thursday</b>	2.00-4.00pm	Townswomen's Guild
	7.30-9.30pm	Local History Group
<b>Thursday</b>	11.00-12.00	Exercise for Fitness & Health
<b>Friday</b>	9.30-12.00	Living Well Health Community (2nd & 4th in month)
	12.00-2.00 dates)	Lunches in the Community Hall ( see poster for
	6.15-7.15pm	Beavers Scouts (in term-time)

## **Sunday 2nd February— Candlemas**

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

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

10.00am All Age Service

6.30pm Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Readings as above

## **Monday 3rd February**

10.00– 12.00

St Edward's Needlecraft Group

## **Tuesday 4th February**

10.00-11.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

## **Wednesday 5th February**

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00—8.30pm

Youth Group

## **Thursday 6th February**

10.00am Holy Communion

Psalms 48: 1-10: Mark 6: 7-13

11.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

## **Friday 7th February**

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Ted's

12.00—2.00pm

Friday Lunches

6.30—7.30pm

Choir Practice

## **Sunday 9th February—Fourth Sunday before Lent**

8.30am Holy Communion

1 Corinthians 15:1-11: Luke 5: 1-11

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

## **Monday 10th February**

10.00– 12.00

St Edward's Needlecraft Group

## **Tuesday 11th February**

10.00-11.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

## **Wednesday 12th February**

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

## **Thursday 13th February**

10.00am Holy Communion

Psalm 128 Mark 7: 24-30

11.00– 12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

## **Friday 14th February**

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Ted's

## **Sunday 16th February—third Sunday before Lent**

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

I Corinthians 15: 12-20 Luke 6: 17-26

10.00am Family Communion

Readings as above

## **Monday 17th February**

10.00– 12.00

St Edward's Needlecraft Group

## **Tuesday 18th February**

10.00-11.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

## **Wednesday 19th February**

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

## **Thursday 20th February**

10.00am Holy Communion

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

11.00– 12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

2.00 4.00pm

Townswomen's Guild

7.30-9.00pm

Local History Group

## **Friday 21st February**

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Ted's



12.00– 2.00pm

Friday lunches

6.30-7.30pm

Choir Practice

## **Sunday 23rd February—second Sunday before Lent**

8.30am Holy Communion

Revelation 4: Luke 8: 22-25

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

## **Monday 24th February**

10.00– 12.00

St Edward's Needlecraft Group

## **Tuesday 25th February**

10.00-11.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

## **Wednesday 26th February**

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

## **Thursday 27th February**

10.00am Holy Communion

Psalms I Mark 9: 41-end

11.00—12.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

2.00pm

Women's Fellowship

## **Friday 28th February**

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Ted's

## **From the Registers**

### **Funerals**

Dorothy Murfin

21st November 2024

James (Jim) Wilson

5th December 2024

*YouGov is an international online research company that researches public opinion about anything and everything, including the most common New Year's Resolutions. In 2025, the top three were:*

- 1. Exercise more*
- 2. Lose weight / improve diet*
- 3. Save more money*

*To be honest, they were probably the same top three in 2024, 2023, 1997, 1983 .....but if they were YOUR top three - then you are in luck, as our interviewee for this month's Porch may be able to help you with all of them.*

### **Exercise for Fitness & Health**

Loulla Watson runs an Exercise for Fitness & Health session in St Edward's Community Hall each week on a Tuesday between 10am and 11am. Indeed, her classes have become so popular, she now has an additional session on Thursdays between 11am and noon. The classes are free and open to everyone, regardless of age and level of fitness.



I caught up with Loulla after one of her teaching sessions to find out why in her 'maturer' years, she continues to offer classes.

**Q: Loulla - first tell me a little bit about yourself and your background.**

**A:** I was born in Northern Cyprus before the days of Turkish occupation and when I was 12 years old came on holiday to the UK with my mum to visit my brother who was living in London. He persuaded my mum to move to the UK and so I ended up going to school and college over here and trained in shorthand typing. I met my future husband whilst on my way to work one day and so ended up marrying a Yorkshireman. (He was an architect from Scarborough).



**Q: How did you become involved with teaching exercise and fitness?**

**A:** I was taking my children to school one day and one of the other mums asked if I would like to join a fitness class. I did rather wonder if I must look unfit! However, she explained that a group of them were trying to raise money for a swimming pool for the children and so I joined them. We started in people's homes and then moved to a hall, but after a year or so, the numbers dropped off. However, I had discovered that I really enjoyed it and so my husband sourced a class for me at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute where Mr Enderby was the principal. After a couple of years, the teacher told me she was leaving and asked if I would consider taking over the class. I am actually quite a shy person, and I was worried about standing up in front of a class - but she was very persuasive.

**Q: Did you have any qualifications?**

**A:** Actually, I didn't, but neither did the teacher before me or indeed the teacher before her, but the arrival of a new principal, Mrs White, was to change all that, as she asked for everyone's training and qualifications. It just so happened, that the Physical Education Association had just launched a course in physiology, anatomy, nutrition and so on for teachers such as me and so I joined the programme. Once I had qualified, I realised that I needed to change some of my teaching programme as it involved exercises that were contraindicated and so by September, I had written a new scheme and moved on from there.

**Q: How long ago were you teaching at the Institute?**

**A:** I started in 1982, trained in 1986 and in total taught at the Institute for 28 years. Later, I went on to Nazareth House, which was a Residential Care Home, to continue teaching. Teaching exercise and fitness has remained an absolute passion for me.



I just want to help people to improve their strength, stamina, flexibility and mobility, as all these things impact on the quality of our lives. My classes have included all age ranges, but I have learnt to adapt lessons to people's needs and so for instance use chairs for people who find it difficult to be on the floor and these double up as support bars. One thing that is important in all exercise classes, is to do a warm up and a cool down as you don't want people feeling stiff and immobile two days later! You want them to keep coming.

**Q: So, how did the move from London to York come about?**

**A:** I decided to move to York because I love Yorkshire, and as there was a house up for sale in my daughter's road, I bought it and moved up during Covid. I stayed with my daughter and family for 4 months and my son-in-law and grandson laid wooden floors for me throughout the ground floor. So, here I am!

**Q: You mentioned that you are Greek Orthodox, so how did you come to be at St Edward's?**

**A:** Curiously, my sister-in-law was actually married at St Edward's and so I came to have a look around the church and saw you had a lovely community hall. I therefore asked Richard if it was possible for me to offer classes for free, with donations going to the church. I was missing teaching and just felt this was something that I would love to offer. Richard agreed and so Exercise for Health & Fitness was born! I have a fabulous class, in fact two new people joined today and so hopefully we can grow the Thursday group in particular. It really doesn't matter what level you are; it is just important to make a start. I really have seen enormous improvements in my 'students' here and so would like to encourage others.

Loulla - thank you. You are quite inspirational and living proof that age is no barrier, and that New Year's resolutions can be kept!

Interview with Helen Wren

**Exercise for Fitness: St Edward's Community Hall**

**Tuesday 10.00am to 11.00am**

**Thursday 11.00am to 12 noon**

**FREE**

**Choir Practices: January - April 2025**

**6.30-7.30pm**

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**

**January 24<sup>th</sup>**

**February 7<sup>th</sup>**

**February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday)**

**Special Services**

**5<sup>th</sup> March - Ash Wednesday @ 7.00pm**

**17<sup>th</sup> April - Maundy Thursday @ 7.00pm**

**20<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Day - 10.00am**

## Flower arranging classes for all

The flower team at St Ed's arrange flowers in church throughout the year, with the exception of Advent and Lent. There is a rota, and a team member is responsible for sourcing the flowers and foliage, arranging them - usually on a Friday afternoon. This is done weekly during the warmer months but fortnightly in the colder winter months.

The team work together for the festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas and there are special occasions, such as weddings and funerals, when we are often asked to arrange flowers. In addition there are members of the congregation who like to have an arrangement done in memory of a loved one and we are very happy to do this.

We know that the congregation appreciate what we do, and it is a privilege to do it as part of our worship, but we are all getting older and there will come a time when we will hang up our scissors. We are concerned that there will not be sufficient people able to continue this tradition. There are so few places where flower arranging is taught, so Margaret is planning to give lessons in the Community Hall on three Saturdays in March.

These will be starter lessons and are free of charge for anyone who would like to come. It will be open to people from the community, not just members of the congregation, so please tell anyone who you think might be interested. The lessons will be from 10am to noon on Saturdays 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Please contact Margaret on 01904 708942 to let her know you are planning to come.

Gentlemen you are very welcome to join the group - please remember flower arranging is not only for women, some of the best flower arrangers are men.

Margaret Titman





## FLOWER ARRANGING TASTER LESSONS

An opportunity to learn a new skill and open **to all**.

**SATURDAY 1ST MARCH**

**SATURDAY 15TH MARCH**

**SATURDAY 22ND MARCH**

 **10.00 AM TO NOON**

 **ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CHURCH,  
TADCASTER ROAD, YO24 1QG**

**FREE!**

 To book - call Margaret on 01904 708942

 Or contact the Parish Office on 01904 709111 or email  
[parishoffice@stedsdringhouses.org](mailto:parishoffice@stedsdringhouses.org)



**Hello from Dringhouses Library!**



Our **big spring booksale** will run from **Monday 17 - Saturday 23 February.**

Grab a fresh new read for a bargain price. 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!

All our regular children's activities are running during **Half term**, with an extra special half term flavour! So join us for **Lego on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> at 3.30pm**, **Crafts on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> at 3.30pm** and **Storytime on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11am.**

In February 2024 City of York Council said that they wanted to reduce the current library service, provided under their contract with Explore, and thereby to reduce the contract sum paid to Explore. The Council is now asking York residents to complete a survey about their library service. The Council is required by law to consult residents if they wish to make any changes to the public library service and they must do this before agreeing any changes to the contract with Explore. **Explore strongly recommends that you complete the survey, so that the Council can understand your views, thoughts and feelings about the library services we provide.** If you haven't already, please do take a moment to complete this survey, available on the York Council website <https://www.york.gov.uk/LibraryServicesPublicEngagementSurvey> or in hard copy in libraries. **Closing date is February 7<sup>th</sup>.**



Our **Parents Place get-together for new and expectant parents** runs every **Tuesday from 11am-12.00pm**. 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.

**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 **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.

**Children's Craft Club** is on 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.**

Lucy





## Book Review: *On Your Bike* by John B. Thomson

2024 must have been a vintage year for books connected with the Church in the Diocese of York. There were not one, not two, but three such works! After Dorothy and Lynne's 'That Tiresome Lady Architect' (Porch Review May 2024) and Canon Vicky's 'On Voice' (Porch Review October 2024) there comes a parting gift from another local celebrity, Dr John Thomson. He is familiar to us as the recently retired Bishop of Selby, always recognisable as a tall (and bald!) figure, on his official visits to St. Edward's.



Bishop John is a very keen, lifelong, amateur cyclist. Not a lot of people know that - I certainly didn't - and so his new book "On Your Bike" is subtitled "Reflections of a Pedal Pilgrim." It is not an autobiography, although it contains a lot of reminiscences, it is a devotional work in which he cleverly links aspects of the Christian life with "life on the open road". Life's journey is an obvious connection, but so also is the chance to think about God and creation as you pedal along in solitude. More challenging is his chapter entitled "In the Rough", where he talks about suffering. My favourite chapter though, is called "In Company" where companionship with fellow riders leads him to label the Church as the "Somewhere/Everywhere Company" for everybody.

Some of his cycling/life comparisons might come across as a bit contrived, but there is no doubting his determination to show the Christian faith as relevant to life as we live it. His numerous contemporary, even political illustrations, such as an extended passage on fracking, (which he had to deal with as the diocese's rural affairs bishop) prove its relevance.

Particularly poignant are his honest reflections on his time as a theological college lecturer in apartheid South Africa, and what it was like to be a white man teaching highly intelligent black students. After his return from abroad, I was amused to read how, as the new Vicar of St.



Mary's, Doncaster, he had to "learn the Yorkshire vernaculars in order to communicate!"

This book is not an easy read. Bishop John is a scholar -his select Bibliography at the back of the book runs to eleven pages- and he likes quite long words such as "contextualisation" and peculiar words like "precariat" (what does that mean ?). But the bold typeface chosen by DLT make it easier on the eye, if not the brain.

Nevertheless, read it and be inspired in your faith. The Minster Shop stock the book currently priced at £12.99. May its intrepid author enjoy many more years of happy cycling in his, and wife Sue's, well-earned retirement in the Lake District.

Philip Cousins

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ISBN: 9781913647901

# Hygge Word Search

D	A	N	I	S	H	O	T	A	N	D	S	I	P
P	S	F	T	O	I	E	Y	E	M	T	A	P	S
I	A	O	A	R	E	C	E	N	T	T	C	I	T
I	T	E	K	T	E	F	D	T	C	Y	T	D	F
A	M	I	E	H	T	F	K	O	S	S	I	N	A
N	A	Z	T	N	H	E	Z	E	I	F	V	I	R
Y	A	I	H	W	E	Y	T	T	R	F	I	M	C
E	W	P	E	Y	A	F	N	P	L	F	T	F	I
M	D	O	T	R	N	T	M	U	I	S	I	O	D
F	D	P	I	R	Y	M	F	R	I	T	E	E	N
N	A	U	M	O	O	F	Y	T	E	P	S	T	A
W	E	L	E	W	Y	T	F	A	A	F	T	A	H
A	V	A	C	I	F	E	A	P	R	Y	R	T	E
A	T	R	O	Z	R	T	P	P	T	E	C	S	U

COZY, STATE OF MIND, TAKE THE TIME, RECENT, DANISH, WORRY,

SIP, HANDICRAFTS, ACTIVITIES, POPULAR, FLUFFY



## THE PORCH MAGAZINE

# A CALL FOR ARTICLES!

We're looking for interesting stories to publish for the upcoming issues.

Future themes for guidance only:

**March:** The March of Time

**April:** The Way, The Truth & The Life

**May:** Green



Please email -  
[porch@stedsdringhouses.org](mailto:porch@stedsdringhouses.org)



# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT



Friday 7th March  
2pm

at St Edward the Confessor

A shared service with  
St James the Deacon,  
St Stephen's  
West Thorpe

Refreshments afterwards in the Community Hall

Tadcaster Road Dringhouses YO24 1QG



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