

No. 529

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Link



Upper Wharfedale and Littondale Parish Magazine

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Contents

- § From the Vicar
- § From the Churches & Villages
- § Features
- § Reflections
- § Crossword
- § Contact Us
- § What's Happening?
- § Puzzle
- § Church Services

This Month...Creativity!

▲ **About...** *Buckden Art Group*

▲ **About...** *Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival*

▲ **Retelling...** *Adam and Eve*

▲ **Try...** *'Words in Wood'*

A Dales Prayer

*May the Father's grace abound in you as the flowing water of the beck.
May the Son's love and hope invigorate you as the rising slopes of fell and dale.
May the Spirit's companionship be with you as the glory of the golden meadows.*

From the (retired) Vicar...

No Postcards from the Celtic Dream!

As I'm sitting writing this letter, I am conscious of the fact that today I should have been on a train from Inverness, returning from a week on Orkney, where we had planned, amongst other things, to visit many of the remarkable archaeological sites.

This was our second "COVID-related" cancellation, the first being Easter on Iona, where I was supposed to be leading the Easter retreat at Bishop's House.

It's a strange, often hard, time for us all, but there have been some amazing positives in the lockdown, not the least being the outpouring of care for each other. There have also been so many instances of creative activity, if our locality is anything to go by.

We live in a row of terraces, with a ginnel behind, backing onto the next road. This ginnel has been, and indeed still is, full of the evidence of residents building, repairing, painting, and constructing. New skills have been discovered, or shared, in what is still a hive of activity. I have painted two sheds, a stone wall and learned how to lay a brick path, which was an interesting experience!

Actually, I got an experience whilst laying this path that I had forgotten completely from my childhood, the feel and smells of red brick and sand in the heat of summer. It took me back to my great -

grandparent's garden, when I was a very small boy in the Black Country. I could see clearly it in my mind's eye, as I was kneeling down to tamp the bricks into the sand, and could remember clearly things that I hadn't thought about in more years than I could imagine. Perhaps it was a gift to me, that I would never have received if we hadn't been in lockdown?

What was also interesting, particularly in the first couple of months, was the realisation that everything around me felt clearer and cleaner. With hardly any vehicles around, it was possible to hear things that would normally have been inaudible; we heard a cuckoo for the first time in years. The air quality was decidedly better; it was possible to smell the fields, hedges, crops in the allotment, well, everything, much more clearly.

Then, God's Creation became so much more apparent. It was noticeable that the bird life became much more numerous and obvious. My favourite was a heron, that decided to come right into the middle of our village to fish in the beck, early one morning actually flying at low level along the main street.

We were also visited by several birds that were unusual for our area. One afternoon, I heard a very familiar call and could scarcely believe my eyes when two Manx Shearwaters flew over our house, but nothing prepared me for what happened a few days later.

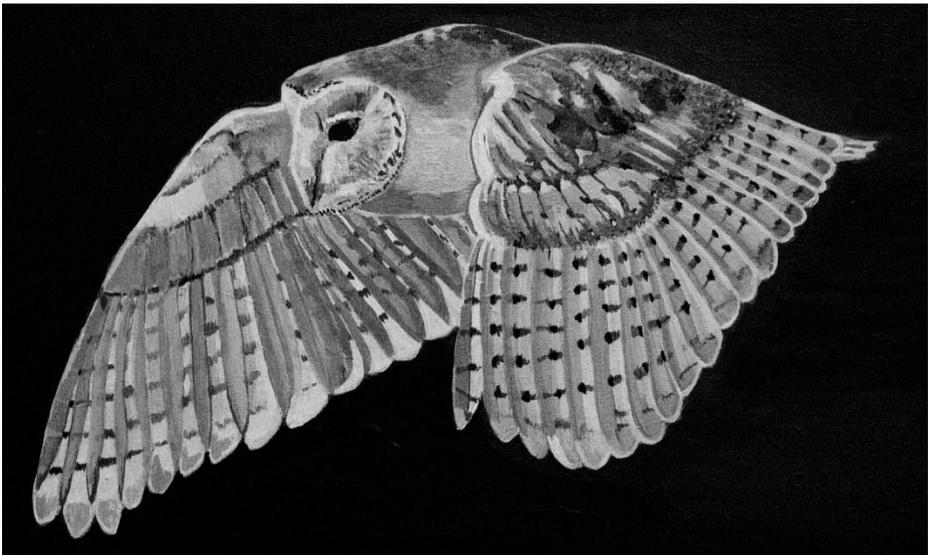
Sitting in our front room, looking towards the fields behind Earby All Saints' Church, I saw a very large raptor being crowded by the local rooks. I couldn't make out what it was, definitely larger than kestrel or buzzard. A neighbour saw it through binoculars - it was an osprey! Very far from home!

All this has made me thank God, that in the middle of all the very difficult times we are living in, glimpses of the glories of

Creation are also apparent, a very real reminder of God's presence with us, always.

May all Creation continue to reveal to us all that wonderful peace that can only come from God.

*Rev Rod Geddes, retired minister
(Rod will be conducting some services in the parish during the vacancy)*



Our theme for the LINK this month is 'Creativity', as we worship the God who created heaven and earth, and has gifted us with that same creativity and love of beauty. We are delighted to have several contributions from the Buckden Art Group, which is also profiled in our 'About' feature. Several other pieces of work from the group illustrate the LINK this month, and will feature in future issues.

This beautiful Barn Owl is by Sarah Perry, of Buckden Art Group

As a way of saying 'thank you' to James Theodosius for his ministry here in the parish over the last five years, the Buckden singers have created 'The Blessing', arranged by Richard Reeday, which is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/xvsG-Xb2U9o>. Do listen to it – it's beautiful!

From the Churches & Villages

Farewell and thanks to James, Mo and family

COVID-19 put paid to plans to gather as a parish to say farewell to James and his family, as they moved to Skipton at the end of July, where James has taken up the position of Rector of Holy Trinity. Though we can't say it in person, we can put it in writing, and here are four contributions from the churches of the parish.

St Mary's Kettlewell



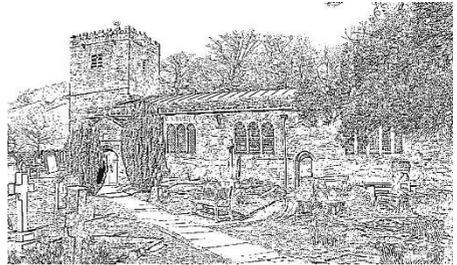
To say that James will be missed is an understatement! He has been an inspirational Vicar; committed to both the Church and the community, a talented musician, a gifted teacher and preacher, a kind and thoughtful communicator and a gentle pastor. James' consideration for and sensitivity to the feelings and needs of others in all situations has been appreciated and will be remembered.

At Kettlewell, his innovative midweek service of light, peace and thanksgiving, Sanctuary@6, has become the service of choice for many. Children have been encouraged in their journey of faith through The Playhouse and James' regular visits to the school. The Nativity and Epiphany processions have involved people of all ages, attracting large crowds as the Bible stories have been played out around the village.

James has also encouraged and enabled the four church congregations to come together as one, united Parish of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale, in order to secure the long term future of the Church in the upper dales.

James, Mo, Charlie, Samuel and Isabella, you will certainly be missed by the community of Kettlewell and Starbotton. We thank you for all that you have achieved and wish you all the best for the future. We will look forward to seeing you out and about in Skipton.

St Michael and All Angels, Hubberholme Church



Hubberholme's first introduction to James and family, and he to Hubberholme, prior to him taking up his ministry at Easter, was at The Land Letting Service & Auction in January 2015, an event totally unique to our area.

James has integrated himself with the parishioners (church attenders or not) during his 5 years here, reaching out to the children, becoming a friend and support to many, and will be greatly missed.

He has introduced a number of new services into our existing schedule. The Open Door at Buckden School Room has reached out to folk who otherwise were not members of the church congregation. He will be remembered for his fundraising run and moustache growing, his walk around the parish boundary accompanied by experienced walkers of the parish, his musical input during services, composing the land letting song, and encouraging and supporting our musical fund raising events.

His wise words and enthusiasm to all ages will be remembered and we wish James, Mo, Charlie, Samuel and Isabella all the best for their future lives. They will always be welcome at Hubberholme.

St Mary's Conistone



The people of Conistone will always have a special place in their hearts for James and his family. Both the regular congregation and non-churchgoers particularly appreciated his enthusiasm and thoughtfulness, always having time to listen to what people wanted to say. His use of more modern music and hymns and his innovations such as the Easter Carol

Service and the Prayer Pool brought a new perspective to Church life. During the period of 'lockdown' his use of the latest technologies provided comfort and a sense of continuity at a difficult time. The participation of the Theodosius family in the excellent preparation of on-line services proved invaluable and inspirational. James's stay with us has passed far too quickly and we wish him a happy and rewarding ministry at Holy Trinity, Skipton.

St Oswald's Arnccliffe



James – what can I say that hasn't already been said. When he arrived in our midst five years ago with his lovely family he was a breath of fresh air. Full of enthusiasm and new ideas, which may not always have been welcomed but we tried and found that new things are not always so difficult to cope with. Steering us into a Parish rather than a Benefice has probably been the best thing to happen in the long run and we will strive to make the change work successfully. James gave some wonderful different angles to many of the bible stories for which I, for one, am very grateful. All I can say is that I hope, as will all of us, that he and his family will find the move to Skipton a new challenge which I know he will rise to. It is Holy Trinity's gain and our loss.

Thank you James.

Rainfall for June 2020

Arncliffe: 83.2 mm (7.21 inches)

Beckermonds: At last, the Environment Agency are able to send out someone to carry out the month by month readings. However, the current readings reflect the period between March and June in two separate batches.

March & April 2020: 203.0mm (7.99ins),

May & June 2020: 229.0mm (9.01ins).

The total amount of rain that fell at Beckermonds during the lockdown period was 432.0mm (17.00ins).

We hope to provide the complete tables of monthly rainfall soon and the missing monthly figures when available.

Church and Village News

Church Services in the Parish

The combination of just coming out of the coronavirus lockdown and going into a Vacancy in the Parish means there is much more uncertainty over the pattern of services in our churches than we have been used to.

The PCC has agreed a services rota which should essentially mean there will normally be services at two of the churches in the Parish every Sunday, with the churches involved alternating from week to week.

James has written to all the retired clergy who originally agreed to take services after his departure and has asked them to carry out this role from the beginning of August to the end of November. To make life more straightforward for them he has paired Arncliffe with Conistone and Kettlewell with Hubberholme, to reduce the journey time for the clergy each Sunday. The pattern is that if the first pair of churches have services one Sunday

then the latter ones will hold them the following week.

The churches not having services will normally be open for private prayer that day, as well as on Wednesdays, with all our churches observing the rule of leaving 72 hours between allowing people into the building for either purpose.

However, it has already been necessary to make some changes to this pattern of services and private prayer, for reasons ranging from visiting clergy having prior commitments to the need to accommodate events such as weddings and funerals. It has become clear that we will have to be much more flexible about how we provide services in the Parish, at least for the foreseeable future. As a result we feel that for the foreseeable future it may not be appropriate to publish printed lists of services as we have done previously. We will try to put posters at individual churches explaining when that church is open. However, the services rotas will be published on the Parish website at

www.upperwharfedalechurches.org and on our Parish Facebook page: 'Upper Wharfedale Churches'. The reason for this is that these lists can be easily and quickly updated or changed as and when this is necessary.

We know that some people may not be able to easily access information online or may not feel comfortable with it. For that reason, we would ask that if anyone knows of somebody in that situation, please could they share the service rota information with them – including when changes to services have to be made.

Hubberholme Church

Hello to all Friends and Supporters of St Michael & All Angels church. We hope that you are all staying well and coping with the many changes to your lives as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also now entering our vacancy period because Rev James Theodosius has left our parish from July 26th to take up his post at Holy Trinity Church, Skipton; his presence and guidance is going to be greatly missed.

Our church is now open for those of you who are comfortable meeting in a public place. Services will be held twice a month at 11.15 am and on other Sundays the church will be open from 09.00-14.00 and on Wednesdays from 14.00-18.00 for private prayer. These openings are in line with legal guidelines for public places and ensure we can be closed for 72 hours between people being in church. This means flowers will be put in church on the Wednesday afternoon. Whenever you go in church you will need to enter your names and contact details in the book at

the back of church in case of the need for tracking and tracing - a government requirement.

According to our August sidesperson rota Deirdre Halsall & Liz Hird are on duty on the 9th August and Hazel & Keith Jeddere Fisher on the 23rd August. Readers at these services will read using their own Bibles. If you are on any of the rota lists and feel unable to help during these times then please ring Deirdre 01756 760296.

Once the safety rules allow we look forward to seeing you at future social events.

Kettlewell Church

After twelve years Barbara Lambert is finding it necessary to cease being in charge of the Kettlewell Church flower rota - finding arrangers for the fortnightly change, checking that they have remembered to do them (and if not doing them herself!), and making sure they have sufficient water each week. For festivals she asked for anyone to help arrange decorations for the window sills and made an occasion of it by providing coffee and biscuits! In recent years it has proved more difficult to find volunteers and she has spent much time and money loyally making the Church look as beautiful as always. We are all very grateful. Thank you very much Barbara.

Littondale Horticultural Show

As I am sure you will have realised we will not be able to stage our Annual Littondale Horticultural Show this year but don't despair we'll be back next year!

Littondale Duck Race



After overnight rain, the Skirfare was declared too wet (!) so plan B was instated and the ducks were launched into Cowside Beck on 18 July. It was a closely fought sprint with many finishers avoiding the nets, but the winners were announced as numbers:

- 🦆 93 Stella Hughes
- 🦆 10 Marlise Leinauer
- 🦆 78 Elaine Holden

102 ducks raced and £480 was raised for the Churches of Upper Wharfedale & Littondale.

A big ‘Thank you’ to everyone who supported the Duck race.

A special mention must go to those who braved the water and the team of Molly, Bea, Henry and Wilf who found 31 of the escapees afterwards. 13 ducks are still at large, possibly in the North Sea by now?! Keep a look out, there may be a small reward for any ducks returned to me at Carr Farm.

Sarah Paul

Arncliffe Open Gardens



The usual ‘Arncliffe Open Gardens’ had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, but the slight easing of lockdown restrictions meant it was possible for local residents to visit one another’s gardens one Saturday in July and enjoy a glass of wine on the village green afterwards. Judging by the beauty of the gardens, it was clear that the lockdown had given many people a bit more time for gardening!



Littondale Fete 2020

As announced last month, the Fete in its usual form is cancelled, as is the 4-mile

road race. All is not lost however as there will be some FETE DAY FUN!

This will begin with the LITTON WALK ABOUT TREASURE HUNT on Saturday 8th August from 10am to 2pm. Free parking, signposted at the entrance to Litton. The Treasure Hunt starts here too. Follow the map, finding and answering clues as you walk around Litton. Dress for the Dales weather, a calculator may be useful?! Please adhere to social distance guidelines and be aware of other people on the footpath which is narrow in places. (Weather related updates will be posted on Facebook).

COMPETITIONS – Open to everyone, young and old, all welcome:

🔗 ***A photo taken during lockdown.*** Anything at all that will make us smile!

🔗 ***A model made of re-cycled materials*** – the bigger the better. Send us a photo of your model displayed outside and leave it out (weather permitting) for everyone to admire.

🔗 ***A planted container.*** Again, please send a photo and display outside your house where it can be appreciated by everyone.

Email all your photos by 6 pm on Monday 3rd August to: mbmaloney@hotmail.com

Photos will be posted on Facebook and judged by a panel as well as popular vote. Results announced on Fete Day – Saturday 8th August.

For further details or clarification, contact Ruth Cowan (770293) or Sarah Paul (770282).



Julia Queen, Buckden Art Group

Features

ABOUT...*Buckden Art Group*



Langstrothdale

Angela Falshaw, Buckden Art Group

The group was formed in 1989 by a few friends who enjoyed painting. Meetings were held in Buckden Schoolroom, and the following year an invitation was extended to hold a small exhibition in Hubberholme Church. Those exhibiting were Allan and Margaret Akers, Angela Falshaw, Rita Baxter, Shirley Leach, Sarah Sayer and Wilfred Griffiths. Some other early members were John and Marjorie Davies, Nora Wood, Christine Lambert and Betty Dennis.

In 1991, members began meeting in Buckden Institute. New lighting had been

installed and heating was by open fires. Since then, exhibitions have been held yearly on the August Bank Holiday weekend with the exception of 2001 when the Dale was closed owing to Foot and Mouth disease.

A preview is held on the Friday evening to which all village residents are invited together with many friends and former members. The exhibition is held for five days with 200 original paintings on view plus greetings cards and paperweights. Group members act as stewards and

donations are taken for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance charity.

Meetings are held on Monday evenings from September to Easter in the Institute and once a month in Kettlewell Village Hall. In winter, some afternoon meetings take place. This is a very sociable group with refreshments served and a weekly informal raffle organised by Megan Lightfoot to finance the demonstrations by professional artists held at least once a year.

New members are always welcome and help is at hand if needed. The present membership is around 25, some members travelling quite a distance. Some of the group show their work at other venues such as the North Yorkshire Open Studios, Skipton Town Hall and Gargrave Village Hall.

In 2018, the group had a grant from Craven District Council to purchase equipment for the exhibition. We take part in the “Flowers of the Dales” festival with a section of the exhibition showing paintings of Dales wildlife and wild flowers.

The age range of members over the years has ranged from young children to those in their eighties and many lasting friendships have been made over the past 30 years with 120 members being involved past and present. I have gained much enjoyment from running the group and helping and encouraging everyone in the improvement of their artwork.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic the 30th exhibition in 2020 has been cancelled but we hope to be able to meet again when it is safe to do so.

Angela Falshaw (Chairman)



ABOUT.....*Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival...*



.....an annual festival of creativity and community

In 1994, the organisers of the first Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival had just a few weeks to put together their event: they had an initial meeting on 1 August, with the festival running from 28 August to 3 September. Despite this, sponsors were approached and signed up to help with costs and prizes, volunteers were found to bake cakes and serve refreshments, more than 100 scarecrows were created, a celebrity judge was found to pick winners, and Barbara Lambert won the coveted first prize of a picture of Kettlewell autographed by cast members of *Emmerdale* for her entry “Pondering the weather.”

Raising more than £1,700 for the school, after costs, this first festival was a great

success. But, to quote the report from Jean Briggs to the Friends of Kettlewell School, “Perhaps the most striking thing was the way the event united the whole village and surrounding areas together.” One of the things I personally love about it is that it still does.

When I moved to Kettlewell in early 2018 I knew very little about the village and its traditions. While we didn’t move here on a whim exactly, we chose Kettlewell because of a curious feeling I’d had when viewing properties that the village just felt like home. Within weeks of moving here, we’d been to a Mother’s Day tea and cake event, I’d been to a coffee morning at Kettlewell Hostel, and people had started

talking about something completely alien: a scarecrow festival.



I had no idea what to expect ahead of time. I'd volunteered to bake and to take a shift or two in the Hall, and in the absence of any knowledge of how to get involved with the actual scarecrow part of things, I created a vaguely human shape we stuffed into a Spiderman suit while my husband made a web from blind cord on the front of the house. It maybe wasn't the most original, but it meant that over the course of the week we got an appreciation for how much pleasure visitors got from seeing the scarecrows. Also, at a selfish level, there had been much laughter as I put together Spidey's body, as well as when we were finally getting him strung up in the fading light of the Friday evening, grateful that the weather was on our side; gently spitting rather than tipping it down.

In the course of the following week, the Scarecrow Festival made me love our new home even more. We receive a lot of publicity, in no small part because of the talent and hard work of Nicky and Sara who handle our press and social media. But it's also because from the much-loved scarecrow speed trap at the entrance to the village, to huge elephants - via a cast of royalty and celebrities, political figures and cultural icons - so much thought, care

and creativity goes into creating a display that turns the village into a straw-stuffed wonderland. There is wit and humour in abundance and, for all the seriousness that underlies why we hold it, the focus is still on the sheer joy of creating something that will raise a smile.

In the course of the week I saw dozens of volunteers managing parking, trail sheets and merchandise, and catering for visitors in the Village Hall. The sense of community was palpable and newcomers were enthusiastically welcomed. I reached the end of the week in awe of what people had collectively achieved, raising funds and creating joy.



So while I'm an 'offcumd'un', and a recent one at that, as Chair of this year's scarecrow committee I understand how great the loss of the festival is on a number of levels. When we reach August 8, I won't have a scarecrow proudly

displayed, nor will I have been making cakes or getting ready to do a stint on the till in the Hall. None of us will. But also, we'll have no means of raising the funds that support some really important local causes. This is a huge worry, especially combined with the financial impact lockdown has had on some of them.



While Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival can't go ahead in the traditional form, we've worked hard to come up with a different solution, one that attempts to bring the spirit of the festival into a new environment. The Scarecrow Committee is small, and has varying degrees of internet literacy, but everyone has contributed to the creation of this year's virtual festival. What's more, while we perhaps don't have the huge teams involved that normally would be, volunteers beyond the Committee have been baking and providing recipes, the Buckden Singers have been preparing songs we can include on the website, and the children of Kettlewell School have been creating artwork that will culminate in a calendar we'll be selling through the site. Photos of past festivals have come from many people to help us create our virtual scarecrow trail: if you've ever put up a scarecrow for the festival, there's a chance your efforts are also contributing here. Volunteer knitters well beyond

Wharfedale have been busy creating prizes, too.



This year's virtual festival is a thank you to everyone who has supported the festival in the past, by visiting or by volunteering, but it's also a celebration of decades of our resilient, resourceful community in Upper Wharfedale coming together in a shared effort to raise vital funds for the causes that keep it a wonderful home for people of all ages. It's a promise that we'll be back next year, stronger than ever, to welcome visitors then. It's our best chance of raising money to support the causes that rely on us.

Thank you for your help so far. We've one last favour to ask, if we may. On August 8th, please share the link far and wide. Then pop the kettle on, make a cuppa, and watch the festival online. We hope you'll enjoy it.

Melanie Denyer



RETELLING....*Adam and Eve*

Jean Briggs, who was involved in the organization of the very first Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival, has other creative gifts – including telling Bible stories in Yorkshire dialect. Here's her re-telling of the Garden of Eden.....

It's writ in yon Bible 'at God created 'eaven an' earth; 't seas an' 't skies; an all 'ats in 'em is. Next kem t'creatures great 'n small; t'sun; an' t'mooin an' t'stars annall. It nobbert took 'im six days... an' it felt good! Bi t'seventh day God said "This creatin' lark 'as tired me aaht so I'm banna call it a day... t'Sabbath day... AN' AM DOIN' NOWT! An' it felt good!

Naah, as luck would 'ave it, God 'ad also created t'first man... Adam; an' t'first woman... Eve. They were sat under a tree in't Garden of Eden when Eve fancied summat t'ayte an'... as it 'appened... this tree was full o' varry tasty lookin' fruit. "if tha thinks thas gettin' ony fruit frae this particular tree tha can think aggen" Adam sez... "God gev strict instructions to leave this special tree alone." Weeal tha noz what lasses are like... they allus manage t'get their own way in t'end... especially when they've gotten n'clothes on... an' t'pair of em 'ad bin laikin abaht stark naked all day. Weeal 'appen t'penny suddenly dropped 'cos they began t'feel right embarrassed.

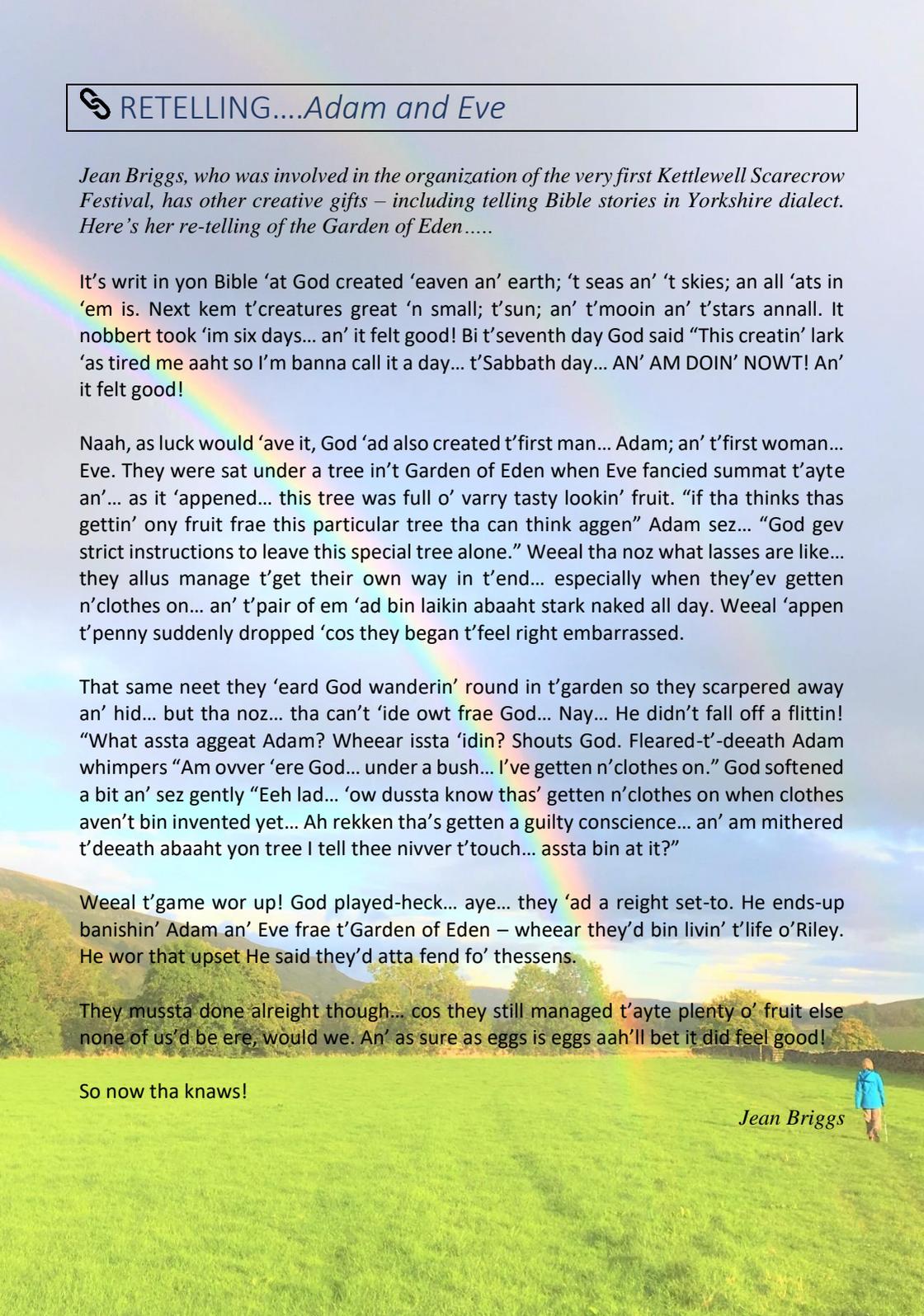
That same neet they 'eard God wanderin' round in t'garden so they scarpered away an' hid... but tha noz... tha can't 'ide owt frae God... Nay... He didn't fall off a flittin! "What assta aggeat Adam? Wheear issta 'idin? Shouts God. Fleared-t'-death Adam whimpers "Am ovver 'ere God... under a bush... I've gotten n'clothes on." God softened a bit an' sez gently "Eeh lad... 'ow dussta know thas' gotten n'clothes on when clothes aven't bin invented yet... Ah rekken tha's gotten a guilty conscience... an' am mithered t'death abaht yon tree I tell thee niver t'touch... assta bin at it?"

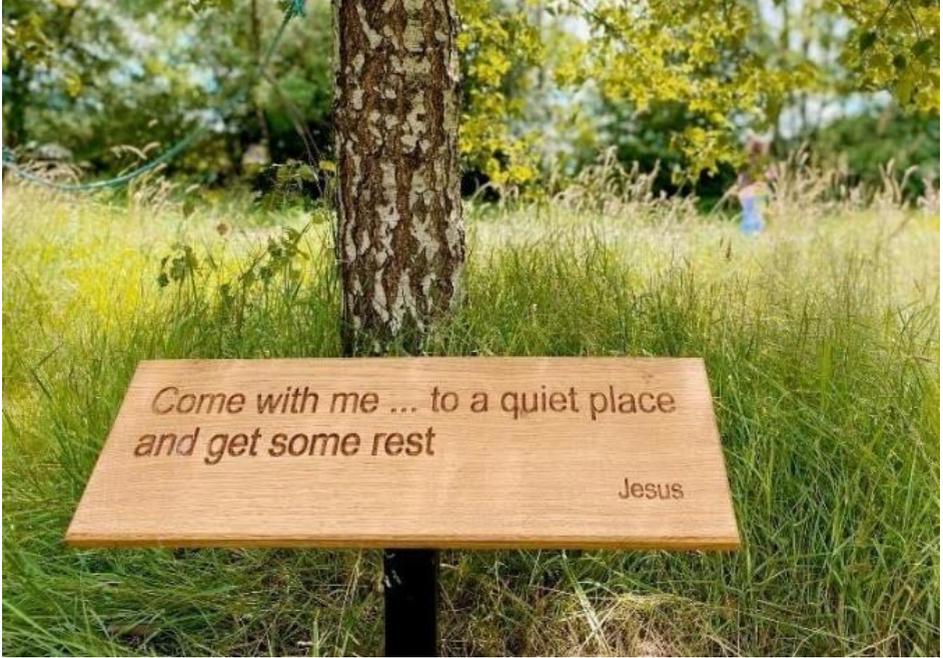
Weeal t'game wor up! God played-heck... aye... they 'ad a reight set-to. He ends-up banishin' Adam an' Eve frae t'Garden of Eden – wheear they'd bin livin' t'life o'Riley. He wor that upset He said they'd atta fend fo' thessens.

They mussta done alright though... cos they still managed t'ayte plenty o' fruit else none of us'd be ere, would we. An' as sure as eggs is eggs aah'll bet it did feel good!

So now tha knaws!

Jean Briggs





Words matter. They touch our lives, our thoughts, our emotions, our souls. Mary Oliver, a wonderful writer, wrote this about her understanding of the power of words in her personal creative discipline of poetry:

“Poetry is prayer, it is passion and story and music, it is beauty, comfort, it is agitation, declaration, it is thanksgiving. Some poems are radiant and oracular, some are quiet and full of tenderness, like a letter written to a friend. Often poetry is the gate to a new life. Or, sometimes, the restoration of an old world gone. it brings new thoughts or the welcome remembrance of old ones. It offers simple pleasure, complicated joy,

and even, at times, healing. Poetry does not work for everyone, but works for the many who open themselves to it. As the world changes from the long winter into spring, and everything takes on a freshness and a spiritual meaning, just so poetry can quicken, enliven the interior world of the listener.”

This idea that words touch the inner landscape of the soul, that they have power to speak to the many situations of our lives is why, if you walk the grass or stone pathways of St Mary’s churchyard in Kettlewell, you may happen upon some simple words inscribed in oak. The origin of these particular Words in Wood are found in medieval spiritual writing,

in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures and in contemporary poetry. They offer a moment of reflection ‘along life’s way’.

As with any personal or spiritual resource, if you come across one of the quotes on a particular day you may hardly notice your eyes have skimmed the words. On another day, the same words may tug at your heart connecting you at once with your sorrows or joys, your fears or hopes, your gratitude or trust, whatever is with you in that moment of your life. To find yourself momentarily reflecting on the words you have connected with may offer just what your heart and soul need for that time.

There are seven Words in Wood along the pathways. I have chosen two of them for this article to give a bit of the context behind what they say. You and I, or the hundreds of visitors that walk our churchyard paths each year, may discover and connect with one of the quotes in our own way and in our own time.

Come with me...to a quiet place and get some rest

These are words of Jesus to his closest followers. It had been a busy time for them. The disciples had been out and about speaking of God’s deep compassion for each person and practically caring for the troubles of those they came across. They were so caught up in the work they were doing that they had not found a moment even to sit and eat together. Jesus saw their tiredness; their real need to take some time away to rest a while and recover their strength.

I love the way these particular words can call each of us to value again the wisdom in balancing time to just ‘be’, alongside the many things we actively ‘do’. Getting the nurture our souls need to strengthen our inner peace and joy in compassion and trust, is helped by giving ourselves time to reflect on what is important and sacred in our lives.

Maybe one day wandering the churchyard paths, these particular words may feel to be words of concern and encouragement coming from the heart of God for you.

You will not be overcome....all shall be well

Near a bench in the churchyard, under an old horse-chestnut tree, this oak board can be found. The words are the words of a medieval mystic, Mother Julian. We don’t know her actual name, the name she is known by is taken from the name of the church in Norwich where she lived as a solitary anchorite in a small room attached to the church building.

She was born in the 1340’s, a time when the bubonic plague and death were a part of everyday life. She survived a life-threatening illness when she was about thirty and lived through three Black Death pandemics. It is thought she may have lost her own children and husband to the plague before she sensed the call on her life to begin a hermit-like existence, effectively confined inside for the next fifty years, only leaving her small room in death.

Despite the loss and tragedy she knew so well in her life, Julian passionately believed that in God all would in the end

be well. When she wasn't counselling folk who came to her window for support, she wrote down, and for the remainder of her life, reflected upon, the life-changing experiences she had personally encountered of the enduring love of God for herself and for all people. The distillation of her reflection led her to write of a God whose love is without judgement or anger, but rather sustains and celebrates our lives.

Even in times of great suffering Julian was clear that we might not always sense the gentle working of God's love for us and for all people everywhere. However, she believed we are never abandoned

because in and through all the experiences that make up our human lives, love is God's meaning.

Maybe one day someone sitting on the bench under the old horse-chestnut tree may find themselves reflecting for a moment on the troubles in their own lives and somehow sense in Julian's words, that despite all they are coping with, they too are never ultimately separated from a love that is deeper than the earth beneath their feet and closer than the air we breathe.

Di Blakey Williams
Churchyard Project Group



Crossword

Across

1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)

3 See 1 Across

8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)

9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)

11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)

14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)

15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)

17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)

20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)

21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)

22 The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)

23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

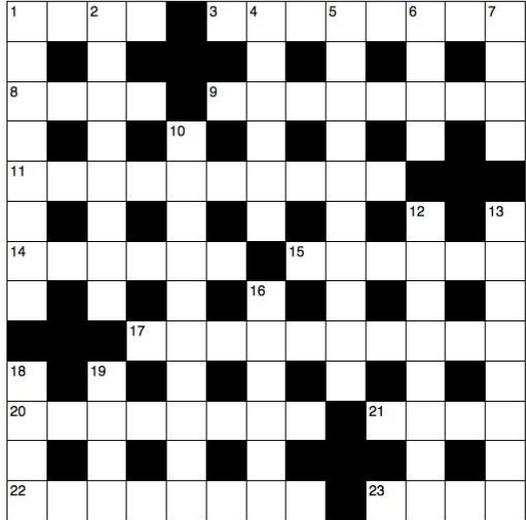
Down

1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)

2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)

4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)

5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)



6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)

7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)

10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)

12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)

13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)

16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)

18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)

19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

Solution on next page!

Puzzle!!

Congratulations to Ann Peters (again!) who was the 'first responder' to last month's puzzle, finding the spelling mistakes and reorganizing the words to make the line of the hymn '*All People That On Earth Do Dwell*' (which was also the first hymn in the church service on 21 June).

Harder this month! Find three spelling mistakes that make up the first three words of a well-known Bible verse linked to this month's theme! Send me an email (smithiwho@gmail.com) when you find it; the answer will be in next month's edition, along with the names of those who get it!

Answers to Crossword

ACROSS: 1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth.

DOWN: 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty. 18, A bow. 19, ECHO.

The Link

The **Link** is the magazine and notice-board for the Parish of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale, sharing news, reports and items of interest from the churches and our community. If you have something to contribute, please email it to your local correspondent by the 10th of the preceding month.

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**Keep us, good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy
In this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
And lift up all who are brought low;
That we may rejoice in your comfort,
Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**