

No. 539

June 2021

Link



Upper Wharfedale and Littondale Parish Magazine

www.upperwharfedalechurches.org

This Month...Nature and creation

REMEMBER....Betty Potter

The Arncliffe Animals of Green Farm

Caring for Biodiversity in Kettlewell Churchyard

Conistone Pound and Orchard Project

English Pastoral: An Inheritance

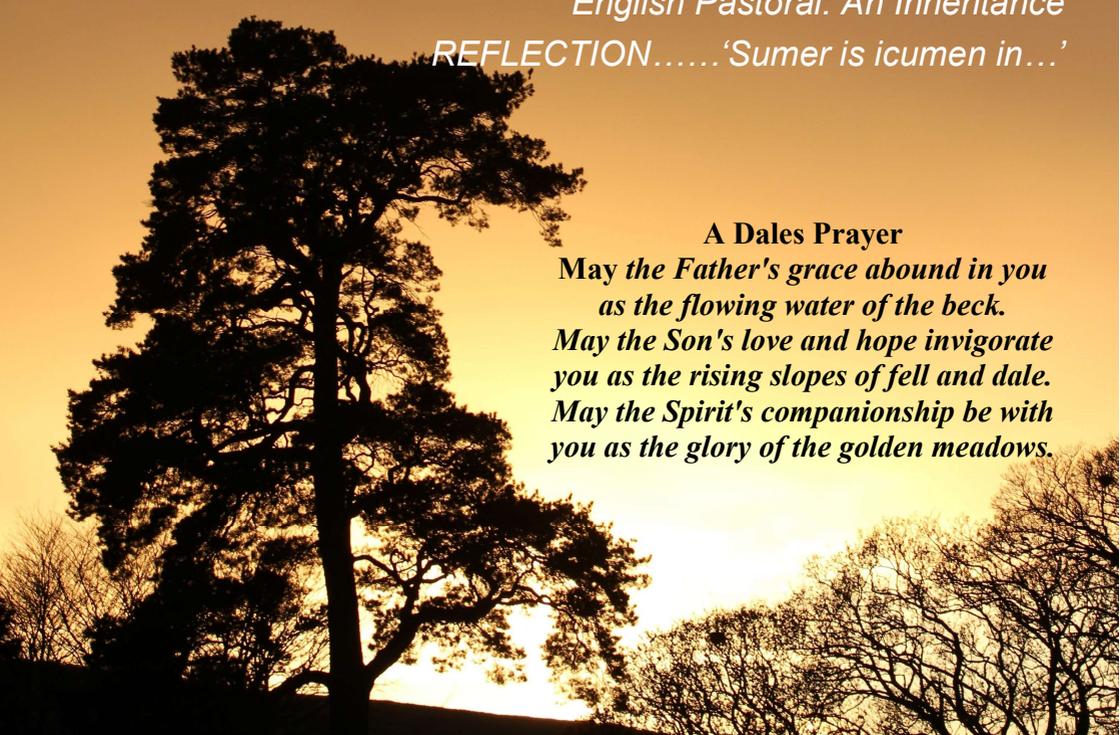
REFLECTION.....'Sumer is icumen in...'

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 Minister...

It's less than a month until we are being, 'let out,' 'let loose' or 'return to normal' (whatever that is).

If you cast your mind back to the events of the past year and a half, we have discovered that the outcome was never a forgone conclusion, it would be a small steps, slow progress and uncertainty.

What next will be different for each of us as individuals and also for the church community. Sometimes we have to stop, take stock, rethink, and change direction. Sometimes we don't want to take another path, even when all looks hopeless. Sometimes our pride keeps us from turning, sometimes we think that what we want to do or say is of the utmost importance, that nothing should stand in our way, therefore we continue.

One thing is certain, trying to predict outcomes, look into the future even forecast what might happen is difficult and unpredictable. The Old Testament prophets had just that task, trying to offer solutions to many of the Nations difficulties and problems by telling people what would happen. Some of those events were years and years into the future, others yet to be fulfilled.

The task of following through on a promise, sticking to a commitment, allowing both your actions and words to match up in an increasingly changeable time can be difficult. God calls us to follow his path, step out on a journey. We all know that on occasions that is not always easy, sometimes we stray from the

path, on other occasions we go in totally the wrong direction, some of us even end up down a dead end.

Continue to follow we must, if we are to discover the ongoing blessing and provision of God upon our lives.

There's a strange and rather amusing story in the book of Numbers, chapter 22 v21 following, about a man called Balaam. He was a man willing to acknowledge God but had mixed motives when it came to serving his purpose. 'What's in it for me' was Balaam's thought process. So much so that in the story a donkey had to speak to him and tell him what to do.

Sometimes we may know what God wants us to do, yet we become distracted by things around us, a desire for money, prestige, or possessions, these things draw us away from the task at hand, namely to serve God and help others, share the message of 'Good News'.

I don't recall being spoken to by a donkey, even though on occasions I behave like one, yet God speaks to us in so many different ways.

I wonder, are we able to discern what He is actually saying? Are we continuing to follow his path? Are we ready for the future, however uncertain that may be?

We can never really be certain of the future, other than to say, God promises to walk with us.

Every blessing,

*Peter Thomas
Grassington Congregational Church*

From the Churches & Villages

Parish News

Licensing Service

The Licensing Service for our new Vicar, the Rev Tom Lusty, is due to take place at 7pm on Monday, June 28, at St Oswald's Church, Arncliffe. We all hope that restrictions will be reduced by then and it can be an 'in-person' event, but we will have to see what the situation is nearer the date before announcing further details.

From the Register

FUNERAL

Edward Roberts, on 23 April at St Mary's, Kettlewell

WEDDING

Hugo Brennan & Hannah Broscombe, on 8 May at St Mary's, Conistone

Wedding Changes!

The first wedding held under new marriage rules has taken place in our Parish. The new regulations for weddings are the biggest changes in many generations.

They came into force on May 4, and only four days later Hugo Brennan and Hannah Broscombe were married at St Mary's Church, Conistone. The impact of coronavirus restrictions meant that Hannah and Hugo, who are from London but have links to Yorkshire, had to be married by Special



Licence. They were supported in this process by the Rev Ruth Harris, the Area Dean, who also officiated at their wedding.

The changes mean that now churches cannot issue marriage certificates, a responsibility which has passed to registrars. Instead of couples signing the register during their wedding service they now need to sign a Marriage Document, which must be sent to the local register office after the ceremony.

Couples still need to have Banns read and follow other legal procedures before getting married in churches. New registers have been issued for churches to record each wedding, but these are not legal documents as the previous registers were.

Several weddings are scheduled to take place in our Parish this year, though some couples have postponed their ceremonies because of the continuing uncertainties caused by the coronavirus.

News from the Link

Many thanks to all those who have made donations for the LINK; the current total is **£1,200**, which is a fantastic result!

Would you like to get involved with the production of our popular Parish magazine? A small group meets using Zoom each month to help plan the format of the Link for the coming month. If you are interested in becoming involved, please email the editor, Ian Smith at smithiwho@gmail.com

The deadline for news and articles for the June LINK is **20 June**

Christian Aid Week 2021



Though Christian Aid Week is over it is still possible to donate using a button on the Home Page of our Parish Website (www.upperwharfedalechurches.org) which takes you to a JustGiving page set up by Joanna Clarke, the Treasurer of the Upper Wharfedale Churches Together Christian Aid Group. It will be mid-June before we have an exact figure of how much our local Christian Aid group have collected through our JustGiving link, BACS, cheques and cash donations.

Money is still coming in, and as the June LINK goes to print it looks as though the total figure will be easily in excess of **£3,000**. We will post the final total in our church porches and the July edition of the LINK. Thank you so much for those who gave donations and those who walked the 10-hour Labyrinth Walk for the Christian Aid Campaign for Climate Justice.

St Michael and All Angels, Hubberholme Church

In June we have services on Sunday 6th and 20th, when the services will be taken by our visiting clergy, to whom we are most grateful. All being well, in July our new vicar Rev. Tom Lusty will be taking

our services - the start of a new period in our history.

The following people are on sidespersons duty: June 6th - Sandra Kilvington; June 20th - Sandie & David Parsons. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our church and enable it to function.



Hubberholme Friends and Supporters

Please take part in our Annual Quiz for Fund raising and support for our Upper Wharfedale & Littondale Parish. This year our quiz is named - The Show, The Place, The Flower, & Find the Phrase and has been compiled by Josie Cowpe. It costs £1.00 per entry

Quiz Example:

Skopelos mother = Mamma Mia

A deer in its home = Buckden

Yorkshire & Lancashire wars = Roses

1666 GFof L = Great fire of London

Copies of the quiz are available from Josie 01756 761154, Sandie 01756 802090, Deirdre 01756 760296, The George Inn Hubberholme, The Buck Inn Buckden, local businesses and church members. Thank you to all who have supported us in previous years, and we hope you enjoy this year's quiz.



As we begin to emerge from lockdown, and as we recently celebrated four years of Federation, I thought it might be timely to bring everyone up to speed on all the latest news from Kettlewell School and the Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation.

Our Federation vision 'Be the Light', which we regularly share with families, is now firmly embedded for children, staff and Governors in the daily life and ethos of all our schools.

Our remote learning platform and key worker hub was monitored by Governors, Local Authority (LA) and OFSTED and was found to be particularly good.

Our two Executive Headteachers have implemented an imaginative and exciting curriculum model.

Our Assistant Heads have established Learning hubs for Maths and English for all Federation schools and are using these to support other schools within the Authority.

Our Heads and Governors are the point of contact for the LA when providing support, advice and training for fledgling Federations or other schools which are in need of help.

Our KS2 children come together weekly and have access to specialist teaching in French, Music, P.E. RE and ICT; they also come together for themed

days in Science and other areas of the curriculum.

Our Federation hosts after school care at Grassington: transport from federation schools is freely available.

Our Federation has established a pre-school based at Grassington: this is over subscribed for the summer term 2021.

Our children have had access to pastoral support around mental health and well-being since their return to full time school. Our overall pupil numbers have risen significantly.

Our curriculum vision



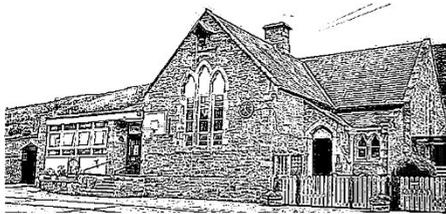
Our budgets are all healthy and deficits have disappeared through judicious strategic planning and restructuring.

Our team of staff work tirelessly across the Federation to ensure first rate teaching and learning for all children.

We are very proud of all we have achieved, of our dedicated staff, of our outward looking Governing Board and above all, of our lovely children.

*Anne Vetch
Chair of Governors - Upper Wharfedale
Primary Federation*

Friends of Kettlewell School



From our Christmas Fair to the Mother's Day coffee morning, we've had to cancel so many of our fundraising events which everyone in the community has so generously supported over the years. Well, we're ready and raring to get back on track and already have some exciting plans to keep the fun in fundraising!

To get the ball rolling it's a pleasure to announce the winners of our first 100 Club draw as follows: 1st prize B Foster, 2nd prize N White, 3rd prize B Lambert, 4th prize N Thornton. Well done everyone and the next draw will be made at the school sports day.

Did you know you can now also raise money for Kettlewell School when you shop online at no cost to yourself whatsoever – who said you can't get something for nothing! If you shop at Amazon, simply go to the Amazon Smile website, select Friends of Kettlewell School as your chosen charity, and a percentage will automatically be sent to our Smile account. So please do your Amazon shopping through <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>. Wherever else you shop online – from Asda, Argos and AO to Boots, Ebay, Etsy or John Lewis - we've also signed up with easyfundraising so that over 4300 retailers will make a small donation to the Friends with every online purchase you make. All you have to do is sign up, selecting Friends of Kettlewell School: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/utewom>

Sunday 4th July – save the date for Kettlewell Independence Day! We're cooking up plans for a fun afternoon for all the family at Kettlewell Village Hall so watch this space for more details!



A very happy birthday to the oldest man in Littondale! Dennis Lund celebrated his 96th birthday on 12 May.

Dennis tells his own story in 'Litton 2000' beginning with his early childhood; "I was born at Penyghent cottage, also known as Upper Hesleden in 1925. My family went to live at Malham Tarn in 1929, where my father was gamekeeper, and I first went to school there at Waterhouses on the Malham Tarn estate. I remember being pulled on the sledge over the frozen Tarn.

We came to live in Arncliffe in 1932, and I was at school there for a few years. Mother had a shop next to the Falcon Inn, she made tea for cyclists, very few motorists came in those days."

Supermobile Library

The Library van will visit Buckden car park on Wednesday, 9th June from 10.00am until 12.00 noon. (This date may be subject to change at short notice in response to changing Covid guidance).

People will be allowed on to browse with a one on/one off system (one is defined as a person, family, or household bubble).

During lockdown we are offering a select and collect service. To pre-order a selection of books call 01609 533878 or email supermobile@northyorks.gov.uk. Alternatively, a selection can be made for you from the vehicle on the day of visit.

If you wish to request a specific title, please browse our online catalogue at <https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/northyorkshire> and place a reservation using your borrower number and your PIN, selecting 'Supermobile' as your pick-up location. There may be a small charge for this service. Free downloads of eBooks and audiobooks are available from our website at:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/digital-library

If you are not a member of our libraries, you can join at the Supermobile Library. It is FREE! For enquiries please call 01609 533878 or email:

supermobile@northyorks.gov.uk



The Mobile Library driver James would like to thank all those in the Buckden area who used the Mobile Library on May 12th. Due to a brake sensor failure, the Mobile Library was unavailable the day it was due at Buckden. A big thank you for the patience and humour that everyone retained. The support for the reduced service in a small van and 'Del Boy' Library delivery method further evidence, if ever it was needed, of the passion residents of Upper Wharfedale have for books and our libraries.

NYCC of course had a back up to the small van also. Some of you may remember the backup bus from days gone by. James would like to take this opportunity also to pass gratitude for all the support given himself and the Mobile Library throughout the COVID winter. Buckden people have made a difference personally with the resilience and humour. Over the County not a single stop was missed throughout the winter, in all weathers. One failed trip cancelled en route to Cowling due to heavy snow on



the A59. This success was in no small part due to the support given by patrons across the county. Thank you.

To all those who were unable to make it to the Library, Welcome Back. We have a fantastic collection of new books on board and hopefully we will see you there at the next visit.

Cake Competition

Upper Wharfedale and Littondale Best Decorated Cake Competition was won by Joshua Mawson aged 12. Joshua themed his cake “A cake for lockdown to brighten our spirits “. His cake was a multi coloured sponge of green, red and orange covered with thick chocolate then decorated with multi coloured smarties. Joshua won a certificate and a £10 WH Smith voucher.

Thank you to the 10 people who took part with 14 cakes being entered raising £75 for church funds. A big thank you to Jackie Yarrow who had the awful task of judging the cakes.

‘Dalegarth Calling’

After the fashion of Adrian Mole, this 81¾ ‘young’ man is seeking your support for the Yorkshire Cancer Research campaign. I know I have been lucky in terms of good health – thus far – and, when I heard of this fund-raising idea, I knew I had the time and energy to help. I have registered to walk 100 miles during the month of May; it will get me into the countryside and away from under Sue’s feet!

My ambition is to raise (at least) £250; a modest sum, but every little helps. More would be a huge bonus. To any who feel able to support me, please accept my heartfelt thanks; to make a donation of any value, just click onto the following link:

<https://join.yorkshirecancerresearch.org.uk/fundraiser/davidlusted>

To date, I’ve walked 33.3 miles and feel confident of reaching the target distance. There is absolutely no pressure to donate; a cheery wave if you see me tottering along will be a reward in itself.

Thank you.

David Lusted

PS If a message appears, stating the page cannot be found, simply click on the lozenge that says “Donate”, type David Lusted under “Search for a fundraiser” and click on the search magnifier – my picture should appear, so click on the arrow below it to make your donation. Sounds difficult or a bit of a chore, but the end result is worth the effort – if still in difficulty, ring me on 01756 760 877.

PPS A report of the full amount raised and distance walked will appear in the July Link (assuming David makes it home).

RAINFALL

April 2021

Arncliffe: 12.0 mm/ 0.47 ins

Litton: 15.09 mm/0.59 ins

March/April 2021

Beckermonds: 269.00mm/ 10.59ins

REMEMBER....Betty Potter

Betty Potter, 90, recently based in Stalmine, Lincs, formally of Kettlewell and subsequently Somersham, Suffolk and Skipton, passed away on 10th May 2021.



Betty was born in Salisbury in 1931, where she met John Potter through the formation of St Francis Church, Salisbury. John then was appointed vicar of Kettlewell, serving from 1960-1982, with Betty firmly supporting him in his work.

Betty is survived by their children, Jillian, Ann, Tony, Susan and Ian and a host of grandchildren, and recently two great grandchildren

Betty worked part time at the village Post Office shop and was a loyal member of the Kettlewell WI, Clergy Wives and Mothers Union. They enjoyed 22 years at the vicarage with many fond memories of the Dales.

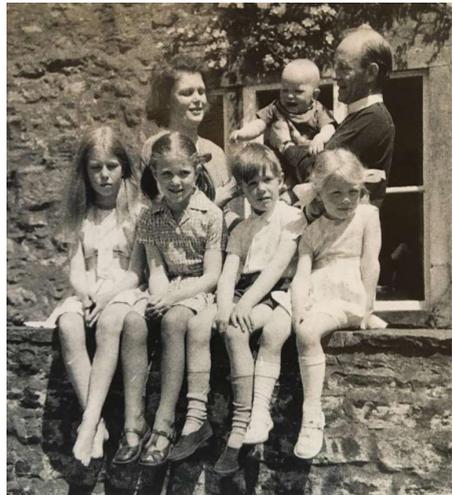
After leaving Kettlewell, they continued their ministry in Suffolk, being able to retire back to Skipton, renewing old friendships.

Betty became very involved with WI duties as a VCO, serving many groups in Yorkshire. She also had great pleasure singing in various choirs around Skipton, enjoying success at Skipton Music Festival on a couple of occasions.

Betty moved in 2018 to her daughter Ann's in Stalmine, Lincs, when her dementia started to become a bit more difficult to cope with. Here she enjoyed "An idle, cosy life", having holidays in sunny Norfolk with Susan and Jillian.

She will be greatly missed by all the family and her friends.

As per her wishes, the family are hoping to inter Betty next to John in Kettlewell Churchyard, during the summer, date to be confirmed.



The Animals of Green Farm, Arncliffe



I often get asked how I ended up with my little motley crew of animals, from varying poultry, to a grumpy pig, a naughty Shetland pony and a wandering tortoise. The answer is, it all started out twelve or thirteen years ago, when our young family were living in a semi-detached house in the Central Lancashire suburbs. Always keen to find a new project to interest me and the children, I had read an article about the British Hen Welfare Trust who rehomed caged hens in their thousands, once they were no longer a profitable commodity, to back gardens and smallholdings across the UK.

It seemed like a neat idea; the hens, that had never seen the light of day, get a new lease of life and freedom, the farmer has their stock purchased and moved off site, and the new poultry owners get fresh

eggs and the fun of hen keeping. I didn't take much persuading and I registered for three hens to come and live in our garden in a shiny bright pink Eglu hen coop.

Anyone who keeps poultry knows that it is somewhat addictive and this small loved flock grew and changed to include fancy bantams, ducks and turkeys, and I began volunteering with the British Hen Welfare Trust on rehoming days, helping out with the adoption of thousands of hens (often sneaking a few extra home for myself!).

In a few years we outgrew our small back garden and embarked upon a couple of moves; increasing numbers of poultry in tow, eventually setting happily in Arncliffe in 2015.

With more land and housing available, this gave rise to the opportunity to offer

homes to, you've guessed it, more hens, but also some bigger animals.



Once it becomes known that you adopt rescue animals it's amazing how word gets around to those working hard to find places for animals down on their luck; and before long we had been contacted by a couple of animal sanctuaries that were having to close their doors due to lack of funds. We were able to welcome a couple of naughty Shetland pony stallions, two grumpy pigs; one called Honey, who is still with us, was apparently purchased by some unwitting person as a 'micro pig' which was the trend at the time. She was actually a Kune Kune Pot Bellied cross and quickly ballooned to the 30 stone matriarch that we have today. Her owner, realising that she was going to be somewhat

difficult to co-habit with, surrendered her to a sanctuary on the Fylde Coast before she found her snorting, grumpy way to us when the sanctuary had to move sites.

We occasionally get contacted by the RSPCA if they are struggling to rehome a quirky animal, and in recent times have offered a home to a turkey that was found living in a caravan, a goose that had been found next to her Mother who had sadly been shot, and a crazy little white leghorn bantam that had jumped out of a transportation truck and ended up at Sandbach services on the M6!

The inevitable downside is that we get lots of requests that we can't help with, though with the advent of social media, we can usually put them in touch with someone who is able to facilitate a happy ending.

It's been quite a journey, and along with some big animal personalities, we have met and made friends with some pretty lovely humans as well. You never quite know what's around the corner, and we look forward to offering a home to more animals for many years to come.

Rebecca Ward-Dooley





Caring for Biodiversity in Kettlewell Churchyard

One of the lovely developments of the Kettlewell Churchyard Project over the last three years is the ongoing opportunity we are having to learn more about this unique space in our village. Our churchyard was originally carved out from the meadowland and ancient pastures that surround it. Because of this, it remains quite rich in plant and animal species. That is really important to the local community. From the church's perspective our theology and spirituality of creation and incarnation call us to care deeply about our planet's created life. We want to

support and nurture all life within the churchyard's walls. We need to go on providing a place where our loved ones can be respectfully laid to rest in the midst of creation; where we, the living, may find solace, beauty and nurture for our daily life; and where wildflowers, grasses, trees, insects, birds and other wild animals can thrive.

This affects the management of the churchyard. For many years our grass cutting regime has recognised the importance of maintaining short grass for the pathways and the areas of more recent burials where people wish to tend the graves. That has allowed us to keep slightly longer grass in the areas of older burials as well as maintaining corridors of wilder growth around the outer edges of the churchyard to give protection and



Drone photo of Kettlewell churchyard © Sarah Spillet

habitat to small animals visiting or living in the churchyard. Richard Appleton cuts and bales the churchyard meadow each summer to allow the flowers and grasses to continue to reseed the meadow thus preserving its diversity of species. There are now many people involved in creating this bio-diverse space in our village for the good of all life. New planting in the churchyard is prioritising plants to attract pollinators. Our young people are helping us learn and care about the importance of conservation and biodiversity in this unique space.

Biodiversity Events

Since the current Churchyard Project began we have held several events to help us care for and learn about the diversity of animals and plants we find here.

On 4 June 2019 we invited the Botany Group of the Upper Wharfedale Field Society to do a botanical survey of the churchyard as part of their 70th Anniversary Project. We discovered that at that time of year the churchyard, and more particularly the wildflower meadow, is home to over sixty types of wildflowers. We were able to publish a small illustrated booklet of the wildflowers, grasses and trees surveyed on that day.

We have held two workshops for the Playhouse Group. The first, in 2019, was a Bird Nesting Box Workshop. John McGuinn, a local expert on birds and their habitat, spoke about why different species of birds require particular types of nesting boxes, how high from the ground the different birds like their boxes, and where best to site the boxes in the churchyard. He had brought box making kits with him which the young people worked on in small groups. They did an excellent job. Now seven sturdy bird nesting boxes can be found on trees in the churchyard.

Rebecca Ward-Dooley led the second workshop about hedgehog habitat. It included a fun quiz “to test the children’s knowledge and perceptions of all things hog” and went on to explore important facts around the problem of why hedgehogs are a critically endangered species in the UK. The young people were then taken through a year in the life of a hedgehog from hibernation through pairing off, nesting and breeding. There was a discussion on how we can all help maintain and increase hedgehog numbers in our own gardens and in this churchyard, as well as how to support hedgehogs we think might be

unwell or injured and needing veterinary care and rehabilitation. A follow up to this excellent workshop was the creation and siting (including the making of a short video) of a hedgehog house near the east wall of the churchyard by two of the young people.

By the time you read this, Playhouse will have just enjoyed a third workshop on bees and mini-beasts which Catherine Mercer of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust will run. The young people will have the opportunity to build an insect hotel for the churchyard, and the Millennium Trust have promised us the gift of a Solitary Bee Nest Box also for the Churchyard. This event provides new habitat for pollinators and compliments our recent pollinator friendly planting. As part of their ongoing care of plant biodiversity the Playhouse Group also help manage a small area of planting near the tower door of the church.

In order to widen the participation of local people in our research into the diversity of the birds in our churchyard, between the 6-14 March 2021 we held an open Kettlewell Churchyard Bird Watch. Publicity invited all to visit the churchyard to spot which birds were around and send their observations and



images into the project. In all, 20 species of birds were identified with well over 400 sightings logged.

The weather was against us, so it was particularly good to welcome the classes of Kettlewell Primary School who visited twice during the week. I am told they were well served with hot chocolate on their return to school! Their observations and following work are a delight to read.



Kettlewell Churchyard Wildlife Watch

This successful event is being followed up on Saturday 12 June between 10am-4pm, with an open Kettlewell Churchyard Wildlife Watch. The Churchyard Project is running this in collaboration with Caring for God's Acre, an organisation

which is holding a nationwide Churches Count on Nature Week. You can help us.

We are hoping that people will come for an hour to spot which insects, birds and small animals visit or live in the churchyard. We are inviting people to send in their observations, photographs and 10 second videos if they have them, to diwilliams.labyrinth@gmail.com

A socially distanced Labyrinth Walk for Nature at 3pm will take us to the culmination of the Wildlife Watch event.

There is another way you can support the churchyard. If you have an interest in caring for a small area of the churchyard garden using plants that will attract pollinators, please get in touch with the parish administrator at:

upperwharfedale@leeds.anglican.org who will pass your name to the appropriate person.

To read more about the Kettlewell Churchyard Project go to:

www.upperwharfedalechurches.org and click on the Kettlewell page.

*Di Williams, on behalf of
the Churchyard Project Group*



Conistone Pound and Orchard Project



The village Pound (or Pinfold) was originally created as a place where stray animals could be locked up until their owners paid a fine for their release. As common land with no known owner the Conistone Pound has always been land which the Conistone with Kilnsey Parish Meeting has managed.

The Pound had fallen into disuse for many years and had become derelict and full of weeds and sycamore and beech saplings.

In 2012, a group of residents, spearheaded by the late Peter Bradfield, decided to improve/save the Pound and to make it an asset for the village and to save the feature for future generations. It was proposed that the Pound should become a community vegetable garden, and this was approved by the Parish Meeting.

Each of the participating residents, encouraged by Peter's enthusiasm, contributed to a start-up budget to buy

soil, wood for the raised beds, stone chippings for the paths and building materials as well as seeds and plug plants. Work began in earnest and soon the newly formed beds were yielding good harvests for the group to share. Over the years the residents have made a small annual subscription and the produce has been enjoyed freshly picked or made into soups, jams and chutneys.

The project has flourished from year to year and new residents have been welcomed to join in with the cultivation of a variety of fruit and vegetables such as strawberries, beans, lettuce, celery, leeks, raspberries and courgettes, as well as salad crops and herbs. Efforts have also been made to make the area an attractive place to meet socially, by adding some paving, seating and flower tubs which are a great attraction to a variety of insects.

On the other side of the road to the Pound there was another piece of derelict

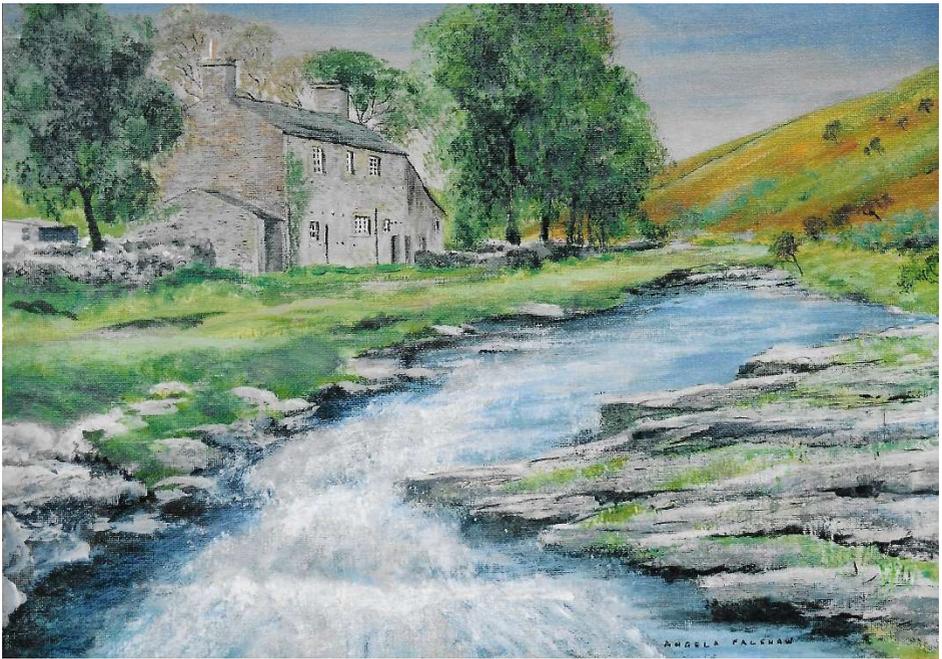
land which was full of semi- mature self-seeded sycamore trees and weeds. In 2013 the group decided to investigate to see if this area could also be improved and developed.

The enclosed walled area had formally been a farm orchard which had fallen into disrepair years ago. The group was given permission by the landowner to fell the sycamores, clear the area and then plant a new orchard. The trees were felled and a full orchard of eating and cooking apples, plums, pears and cherries was then planted. Additionally, black and red currant bushes, a strawberry bed and two

rows of raspberries were planted. Before long gooseberries and rhubarb were also introduced as well as a fruit frame to safeguard the crops. To make walking between the fruit trees much easier bark was also laid. The fruit bushes and trees are now becoming quite mature and the residents are enjoying picking and eating the produce.

These two projects have added significantly to the life and spirit of the community and also to the overall ambience of the village.

Philip Butterfield



New House, Deepdale, by Angela Falshaw, Buckden Art Group

🔗 English Pastoral: An Inheritance, by James Rebanks

I had just finished reading this most engaging book when Link Editor Ian Smith sent out an appeal for contributions to the June issue on the theme “Nature, Creation and the Environment”. To me the link between the themes in the book and the Link were obvious, so I rashly offered Ian a personal review of it. Naturally he accepted. Now I’m doing my own bit of creation.

In case there are readers who haven’t heard of James Rebanks or are a bit vague about him here is my mini-pedia take on him: Born 1974 to Cumbrian farming family – adored his farming grandad but not his farming dad – thought school was irrelevant so left with but one O level (Religious Studies!) to get on with farming – at 20 was prompted to get educated with A levels at FE College in Carlisle and History (1st class degree) at Oxford, farming all the while – wrote best-selling “A Shepherd’s Life” (2015) based on Twitter feeds of farming life, translated into 16 or more languages – inherited grandad’s 185 acre hill farm near Ullswater – lives and farms there (sustainably) with family – world

authority on Herdwick sheep – wrote “English Pastoral” (2020). Jane and I watched him once, judging Herdwicks at Wasdale Show in 2018.

Now to “English Pastoral”, a compelling read in three sections: Nostalgia – Progress – Utopia. In Nostalgia he writes of his boyhood, a reluctant helper to his grumpy dad on the rented farm until at 14 his grandad takes

him under his wing to teach the boy all he knows about traditional farming practice. Within a year the reluctant teenager has become a more than willing young farmer. But the world of farming around them is changing. To his dad and others grandad is living and working in the age of the dinosaurs: rotation of



James Rebanks judging Herdwicks at Wasdale Show

crops, rotation of animal grazing, laying of hedges and keeping up stone walls in the jigsaw mosaic of small fields, scything hayfields later in the year than anyone else, no pesticides, no herbicides, no chemical fertilisers, only animal dung, just the all-year slog of manual labour by an old man and a boy when in the past there would have been many skilled hands available. Above all, this period in his life

taught the young Rebanks how deeply attached his grandad was to the very soil itself, the myriad grasses, flowers, insects which thrive on it and the microbial mini creatures within it, all nourishing the animals which graze it, the crops that grow and the food we eat. Later in the book Rebanks learns from a visiting soil expert that a handful of healthy soil contains more living creatures than all the people on earth. (Really? In my scientific ignorance I must check that out!)

In Progress, Rebanks has got far away from house and home to see the bigger picture of the farming world. He goes to Australia where at first, he is captivated but then unnerved by the sheer vastness of farming operations, herds of 700 or 800 cattle, sheep in tens of thousands, everything in straight lines and squares. He's told to drive a tractor 30 miles down a dirt road, then right and left for several "blocks" to find a field of Lucerne to cut by the tractor's halogen lights throughout the night when the grass is moist. A farmer he meets is upbeat, optimistic, "We can out beat everyone else in the world." How could hill farms in the Lakes or Dales compete with industrial scale farming like that? He was flattened by the endless flatness of the landscape and found himself longing for the hilly greenness and higgledy-piggledy field

patterns of hedges and walls in northern England.

Back home he is caught up in the battle for survival between the old ways and the pressures for more productive and efficient farming practice urged on them by pushy salesmen from big chemical and engineering companies. In a world dominated by public consumerism and, what becomes his pet hate, the supermarkets' demand for ever cheaper

food for the consumer, there must be a catch somewhere.

Rebanks found it in Australia, in his reading of Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" (1962) and her revelations about DDT's destruction of wildlife, and in a visit to the Mid-West in the US after his dad died. Industrial scale farming had killed the soil, treated cattle inhumanly (cows never seeing a field of grass) and

produced chemically distorted pigs and cows.

In Utopia, Rebanks is living with his family of 4 children on the small farm he had inherited from his grandad. It doesn't make money, so he has diversified into consultancy, writing, broadcasting and other outside activities. However, he is fulfilled by farming the land, cows and sheep in the most ecological and sustainable way he can. You need to read the book to learn what that means.

English Pastoral An Inheritance

James Rebanks



Throughout the book there are detailed, personal and engaging descriptions of everyday farming activity interspersed with reflection and comment on farm practices old and new, especially the malign influence of the supermarket driven mass consumption of cheap food produced at dire environmental cost to the earth we all live on.

It is all immensely readable with some striking poetic imagery, of bird life especially. One story stands out for me. Henry was very much a traditional Lakes hill farmer, refusing to go along with “progress”. He was quietly admired for this but also much joked about for being so old-fashioned. When he died a more modern farmer bought some of his fields and sent off some soil for analysis to learn what he should do to improve the land. The analyst reported that the soil was some of the best he had ever tested. It was healthy, it needed nothing, it was full of earth worms, rich and fertile. The most traditional farm in the district had the best soil.

Richard Hargreaves

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Chamber End Fold, Grassington, by Val Walker-Wilton, Buckden Art Group

**Sumer is icumen in,
Loude sing cuckou!
Groweth seed and bloweth meed,
And springth the wode now.
Sing cuckoo!**

As we leave May and head into June, I’m struggling to imagine how Summer might be; not just in terms of holidays and freedom, but whether, in the uncertainty of our Covid-shaped lives, it will actually arrive. My appreciation of changing seasons is quite dependent on birds. I know Spring has arrived when I hear the cry of the curlew, up here on the Raikes, but that happened way back in March. I’ve been waiting ever since for the harbinger of Summer – the cuckoo.

According to folklore, she changes her tune in June – strange that the default gender of the cuckoo is female, when in fact only the male sings! Or maybe it’s just metaphoric?

So this morning, what joy! What excitement! Not only is it the day when I’m to receive my second vaccination, but even better – I’ve heard the cuckoo! Summer really is coming – in the words of another folksong:

*Sumer is icumen in,
Loude sing cuckou!
Groweth seed and bloweth meed,
And springth the wode now.
Sing cuckoo!*

Certainly, the wood’s springing, seeds growing, and now the cuckoo’s here, blowing away our uncertainty and fear as we begin slowly to emerge from this long period of lockdown. How will this emergence be? Hopefully we will have learnt from last year, and not repeat the mistakes that led to so much heartache. What are our expectations? Can we make plans for the months ahead, or should we remain cautious?

For many young couples, emergence will mean they can at last get married - weddings that have been put on hold sometimes two or three times during this last year and a bit! How lovely it’s been for the Macha family to see Jess & Bill married at Rylstone, and for weddings to begin to take place here in Linton as restrictions gradually ease; a real cause for celebration as we anticipate summer! Perhaps the late arrival of the cuckoo should make us aware that things will not necessarily be the same as we move into summer.

As I look out of my window, I can see a beautiful song thrush searching for worms, and on my morning walk I’m bombarded by lapwings protecting their

babies! So I'm confident that a good summer is coming, it may just be a little different. Have you noticed that we seem to have heard more birdsong in this last year? I heard a report of some research suggesting that birds have lowered the pitch of their songs because they are no longer having to compete against so much traffic noise. This puts their song into a range that is more audible to us humans, which is surely a change for the better! Change isn't necessarily a bad thing.

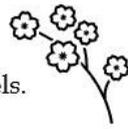
What changes have we made in our lives during this long Covid time? It's perhaps a good time to reflect on what changes you need to hold on to, and what you need to discard, as we look forward to the months ahead.

Let us give thanks for the world we live in, do our best to care for it, and trust in God as we move forward into Summer.

*Cath Currier xx
Lay Minister, St Michaels*



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Crossword

Across

1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)

4 Place of learning (6)

8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)

9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)

10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)

11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)

12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)

17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)

19 So clear (anag.) (7)

21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)

22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)

23 Musical beat (6)

24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

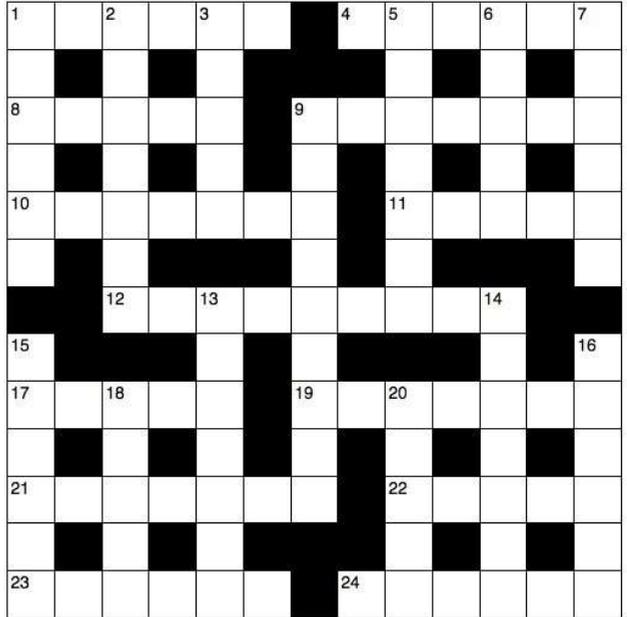
1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)

2 Art bite (anag.) (7)

3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)

5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)

6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)



7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)

9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)

13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)

14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)

15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)

16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)

18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)

20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

Solution on next page!

Answers to Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.
DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

Church Contact Telephone Numbers

-  **The Area Dean:** Revd Ruth Harris, 01756 793612
-  **The Methodist Minister:** Revd Andrew Webb -691057
-  **Roman Catholic Priest:** Mgr Andrew Summersgill -793000
-  **Congregational Minister:** The Revd Peter Thomas – 753848
-  **The Parish Administrator:** Andrew Hitchon – 380237

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.

-  Editor: Ian Smith - smithiwho@gmail.com
-  Buckden: Ric Halsall - ric.halsall@aol.com
-  Conistone & Kilnsey: Kathryn & Philip Butterfield - philip.butterfield@talk21.com
-  Kettlewell: David Nelson - DavidNelsondave@aol.com

The Link is distributed free to every household in the parish, and also available on the Parish website at <https://www.upperwharfedalechurches.org/news-and-views.html>

If you would like to receive a copy of the Link by email, please contact the Editor at smithiwho@gmail.com

The Link is financed by advertising from local businesses, and gifts. If you would like to make a gift towards the publication of the Link, you can do so through the Parish website at www.upperwharfedalechurches.org



**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.**

PW 10:20