

'Keep In Touch'



KEEPING YOU 'IN TOUCH' IS

Name

Address

Tel. No.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM

SUMMER 2018

***CHURCH & VILLAGE
BIRSTALL & WANLIP***

THE PARISH OF BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Rector | Revd Vince Jupp, 251 Birstall Road LE4 4DJ <i>email: vincejupp@btinternet.com</i> | 2674517 07840 855030 |
| Hon Asst. Priests | Revd Sheila Skidmore, 15 School Lane Revd Kerry Emmett, 1 Chamberlains Field Canon Anne Horton, 8b Copeland Road Revd Robin Martin, 22 Sycamore Road Revd Michael Webb, 31 Bramley Road | 2673318 3194736 2677942 2671651 07813144645 |
| Churchwardens | Mr Tony Bloxam, 17 Sandgate Avenue Mr Andy Proud, 97A Wanlip Lane Mr John Ward, 28 Walker Road Mrs Debbie Shephard, 41 Roman Road | 2675381 07889 807087 2677600 2672630 |
| Licensed Readers | Mr Peter Chester, 12 Oakfield Avenue Mrs Lesley Walton, 16 The Crossways Mrs Tricia Emmett, 1 Chamberlains Field | 2120236 2674995 3194736 |
| Pastoral Assistants | Mrs Doreen Wilson, 13 Poplar Avenue Miss Sandra Robinson, 7 Lambourne Road Mrs Gill Pope, 26 Blenheim Road | 2674680 2677238 2675086 |
| Safeguarding Coordinator | Mrs Annette Marshall <i>annette.marshall8@gmail.com</i> | |
| Sunday School | Mrs Rose Parrott <i>rose.parrott@btinternet.com</i> | 07811662235 |
| Church Office | Mrs Sheryl Jupp, Church Office, Church Hill <i>email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com</i> | 2671797 |
| Treasurer | Mrs Nicki Wills, Church Office, Church Hill <i>email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com</i> | 2671797 |
| Tower Captain | Mr Clive Mobbs, 30 Wanlip Avenue <i>Practice night—Thursday at 7.30pm</i> | 2677156 |
| Wanlip Church Hall Bookings | Mr John Ward, 28 Walker Road | 2677600 |
| Nearer Group | Peter and Gill Chester <i>pete.chester@ntlworld.com</i> | 2120236 |
| Editor of Keep in Touch | Canon Anne Horton, 8b Copeland Road <i>rahorton@outlook.com</i> | 2677942 |
| Editorial Team | Revd Vince Jupp, Mrs Lesley Walton <i>lp.walton@ntlworld.com</i> | |

ATTENTION ALL COFFEE DRINKERS Pause for a Blessing

I am a coffee drinker. I have a friend who isn't, but who constantly rebukes me for allowing the coffee she makes for me get cold in the cup before I have drunk it all. This is true! I do it at home as well. The other day, however, I found, then shared with my friend, this inspirational quotation about reflectively pausing! (I think I bought the book up at Mount St Bernard Abbey shop.)

'Each pause can be a blessing moment. Sometimes all we need is a freshly brewed cup of coffee. I have often observed people, including myself, chasing coffee cups around all morning – microwaving the coffee again and again and perhaps never really tasting it. Brewing a fresh cup of coffee, and attending to it with the kind of presence that allows you to truly taste it is an act of mindfulness and a very good prayer. Thus on some days, this kind of mid-morning prayer might be something to consider: a cup of coffee with a moment of interior quiet, or a cup shared with a co-worker.'

(pp.76/7, 'Seven Sacred Pauses: Living Mindfully Through the Hours of the Day', Macrina Wiederkehr, Sorin Books 2008)



My friend, by the way, just smiled.
She knows me too well!

And I am allowing my coffee to get cold as I write!

Anne

KEEP IN TOUCH', Autumn 2018

Copy by, but preferably before, July 10th!

Earlier than usual, to allow the Editor family summer holiday time!

All contributions welcome. Maximum preferred length: 500 words!

(If longer, the editor reserves the right to edit!!)

The editor wishes to say a big thank you to all who kindly contribute.

REGULAR EVENTS AND GROUPS

Weekly

- Thursday 7.30-9.00pm **Bell ringing practice (St James)**
Contact Clive Mobbs 0116 2677156
- Saturday 10-12 noon **St James Church open** + Tea and coffee

Monthly

- 2nd Monday 7.30pm **Monday Group (Day Centre)**
Contact Jane Scott 0116 2673761
- 4th Monday 10.15am **Mothers' Union (St James)**
Contact Helen Tarry 0116 2677493
- 1st Wed. 10.30am **Contemplative Prayer** 76 Sibson Road
Contact Noreen Talbot 0116 2672756
- 3rd Tuesday 10am -12.30 **Old Nick's Coffee Shop**
Wanlip Church and Community Centre
- Monday Morning monthly **St James Wanderers** approx. 4 miles
Contact Lesley Walton 0116 2674995

Bi-monthly

- 1st Sunday 7.45pm **Men's Group (Royal British Legion)**
Contact Bert Tegg 0116 2673817
- Group agrees dates!* **St James Striders** approx. 8 miles
Contact Gill Pope 0116 2675086

REGULAR SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

St James, Birstall, Sunday

- 8 am Holy Communion (*said*)
 10 am All Together (*1st Sunday*)
 10 am Parish Communion (*other Suns*)
 10 am Sunday School

Weekdays

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,**
Friday 9 am Morning Prayer
Thurs. 9.30 am Holy Communion

Our Lady & St Nicholas, Wanlip Sundays, 6 pm

- 1st Sunday**
 Holy Communion
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays**
 Prayer Book Evensong
- 5th Sunday**
 Alternative Service of the Word

LABYRINTH

Lord, even when I am alone,
 You are here, watching me.
 You surround me and hold me,
 All my days are known.

Lord, whenever I hide away
 In dark, in light, high, low,
 You too are there, for you know
 Every moment of my day.

Lord, you know me deep within;
 Even before, on earth, I stood
 You entered my life and understood.
 In wonder and mystery we begin.

LAH



LABYRINTH AT SHELDON, DEVON

Hill-bound, sky open, a waiting mystery –
 sand, stone, the perfect circle; already
 mind-marked, foot-trodden; labourers
 shaping, placing, firming; leaving
 standing stones – open doors – for other feet
 to tread. Deliberate, care-worn, unsteady,
 prayer-heavy pilgrims come,
 walk, pause, pray, walk on, centre,
 depart; changed,
 re-focussed, moving on.

Anne 29/10/11

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

The grass is half cut - it takes a few goes, reducing the mower height with each pass.

The temperature is the highest recorded since the 40's and in-between the cuts I'm thinking about the future. What does it hold?



I'm praying for renewed vision for our church as we emerge from the longest winter I can remember... or maybe it just seems like that.

We have achieved so much in the last twelve months. Yet perhaps we need to retreat, review and renew our vision for 2018 - and beyond. I'm listening to God and would like to use this summer letter to encourage you to listen, too.

What is God saying to you about our churches' priorities for the rest of the year and for the next few years?

What is God saying to you about our mission and ministry?

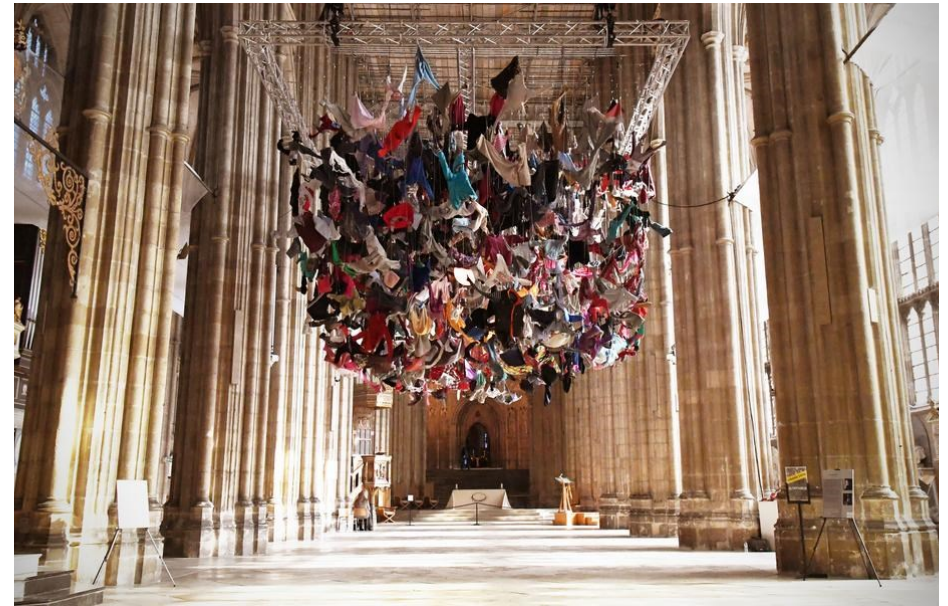
What's good? What's not so good? What's missing?

Perhaps you might let me know what you think?

Summer is a good time to slow down and reflect and - having prayed and listened to God's still small voice - set out new proposals for our shared journey. Life is a journey (cliché I know), but it is! There are jinks and turns and surprises galore, and we don't know what tomorrow will bring, except of course tomorrow!

Although we cannot predict tomorrow, we should still plan, and it is to this planning that I will turn over the summer months. Let's hope they are long and warm and sunny here in Birstall and Wanlip.

Our God has given us a promise of life in abundance and it certainly feels like this when we feel the warm summer breeze on our skin. It is at this time, more than any, that I love to walk in the countryside, particularly along the canal.



Suspended — on display in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral

Leicester Cathedral's full programme of engagement will include family art sessions, performances, a film screening, theatre arts and creative writing workshops, refugee-led coffee shop conversations, talks, seminars, and volunteer taster sessions.

Suspended had its first showing in St James's Church in London's Piccadilly from 14th December 2017 to 8th February, where it attracted international attention as the capital's most talked about contemporary artwork. It has been in Canterbury Cathedral from 23rd February to 16th May.

Ms Dorman has said: *My interest lies in the men, women and children behind the headlines, the individual stories behind the politics. I attempt to illuminate and to reveal the human face of conflict, and to find light in the darkest corners of existence.*

For details please refer to the Cathedral website
www.leicestercathedral.org

SUSPENDED **AT** **LEICESTER CATHEDRAL** **20th June—28th August 2018**

Suspended, Arabella Dorman's evocative artwork, which highlights the plight of refugees around the world, is to be exhibited in the nave of Leicester Cathedral from 20th June until 28th August. Arabella Dorman's installation will be in Leicester Cathedral from Refugee Week and through the Cathedral's 'Conversations' season, until Leicester's ArtReach Journeys Festival International.

Composed of hundreds of items of clothing discarded by refugees upon their arrival on the island of Lesbos, a stilled explosion will be created over the nave of the Cathedral, inviting visitors to reflect on the violent fragmentation experienced by the inhabitants of these garments. The work seeks to highlight the plight of refugees who are now stranded in cities and detention centres across Europe – men, women and children hung between loss and hope, suspended between a past to which they cannot return, and a future to which they cannot move forward.

There will also be an interactive wall of clothing and shoes salvaged from Lesbos and Calais with an invitation to touch and handle the clothes, and to imagine the lives of the individual men, women and children who have worn them as they risk everything to escape the violence of their homeland. By bringing the hidden wearers of these garments into our immediate presence, people will be invited to contemplate the real individuals behind the politics and the human stories behind one of the most defining issues of our time.

At the heart of the summer's programme are real individuals, refugees and those seeking asylum. The Cathedral's funders and partners - ArtReach with Arts Council England, De Montfort University, the University of Leicester, Leicester City of Sanctuary and the British Red Cross - are committed to support, promote and celebrate activity that shares refugee experience.

I love to feel the sun on my face, watch the light shimmering on the surface of the water and say a cheery hello to passers-by.

Walking along the towpath to Mountsorrel's Waterside beer house is a favourite journey that enables me to connect with God in my thoughts and feelings, as I give thanks for the beautiful world that he created and has given to us. And, I get a pint at the half way mark too! Bliss!

I hope to have some time to wander, but most importantly to have some time to wonder with God this summer; to listen out for his calling and discern his will for the next part of our churches' story. Can you find some time to do some wandering and wondering too? That would be great. Thanks.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer, a chance to recharge and holiday, and the opportunity to rejoice in all that God was, and is, and always will be - our Creator, Redeemer and loving Father.

Blessings and a Happy Summer!

Vince

A PRAYER FOR A HAPPY WONDERER

Give me a free heart

Since upon the everlasting hills

I have set my gaze.

And through those hills my feet shall seek thy ways.

And I shall start

the race towards that vast Beatitude,
the essential sight of thee.

Nor rest till on the horizon of Eternity,

I'll find thee at the last.

***The Editor found this unattributed prayer somewhere recently!
She can't remember where. But it seemed appropriate!***

The views and opinions of the authors who have submitted articles to 'Keep in Touch' belong to them alone and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the wider church.



PRAYER VISITING

Some of you may have recently seen notices about members of NEARER visiting homes in Birstall to offer prayer. What's it about?

The idea is quite simple. We are offering to pray for people.

There is no ulterior motive, just that we offer to pray for people. Research tells us that many people pray; people who would not profess any faith, apparently, pray. So, we are offering the service of praying for them.

But we don't just turn up. About a week beforehand we drop a leaflet round advising people that we will be visiting to offer prayer and giving them the chance to opt out, to ask us not to visit. So far just one household has asked us not to visit, but no-one else has contacted us as a result of this contact.

On the evening we are going to visit to offer prayer, we, first of all, pray for ourselves and our visits. At the same time, other people are praying for us as we visit. Then we go to the houses we have leafleted and ask if people would like us to pray for them.

Not surprisingly we receive a variety of responses:

- At many houses we get no reply. When this happens, we leave a card to say we have called, giving them a number to call if they want to give us a prayer request.
- Many people simply say 'No thank you'. Some seem to expect that we may be trying to sell something, or that we might push 'religion' at them, so appear slightly surprised when we simply say 'OK' and turn around
- A small number take up the offer of prayer and ask us to pray for something for them. We offer this in different ways, to pray with them at the time or to take their prayers away and pray for them in a small group (NEARER) or in church.

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN!

At the Mothers' Union Deanery service in St James' Church in April, the guest speaker was Salma Ravat from the local charity *One Roof Leicester*. I found Salma's passion for the cause she served inspirational. The charity provides accommodation, support and advice to homeless people, destitute refugees and asylum seekers. Salma has worked for ORL since November 2013, initially as the Project Co-Ordinator and now as Manager.

I was particularly touched by Salma's story of a specific way in which people of different faiths had been drawn to work together to support homeless and vulnerable people in Leicester. Salma had identified a need for *One Roof Leicester* to provide a weekly lunch time drop-in for rough sleepers, hostel residents and people who are socially isolated. Her problem was finding a suitable venue. They needed somewhere where a hot meal could be provided, but which also offered enough space for customers to socialise and play games. Salma was talking about her vision to someone who suddenly said to her 'Have you met the vicar of St James the Greater Church in London Road?' When she replied 'No', the person she was talking to said 'You should. I'll put you in touch.' He did, and Salma was able to share her vision with the then vicar, Glyn Richerby, who said 'Come and see our Undercroft.'

It was the answer to Salma's prayers. Everything she needed was there, and the charity could use it. As a result there is now a weekly drop-in that runs every Saturday from 11.30am -12.45pm where individuals can have a hot meal, play games and chat with other people. God moves in mysterious ways!

Salma also told us about other aspects of the charity's work: *One Roof Homes*, the *One Roof Winter Night Shelter*, *One Roof Housing*, *One Roof Befriending* and the *One Roof Web Directory*. There are leaflets in church describing the work of the charity in greater detail. There is a useful website too: <https://www.oneroof.org.uk/> I encourage you to explore it and find out more. You too may be inspired.

Anne

Grove Quotes and Jokes

All I Really Need to Know I Learned from Noah's Ark

1. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
2. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something REALLY big.
3. Don't listen to critics - do what has to be done.
4. Build on high ground.
5. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
6. Two heads are better than one.
7. Speed isn't always an advantage. The cheetahs were on board, but so were the snails.
8. If you can't fight or flee - float.
9. Take care of your animals as if they were the last ones on earth.
10. Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
11. When the doo-doo gets really deep, don't sit there and complain - shovel.
12. Stay below deck during the storm.
13. Remember that the ark was built by amateurs and the Titanic was built by professionals.
14. If you have to start over, have a friend by your side.
15. Remember that the woodpeckers INSIDE are often a bigger threat than the storm outside.
16. Don't miss the boat.
17. No matter how bleak it looks, there's always a rainbow on the other side.

Reproduced with permission from Grove Books Ltd.

FROM THE REGISTERS

March - April 2018

Baptisms

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 04/03 | Emily and Harry Suffolk | St James |
| 18/03 | Scarlett-Rose Hickey | Our Lady & St Nicholas |

Funerals

| | | |
|-------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 20/03 | Bert Garner | St James |
| 06/04 | Derek Tacey | Loughborough Crematorium |
| 16/04 | Carolyn Hill | St James |
| 27/04 | Joan Verso | St James |



If anyone is interested in finding out more, we offer information about NEARER and about the Parish. So far no-one has asked for any more information.

Will we continue? As long as we feel we are providing a service and that people do not feel that it is intrusive or unwelcome. The last thing we would want to do is make people feel pressurised in any way.

If you would like to know more or are interested in joining us or praying for us, please contact Gill or Peter Chester. (gill@nearergroup.org or pete@nearergroup.org).

Peter Chester

*Pioneer Minister for the NEARER Community
Parish of Birstall & Wanlip*

YOU ARE THE ONLY GOSPEL SOME PEOPLE MAY READ TODAY

**Write this on a piece of paper
and stick it on your mirror**

Every time you look in the mirror,
read the words aloud

and ask God to help you reflect God's love and truth today.

A 'live your faith' suggestion from the May/June 2018 ROOTS magazine

STEPS, MIST AND MUD

Eight intrepid walkers set out to walk from Robin Hood's Bay using the coastal path to Ravenscar. The signpost in Robin Hood's Bay said '3 miles to Ravenscar', so promising a nice morning stroll with some good views of the sea and cliffs.

How wrong can you be?!

To begin with, on leaving Robin Hood's Bay, we were immediately confronted with a steep climb up wooden steps. Then, as soon as I thought the end was in sight, there were more steps! One of my pet hates is climbing steep steps; not a good start.



Secondly, there was no superb view of Robin Hood's Bay when we reached the top! There was a heavy sea mist. So I had to use my imagination.

After about three quarters of a mile along the clifftop path, a short descent led down to Boggle Hole and its famous Youth Hostel. (*Boggle* is the local name for a hobgoblin, the mischievous 'little people' that were thought to live in caves along the coast.) Boggle Hole was a place where smugglers used to land their contraband.

There followed another climb, up more steep steps to the cliff top, where the signpost now said '2 miles to Ravenscar'. My legs certainly thought they had gone more than a mile! Before long we were on our way down again to Stoupe Beck. But, where there is a 'down', there is bound to be another 'up'! And this 'up' consisted of another punishing 100 steps (approx.!) By the time I reached the top, my legs felt like lead.

Soon the legend of Bel spread throughout the land and it was decided to name the villages after Bel and Sorrel's achievement.

The village they started from became Mount Sorrel.

The village in which they first landed was named One Leap (Wanlip).

The village from which Sorrel took off for that final, fateful leap where Sorrel's insides had burst, was called renamed Burst All (Birstall).

And the village in which they came crashing down was called Bel's Grave (Belgrave).

So Bel and Sorrel will always be remembered.

Michael Webb

LET YOUR GOD LOVE YOU

I love this meditation from Edwina Gateley's *Psalms of a Laywoman*. It reminds me that prayer is not something I do. The initiative is God's but I have to be present to Him to allow Him to love me and then to act in and through me in His world as I respond to his love. Harder than it sounds ... a lifelong journey!

Be silent. Be still.

Alone. Empty.

Wait before your God.

Say nothing. Ask nothing.

Be still.

Let your God look upon you.

That is all.

He knows. He understands.

He loves you with an enormous love.

He only wants to look upon you

With His love.

Quiet.

Still.

Be.

Let your God love you.

Lesley Walton

THE LEGEND OF BEL

Although I haven't lived in Birstall long, my memories of Birstall go back to the sixties and seventies. As a youngster, my brothers and I would come and stay with our maternal grandparents Lillian and Charles Bloxam, who lived in Beechfield Avenue. Amongst those early memories, which include the Lawn Cinema, the one-sided bridge and especially the high slide, is a story my grandma told us. This is that story.

Many years ago a giant lived in this area of Leicestershire named Bel. He had a wonderful horse named Sorrel. Bel was always bragging about Sorrel and what he and Sorrel were capable of. One evening, after a good time in the local pub, Bel started making all sorts of wild claims about what Sorrel was capable of. 'Sorrel could reach Leicester from here in three leaps' he said. 'Impossible' answered his friend. 'Prove it. Come over tomorrow and show us that he can. I bet he can't' challenged another friend. 'OK! Meet me here mid morning tomorrow' responded Bel.

Next day Bel, still sure of himself, took Sorrel along to the pub. A crowd had gathered. The news of Bel and Sorrel's attempt had quickly got about. Bel mounted Sorrel and they prepared to take their first leap. Sorrel seemed to fly through the air as he stretched his jump out and he landed in a small village. It was a good distance. Surely they were going to achieve their target.

Sorrel readied himself and took his second leap. This took him to the next village, not as near to Leicester he really needed to be. If he was going to make it, the third leap needed to be a lot further than any horse had leaped before. With Bel's encouragement, Sorrel put everything he had left in him into his last leap. In fact he put too much into it, and as he took off he burst his heart and lungs. He came crashing down to earth with Bel beneath him.

Poor Bel had no chance. The weight of the horse he loved crushed the life out of him. They were buried where they landed, at a village very close to, but not quite in Leicester. Everyone realised that, if Sorrel hadn't died, they would almost certainly have made it.

The rest of the walk into Ravenscar was punctuated by only slightly easier ups and downs.

We stopped for lunch at the site of a disused alum works, an early factory from the time of Henry VIII, which produced a dye for woollens, involving mixing alum, seaweed and urine. Fortunately the smell that would have emanated from these works was no longer evident.

By now the mist had cleared and we were rewarded with some wonderful coastal views, with the mist now hanging in the valleys.



We continued our walk up to Ravenscar, finding a lovely café which was happy to let us in, along with the mud we had accumulated, some of us more than others, to enjoy a drink and delicious Yorkshire Curd Tart.

It had been a difficult walk, but what are my memories now? It is the eeriness of walking through the mist; the active erosion along this coastline causing us to walk close to the edge in places, seeing cracks where the next piece of land would slide towards the sea; the wooded areas and streams; the mist hanging over the valley; the lambs and copulating toads.

But have I mentioned the mud? There was a lot of it, some we walked through, and some we struggled to get round by hanging on to trees or fences. At one very muddy patch one of our group fell headlong, luckily unhurt, but emerging covered from head to foot in mud. But the best memory is the satisfaction of finishing a short but very challenging walk with a group of like-minded friends, even if 3 miles felt more like 10!

Gill Pope

CAMINO - THE WAY

Pilgrimage to Santiago 1994

The recent TV series, *Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago*, told the story of seven people who walked the ancient pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, the reputed burial place of the Apostle James. I walked part of the same route in 1994 with Charles Bradshaw, our then Rector. It took us eighteen days to walk the 500 kilometres from Burgos to Santiago.



Mediaeval people went on pilgrimages for many different reasons. They saw and touched holy places and objects, making the object of their faith more real and also, perhaps, receiving healing. Some people made the pilgrimage as a respected way of taking a break from the routine of life, as do many pilgrims today. (This was my motive.) Many, however, made pilgrimage to amend for their sins. Making pilgrimage as a penance was believed to result in forgiveness, and less time spent in purgatory. Mediaeval pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela, for example, believed that their pilgrimage would halve their time in purgatory. It has been said that the Church might have encouraged pilgrimage because of monies made from the sale of indulgences. As a good protestant, however, I believe that to be superstitious. Nevertheless, I still keep my framed certificate (in Latin), signed by the Dean of Santiago, on the wall, to prove that I made the pilgrimage!

CHILDREN'S WORK

FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH

Easter

Mary Downs has run craft sessions in recent school holidays that have been well attended, including over Easter. This holiday it included **Easter Crafts** at St Theresa's Church on Good Friday when, while few in number in terms of families, those who came enjoyed it. I certainly enjoyed making Easter chicks and discussing the Easter message with the children who came.

After-School Club

Mary also organises an after-school club entitled **Happy Hour**. It takes place in the coffee shop at the Methodist Church **every Tuesday in term time between 3 and 4** and more volunteers would be welcome. Please also tell any parents you know about this. It is a time for the children to have fun relaxing, playing games, colouring etc. as they choose, while their adults relax with a cup of tea or coffee during the activities.

School Events, Messy Church and PUPPETS!

I continue to work with members of St James' Church on **school events**. As well as leading assemblies at Highcliffe, I have run workshops on Christianity for the children of both Riverside and Highcliffe schools, and have been involved with their harvest worship.

Looking forward, we are hoping either to resume **Messy Church**, or to do some other work that could 'fill the gap' that has been left. Any volunteers or suggestions for what we could do are welcome. Please feel free to get in touch with me.

I am working with Rose from St James' Church on the possibility of working with **the giant puppets again** as I know they have been missed! We hope for a special event in Advent so watch this space!

James Blackhall, Methodist Lay Worker
jamesblackhall@gmail.com



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB in the **Birstall Methodist** **Coffee Shop**

From early April 2018 a group of volunteers have been running **Happy Hour**, an After School Club for primary school children.

This takes place every Tuesday from 3pm – 4pm.

There is a colouring corner, table games (bar football, table skittles and bagatelle), creative Lego and model cars. Children can bring their own snacks and there are drinks for sale.

So far the Club has proved to be popular and children have been accompanied by parents or carers who have helped with supervising activities. There is a small dedicated team of volunteers but additional help will always be welcome.

Further Information? **Mary Downs** 0116 2672606

Peter Molesdale

'DOWN MEMORY LANE' **AFTERNOON TEAS**

at **Birstall Methodist Coffee Shop**
bi-monthly 2.30-4 pm

*2nd June, 4th August, 6th October, 8th
December 2018*



If you are, or someone close to you is experiencing some loss of memory, or are feeling isolated or lonely ... this is a time to get together for a drink, music, cakes (mainly homemade), usually a sing-a-long, sometimes some entertainment and always a chance to have a chat. If family members or friends would like to come with you, they will be very welcome. To find out more, please contact

Meg 0116 2672213, or **Janet** 0116 2671471

We travelled to Burgos via the ferry from Plymouth to Santander and then bus. The next day we walked about twenty-five kilometres on rough tracks over the high plain of northern Spain to the village of Hontanos, carrying all our earthly possessions in our rucksacks. All genuine pilgrims may stay free of charge in the Refugios (Pilgrim Hostels) which vary in terms of comfort and hygiene. The refugio at Hontenos was memorable. The mixed dormitory over the post office held some thirty bunk beds and the one loo had a missing seat! Jumping into bed caused a cloud of dust to arise! Many of the refugios were very simple, but after a long day's walk we were prepared to sleep anywhere and to put up with people snoring and falling out of bed! Over the eighteen days, however, we sometimes booked into hotels, relishing clean sheets and a hot bath!

Our pilgrimage took us through beautiful countryside. It was also memorable for the people we met on the way. I became particularly friendly with Dick Van Kampen from Amsterdam. Dick was a psychology lecturer at the University, organist at the Old Catholic Cathedral and an expert on Gregorian chant. We spent a lot of time putting the church and the world to right as we walked along. We corresponded for a number of years. I lost touch with him for many years, but a couple of months ago he found my email address via the church, and we are now back in touch after nearly twenty years.

Every Sunday on our journey we attended Mass in the local Catholic church. We told the priest we were Anglicans, and all but one invited us to receive Communion. When we reached Santiago, we received our certificates from the Dean, who invited Charles to concelebrate with him at the Pilgrims' Mass the next day and provided him with alb and stole. Charles celebrated using Rite A from the ASB, while the Dean celebrated the Mass in Spanish.

Altogether it was a great experience, both in body and in spirit. I felt much fitter after the walk and had lost a stone in weight!

Bert Tegg

A cockleshell is the ancient emblem of St James. Traditionally, pilgrims wore the symbol on their hat or clothes. Today it also serves as a route marker and identifies inns for modern pilgrims.

A NEW HYMN BOOK FOR OUR CHURCHES

We're having a new hymn book at Birstall and Wanlip. It's over 20 years since we introduced *Hymns Old and New*. We want our worship to be the best we can offer to God, so, at its meeting on 1st May, our Parochial Church Council decided to buy the new *Ancient and Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship*.



Since we bought *Hymns Old and New*, a wealth of new hymns and worship songs has been written by people such as John Bell, Bernadette Farrell, Stuart Townend and the Taizé Community. The new book contains many of these as well as music from the world church, not forgetting the best of the 'old' favourites. It contains over 250 more songs and hymns than *Hymns Old and New*, all chosen for their

- * congregational singability
- * biblical and theological richness
- * musical excellence
- * relevance to today's worship styles and to today's concerns.

We hope to have the new hymn books by August and we're inviting anyone who would like to give one or more copies to donate £10 for each book gifted. You might like to give a book in memory of someone, or to celebrate a special family member or event. Each donated copy may have a printed label on the inside cover, recording your name and the special person or event you want to thank God for, if you would like that.

To donate a hymn book, please complete one of the order forms at the back of church, and pass, with your cheque, to the Church Office. If you would like to talk to someone about it first, both Lesley Walton, lp.walton@ntlworld.com, and Debbie Shephard, debbie.shephard54@gmail.com, are happy to help.

Lesley Walton, Debbie Shephard

In Birstall, we have a team of 5 *CAP Money Coaches* who have run several 3 week courses for Adults in previous years.



Recently, however, we've concentrated on running the *CAP Kids' Course* for Year 6 pupils in our Primary Schools, both at Highcliffe and Riverside.

These have been very well received and fit well within the curriculum. We talk about the difference between 'Needs' and 'Wants' and the importance of saving. The children have really enjoyed the activities and take a full part in sorting out a family's budget for a weekend away. They all leave with a bookmark reminding them of the things we have talked about.

A new enterprise this year has been introducing the *CAP Youth* course to year 8 pupils at The Cedars. This was one session lasting 1.5 hours for each class – or sometimes 2 classes together! The major part of the course is working through a budget for a teenager about to start a Saturday job. The pupils work together in small groups to try to help Sam to 'Cut out' things he can't afford to do – buying lunch rather than taking sandwiches, 'Cut back' on things he really wants to do, like going to the cinema and 'Cut costs' when he's paying too much for something like a mobile phone contract. Again each pupil goes away with a bookmark to remind them of the course.

We would love to be able to run more courses, and at present a couple of people are looking forward to training to become *CAP Money Coaches*. It would be great if more people would like to join them.

The *CAP Money* website is : www.capmoney.org. Do have a look at it for more information, or speak to one of us:

**Gill Chester (0116 2120236), Lesley Walton (0116 2674995),
Tricia Owen (0116 2672597)**



CAP MONEY COURSES RUNNING IN OUR PARISHES

DEBT STATISTICS - APRIL 2018

Data from The Money Charity

- ◆ Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales dealt with 4199 new debt problems every day during year ending Feb. 2017
- ◆ Every 1 hr 17 mins a property is re-possessed
- ◆ People in the UK owed £1578 trillion at end of Feb. 2018
- ◆ Every 6 mins 13 sec someone is declared insolvent or bankrupt
- ◆ 1054 people a day became redundant: Nov 2017—Jan 2018

Christians against Poverty are 'passionate about releasing people in our nation from a life sentence of debt, poverty and their causes. Through our services, all run through local churches, we are tackling poverty head on. Our vision is to bring freedom and good news to people in every community through 1000 CAP projects by 2021.'

Christians against Poverty provides:

Debt Centres - our nearest is at All Nations Church, Frog Island, contact: 0800 328 006

Job Clubs - our nearest: Covenant Life Church, Freeman's Common The Big Shed, 93 Commercial Square: 0116 2540140

Release Groups - help people who can't stop doing something even though they want to: smoking, drinking, gambling, internet addiction

Life Skills Courses - teaching ways to save time, money, hassle ... via trained coaches, alongside like-minded people, in a relaxed and fun environment

Alongside these, there are many **CAP Money Courses**, run by churches throughout the country. These are free, teaching budgeting skills and a simple cash-based system that works. *In just a few weeks, you will get to grips with your finances, so you can budget, save and prevent debt.* There are hundreds of CAP courses run throughout the country each year, plus specific courses for students, youth and kids.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BIRSTALL & WANLIP

By the time you read this, you will I hope be sitting under a parasol and not an umbrella, and complaining of the heat rather than the cold!!

It's summer, so we have entered that time of gentle reflection, hopeful anticipation and, with any luck, rest, as many of the church activities make way for holidays. One thing that doesn't stop, I'm pleased to say, is our shared Christian lives, and, whilst I have been 'gently reflecting' on our last shared worship in *Thy Kingdom Come*, I am also thinking ahead and planning the agenda for our next meeting on 5th July.

Thy Kingdom Come has been a wonderful opportunity for all our churches to join with Christians around the world in praying that more people will find Jesus. This event, initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, has, in only three years, extended its touch around the globe. This prayerful ten days between Ascension and Pentecost is so much more powerful because we share it with our fellow Christians.

As I look forward to our July 5th meeting, I really am filled with anticipation for our ideas for what is to come. Between all our churches we already have some brilliant ideas, one of which involves Donkeys and Giant Puppets! More of that in the next edition of *Keep in Touch*. But in the meantime, as Peter Molesdale and James Blackhall have mentioned in their articles, pp. 18-19, there are other events which enjoy the love and support of all three churches. There are lots of activities for children going on and they are always looking for helpers, so please do get in touch if you would like to be involved.

There is lots of talk about different events and activities that we share as *Churches Together in Birstall and Wanlip*, but we should not forget that our Christian Unity is also reflected in the simple friendships over tea and coffee (not to mention cake) and shared meals. So I pray for all of us that this summer we will have lots of opportunities to meet up and do just that. Which reminds me, Old Nick's Coffee Shop at Wanlip Church Hall will be open every 3rd Tuesday morning all through the summer. And so:

*May the road rise up to meet us. May the wind be always at our backs.
May the sun shine warm upon our faces; the rain fall soft upon our fields,
And, until we meet again, may God hold us in the palm of His hand.*

Debbie Shephard, CTiBW Chair 2017 - 2019
debbie.shephard54@gmail.com

DISTRUST AND HATRED

The 'Real Dragons' of the 21st Century

Extract from a Sermon for the first Evening Prayer of St. George, given by Sheila Roberts, at the Church of Our Lady & St Nicholas, Wanlip, 22nd April 2018.

A recent *Thought for the Day* given by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks on Radio 4's Today programme began: I've been doing *Thought for the Day* for 30 years but never thought that in 2018 I would still have to speak about anti-Semitism. I was part of that generation born after the Holocaust, who believed the nations of the world when they said 'never again'. Bringing the echoes of 20th century history into the 21st century, Lord Sacks warned about the recent steep rise in anti-Semitism, citing serious attacks here and in Europe. Chillingly he said, 'The appearance of anti-Semitism is always an early warning sign of a dangerous dysfunction within a culture, because the hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews.'

Lord Sacks' very sobering and prophetic words are a wake-up call to members of all faiths, especially to those of us who share a common heritage as 'people of the book'.

The usual image of St. George shows him killing a dragon. Most people accept that this event was mythological, but perhaps Lord Sacks' words help us to admit that, in today's 21st century, all people of faith should recognise a shared responsibility to slay the 'real dragons' of distrust and hatred. 'All it takes for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing.' (*Edmund Burke 1770*)



A common heritage of belief is very evident in our honouring of the Christian Roman soldier George, who defied Emperor Diocletian's AD 303 edict to make Christians renounce their faith, and worship pagan gods instead. George refused this command and was executed.

He was buried in Lydda in Palestine, his birthplace. Today Muslims and Christians pray together in St. George's Church, both faiths honouring St George. Likewise, in Baghdad, Iraq, St George's Church has become a refuge for all-comers, Christians, Muslims and people of other faiths. They share together, through their faith in the God who guides and supports all in His abundant love.

But what of those dragons who breathe the fires of anger, hatred and prejudice? What of those who seek to cause chaos and disharmony within our own communities by sowing the seeds of despair and mistrust, as emphasised in my opening words from Lord Sacks?

Ex-serviceman Ian Durance led a campaign against the building of a mosque near his home in Lincoln. He said he believed it would cause traffic problems. He was visited by a group from the English Defence League who congratulated him on his campaign and for flying the flag of St. George in his front garden. They went on to ask him, 'Now, what are you going to do about these (expletive deleted) Muslims?' Ian, using 'army language', immediately ejected them from his garden. He realised that these visitors were outsiders who were deliberately trying to set up racist tensions in Lincoln. He decided to give up his opposition to the building of the mosque and started a new campaign – to support fully the building of the mosque.

Ian also decided to learn more about Islam. He visited a mosque, was invited to celebrate Eid, and was very proud to stand with Muslims, who, like him, wore their poppies honouring their fallen, when they all attended a Service of Remembrance.

The traffic problem, by the way, was solved, and the mosque is now built. It incorporates a community centre for the use of all who live in the neighbourhood.

All it takes for the triumph of good, is for good people to do something.

