

THE PORCH

JULY & AUGUST 2025

RESTORATION



£1

ST EDWARD'S CHURCH
DRINGHOUSES, YORK

Who's Who in St. Edward's

Vicar:

Reverend Canon Richard Carew
The Vicarage, Tadcaster Rd,
Dringhouses,
YORK YO24 1QG

Email: : vicar@stedsdringhouses.org Tel: 07776683254



Assistant Curate: Reverend Angela Morrison

Email: curate@stedsdringhouses.org Tel: 07776 686129

Parish Secretary: Wendy Hewitt

parishoffice@stedsdringhouses.org

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

parishoffice@stedsdringhouses.org

Office Hours: Monday 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Tuesday - Friday 9.00am -
4.00pm

(closed for lunch 1.30-2.00pm)

Tel:

01904 709111

Children and Youth Coordinator: Helen Cross

Email: youth@stedsdringhouses.org
07436 405578

Tel:

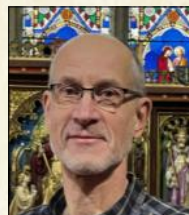


Children's Worker: Sally Gatus

Email: children@stedsdringhouses.org Tel: 07436 405586

Caretaker: Mike Hewitt

Email: caretaker@stedsdringhouses.org



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

'Registered charity no. 1131430'

"Behold, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5

My oldest children are doing their A levels this summer.

As part of all the 'leaving school' rituals that seem to have appeared (mainly from America as far as I can tell), there is now a tradition of producing a Yearbook. As someone who grew up in a world where a phone was something that you plugged in at the bottom of the stairs and a yearbook was a diary or a calendar, this was a fascinating read.



In it, there are messages from some of the teachers, general photos from their time at school as well as individual photos and brief biographies for each student, and then right at the end there are the 'Awards'. I particularly enjoyed the 'Most likely to....' Section which included categories such as 'Most likely to be a billionaire', 'Most likely to go on Love Island', 'Most likely to be Prime Minister', and my personal favourite, 'Least likely to survive a Zombie Apocalypse'!

But we all know that none of us are the same person that we were at 18. Some of us may look back on that age as 'the good old days' whilst others will be very happy to have left that teenage angst behind. The reality is that each of us changes as we get older, sometimes in response to circumstances outside our control, and sometimes because we make a conscious choice.

The encouragement of the verse from Revelation with which I started this article, is that in the midst of all this change, God is at work.

Because God is at work, our yesterday does not have to define our today or our tomorrow. The Yearbook prediction is not fixed. In the death and resurrection of Jesus that we celebrated at Easter we see the reality of a world where nothing is beyond the power of God to make a difference.

Suddenly, in the midst of all the challenges and fragilities of the world, there are possibilities, not least the possibility of forgiveness and healing for the hurts and failings of the past, new life in the present, and a fresh hope for the future.

And with God, 'restoration' doesn't just mean going back to an old reality, but rather it means being restored to become more fully the person that we were created to be. Nor does restoration mean that all the pain or failures of the past are somehow completely erased- even Jesus carried with him the scars of crucifixion into eternity- but rather that God is able to bring a healing that enables the past to lose its power to bring hurt in the present, so that we can be freed to live well with God and with one another.

I wonder what labels have been attached to each of us as we have gone through life, and I wonder whether those labels have been an encouragement or a hinderance? And I wonder, too, what God would want to say to each of us as He continues that work of 'making all things new' and as He reassures us that we are His precious children and that He has possibilities for our future to bring hope and life?

In the midst of change, we do have a choice. We can try to go it alone, or dare we trust that God really is able to make all things new, and to bring new hope and life? This is a risk of faith, but ultimately a risk worth taking as in the person of Jesus, we really do find restoration.

Richard

Challenge and Restoration

During the first lockdown of 2021 I decided it was an ideal opportunity for me to finally learn to ride a bike. (This was something I never learnt as a child as we lived on a busy main road.) Although I was able to walk to the hospital and back for work, I felt that cycling would be a good form of exercise and would help to take my mind away from the horrors of the pandemic. And, of course, the roads were blissfully quiet!

However, I hadn't realised what a challenge it is for an adult to learn the art of balancing on two wheels! As a result, I did fall off quite a bit at the beginning, but with the help of Martin, my husband, and later from the excellent cycling charity 'York Belles', and a couple of lessons from York Council, I finally managed to get the hang of it.



Things were progressing well until towards the end of the year when I got Covid myself. I did manage to get back to my Chaplaincy work at the hospital in the new year but I never felt fully well, in fact as Easter approached, I felt much worse. I took some annual leave in the hope that all I needed was a good rest but afterwards my energy levels were no better. I was very tired after doing very little and struggling to think straight. In the early days, I also had issues with my eyes and with my balance. This was having a severe impact on my ability to make the everyday decisions that need to be made in a busy chaplaincy department. To cut a long story short, after some time off work and various medical tests, I was finally diagnosed with Long Covid in July 2021. After much prayer and reflection, I felt it best to take early retirement.

This was not an easy decision but I know it was the right one. Although my health is much improved, I still live with this debilitating condition which continues to have quite an impact on what I can do in a day or plan over the week.

It is estimated that around 1.8 million people in the UK alone are living with the challenge of Long Covid (The Lancet: Aug '24). Most of these are of working age, so it continues to affect the national economy and the physical and mental wellbeing of many.

Restoration is understandably a topic close to my heart. When recovering from illness, restoration needs to occur on many different levels. I think of these as being physical restoration, restoration of your sense of identity and restoration of your quality of life and relationships with others. In other words, recovery involves recovery of strength and resilience and recovery of one's mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. I know from many years of working as a hospital chaplain that symptoms of illness can swamp your sense of identity as a person. I know that has been a challenge for me as well. It has however, enabled me to focus on the things that really matter to me.

Earlier in the year, I decided that it was time for me to try to pick up cycling again. It was almost a defiant gesture of protest against the restraints that are placed on me from Long Covid. I hoped this would also help me to build up my physical strength and resilience. As I was thinking about this, I happened to attend an online conference for Christian Aid, a charity we have supported for many decades. As I heard about their work and the challenges that many communities around the world are facing through climate change, I felt challenged to do something. For Christian Aid week the charity was wanting to raise money for a project they are supporting in Guatemala. We were told that farmers were struggling to grow crops for their families and for the local communities they served. The project involves training and supporting farmers to plant more drought-resistant crops and helping them to pass on their knowledge to others. In other words, it was helping to restore their sense of community and enabling them to thrive.

One of the fund-raising ideas for Christian Aid Week was to do a sponsored 70k challenge during the month of May.

This could be done by running, cycling or walking. It could be done over the course of the month or as one individual event. I felt challenged to have a go at cycling 70k over the course of the month of May. Martin helped to plan and measure a few short routes round the estate where we live and some slightly longer ones along the local cycle paths. They ranged from 1k to 8k. With the help of some kind friends from church and elsewhere, I also managed to socialise on some of the rides, enjoying a stop in a café halfway to rest and recuperate!



I soon realised that I could not cycle every day, but if I went out 2 or 3 times a week, I could cover the distance. With encouragement from sponsors, company, persistence and prayer I finally managed it!

I am delighted to report that I raised the amazing sum of £2350!!

I am extremely grateful to everyone who sponsored me, especially to two very generous donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Restoration is ongoing for me but I have learnt that I can still be myself and do the things that are important to me, as long as I am careful to pace myself. I have also learnt to try to keep perspective and to be grateful for the things that I have been given. Let's try to remember the people of Guatemala and the other communities that struggle with drought the next time it rains!

Rachel Bailes

From the Archive: Young Wives

Following last month's article about the outings of St Edward's Young Wives in 1960, the Porch team were contacted by three of the 'Young Wives' who remember those days. They are now slightly, 'less young', but nonetheless have happy memories. Pat Wright, Jean South and Beryl Bailey are all listed in the 1961/1962 membership, along with a very large contingent from Hunters Way and Lycett Road! In fact, there are 87 names listed as being members in that season. The protocol of the minutes was to refer to all the assembled ladies as Mrs X or Mrs Y with no mention of Christian names.

Pat said from the photo in the article, she immediately recognised the writing as that of her next-door neighbour, who was the Secretary and with whom she remained friends even after her neighbour had moved away. For her, Young Wives and Women's Fellowship were a family affair because her husband, Stephen, provided the music (organ) for all the services for 30 years!



Beryl recollected that initially the group had met in the home of Mrs Lister, whose husband was an eye specialist at the hospital. When he retired, they moved to Devon and so Mrs Molyneaux invited the group to meet in the vicarage. This was of course, the 'old' vicarage and it was apparently very cold.

There was also a Men's Fellowship's group, who also have records in the archive - but these seemed to consist largely of orders for pork pies from Ged Bell's! The editors were reliably informed that the men provided the food for the Harvest Supper, and also did all the washing up, and so a night off for the ladies.

Jean said that they were happy days with some lovely trips - but made her realise that she went 'way back'. In fact, so way back that Beryl remembered that in the harsh winter of 1947, the lake in Rowntree Park actually froze over and Mrs Molyneaux gathered everyone together to go ice skating. Probably warmer than the vicarage.

Thank you to all three of them for getting in touch with The Porch.

Porch Editors



A poster for Friday Lunches with a dark background and yellow and white text. It features a clock icon, a location pin icon, and a red circle around the price. The text is written in a mix of bold, stylized fonts and handwritten-style script.

FRIDAY LUNCHES

4TH JULY

18TH JULY

12.00-2.00pm

Tadcaster Road YO24 1QG

£6.00
for main meal, pudding
tea & coffee

St Edward's Community Hall

No booking required!

Treasures from the Past



King Josiah reigned over Judah in the 7th century BC. The Temple at the time (built by King Solomon) was, in his opinion, looking a bit shabby and dusty. He therefore ordered a working party to go in and spruce it up. The second book of Chronicles, chapter 34, tells us in verse 12 that, 'The workers laboured faithfully.' Indeed, such was their assiduousness, they found a rather dusty scroll which clearly had been lost for years, and yet turned out to be the Law of Moses. From King Josiah's response, it appears that much of the teaching of Moses had been lost and forgotten,

and so the scrolls rediscovery was a sharp reminder of what God required of the nation. Josiah now had his work cut out.

So - see what happens when you 'spring clean'?

At St Edward's, we had our own 'discovery' whilst Mike the Caretaker was about his duties. Not quite as momentous as finding the Book of the Law, but one that was quite surprising. At the back of the church, there is a locked door, and when this door is opened it leads up a steep and narrow stone spiral staircase to an ill fitted wooden ladder. To go higher requires climbing said ladder to yet another ladder, all the way up to the clock and the belfry. Needless to say, it is neither for the fainthearted nor for the asthmatic, as dust lies thick in the air.

It is perhaps the anticipation of this climb that meant no-one in 56 years had actually looked behind the door at the bottom of the steps, because if they had, they would have discovered a dusty and crumpled 1969 issue of The Porch magazine. The October copy in fact, priced at 6d. We didn't know whether we were more surprised at the discovery of this ancient treasure or more horrified that no one had cleaned in the tower for 56 years....

So, here is the front cover - plus a page of adverts, that may well bring back memories of businesses that have long since faded away from York and Dringhouses. There are, however, some businesses which still advertise in the magazine today, and perhaps our eagle-eyed readers may spot them.

Who knows, perhaps St Edward's has yet more hidden treasures? So why not join us for our Maintenance Week in August? Details can be found on page 11 and let us be the new generation that 'laboured faithfully'.

Churchwarden

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'RESTORATION' & 'REPAIR' WEEK!

Church Maintenance Week

**Monday 18th August to
Friday 22nd August 2025**

9.00AM to 3.00PM

For one week, the church will be 'closed' to all activities in order to have time to clean, repair, decorate and restore.

The day will start at 9am with a reflection in the Chancel and then tasks shared for the day.

Cake and tea provided!

Please join us for as much or as little as possible.

Sample of Tasks

- Cleaning and polishing
- Painting walls
- Wood work
- Garage clearance
- Jet washing
- Upholstery repair
- File sorting



Promise Page- Restoration

As I write this article, things are gearing up towards this year's Holiday Club. The theme for this year is The Restoration Station. It focuses on Jesus as a craftsman who can restore us, body and soul. Among others, we'll meet a Roman Officer who's child is healed by Jesus, and we'll meet Peter who will talk about being restored by Jesus when he is forgiven. Holiday Club is such a fantastic week pulling on the different strengths of all who get involved. From craft to games to dance to stories, Holiday Club really does have it all. At its core, it's an incredible opportunity to let those who we don't necessarily otherwise see, know that they are loved by the God who creates, restores and never changes. Please pray for Holiday Club this year. Pray for the staff, the volunteers and all those who walk through the doors during this week, that they will know something of God's love for them.

Helen Cross

C and Y Coordinator

Know someone who'd like to sign up? They can use the QR code below to register their child or email



youth@stedsdringhouses.org for the link to the booking page.

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Can you recommend a Tradesperson who might like to advertise in this Magazine?

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Isobel Goforth

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JULY & AUGUST 2025 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)
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@stedsdringhouses.org

Timings are correct at time of going to press.

Monday	10.00-12.00	Needlecraft Group
	7.00—8.00pm	My Yoga Journey
Tuesday	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
Wednesday	9.30am-12noon	Probus (fortnightly)
	10.00-11.00 am	Aerobics
	12.15-3.30pm	Art Group
	6.15-8.15pm	Perfecting Pilates (2 x 1 hour classes)
1st Thursday	11.30-am12.30pm	Yorkshire Club
	2.00-3.00pm	Contact
3rd Thursday	7.30-9.30pm	Local History Group
Thursday	11.00-12.00	Exercise for Fitness & Health
	12.15-3.45pm	Thursday Bridge Group
Friday	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)

Tuesday 1st July

10.00-11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.30pm

Alpha Course part 8

Wednesday 2nd July

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 3rd July—Thomas the Apostle

10.00am Holy Communion

Ephesians 2: 19-end: John 20: 24-29

11.00-12.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

2.00-3.00pm

Contact

Friday 4th July

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Ted's

12.00– 2.00pm

Lunches

Sunday 6th July—3rd Sunday after Trinity

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

Galatians 6: 7-16: Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

10.00am All Age Service

Readings as above

6.30pm Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Readings as above

Monday 7th July

10.00-12.00 noon

Needlecraft

Tuesday 8th July

10.00-11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.30pm

Alpha Course part 9

Wednesday 9th July

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00– 8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 10th July

10.00 Holy Communion

Psalm 105: 11-17: Matthew 10: 7-15

2.00pm

Women's Fellowship followed by AGM

7.00pm

Complete Clothing Fashion Show

7.30pm

Finance Committee Meeting

Friday 11th July

10.30-12.00 noon

Little Ted's

6.30-7.30pm

Choir Practice

Saturday 12th July

9.30-12.00 noon

Railway Group Meeting

Sunday 13th July—4th Sunday after Trinity

8.30 Holy Communion

Colossians 1: 10-14; Luke 10: 25-37

10.00 Family Communion

Readings as above

Monday 14th July

10.00-12.00 noon

Needlecraft

Tuesday 15th July

10.00-11.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.30pm

Alpha Course part 10 (final session)

Wednesday 16th July

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 17th July

10.00 Holy Communion

Exodus 3: 13-20; Matthew 11: 28-end

11.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.30-9.00pm

Local History Group

Friday 18th July

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Ted's

12.00-2.00pm

Lunches

Sunday 20th July—5th Sunday after Trinity

8.30 Holy Communion

Colossians 1: 15-28; Luke 10: 38-end

10.00 Holiday Club Launch Service

Holiday Club Monday 21st—Friday 25th July—premises closed

Sunday 27th July—6th Sunday after Trinity

8.30 BCP Holy Communion

Colossians 2: 6-15: Luke 1: 1-13

10.00 Holy Communion

Readings as above

3.00pm

Baptisms

Monday 28th July

10.00-12.00 noon

Needlecraft

Tuesday 29th July

10.00-11.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Wednesday 30th July

7.0— 8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 31st July

10.00 Holy Communion

Exodus 40: 16-21, 34-end: Matthew 13: 47-53

11.00-12.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Saturday 2nd August

12.00 noon

Wedding of Jordan Spencer & Naomi Beattie

Sunday 3rd August—7th Sunday after Trinity

8.30 BCP Holy Communion

Colossians 3: 1-11: Luke 12: 13-21

10.00 All Age Communion

Readings as above

6.30pm Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing

Readings as above

Tuesday 5th August

10.00-11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Thursday 7th August

11.00-12.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Sunday 10th August—8th Sunday after Trinity

8.30 Holy Communion

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16: Luke 12: 32-40

10.00 All Age Communion

Readings as above

Tuesday 12th August

10.00-11.00 Exercise for Fitness & Health

Thursday 14th August

10.00 Holy Communion

Joshua 3: 7-11, 13-17: Matthew 18: 21-19:1

11.00-12.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Sunday 17th August—9th Sunday after Trinity

8.30 BCP Holy Communion

Hebrews 11: 29-12:2: Luke 12: 49-56

10.00 All Age Communion

Readings as above

**Monday 18th—Saturday 23rd August—Premises Closed for
Annual Maintenance**

Tuesday 26th August

10.00-11.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Thursday 28th August

10.00 Holy Communion

1 Thessalonians 3: 7-end: Matthew 24: 42-end

11.00-12.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Sunday 31st August—11th Sunday after Trinity

8.30 Holy Communion

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16: Luke 14: 1, 7-14

10.00 All Age Communion

Readings as above

3.00pm Baptisms

From the Registers

Weddings

Bradley Norton Jackson & Rachael Anne Worton

28th May 2025

Baptisms

Kingsley Geoffrey Phillips

25th May 2025

Arthur Harry Pickering

25th May 2025

Funerals

Jennifer Ann Simpson

27th May 2025

Restoration - or Conservation?

In the world of Heritage, there are two main approaches to preserving articles from the past - either Restoring them to how they were when first created, or Conserving them to prevent further decay. Both approaches have their merits but equally, both create issues if the two different mechanisms are incompatible with the sensitivities of the subject. Good examples of sensitive restoration can be witnessed on the TV series called *The Repair Shop*. Let's look at other examples of these approaches.

Restoration



This picture of a Viking ship being built in a boat yard at Tønsberg in Norway tells the story of Restoration. It will be a seaworthy vessel built in the 10th Century which is being returned to service through modern naval engineering techniques. Her builders are using old templates

to guide them.

This ship will be capable of seagoing voyages once restored and I have seen this taking place both in Norway and also in Denmark. However, is this particular ship authentic to its period? Thor Heyerdahl, a famous Norwegian adventurer, sailed across the Pacific Ocean in replicas of ancient boats and who made his vessels from designs of vessels that have long disappeared from our history.

Conservation

Conservation is the science and practice of preserving an artefact as it was discovered, but not by returning it to its original state. Examples of this include the Pocklington Burial Chariots, or the more recent Melsonby Hoard finds where the artefacts are so damaged that they can be admired but not recovered. Another instance of this are the pavement decorations from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem which haven't been restored, but simply covered up for future conservators to deal with.

What Conservation achieves is the prevention of further decay and damage to precious artefacts. It is about halting deterioration and allowing today's audience to see what it was like in bygone eras.



So what about Restoration and Conservation in today's Church?

In the Church of England, those being licensed for any form of ministry are told the Church of England 'professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation.'

If Restoration means to restore Christianity to its rightful place in the world then we would take what we are, compare it to the past and look to ... match what Jesus commanded us to do. But if we take the Conservation view then we simply look at the pillars of our faith and preserve them as relics, to be venerated and respected but not thought of as relevant in today's society.

Status Quo?

These two perspectives are designed to guide us to what is right for each of us on our separate journeys as well as for the church as a whole. To take the ancient faith that has been handed on to us, but then to find new ways in which to proclaim that faith in language that will be understood in our day.

Viking ship recreation or Melsonby Hoard - our choice! Or maybe it is both?

Peter Wheatcroft

From Around York Deanery

Deanery Synod was held at Holy Redeemer church, Boroughbridge Road on 11th June with lay and clergy representatives from around the York churches. One of the objectives of these meetings is mutual encouragement, along with cooperation.

The Rev Simon Biddlestone, vicar of Holy Redeemer, St Everilda's, Nether Poppleton and All Saints, Upper Poppleton opened the session with prayer and then filled us in about some of the new things they had been trying out. Making a child-friendly space at the front of church proved to be popular with those who noticed!

Other initiatives included:

- ◇ A service for children with additional needs,
- ◇ A disco for teenagers and young adults with additional needs.
- ◇ Brick church, using Lego

Area Dean, the Rev Andrew Gready mentioned the two meetings being held by the Diocese to discuss the Freewill Offering, of which we will hear more in the future.

Heather Wraight spoke about her book, *Tracks of Trustworthiness*, which was written for church and charity trustees, which includes PCC members. It "outlines trustee responsibilities, both legal and otherwise, and provides carefully researched examples of how they can be met...". Since Covid, there have been a couple of changes to trustee rules and so she was offering free copies of the old version. Most of the responsibilities remain unchanged. You will find one in our church library.

The main session was presented by Gerald Fox, Racial Justice Advisor for the Diocese. He began by saying that white people feel uncomfortable talking about racism, so we tend to avoid it. Despite 24 previous resolutions on racism, the Church of England has still failed to get to grips with the issue.

Gerald gave a couple of recent examples. He reminded us that everyone is made in the image of God and should be treated equally and with respect, that God is Just and loves justice and that the vision of heaven in the book of Revelation contains people of every tribe and nation.

Two of the main barriers to racial justice are: believing it doesn't exist, and implicit or unconscious bias, which refers to opinions and attitudes that we subconsciously hold and of which we are unaware. Due to its very nature, implicit bias is quite difficult to identify and tackle. Gerald holds half day training on this topic at the Diocese. He also offered to visit churches to discuss racism.

Recommended reading: *We need to talk about Race*, Ben Lindsay

Gerald can be contacted on: gerald.fox@yorkdiocese.org, 07709 021392

Linda Sykes



St Edward the Confessor, Dringhouses, York



Scripture
Union

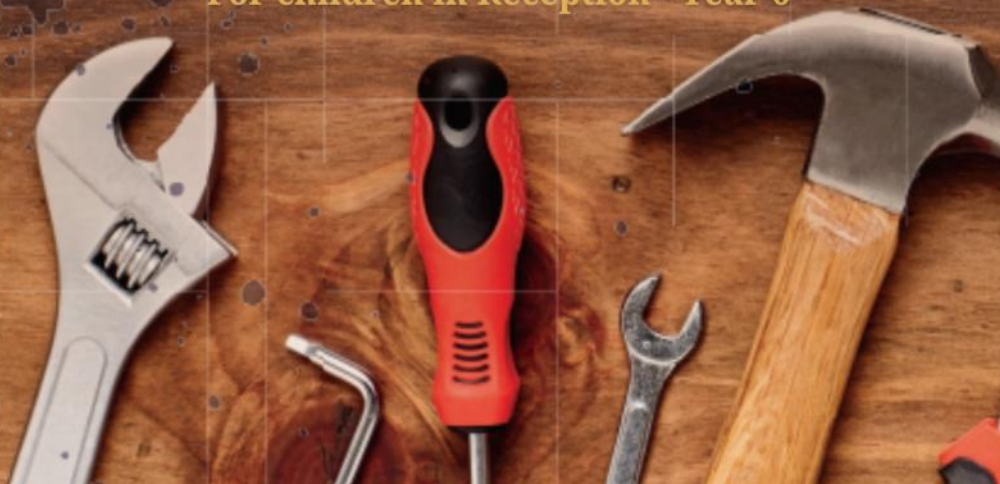
THE RESTORATION STATION

Kickstart your Summer Holidays with us!

3 days of songs,
crafts, games and
fun!

Launch service Sunday 20 July
& Holiday Cub Monday 21 July
- Wednesday 23 July

For children in Reception - Year 6



More details out soon!

Any questions? Contact: Helen at youth@stedsdringhouses.org



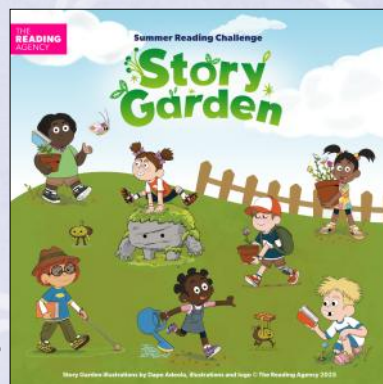
Hello from Dringhouses Library!

Hello from Dringhouses Library.

Summer is here already, and with it the Summer Reading Challenge for children 4-11 years.

The **Summer Reading Challenge 2025 is Story Garden**, all about the magic of nature and reading. Read 6 books over the summer holidays, get prizes along the way, and take part in a load of nature based, magical activities at the library. The challenge launches on **Saturday 12 July** and ends **Saturday 13 September**.

Here are some fab Challenge events to keep your kids busy through the summer:



Thursday 24 July 2.30-4pm Patio Planting! The Friends of Dringhouses Library invite you to plant some flowers in the lovely library patio. Join Lynne and come and help make our green space even greener, plant some beautiful new flowers, make your own label from lolly sticks, and see the flowers thrive over the next few months. No need to book, just drop in.

Monday 4 August 2.30-4pm Create a fantastical garden with Lucy Monkman. Get crafty this summer with an imaginative workshop where recycled materials are transformed into magical miniature gardens! Inspired by everyday objects—like bakery boxes—children will use paper and cardboard to create animals, insects, trees, flowers, and even ponds. Booking required, ask at the library desk.

Tuesday 19 August 10.30-11.30am A Woodland Adventure with Mud Pie Arts! Join us for a wild interactive storytelling session inspired by Emily Gravett's bonkers book Tidy! Pete the Badger's cleaning obsession has gone too far, and now the whole forest is in danger! Can you team up with the woodland creatures to help Pete see the beauty of his messy, magical woods?

Enjoy a 45-minute storytelling adventure, followed by a 15-minute woodland creature craft activity. Booking required, ask at the library desk.



The Friends of Dringhouses Library AGM and talk with Richard Gibbons from York Model Engineers is on Thursday 3 July at 6.30pm. Join the Friends to hear about all the great things they've done to support the library this year, and hear Richard, former head of engineering at the National Railway Museum, talk about building a working model of a Spanish quarry steam locomotive. Free, all welcome.

Our **Big Summer Booksale** runs from **Monday 28 July to Saturday 2 August**. Find a holiday read, support your library and the environment by buying pre-loved ex-library books at bargain prices. Books for adults, children, and everyone inbetween.

All our regular events for adults and children continue through the summer holidays:

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.

Our **Children's Craft Club** runs every **Thursday 3.30-4.30pm**, with fun, messy crafts each week. Free, no booking required.

Our **Children's Lego Club** meets every **Tuesday 3.30pm to 4.30pm** for 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.

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

Website: www.exploreyork.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dringhouseslibrary

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dringlibrary

Lucy

Friends of Dringhouses Library Annual General Meeting



Thursday 3 July
6.30-8pm | Dringhouses Library

Join us for an update from the Friends of Dringhouses Library committee on all the great work the Friends have done this year, followed by a special talk from Richard Gibbon, former head of engineering at NRM: 'Building a working model of a Spanish quarry steam locomotive'

www.exploreyork.org.uk

Follow our story:



explore
Libraries and Archives

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on Sunday 18th May with the Revd. Canon Richard Carew in the chair and Isobel Goforth, PCC Secretary, as recorder.



At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners there were two nominations for Churchwardens, and Helen Wren and Michael Trew were appointed for a further year.

At the APCM, the minutes from 2024 were agreed and signed. There were three nominations for the PCC and Richard was pleased to welcome Karin Pearson, Fiona Murray and Phil Lewis for a first term and Helen Dawe and Steve Connor for a further term. Debbie Paterson was thanked for her service in several capacities, as she stepped down.

Isobel Goforth gave notice to step down as PCC Secretary but would continue until a replacement was found. Richard thanked Isobel for her 14 years of both excellent and faithful service.

The APCM received reports with regard to the electoral roll, finance, safeguarding, fabric, sides persons and deanery synod. These reports are available on the website at <https://www.stedsdringhouses.org/apcm/>

No additional questions were raised.

Richard's clergy report looked back on 2024, starting with a short video entitled 'A Year of Green Shoots' <https://www.stedsdringhouses.org/year/> by way of introduction.

Looking back:

There have been increases in the numbers attending services, with 90 communicants at Easter.

There have been two Alpha courses, where fundamental questions about faith are discussed.

Growth in numbers at Little Teds and fresh links with Dringhouses School

Across the Church of England, there has been an increase in attendance from young people.

Baptisms and weddings have both increased - not yet quite at pre-Covid levels, but definitely an uptick.

Café and Friday lunches continue to be popular and a place of welcome.

Premises look fresh and welcoming with new lighting in church, new flooring in the vestry kitchen and a redecorated meeting room.

However, there has been sadness and grief as a church, with the loss of faithful servants of God from our church community.

Looking forward:

Prayers for sustained and gentle growth

Blessed with a great team of clergy and readers.

August will see the retirement of our Music Director, Angela Anelay - and more will be said nearer the time - but our heartfelt thanks are extended to her for her musicianship and leadership of worship.

2025 is our Year of Invitation and this means an invitation to follow Jesus, invitation to discipleship and an invitation to others.

2025 will also be a time to focus on prayer and to re-establish house groups.

Churchwarden, Michael Trew, thanked Richard for his strength, vision, leadership and care.

The meeting closed with a prayer and a blessing.

The APCM is available on St Edward's YouTube channel by following the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAFpJe4tenM>

In The Porch, we continue to bring news of our Connection Partners, and this month we give the background to one of our 'new' charities, A Rocha.



Restoration....of our planet

The charity, A Rocha describe themselves as, "a global family of Christian organizations working together to live out God's calling to care for creation and equip others to do likewise."

The organisation was founded by Peter and Miranda Harris in 1983 in Portugal, as a field study centre and bird observatory. (A Rocha means "the rock" in Portuguese.) In 1995 they handed it over to national leadership and moved to France, setting up 2 other centres and resourcing the growing movement of Christians active in nature conservation.

In all the countries where they work, A Rocha is identified by five distinctive commitments:

- **Christian** - We follow Jesus Christ, who created the world and calls us to care for it.
- **Conservation** - We protect and restore nature and are committed to local places and people over the long term.
- **Community** - We invest in good relationships through our commitment to God, one another and the wider creation.
- **Cultural Diversity** - We celebrate the insights, perspectives and solutions offered by our diverse cultures.

Collaboration - We seek to work with anyone who shares our vision.

We are working with:

- Churches through our Eco Church Programme
- Environmental leaders through our inter-denominational convening work
- Families and individuals through our Wild Christian programme, supporting people to enjoy, nurture and defend nature in their own homes and communities, and through campaigning.



Christian land managers through our Partners in Action network. This network includes our own two nature reserves, Foxearth Meadows and Wolf Fields which are also demonstration sites to inspire and enable others to manage small or larger areas of land for the benefit of people and nature.

The vision - the world we want to see:

- A world of stable climate and abundant nature, where oceans, rivers, air and soil are free of human pollution.
- Where human society lives in balance with the rest of nature and protects the Earth's natural systems which sustain all life
- Where all people and communities have access to healthy nature locally
- Where the Church worldwide understands the biblical mandate to care for all of God's creation as a core part of its mission and manifests this how it treats its land, buildings, investments and other assets.
- Where Christians play their full role, in collaboration with others, to protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of life on Earth, and to restore and maintain the health of our planet's life sustaining systems

And where, through Churches and Christians adopting a right relationship with the rest of Creation, others are drawn to a closer, life-giving relationship with our Creator God

Eco Church Programme

At St Edwards, our association with A Rocha has been through the Eco Church Programme.

Through this we have benefitted from resources, ideas, encouragement and a



framework to try and measure our progress in caring responsibly for our little bit of the planet here in Dringhouses.

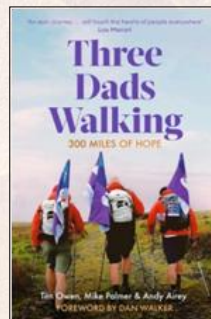
Using the award programme, we achieved a Bronze Award back in 2022. We are currently working towards Silver. Whilst it is nice to get a "gong" we are really more interested in rising to the chal-

lenge of looking for ways we can improve our care of the environment and decrease our negative impact. We are also looking for ways to collaborate with other groups in our area who have similar concerns for the environment but without a religious affiliation.

If you would like to know more about the work of A Rocha, visit their website on arocha.org.uk

Book review – A story of Restoration and Hope

On the 29th April, myself and Berni attended a talk by "The Three Dads Walking" in the Lady Chapel of York Minster. The event was organised to talk about their experiences and promote their book "300 Miles of Hope". We were inspired by their positivity and humour as they talked openly about their experiences of loss and how their walking challenge had led to notable publicity and restoration together.



Three Dads Walking, 300 Miles of Hope Published by Little, Brown Book Group

"Three Dads Walking: 300 Miles of Hope" delivers a profoundly moving and inspiring narrative, chronicling the extraordinary journey of three fathers united by an unimaginable grief. Andy, Mike, and Tim, each having lost a daughter to suicide, embark on a challenging 300-mile walk across the UK. Their mission: to raise awareness for suicide prevention and to honour the memory of their children.

The book is a testament to their courage and resilience in transforming a personal tragedy into a powerful force for good. It delves into the depths of their individual sorrows, yet beautifully highlights the strength found in shared experience and joint purpose. The camaraderie among the dads is a central theme, providing moments of significant reflection, unexpected humour, and unwavering support as they navigate both physical and emotional landscapes. Through their honest reflections, the authors shed light on the devastating impact of suicide and the critical importance of mental health support. This isn't just a story about a walk; it's a heartfelt exploration of grief, hope, and the enduring power of paternal love. "Three Dads Walking" is an essential read for anyone seeking understanding, solace, or inspiration in the face of profound loss, demonstrating how even in the darkest times, hope can illuminate the path forward.

The evening was led by The Revd Canon Timothy Goode from York Minster, who encouraged all to pray for those who live with mental health struggles, remembering those who have taken their own lives and reminding us that God walks with us even in the darkest valleys.

Prayer

God of compassion,

who walks with us in both shadow and light, we lift before you all whose lives are touched by suicide. For all who live with heavy sorrow, unanswered questions, and aching love.

We remember with tenderness all those who have taken their own lives.

Not as statistics, nor as problems to be solved, but as your beloved children- deeply known, deeply missed, forever held.

God of healing,

we pray for those living with mental health issues: for minds that race or ache, for bodies that carry invisible pain, for those who feel numb, afraid, or beyond reach.

Remind them-and us-that no one is beyond your care,

that every breath is sacred, and that even in despair, your Spirit groans with us.

God of courage,

bless all who walk the long road of prevention: campaigners, carers, counsellors, clinicians, those who listen, those who sit alongside, those who speak even when their voices shake.

Bless the work of *Three Dads Walking* and all who turn grief into change.

Help your Church be not a place of shame but a place of sanctuary- where tears are allowed, questions are honoured, and stories of struggle are met with gentleness, healing and grace.

Remind us that your Son wept.

Remind us that the risen Christ still bears the open wounds of suffering.

And remind us that no one walks alone.

In the name of Jesus- wounded, risen, and always near,

Amen.

Prayer by : The Revd Canon Timothy Goode

Submitted by Ian Addyman

And finally, wherever you are this summer, the Porch Team wishes you rest and restoration!

BREAKING UP

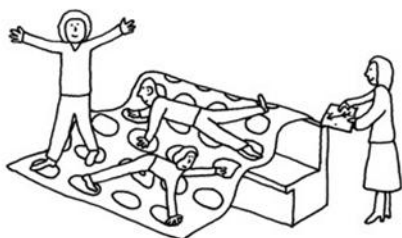
HOW CHURCHES CELEBRATE THE END OF TERM



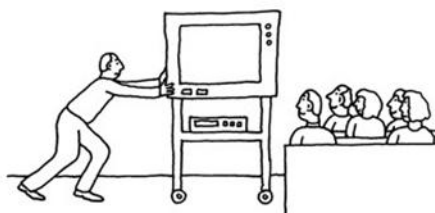
NON-UNIFORM DAY



PRIZEGIVING



GAMES CAN BE BROUGHT IN



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CartoonChurch.com



Why not write for The Porch?

September: Music to my ears

October: All good gifts

November: Memorable moments

December/January: Light of the World

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