

THE PORCH

FEBRUARY 2026



£1

ST EDWARD'S CHURCH
DRINGHOUSES, YORK

Who's Who in St. Edward's

Vicar: Reverend Canon Richard Carew
The Vicarage, Tadcaster Rd,
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Email: : vicar@stedsdringhouses.org Tel: 07776683254



Assistant Curate: Reverend Debbie Long
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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

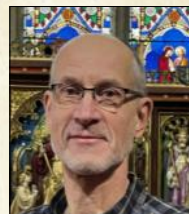


Parish Assistant: Louise Walton
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Office Hours: Monday 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Tuesday - Friday 9.00am -
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Children's Worker: Sally Gatus
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**Contact The Porch on porch@stedsdringhouses.org
for any submissions or questions.**

Lent

"Are you going anywhere nice on your holidays...?" This is the classic, stereotypical question you get asked as you settle into the barber/ hairdresser's chair. It is a question that assumes that there is a rhythm to the year in which time for a holiday will somehow be part of most people's annual plans.



There is a rhythm to the Church year as well. After all the Christmas celebrations which in the Church last until Candlemas on 2nd February, we very quickly enter Lent, a time of slowing and refocusing of our spiritual lives, a time to simplify rather than to complicate.

Sometimes Lent can be caricatured as the time when we give up anything enjoyable, and focus on being miserable, but as an article in the Church Times in 2017 reminded us "Lent is not meant to be miserable." It said, "Lent is a re-enactment — an embodiment — of Jesus's stay in the wilderness. There is nothing to suggest that Jesus went to the wilderness to bewail his sins, or to be miserable. He went, as so many others did, to clear the decks.

The wilderness represents solitude, rest, and a profound trust in God to meet every need: emotional, physical, spiritual, and mental. It involves the acceptance of risk — all the dangers of isolation (loneliness, self-deception, and hunger) — for the sake of a closer approach to God. The agenda is left entirely open to God."

To enable this space for God people will often go away on a Retreat or on a Pilgrimage, but the opportunity to 'go away' is not necessarily available to all.

During Lent here at St Edward's, we are going to be offering everyone the opportunity to engage in a Retreat in Daily Life. This is not a 'going away' type of Retreat, but rather an invitation to make space in the regular rhythm of our week to focus on God, and to be open to whatever agenda He might have. More details about the course appear later in this magazine.

This is not a 'holiday'. The time that Jesus spent in the wilderness was certainly no holiday, but it was necessary to enable Him to be ready and refreshed for the tasks that lay ahead of Him. There will be times during Lent when our Retreat in Daily Life may feel more like a workout than a holiday, but the invitation is to be willing to be open to whatever God may have for us, and to receive it as His gift to us in a wearying and bewildering world.

Lent certainly doesn't have to be miserable! In Lent we are invited to rediscover the deep restoring wells of God's provision for us, and through our refocusing on Him to be refreshed in body, mind and spirit. I don't know whether Lent will feel more like a workout or a holiday for you this year, but as we gather for our Easter celebrations at the start of April, I pray that we will each have been refreshed in our journey of faith, and all the more ready to be those who communicate the love of God to a world that desperately needs to know that, in Jesus there really is hope.

Richard

Days in the Life of our Curate

Following on from our brief introduction to Revd Debbie Long in the December Porch, we catch up with her now to find out more.

Hello! This is Reverend Debbie, and I've been asked to tell you a little bit about myself, my faith story, and how I come to be with you all at St Edward's.



I was born in Lincolnshire where my Mum comes from, and all my family on her side are either farmers or teachers. My Dad was a proud Yorkshire man who as a youth, used to play cricket with Freddie Truman. He loved cricket and so do I - apart from this year's Ashes! I love football too, especially Newcastle United, and my sons and I have had a season ticket for 20 years. Aside from sport, I am an enthusiastic but not particularly good gardener. Last summer all my family including me were quite surprised when I managed to grow the most enormous dahlias.

My childhood was filled with worship and song. All my relatives were either Methodist or Salvation Army, so someone was always singing. I remember clearly as a child singing 'How Great Thou Art' with my Grandad in my grandparent's kitchen. It was his favourite hymn and is now mine. God was always spoken about, praised and prayed to. I never questioned whether God existed, never had a big conversion moment, I don't really remember ever not knowing Him. I've always had a faith.

I first started going to church when I was six. It was a lively ecumenical partnership on a big housing estate in Durham where we lived at the time, and I loved it. When I was 10, we moved to Barnard Castle, on the border with my Dad's beloved Yorkshire, much to his delight.



My church in 'Barney' - was St Mary's, very traditional Church of England, very different from my church in Durham, but I loved it too. We used the little turquoise service books - series 2 or 3 - I loved the liturgy and the ritual and the language. I was confirmed there and remained part of the church for a very

long time even when I moved away, first to University in Newcastle where I studied English and History, and then to London after I graduated.

My husband Graham and I are blessed to have four children, two boys and two girls, now all grown up. The first time I ever felt that God was calling me to serve Him in some way was when my youngest daughter, Hannah, was born. I was very poorly and taken into intensive care. The nurse who looked after me there asked if I believed in God and offered to pray with me. We prayed all night. A week later I went home and I called my baby 'Hannah Grace', because both names mean 'blessed by God'.

After Hannah was born, I didn't want to go back to my career in retail advertising and so I retrained as an early years teacher. My husband had a change of job too, which happily meant a move from London to York. The whole family loved being in York. I worked as a nursery manager and then in primary schools working with children with additional needs. For years I helped with the children's work at my local church, St Paul's in Holgate, eventually giving up teaching and becoming their Children and Families Coordinator.

Finally, I realised it was ordination that God was calling me to but thought that I had left it too late and I was too old to begin training. However, I found that through Him all things really are possible, and I was given a place on a pioneering training scheme, at St Hild College in Sheffield, for people already in ministry and leadership. I was ordained deacon in June 2024 and priest in June 2025.



During the Covid pandemic, St Paul's was closed for much of the time, and so I often used to come to St Edward's, to sit in the quiet and to pray. I had driven past St Ed's for years. My Mum just lives round the corner and I live at the top of Tadcaster Road. I'd seen the colourful boards outside, and sitting at the traffic lights, had watched so many different people of all ages, going in and out of the church, and the café, and working in the garden. I had always thought it would be a wonderful church to be part of.

Through God all things are certainly possible as now I am here! I feel so fortunate - really blessed - to be part of St Ed's ministry team with Richard and all the other clergy and lay ministers, and to be here, with you all. It has been so lovely getting to know everyone, and if you are reading this and you don't usually come to St Edward's then come and see us! I can guarantee that, like I did, you will receive a warm welcome from lovely people, and I look forward very much to all that God has in store for us all.



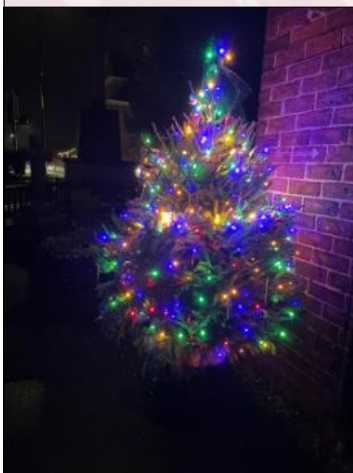
Rev Debbie Long

The Heart of a Community

Originally a village would gather all those living in the local area to come together to share faith, produce and crafts at a Christmas Fair. This provided a social experience in the depths of dark, cold winters. Since the Middle Ages, these gatherings have increased in popularity and are widely organised in Europe. Once a minister in Germany cancelled his Christmas Eve service, because everyone had left the village to go to market!

Our modern fascination has not diminished and in many places small village Christmas fairs have expanded to full blown markets. York, of course has its very own St Nicholas Fair.

St Edward's Church for many years did enjoy a Christmas Fair, and used the money raised towards funds for the Church. When our church extension was built in the 1990's, I remember a lot of fund-raising activities of various sorts. However, the traditional community Christmas Fair was last held nearly 3 decades ago.



However, it was felt that 2025 was the year in which to resurrect the community Christmas Fair. It was held on Saturday 6th December 2025 and there were exhibitions from the railway group, the St Ed's flower team, the needlecraft group, the music group, Dringhouses scouts, Living Well and the art group, just to name but a few of those who showcased their talents and skills.

The community spirit was brilliant and everyone who came said the atmosphere was fantastic. It was a moment of joy in the dark nights before Christmas.

In Christian tradition, Jesus represents the light in the darkness, bringing hope, faith and joy to the world. The Christmas period officially ends at Candlemas on 2nd February - and so until then, the lights remain on the tree and we greet the New Year with hope.

Dear God

Thank you for our shared experiences as friends in this community. May your light guide us throughout these winter months so we may know more of your love.

Amen

Sally

Children's Worker

Why not write for The Porch?

February: Lent

March: On the Move

April: April Fools?!

May: May...Be...

Contact: porch@stedsdringhouses.org



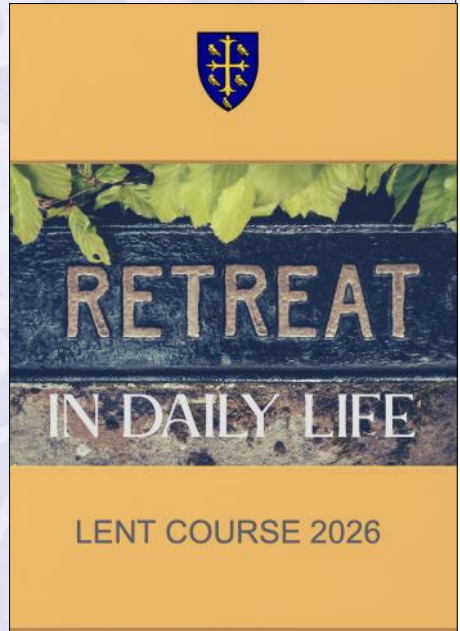
A Retreat in Daily Life

The Christian faith is often pictured as a journey. Most famously the book Pilgrim's Progress imagines the Christian life as a series of challenges and adventures, some of which have become much used English idioms such as the *Slough of Despond* and *Vanity Fair*. In this journey there are times of great activity and also times of stillness and reflection.

In the midst of the busyness of life in the 21st Century, this Lent we are inviting the community here at St Edward's to make time for stillness, reflection and prayer. It is called a Retreat in Daily Life.

This is a special kind of prayer journey in your own home and interwoven with your daily life for the 6 weeks leading up to Easter. During this Lent, we will be invited to set aside time 4 times a week to reflect with a Bible passage on your life and relationship with God. The theme for each week will be introduced in our Sunday and Thursday sermons.

The daily time length is up to the individual, though it is suggested that we spend a minimum of 10 minutes a day plus some 'review and writing- up time'. There will be a booklet provided for everyone at St Edward's with some suggestions about different ways to pray. Using the passages, we'll walk with Jesus through his life from his birth to his death and beyond. At the end of each prayer time, we are invited to jot a few words in a note-book about our experience.



For those who wish to, there will also be the opportunity to join a weekly small group in which we can reflect with others on our experience of the 'Retreat' that week. Small group times and venues will be arranged to suit those who wish to take part.

Do look out for information leaflets in the Church to find out more about the Retreat in Daily Life, or talk to Richard Carew or Susan Collier.

Richard

Carbon Fast for Lent

The season of Lent is the period in the church calendar immediately before Easter. It is a time for quiet reflection and re-assessment of our lives. Since it echoes the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting and praying in the wilderness, people often choose to give up something that they like during this period, i.e. chocolate,

alcohol, etc. Traditionally people would give up rich food which is why the Tuesday before the start of Lent is called "mardi gras" or "Fat Tuesday". In Catholic countries, this is a big celebration to use up the 'fat' and rich food in the pantry. Here in the UK we just flip a pancake!!!



You might not be interested in giving up treats or spiritual reflection, but you might be interested in thinking about the impact on the planet of your daily life. One of the charities we support at St Ed's is A Rocha, a Christian charity working to restore and protect the natural world.

They run programmes of education for churches including the "Eco church" programme which offers a framework for assessing and improving our use of natural resources. Along with the group, Climate Stewards, they have designed a "Carbon Fast" which encourages us to consider how we can live more simply, use less resources and reduce our impact on the natural world. Whilst it might be relatively easy to make small changes for a few short weeks, it is more difficult to keep going, once the season is over. Hopefully we will find something that we can carry forward throughout the rest of the year.

A Rocha have not yet produced the programme for this year, so I have included ideas from previous years to give you an idea.

Week 1

Reduce, re-use, re-cycle

- ◇ Reduce the amount of meat you eat.
- ◇ Plan your weekly shopping so you avoid food waste.
- ◇ Compost fruit and vegetable peel.
- ◇ Try to avoid buying stuff in lots of packaging.
- ◇ Look at everything you throw away. Could it be re-used or not have been bought in the first place?



Week 2

Water the source of life

- ◇ Turn the tap off when cleaning your teeth
- ◇ Fix dripping taps
- ◇ Take showers instead of baths and fit a water saving shower head.
- ◇ When you run the hot tap, collect the cold water that comes first and re-use it for flushing the loo or watering plants
- ◇ Only fill your kettle with as much water as you need.

Week 3

Confronting climate change

- ◇ Don't leave electrical equipment on standby
- ◇ Replace old light bulbs with energy-saving LED
- ◇ Unplug chargers when not in use
- ◇ Only run your washing machine or dishwasher with a full load.
- ◇ Consider installing a solar water heater

Week 4

Tread lightly

- ◇ Try and travel by bicycle, foot or public transport
- ◇ Drive more calmly, avoiding excessive acceleration and braking which use more fuel
- ◇ Share lifts for errands or trips
- ◇ Turn off the air conditioning in the car when not needed
- ◇ Check tyre pressures for optimum efficiency

Week 5

Our daily bread

- ◇ Buy food produced locally
- ◇ Buy food that is in season.
- ◇ Batch cook food and save for later.
- ◇ Eat less meat
- ◇ Put lids on pans when cooking.



To find out more about this initiative, please visit: arochoa.org.uk

Linda Sykes

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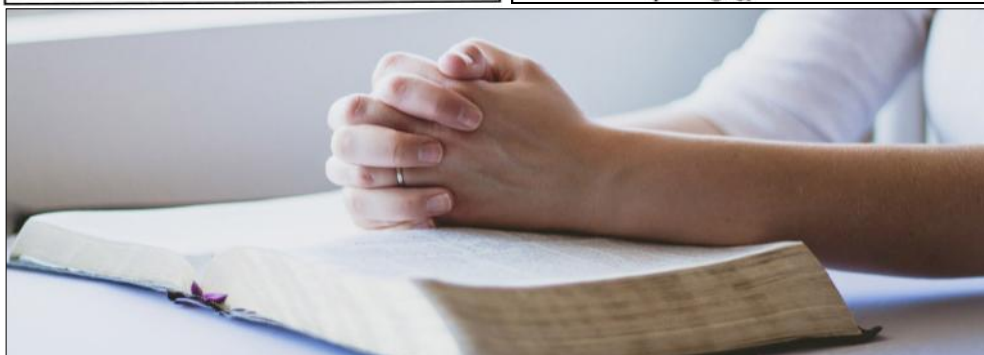
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Monday-Thursday	Church open during daytime 9.30am-3.00pm (Friday 12.30-3.00pm)
Monday-Thursday	Café open 9.30am-12.00 & 1.30pm-4.00pm
Friday	Café open 9.30am-12.00
Mondays	Garden Gang (during the season) 2.00pm-4.00pm
Wednesdays	Youth Group 7.00pm-8.30pm
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
	6.00-8.00pm	Dringhouses Rainbows & Brownies
	7.00—8.00pm	My Yoga Journey
Tuesday	10.00-11.00am	Exercise for Fitness & Health
	10.30-11.30am	'Happy Hour' in the Café
	11.10 –12.10	Mindful Yoga
	12.30-4.00pm	Tuesday Bridge Group
	6.15-7.15pm	Beaver Scouts (in term time) see back page for Wednesday evening session
Wednesday	7.30–9.00 pm	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-am -12.30pm	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
	7.15-8.15pm	Occasion Choir
	7.50-9.50pm	Camera Club
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)

Sunday 1st February - Candlemas

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

Malachi 3: 1-5: Luke 2: 2-40

10.00am All Age Service

11.30am—1.00pm

Telling the Sacred Story

6.30pm Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Readings as above

Monday 2nd February

10.00 -12.00

Needlecraft Group

Tuesday 3rd February

10.00-11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Wednesday 4th February

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 5th February

10.00am Holy Communion

1 Kings 2: 1-4, 10-12: Mark 6: 7-13

11.00-12.00

Exercise for Fitness & Health

2.00pm

Contact

Friday 6th February

10.30-12.00 noon

Little Ted's

Sunday 8th February—Second Sunday before Lent

8.30am Holy Communion

Romans 8: 18-25: Matthew 6: 25-end

10.00am Family Communion

Readings as above

11.30am—1.00pm

Telling the Sacred Story

Monday 9th February

10.00-12.00 noon

Needlecraft

Tuesday 10th February

10.00-11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Wednesday 11th February

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00-8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 12th February

10.00am Holy Communion

1 Kings 11: 4-13: Mark 7: 24-30

11.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Friday 13th February

10.30-12.00 noon

Little Ted's

12.00-2.00pm

Friday lunches

Saturday 14th February

10.00-12.00 noon

Railway Group

7.00pm

Curry evening in the Community Hall

Sunday 15th February—Sunday next before Lent

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

2 Peter 1: 16-end: Matthew 17: 1-9

10.00am All Age Communion

Readings as above

Monday 16th February

10.00-12.00 noon

Needlecraft

Tuesday 17th February

10.00-11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Wednesday 18th February—Ash Wednesday

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

12.00 noon Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Isaiah 58: 1-12: Matthew 6: 106, 16-21

7.00pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Readings as above

Thursday 19th February

10.00am Holy Communion

Deuteronomy 30: 15-end: Luke 9: 22-25

11.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

7.30-9.00pm

Local History Group

Friday 20th February

10.30-11.30am

Dringhouses Memories

Sunday 22nd February—First Sunday of Lent

8.30am Holy Communion

Jeremiah 29: 10-14: Matthew 11: 25-30

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings as above

Monday 23rd February

10.00-12.00 noon

Needlecraft

Tuesday 24th February

10.00-11.00am

Exercise for Fitness & Health

Wednesday 25th February

12.00 noon

Praying in Company

7.00- 8.30pm

Youth Group

Thursday 26th February

10.00am Holy Communion

Jeremiah 29: 10-14: Matthew 11: 25-30

11.00-12.00 noon

Exercise for Fitness & Health

2.00pm

Women's Fellowship

Friday 27th February

10.30-12.00 noon

Little Ted's

12.00-2.00pm

Friday lunches

From the Registers

Baptisms

Benjamin Preston Hatton Spillett

7th December 2025

Funerals

Freda Mary Gothard

18th November 2025

More Dringhouses Connections

Well done to anyone who solved the puzzle of links in the November 2025 Porch regarding Dringthorpe, the house which gave its name to a road in the parish, George Oldfield, the wealthy bachelor who owned the property, and St Leonard's Hospice which was built on land formerly part of its estate.

Links and connections are a wonderful way of doing a bit of detective work with local history and we will be trying to put together another 'jigsaw' at our meeting on 20th February. Here are some clues to begin the chain of connections - together we will hopefully see how they fit!



This looks like a large period country house, still in excellent condition, which suggests it is still in use. Lots of rooms indicate it would have had wealthy owners. What might its link with Dringhouses be?

Could this gentleman have some connection with that country house? Is he famous? Would he be wealthy enough to own such a property? And what link could he have with Dringhouses?



Perhaps this is an easier clue - there's a (Victorian?) lady speaking to the gardener near a church porch. What sort of connection might she have had with the gentleman above? Perhaps that's a false lead

She could just be a neighbour enquiring about the time of services!



Here's another piece of the jigsaw: a photo from the York Press in the 1950s.

Older local residents have an advantage here, knowing where to place this particular piece.

As usual, we will be looking at a PowerPoint presentation, with audience participation at times, as we spend another relaxed hour together. There's an opportunity for drinks and cake in the atrium café if you arrive before 10.30am when our meeting starts. Please join us!

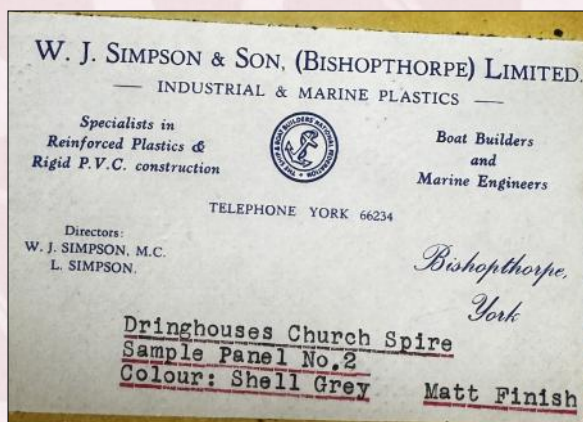
Dorothy Reed

St Edward's Spire: An Uplifting Story

In the summer of 1968, sharp-eyed members of the congregation spotted that the stone spire appeared to be leaning in a way that spires ought not to lean. An inspection by the then Architect, Mr Mennim, confirmed the worst - the 19-foot spire was officially leaning by 7 inches (4.8m & 17.8cm for the millennials) and would need to be demolished. In December 1968, works started to demolish the spire and the tower was temporarily capped awaiting a decision about a future replacement.

The archive reveals a complex story involving all interested parties, from the council to the Diocese, the PCC to the congregation, the architects to the public and of course the bank! It soon became apparent that to replace like-for-like was prohibitively expensive, a sum of £3000 upwards. The Diocesan architect, Mr George Pace was consulted, and he agreed that an alternative material could be sourced, as long as it 'looked' like the existing spire.

In November 1970, the new spire was fitted at a cost of £1,114.16 in a fibreglass material provided by W J Simpson & Son of Bishopthorpe, Boat Builders and Marine Engineers. The architect's fees were £126 - thus the total cost was £1,240.16. In the PCC minutes dated 16th March 1970, it records 'Consultants report life of about 20 years.'



The archives, however, do not record whether as a design feature, the spire was meant to rock on windy days..... but rock the spire did - and on very windy days, it could look rather alarming, so much so that the police once closed Tadcaster Road!



However, Fast Forward 55 years with a spire that has now Exceeded Expectations. The 2024 Quinquennial Report by our architects Jaggar Shaw, noted the following:

"Spire roof itself seems in reasonable condition given the age; however its fixings and bracketry are causing significant damage to the internal stones in the belfry. The priority is to assess the fibreglass. A consultant provided a cost last year and this should form part of the investigations to determine next steps. £50,000-249,999 - but for the cost of re-build and spire replacement. "



This was a slightly hair-raising sum and so the land was scoured for Consultants to help us with our uplifting issue. The best news was that the fibreglass consultant reported that the spire was *"in a good, sound condition, and hence we believe it is still 'fit for purpose'. In our opinion, whoever manufactured the product initially did a very good job."* So - hurrah to WJ Simpson & Son!

The structural engineers provided a solution to take the strain off the stonework by securing the spire with cables to an existing concrete block, rather than the fragile magnesian limestone. It was also decided to replace the wooden ladder with an aluminium one, and to also replace the heavy trapdoor with a plywood hatch covered in lightweight stainless steel. The Belfry stonework would require repointing. Our previous stone repairers, Pinnacle, took on the work - and given the restrictive workspace, only one man could work at a time. However, after many steps climbed and buckets carried, the work was completed at the end of December.



The final inspection of all the completed works happened in January, and we will provide some 'before and after' photos for a future magazine. The invoices are still coming in, but the cost will be far below the QI estimate. Furthermore, a generous donation from a church member has made a significant dent in the overall costs. Uplifting news indeed! Thank you.

The Churchwardens

A Prayer for the Lenten Journey

"Heavenly Father,

As I enter into this season of Lent, I ask for a heart that is open to Your refining work. Just as Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, help me to find quiet moments with You, away from the noise and distractions of the world.

Lord, give me the strength to let go of what weighs me down. Where I have held onto pride, give me humility. Where I have held onto anger, give me Your peace. Where I have been selfish, teach me the joy of sacrifice.

May my fasting be a reminder of my hunger for Your presence, and may my prayers be a bridge that brings me closer to Your heart. Soften my spirit so that I may see others through Your eyes of compassion.

As I walk toward the cross of Good Friday and the light of Easter morning, let my life be a reflection of Your grace.

Amen."



Hello from Dringhouses Library! Lots on this month, talks and books and coffee aplenty!

We have another in our monthly '**Mostly Monday**' talks on **Monday 9 February, 4-5pm**. Join RNLI water safety advisor and Dringhouses resident, **Alan Marsden**, for a talk about the RNLI and about how to be safe and have fun in and around water. Whilst saving lives at sea and lifeboats are what the RNLI are famous for, that's not the whole story. Free, booking required, via TicketTailor or from Lucy at the desk.

Join the Friends of Dringhouses Library for their first coffee morning and booksale of the year on Thursday 12 Feb, 10am-12.30pm. Homemade treats and fab quality books to buy, come along and have a coffee and a chat.

Our **big spring booksale** will run from **Monday 16 – Saturday 21 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 18th at 3.30pm**, **Crafts on Thursday 20th at 3.30pm** and **Storytime on Thursday 20th and Saturday 22nd at 11am**.

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 **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 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



Friends of Dringhouses Library Coffee Morning & Book Sale



Thursday 12 February
10.30am – 12pm
Dringhouses Library

Join the Friends of Dringhouses Library for a Coffee Morning with sweet treats, hot drinks, books for sale and community chat. Support your library in the tastiest way!

www.exploreyork.org.uk

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Spring Booksale



Monday 16 - Saturday 21 February
Dringhouses Library

Grab a fresh new preloved book to brighten your day.
Support Explore by buying some ex-library stock, do something green,
and find your next favourite read.
Books for adults and children.

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RNLI: Not just Lifeboats



Monday 9 February
4-5pm | Dringhouses Library

Whilst saving lives at sea and lifeboats are what the RNLI are famous for, that's not the whole story. Join Dringhouses resident, Alan Marsden for a talk about the RNLI and about how to be safe and have fun in and around water.

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Wednesday Pret a Manger Surplus Food

A few years ago, St Edward's Church was invited by a charity to collect surplus food from the Pret a Manger store at the Designer Outlet, on Wednesday evenings.



Two years ago, I took over the coordination of the group of volunteer collectors. Two volunteers go each week, arriving just before the store closes at 8 p.m. (times vary during the Christmas season) and bring it back to the community hall cafe. From 8.30 to 9.00 p.m. the food is available to collect. The food available reflects what is sold in the store and includes filled rolls, baguettes, salads, savoury pots, dessert pots, yoghurts, pastries and cookies. Vegetarian options are usually available. The amount of food we collect varies from week to week, but there is always something.

This service is open to everyone, but it particularly serves those who are struggling to provide food for themselves and their families. It not only provides a service for the community but also prevents food waste. Those in receipt are always very grateful and for some it offers a weekly connection for social interaction. If you know anyone who would benefit from this surplus food, please send them along or call in and collect on their behalf.

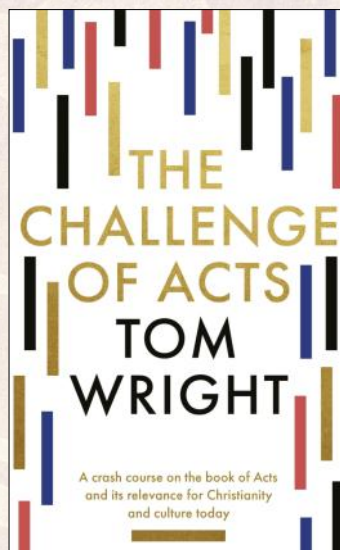
We are always looking for volunteers who preferably will be drivers and have access to a car, but this is not essential. If this is something you would like to become involved with, please contact myself fiona-murray67@gmail.com or the Vicar, Revd Richard Carew.



Fiona Murray

Book Review: The Challenge of Acts

Tom Wright's *The Challenge of Acts* (SPCK, 2024) is just the tonic needed when seasonally adjusted depression (SAD) kicks in after Christmas and into the new year! This short and highly, readable book offers an exhilarating overview of the birth and first few decades of the early church. How in its journey from imperial backwater to imperial capital in Rome, it faced persecution, martyrdoms and provoked riots: whether from Jewish groups, who considered it subverted rather than fulfilled the meaning of Temple and Torah, or gentiles, such as those in Ephesus, where Paul's critique of idols threatened the lucrative business interests of those producing statuettes to the local goddess. Christianity also punctured the pretensions of local power brokers. The study ends with Paul in Rome, in the shadow of the emperor Nero - the official lord of the world - speaking of God as king and the Risen Jesus as the true Lord of the world 'with no one stopping him' (28:31)



Wright is a wonderful guide to this astonishing epic, both in making sense of many aspects of the ancient world which inevitably remain alien and strange to us - such as his illuminating aside that the gods then were like electricity today: no household could function without them! - as well as teasing out its relevance for Christianity and culture today.

Wright is not only one of the finest contemporary biblical scholars, but has stress tested many of his insights in the public and political world as a former bishop of Durham.

He also writes as a pastor, and the work is enlivened by personal asides drawing on this rich experience. Time and again he offers arresting short definitions of key terms whether 'justification by faith', God as 'judge' (meaning 'to put everything right' rather than being angry) and 'grace' understood not just as God's free love reaching out to the 'morally undeserving' but 'Israel's God reaching out to the gentiles' (98). The latter rendered concrete in Peter's momentous encounter with the centurion Cornelius.

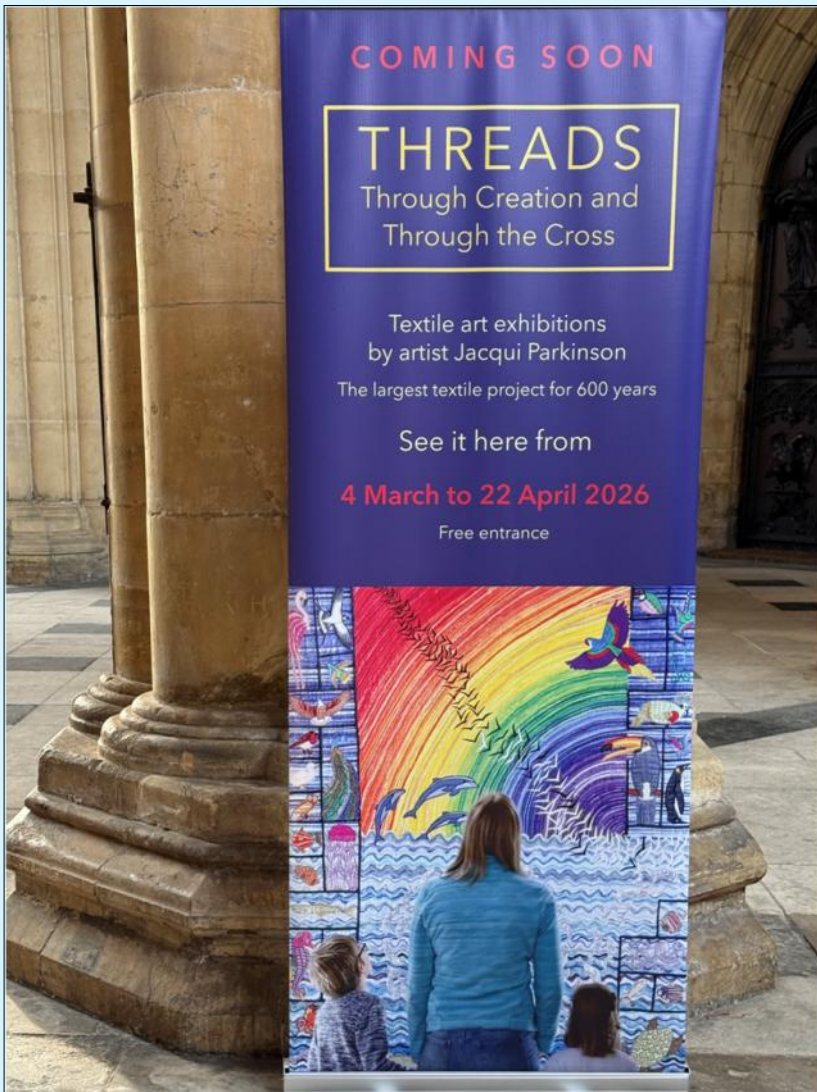
For those unused to reading scriptural commentary, Wright's little book is an engaging way in, not least to Wright's many other works which range from Pauline studies, a book on the psalms to his latest: *Jesus and the Powers: Christian political witness in an age of totalitarian terror and dysfunctional democracies*.

For those who have already studied the Acts of the Apostles, this work fizzles with new insights to energise and enlarge understanding of the revolutionary nature of the Christian faith. Particularly illuminating is Wright's extended treatment of Paul's historic defence of the gospel in Athens at the Areopagus, a law court, where Socrates had been executed for introducing new divinities and his 'impiety' in not acknowledging the city's official gods. This encounter is charged with menace, but Wright makes clear how Paul cleverly outflanks the philosophers and is freed.

Philip Lewis

Threads Through Creation and Through the Cross

Readers may remember that in the October Porch, Isobel Goforth wrote about the work of textile artist, Jacqui Parkinson. The exhibition will be visiting Beverly Minster between 4th March to 22nd April 2026 and entry is free. We are considering organising a charabanc to visit – so if any of our readers are interested, please let the Parish Office know with a name and telephone number. Email: parishoffice@stedsdringhouses.org or call 01904 709111.



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