

THE PORCH

OCTOBER 2025

£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

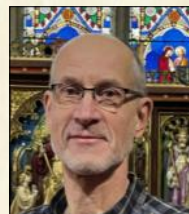


Children's Worker: Sally Gatus

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'

All good gifts

"See the world differently." So runs the slogan for Virgin Airlines advert that is running at the moment (n.b. other airlines are available!). In their case it is an invitation to travel and see different parts of the world, and to spend money with them to do so.



One of the hymns that we sing at Harvest includes the line "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love". It is an invitation to see the world differently and to recognize all the good things that we enjoy not merely as the product of our own hard work and ingenuity- things that we have rightfully earnt- but rather as gifts from God.

In the original language of *Genesis* in the Old Testament there are a couple of words for 'make' and 'maker'. One means create/ creator, and the other means manufacture/ manufacturer. When the Book of *Genesis* talks about people making things, it uses the word for manufacturing, but when it talks of God making things, it uses the word create. Only God is Creator, and we then take what God has created, and manufacture from that.

This may seem to be a fact only relevant to the real Bible geek, but in recognizing God alone as Creator, we begin to see everything that we are and everything that we have as a gift from God. Even our next breath is a gift from God! And suddenly, rather than having a sense of entitlement because we have 'made it' or 'earnt it', we are gifted with a sense of deep gratitude for all that God has given to us. And that sense of thanksgiving then enables us to be more openhanded with what has been gifted to us, and we then join with God in sharing our blessings with others.

But we do need to recognize those good gifts first, and this is where sometimes we need to see the world differently. If we are fortunate enough to travel, it often gives us a different perspective on life, and we come back to our daily routine with a shift in our outlook. I vividly remember coming back from a trip to Zimbabwe in 1998 and standing in the cereal aisle at the supermarket feeling utterly overwhelmed at the variety of cereals that loomed over me on the shelves. How could we possibly need these many cereals just for breakfast?

We don't need to travel to be able to see the world differently. We can also make a conscious choice to look again at the things that we take for granted and to acknowledge where they have come from. We can then make another conscious choice about what use we make of all the resources that we do enjoy, both for our benefit and for the blessing of those around us.

Sharing our good gifts will mean different things for each of us. But whatever the particular outworking looks like in our daily lives, it is about passing on the generosity that God has already shown to us. As a friend of mine recently put it "God is generous, and God's people are faithful." As we give thanks for Harvest, I pray that our thanksgiving will then turn outwards to those in need around us, and we will be known as those who are faithful to God and share our gifts with the same generosity that we have already received from God.

Richard

The Porch theme this month is All Good Gifts, and we are delighted that Becky Watson, York Coordinator for Besom, agreed to write a piece about their work.

All Good Gifts

Over the years, my idea of what makes a "good gift" has certainly changed. As a child, it was my favourite band's CD, or that Tamagotchi my parents refused to buy me. At university, it would have been a home-cooked meal and a comfy sofa. And now, as a fairly new mum, I'd say a night off, a meal I haven't cooked, and a good book.

What we count as a good gift is personal, and how wonderful that we're not all the same! Yet the source of every good and perfect gift never changes: *"Every good and perfect gift comes from above."* (James 1:17). Our God knows what we need and gives so generously. And as Jesus reminds us: *"Freely you have received; freely give."*

That's why we at The Besom in York were so pleased to be asked to write on the theme of "All Good Gifts." Giving is at the heart of what Besom is about. On the surface, we may look like



a charity that helps people in need. But really, our role is to help people give to people in need — to create a bridge between those who want to give time, money, skills, items or hampers and those who need them.

For several years now, your congregation has blown us away with the most beautiful Christmas hampers.

Sometimes people talk about “donating hampers to Besom,” but the way we see it, is you *giving* them to people in need, with Besom simply facilitating. And what phenomenal gifts they are! The time, care, and thought that go into each one is stunning. We’ve always believed in passing on not just “that’ll do” items, but genuine gifts — things that restore dignity and joy. Your hampers embody that completely.

These hampers are more than food and treats — they are a display of love. They remind people that they are seen and cared for. They reflect the generosity of God’s gifts to us, and we pray that recipients may know something of God’s love for themselves, through them. It is an honour to help facilitate this for you. (We receive referrals from housing, health visitors, probation, CYC etc. to make sure each hamper reaches someone in genuine need.)



Let me share just a couple of stories. A few years ago, a gentleman received a Christmas hamper from his local church. Alongside it came an invitation to a

Christmas service. He went, met people, kept coming back, and before long was baptised. Today, he is part of that church family.

Other stories remind us how God works in the details. We don't usually know much about recipients, but over and over the contents of hampers turn out to be exactly right. I've had messages like: *"There was a scarf in there — my favourite colour!"* ... *"I had no presents for the kids, and the toys were just what they wanted!"* ... and one Christmas, a little boy who loved trains received a hamper that included a train set.

Never underestimate what God can do through a hamper. Truly, every good gift comes from Him — and it is a joy to see those gifts flow so freely through His people to bless those who need them most.

Becky Watson

Besom in York Coordinator

Find out more: www.thebesominyork.co.uk . We're on Facebook and Instagram @thebesominyork

If anyone reading this article would like to contribute to the Hampers, the collection usually starts in November for delivery in December. Details will be on our website, or you can contact Wendy in the Parish Office nearer the time.

ALL GOOD GIFTS

At various times during this year people coming into the community cafe have left knitted squares and other knitted items. Not all Dringhouses people, one lady from South Bank meets her friend from Bishopthorpe and both brought in squares, also my neighbour has knitted baby jackets and hats. The squares have all been made up into blankets. I have been able to handover to The Kikomo Trust supporting people in Malawi.

7 Large Blankets

7 Baby Coats

8 Baby hats

3 Baby blankets.

Our gift to the people in Malawi who will receive these goods



Anne Brabbs

All Good Gifts Around Us

Harvest time, celebrated in the Autumn, signifies growth, abundance and effort. A symbol of new beginnings, of letting go, a time to reflect on our past accomplishments and a time to build strong foundations.



Here at St Edward's, we are working to do just that, as we look back on the years of Children and Youth. We can be proud of those achievements. Our intention for the future is to develop new ideas, new groups and outreach to our local community and beyond. So, as I take the reins of Children and Youth for a short interim period of time, it gives me a chance to identify areas of growth as one phase ends and we begin another.

All our groups, Youth, Promise, Little Teds, Promise Creche, Tea and Toast Sundays and All Age Service will be continuing as normal, but with fresh challenges and goals.



My name is Sally Gatus, so if you require any information or support, please contact me at St Edward's either on children@stedsdringhouses.org or via the Parish Office, 01904 709111. If you have spare time to volunteer for any of the above groups, I would really like to hear from you, so please do get in touch for more information.

A Prayer to Grow

Dear God,

Thank you for allowing us to reflect on our achievements,
and thank you for the blessing of our Children and Youth.

In this Harvest season, we pray that we may grow deeper in our love and
faith.

We also give thanks for our Church community;
for their support in preparing us for new beginnings
and exploring a shared future together.

Amen

Sally Gatus

Children's Worker

The Gift of Books!

On your bookshelves, under a wonky chair leg,
or, for the very posh among us, in your library
you'll probably have some large, mainly pictorial
books. The term often used to describe these
volumes is 'coffee table books', not because
stick four legs under it and you have a coffee
table but because, opened at a double-page



spread, they add focus, colour and interest to a room when placed on a coffee table, or better still, a desk or table so that they can be admired standing up...you, not the book. Years ago Dorothy had the idea of placing an impressive tome on the desk in our front bay window, for relaxed browsing, admiring and studying with a different picture each day. This practice, repeated daily, has spread to the dining room, and is to be highly recommended.

Page turning is generally associated with books of remembrance and rolls of honour, but that principle can be applied to other works, from which you'll benefit. Don't deny yourselves this daily treat. We do it with books on gardens and stately homes, maps, York, railway posters, views, natural history, transport, celebrated artists just to name a few categories.

All you need is a table or desk space...and some fine, colourful but perhaps neglected, books. This simple ploy can be highly effective and rewarding. An oasis in your day to drink in. Ideal for 'Drinkhouses' and elsewhere! You'll often find yourselves returning to the vista several times throughout the day for inspiration and interest. At the moment in the front room, we're turning the daily page in a fascinating historical atlas of North Yorkshire with today's spotlight on religious houses. Meanwhile, in the back room the daily image shows railway posters (today; Hornsea and Withernsea). What will tomorrow bring?

Dust them down and give those magnificent books a regular airing and they'll reward you for it. They're 'crying out' to see the light of day. Take a leaf out of our book...not too literally though; leave it intact! I'm sure some readers will already indulge themselves in this way but to the rest, give it a go, and like Guinness, it'll be 'good for you'. For those watching their pennies, it's a different aspect of 'the Home Holiday Movement'. The World's our lobster!

"Of making of many books there is no end" (Ecclesiastes 12.12) so make sure you put your share of this resource to good use while not wearing and wearying yourselves out with binge reading, as the second half of this verse almost says.

Happy page turning and let's hear a few 'Oos!' (no relation to the river).

All the answers are gifts.



The Real GG

The village and parish where I served for 19 years before coming to York on retirement had a wonderful couple - mother and daughter. For a number of years they organised an annual quiz held in the pub's function room - the old court room, dock and jury benches still intact - to raise funds for the Friends of Slaidburn School.



These quizzes were legendary - always packed, great fun, drinks flowing freely. The quizmasters (excuse the non-political language) had the knack of making a quiz in which everyone could take part no matter how old or young or well schooled - there was a coveted wooden-spoon prize. Questions would range from Shakespeare to David Bowie, Geography to Musicals to Literature to current affairs. One round always had to have answers starting with two identical letters - FF = Free Fall, MM = Marilyn Monroe; PP = Peppa Pig, etc. Answers given were often hilarious.

This month's Porch theme is **All GG** - the GG standing for? Yes, you've guessed right - **Garden Gang**!!

All GGs come to an end - at least most should try to reach the finishing post. At the end of this month, St Ed's GG hangs up our trowels and secateurs until Spring. There will still be a few times when winter jobs will need attention. As Under Gardener, I want to thank all GG members for the back-breaking work done this summer - we were out in all weathers (mainly too hot to work in, and not when raining, or on Bank Holidays). Actually 2025 was a year of more inactivity than activity, owing to the drought! But we had Pat on Spade and secateurs Pete on Lawnmower, Mike on Loppers and Saws, David on Secateurs and trowels, and turning their hands and skill to whatever and whenever - Alec, Chris, Karin, Jill, Linda, not forgetting the ever-faithful Liz and/or Sarah on Tea Pots.

Such a GG (= Gifted Gang) is always open to more G's, both Gifts and Gardeners - we're Greedy (!) that way. So if there are any out there who wish to join, just turn up on Monday afternoons from 2.00 - 4.00 pm on the basis of '*come when you can and go when you must*'. The new session will start in 2026 when BST starts.



St Ed's Garden is admired by many more than we imagine - those who drive or walk past, those who come to sit and rest, and all who come to visit the church or for worship. It's a place of welcome, colour and calm. And we are determined to keep it so. It's part of Dringhouses, part of our Church's ministry to the parish and beyond.

The St Ed's GG is grateful for all the kind remarks about how well the garden looks.

So we are looking for a 'Co-ordinator' who can keep an eye on what needs to be done and when, but doesn't need to be, or can't be, hands on - someone who can give gentle direction, support and encouragement to the gardeners. A To Do List is being prepared giving some guidance, but nothing prescriptive. All GG (= Good Gifts) don't come to an end - many very GG are out there and only need a bit of TLC to get going. If there are any willing to offer their services to the GG, have a word with one of the Churchwardens.

Mark Russell-Smith, retiring Under Gardener

Churchwarden's Note: We would like to thank Mark for all his vision, his skill, his organisation and his sheer hard work in and around the grounds of St Edward's. He has encouraged people over the years to join the garden gang, and he has established a really faithful team. He has been a hardy perennial!

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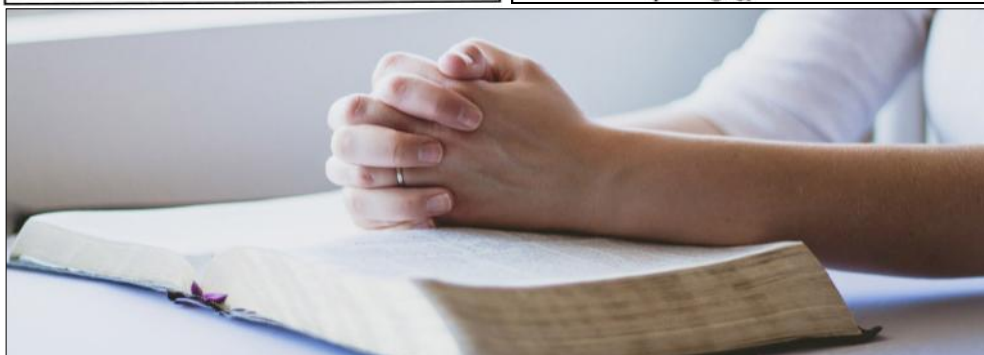
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FRIDAY LUNCHES 2025



10TH OCTOBER

24TH OCTOBER

14TH NOVEMBER

28TH NOVEMBER

12TH DECEMBER

19TH DECEMBER

(CHRISTMAS LUNCH @ £9.00)



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12.00-2.00pm



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OCTOBER 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
Wednesday	7.45-9.45pm	Line Dancing
	9.30am-12noon	Probus (fortnightly)
	10.00-11.00 am	Aerobics
	12.15-3.30pm	Art Group
1st Thursday	6.15-8.15pm	Perfecting Pilates (2 x 1 hour classes)
	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
	6.45-7.45pm	My Yoga Journey
	7.15-9.15pm	Occasion Choir
Friday	9.30-12.00	Living Well Health Community (2nd & 4th in month)
	12.00-2.00	Lunches in the Community Hall (see poster for dates)
	6.15-7.15pm	Beavers Scouts (in term-time)

Wednesday 1st October

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 2nd October

10.00am Holy Communion

Psalm 19:7-11: Luke 10:1-12

11.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

2.00-3.00pm

Contact

Friday 3rd October

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Teds

Sunday 5th October—16th Sunday after Trinity (Harvest)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

Philippians 4: 4-9: John 6: 2535

10.00am All Age Harvest Service

Readings as above

6.30pm Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Readings as above

Monday 6th October

10.00-12.00 noon

Needlecraft

Tuesday 7th October

10.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Wednesday 8th October

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 9th October

10.00am Holy Communion

Psalm 1 Luke 11: 5-13

11.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Friday 10th October

10.30-12.00 noon

Little Teds

12.00-2.00pm

Friday Lunches

Saturday 11th October

10.00-12.00 noon

Railway Group Meeting

Sunday 12th October– 17th Sunday after Trinity (Prayer Adoration)

8.30am Holy Communion

Acts 4: 24-31: John 1: 1-14

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

Monday 13th October

10.00-12.00 noon

Needlecraft

Tuesday 14th October

10.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.00-9.00pm

The Prayer Course part I

Wednesday 15th October

2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday Afternoon Small Group

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 16th October

10.00am Holy Communion

Acts 4: 24-31: John 1: 1-14

11.30am

The Prayer Course part I

11.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.30-9.00pm

Local History Group

Friday 17th October

10.00-11.30am

Dringhouses Memories

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Teds

Sunday 19th October—18th Sunday after Trinity (Prayer Petition)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

Exodus 16: 1-5: Matthew 7: 7-11

9.15am

Tea & Toast in the Atrium Cafe

10.00am Family Communion

Readings as above

Monday 20th October

10.00-12.00 noon

Needlecraft

Tuesday 21st October

10.00-11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.00-9.00pm

The Prayer Course part 2

Wednesday 22nd October

Praying in Company

12.00 noon

SEEDS

3.25-4.00pm

Youth Group

7.00-8.30pm

Thursday 23rd October

10.00am Holy Communion

Exodus 16: 1-5: Matthew 7: 7-11

11.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

11.30am—1.30pm

The Prayer Course part 2

Friday 24th October

10.30—12.00 noon

Little Teds

12.00—2.00pm

Friday lunches

Sunday 26th October—19th Sunday after Trinity (Prayer Intercession)

8.30am Holy Communion

2 Chronicles 6:18-27: John 17: 20-26

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

Monday 27th October

10.00am -12.30pm

Mini Holiday Club

10.00-12.00 noon

Needlecraft

Tuesday 28th October

10.00-11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.00-9.00pm

The Prayer Course part 3

Wednesday 29th October

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

Thursday 30th October

10.00am Holy Communion

2 Chronicles 6: 18-27: John 17:20-26

11.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

11.30am - 1.00pm

The Prayer Course part 3

2.00pm

Women's Fellowship

From the Registers

Weddings

William John Partlan & Emma Jane Riley

6th September 2025

Thomas Samuel Cookson & Margaret Joanna Patterson

10th September 2025

Baptisms

Darcey Florence Luckhurst

31st August 2025

Raya Jane Long

31st August 2025

Funerals

John Michael Fryer

16th July 2025

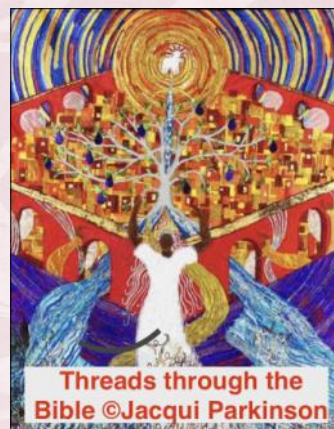
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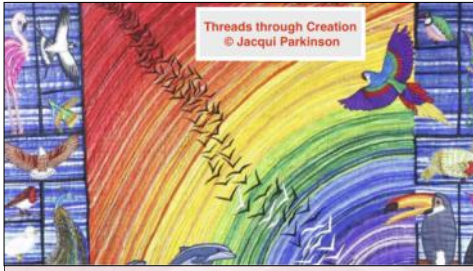
30th July 2025

Threads through Time: Jacqui Parkinson

I was first introduced to Jacqui Parkinson's work in around 2017 when she held a textile exhibition in Ripon Cathedral, entitled 'Threads through Revelation'. And what an exhibition!

There were 14 panels, each three metres high and probably one and a half metres wide. Based on Jacqui's love of the Book of Revelation, which she describes as a 'Picture book'. These are described as 'Challenging images and thoughts, large overarching themes about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit - life and faith - good and evil - death and judgement - the New Heaven and the New Earth, as well as many more extraordinary themes as recorded by John.'





Jacqui says that, after doing 'All things good in the end', she should do 'All things good in the beginning'. This led to an exhibition which I saw in Hexham in 2023, 'Threads through Creation'. This comprised of 12 panels, again huge, some up

to four metres wide.

Jacqui's current exhibition is 'Threads through the Cross' which has 18 panels. The previous exhibitions and this one, tour various venues in the Country, mostly Cathedrals. 'Threads through the Cross' has been at Ripon and Sheffield Cathedrals.

During the next two years, all three themes are being exhibited at various venues under the heading, 'Threads through the Bible' which Jacqui says represent some 25 million stitches, she adds 'her sewing machine counts the number of stitches!'.

Information sources, firsthand, from an article in the Church Times, 3rd January 2025 and from the website: Jacqui-textile.com

Isobel Goforth

2026 Exhibition Dates

Threads through the Bible | Creation + Cross + Revelation

**28th January - 1st March - BATH ABBEY + ST MICHAELS + ST
SWITHENS**

8th May - 28th June - CHESTER CATHEDRAL

2nd July - 31st August - LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

Just a Minute: Notes from the PCC

Monday 15th September 2025

On a wet and windy evening, the PCC gathered to discuss the weightier (and other!) matters of parish life.

We were delighted to be joined at the start of the meeting by Angela Morrison who came to give her thanks to the PCC for their support following the completion of her curacy last year, and her recuperation from treatment for cancer. She is about to return to her work for the Library Service and will be focusing her future ministry on working with smaller groups and spiritual direction.

The key discussion was about our Free Will Offer for 2026. This is the money that we give to the Diocese of York to help pay for the ministry in this parish, the extra support from the Diocesan Office - e.g. safeguarding, legal, education, church buildings, communications, and also to support ministry in less well-off parts of the Diocese. While we are still not back to our pre-Covid giving of £105K we decided that we would give £100K in 2026 as the next step on our journey.

There were a number of policies adopted: we scrutinized and adopted our updated Safeguarding Action Plan; we approved a new Health and Safety Policy, and new Fire Safety Management plan; we received updates on the work to be done to secure the spire- hopefully starting towards the end of September/ early October.

We also looked at our activities for the upcoming year, not least a local Pilgrimage to take place in Holy Week, a Church Weekend Away at Wydale (15-17 May), and also our Christmas celebrations for this year.

And all in an hour and forty minutes. Church life is certainly never dull!



Memorial Service



Sunday 2nd November 2025 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 26th October, to Michael Sargent at 70, Dringthorpe Road, York YO24 1LG.

Forms are available in the Parish Office or on our website: www.stedsdringhouses.org

Alternatively, you can email Michael at 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.



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

At the Churchwarden's Admission, Helen Wren was invited to speak about the 'view from here'. She was asked if her speech could be printed in The Porch magazine - and so here it is verbatim.

The View from Here

For Churchwardens, the view, the vista - is often obscured by leaking rooves, asthmatic heating, crumbling stonework and leaning gravestones - and in the case of our church, a wobbling spire. These are often the things which exercise us as churchwardens and take up our time and energy. But our wobbling spire in many ways, has become a metaphor for the last five years of our church life. Over the years, the fibreglass spire has been under stress from strong winds and has become less secure, the stonework base cracked, and the joints weakened - and in very high winds, it frightens the local constabulary. At its core, however, the spire itself remained intact.



And, just as the spire has been buffeted by high winds, we as a church community have been battered by life's challenges. We all experienced the effects of the pandemic, but in addition we have seen sadness and grief, especially in the illness and death of Rachael Carew, the dear wife of Richard, our vicar. Alas Rachael was not to be the only young death in the church community, and this coupled with safeguarding issues, unexpected costly repairs and other losses, inevitably led to our endurance and resilience being weakened - and indeed for some, faith being challenged and tested. Like our spire - we felt pretty shaky and a bit fractured. We were in a Narnia winter.

Yet, out of these experiences, we began to see new growth; new faces in church, children bringing their parents wanting to know more about Jesus, our toddler group, Little Teds, seeing new children bringing mums, dads and grandparents, more people wanting to use our community spaces. It felt like Aslan was on the move, and the Narnia winter was perhaps melting and receding- we could finally see some tender green shoots. And I don't think we are unique. I am sure there are many of us here today who can begin to say, 'Yes - God is moving in this place.'

And as for the spire? Well, we hope soon to receive a faculty giving us permission to anchor it and make it secure; to repair the fractured stonework, and the weakened joints. And so our prayer is that this renewed spire will become a new metaphor for our church - a place where we are anchored in Jesus and strengthened by God's renewal. So, if you hear rumours of a big cat sighting on the Tadcaster Road - you'll know why.

Ah, but the heating is still asthmatic - the churchwarden's work is never done!

Helen Wren

Churchwarden

Quiz Answers:

1 hat and scarf. 2 card. 3 train set 4 bike. 5 torch.
6 jigsaw. 7 necklace 8 flowers. 9 skipping rope.
10 wine and beer. 11 chocolate. 12 jumper

explore

Libraries and Archives



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, or venture out for some fab artistic and spooky events!

I hope you've been enjoying creating art for our **'My Library' art project!** If you haven't yet completed your piece there's still a bit of time, please get anything to Lucy and the team before Friday 10 October. Then our **exhibition** of all these wonderful creations will be held on **Friday 17 October, 7-8.30pm.** Join us for a relaxed evening of art, chat, nibbles, and help us raise some funds for Explore. No booking required, just come along, but the art may sell quickly so if you're in the market for a beautiful new library themed addition to your home, come early!

We're holding a **big autumn booksale** all half term, from **Monday 27 October – Saturday 1 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 **Hallowsafternoon** is back! Join Lucy and the team for spooky children's crafts and fun all afternoon, **Friday 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.

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

For those with babies of 0-2 years, Parents Place 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 **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.

Thursday Toddler Time, 10-11am. Join us with your **2-4 year olds** for a **parent-led session** with lots of toys and books for little ones, then why not stay for our **11am storytime**? 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.**

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.

WATCH THIS SPACE:
Some **Monday afternoon** talks in November, on local history and Sri Lankan cookery!

Lucy

Explore Shaped With You



'My Library'

A celebration of Dringhouses Library

Submissions open July - September

Share your love and memories of Dringhouses Library through art!
Draw a picture, write a song or story, choreograph a dance, embroider a sampler: you choose the medium, we provide the subject.

Then join us for an autumn exhibition to celebrate these amazing creations, and raise some money for the library.

Entry forms available from the desk.

All submissions to front desk or dringhouses@explore.york.org.uk

www.explore.york.org.uk

Follow our story:



explore
Libraries and Archives

Wisdom & Hope in Christian-Muslim Relations

St Ed's are supporting for the next three years the Centre for Muslim Christian Studies (CMCS) in Oxford: the strapline of this small, Christian initiative, which employs a Muslim member of staff, is 'wisdom and hope' and the transformation of minds in inter-religious relations.



The urgency of such an initiative is clear from a cursory glance at Sayeeda Warsi's latest book with the shocking title: *Muslims Don't Matter*. Baroness Warsi, the first Muslim Cabinet minister, documents the rising hostility to Muslims across much of the British press, far-right violence in the 2024 riots and a tide of hatred aimed at Muslims active in public life, as the Gaza tragedy unfolded.

The totality of CMSC's activities seek to challenge the lazy caricatures underlying such attitudes without pretending that the history of relations between the West and the Islamic world has been conflict free, or that there are not profound differences between Islam and Christianity in doctrine and practice.

CMCS has just celebrated its 10th annual Muslim-Christian Summer School in Oxford. Here 8 young Christians and 8 Muslims, equal numbers of men and women - drawn from theological colleges and Islamic seminaries across the country - join a week-long residential, where they share lectures, workshops, meet in small groups to study each other's scriptures, visit a mosque and a church, engage in joint projects, eat and laugh together ...not least as they try punting!

The first thing each person is asked to do is to spend a couple of minutes explaining to the group what, in particular, they value in their religion. People are not expected to leave their deepest convictions at the door!

They listen to distinguished lecturers - Muslim and Christian - as they seek to make sense of the changing dynamics of our difficult, shared history, convergences and divergences in belief, sectarian differences within each complex tradition, and how to quarry our respective traditions for resources to live well together and tackle many shared problems: whether the climate crisis or alienated youth.

All participants are grateful for the trust and friendships which develop, enabling a deep mutual listening and learning, without glossing over intractable differences. Many subsequently join an Alumni WhatsApp group. Most go on to become leaders in their local community, as well as teachers...and where mosque and church share local space they have developed the confidence to initiate relations with their opposite number. They also become part of a network of trusted expertise, so important in our polarised times.

The pioneering work of CMCS activities, especially the Summer School, is gaining recognition internationally: specialists from America, Ghana and Indonesia have visited and have started a similar centre in their respective, countries - each of which are part of an informal, growing movement.

Do tap into their website - <https://www.cmcsoxford.org.uk> - and listen to their splendid blogs and podcasts. The latest blog is entitled: *What do you think of Muhammad?* There is an excellent podcast - *The History of Muslim-Christian Relations* - where, Sidney Griffiths SJ, one of the leading Catholic scholars of early Christian-Muslim debates, explores what we can learn from early Christian-Muslim relationships. They also have a series of short pamphlets (the *Hikmah* guides - where hikmah means wisdom in Arabic) on controversial, hot button issues. All free to download.

Philip Lewis

The Railway Children: An Update

Some stories from The Railway Children, one of the charities supported by St Eds.

Dante's Story - A Self - Starter



Dante is the kind of person who takes action to change his circumstances. So just before Christmas 2023, the 15-year-old asked social workers if he could be moved into foster care due to unresolvable problems at home. After his first night in foster care, Dante told Railway Children worker Amelia that he'd spent the whole night with his curtains open. Such was the novelty of having a window to look out of.

Over the next four months, juggling different foster carers, moving schools and huge emotional strain, Dante continued to study for his GCSEs, and passed. He then found two college open days he wanted to attend, applied for an apprenticeship and got it!

"He's really settled and is achieving so much," says Amelia. "This is a young person who, a year ago, was too cold and tired to get out of bed - just making it to school felt impossible. Today, he is holding down his apprenticeship, attending college and has recently begun looking into living independently. Dante has been such a big part of his own progress, he doesn't need me anymore," says Amelia, "and that's the aim. I'll miss him, but Dante now has the skills, the resilience and the confidence to go out and do it himself, and he knows I'm always here if he needs me."

Safara's story

10-year-old Safara* was desperate to go to school. But instead, her grandmother arranged for her to carry out domestic work in Dar es Salaam to earn money to support the family. Then, during the long bus journey from Mwanza, Safara lost the contact information for her employer. She had no idea where to go when she arrived at Dar es Salaam's busy bus station.



Thankfully, Safara was found by the police, who took her to Railway Children's Child Support Desk at the bus terminal. There, our team were able to give her protection and support when she was at her most vulnerable. We offered her food, water, and reassurance that everything would be ok. Safara was placed in a safe, loving, family environment with a Fit Person. Meanwhile, we spent time supporting Safara's grandmother to understand the importance of her granddaughter living at home and attending school. This way, Sarafa can get the care and attention she needs until both she and her grandmother are ready to be reunited and build a brighter future together.

**Names have been changed and models used to protect identities.*

These are just some examples of children who have been supported by donations to The Railway Children, £57 pays for three hours of one-to-one support for a vulnerable young person in a way that works for them; £21 pays to train a Fit Person for a day, to provide a stable, loving home.

If you want to know more about the work of The Railway Children, see the web site <https://www.railwaychildren.org.uk/>.

Alec Cartwright

St Edward's Parish Weekend

Wydale Hall

15-17th May 2026



A weekend like no other!

www.stedsdringhouses.org/wydale

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