# WASHBURN & MID-WHARFE CHURCHES MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2026 ~ ISSUE 502

SMALL TORTOISESHELL

?

ESSEX SKIPPER

60p

## Washburn & Mid-Wharfe United Benefice

Farnley, Fewston with Blubberhouses, Leathley and Weston with Denton.

### Priest-in-Charge

Revd Teresa McLaughlin
Tel: 01943 818113
Email: Rev.McLaughlinT@outlook.com

### Honorary Assistant Clergy

The Revd Dr Terry Drummond
01943 512208 Email.:
terry.drummond@hotmail.com

The Revd Barry Miller
Tel: 01943 467641

### Licensed Lay Ministers

John Charman, - Tel: 01943 466712

Fran Dale, email:
fed.curlew@googlemail.com

Paul McLaughlin, email
pmc1617@gmail.com

Fiona Schneider
Email fisch108@aol.co.uk

### Churchwardens

Blubberhouses & Fewston:
Alison and John Bowers
- Tel: 07752 431886

Denton & Weston
Dan Bown Tel: 07818 0355503
danbown@me.com

Farnley:
Peter Goodwin - Tel: 01943 969953

Leathley:
Terry Bramall CBE Tel: 07802 877799
& Liz Webster 01943 468376

### Safeguarding Officer

Rebecca Campbell (01943 818600 or 07973 334298)
Or Rev Teresa (as above)

### Methodist Ministers

Rev Cameron Stirk
thestirks@tiscali.co.uk

Rev Tim Perkins
01943 864187
of revtmp1971@gmail.com

### Norwood Retreat Centre

Norwood, Otley LS21 2RA,
Tel: 0748 415 4032
norwoodretreatcentre@gmail.com
Methodist Chapels are in the circuit of Wharfedale & Aireborough

### Websites:

Saint Oswald's Church, Leathley
www.leathleychurch.org

All Saints Church, Farnley
www.farnleyallsaints.org

Fewston with Blubberhouses
www.fewstonwithblubberhouses.org.uk

All Saints Church Weston
www.westonchurch.wordpress.com

Benefice web site
https://washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk
Including Safe guarding information

Norwood Retreat Centre
www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/people-places/norwood-retreat-centre

### Benefice Administrator

Anna Bowman
admin@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk
Telephone: 07523 798338
please note the role is part time so I will reply to your email or return telephone calls as soon as I am able.

## Front cover Image

**Cover image:** Butterfly count - see pages 23 & 37. Join the Big Butterfly count www.bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/

**Credit:** A Bowman

# Village Church Services

## August

Please check on www.achurchnearyou.com for up to date information.

**2nd August** **The Nineth Sunday after Trinity**

9.30 am Leathley Morning Prayer (PMc)
9.30 am Weston Holy Communion (Book of common Prayer) (TMc)
11.00 am Fewston Morning Prayer (PMc)

**9th August** **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

9.30 am Farnley All age Service (FD)
11 am Fewston Holy Communion (TMc)
11.15 am Denton Morning Prayer (PMc)

**16 th August** **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

9.30 am Leathley Holy Communion (TMc)
9.30 am Weston Morning Prayer (Book of common Prayer) (TD)
11.00 am Blubberhouses Songs of Praise (TMc)

**23rd August** **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

9.30 am Farnley Holy Communion (TMc)

**30 th August** **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

11.15 am Denton United Benefice Communion Service (TMc)

6th September The Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity

9.30 am Weston Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) (TbC)
**(May have to be cancelled )**
9.30 am Leathley Morning Prayer (JC)
11.00 am Fewston Family Service (CL)

# Services at Norwood Methodist Chapel

## August

Sunday 9th August 2.30pm - Afternoon worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Shannon DeLaureal

Sunday 23rd August 2.30pm – Church Anniversary. Come along and help us celebrate our 100th Anniversary! This is a wonderful achievement – do join us. Refreshments served afterwards. Rev. Tim Perkins

Sunday 30th August 10.30am – United Service for our cluster of Churches at Bramhope Methodist Church led by Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy

Do come along and join us!



# The Vicar's Monthly Message

August, a time of holidays, Ice Creams and cool drinks, of sitting in the sun or even seeking shade if the sun gets too much. I came across an article called The Theology of Ice Cream! It was written by Canon J. John the well-known Evangelist. I was so struck by it that I wrote to him and asked for his permission to print his article in our magazine, which he has kindly agreed to. So enjoy it and let me know your thoughts!
Teresa

## The Theology of Ice Cream

**What could a melting ice cream possibly teach us about life, gratitude and eternity? More than you might imagine . . .**

Summer and ice cream belong together. One without the other is possible but somehow it doesn't feel quite right. There is, however, one universal law that has never been broken: **ice cream melts faster than you think it will.**

You begin with supreme confidence. *'I've got this.'* Two minutes later it's running down your fingers, dripping onto your shirt, and your dignity is disappearing at roughly the same speed as your double scoop. It doesn't matter whether you're five or seventy-five, ice cream has an extraordinary gift for humbling us all.

Of course, there are different kinds of ice cream eaters. There are the cautious nibblers who approach every lick as though they're performing delicate surgery. There are the fearless biters who apparently possess teeth made of reinforced steel. And then there are those who spend so long deciding between dozens of flavours that by the time they've finally chosen, the person behind them has fallen asleep.

Life can be like that. Sometimes we're so busy trying to make the perfect decision that we fail to enjoy the gift God has already placed in our hands. Ice cream reminds us that some things simply aren't meant to last. No one has ever said, *'I'm saving this cone for next Sunday.'* It has to be enjoyed now.

The Bible reminds us of the same truth. James writes, **'Your life is like the morning fog – it's here a little while, then it's gone'** (James 4:14 NLT).

Our possessions fade. Fashion changes. Fame evaporates. Fortunes come and go. Even the happiest holiday eventually becomes a photograph buried somewhere on our phone. We spend an extraordinary amount of time polishing what is temporary instead of pursuing what is eternal. Jesus invites us to make a different investment:

**'Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal'** (Matthew 6:20 NLT).

Continued on page 6

When I was younger, I used to think professional bicycle racing looked easy. After all, they're sitting down aren't they? How hard can it be? Then one day I borrowed a bike and discovered a shocking truth: sitting down doesn't necessarily mean resting!

Professional cyclists ride for hours. They battle hills, rain, wind, exhaustion, punctures, aches and pains. Sometimes they fall off entirely and still get back on.

Recently in Otley the town hosted one of the men's elite bike races. If you didn't know it was happening the whole of the town centre was closed to cars, and bikes with riders of varying standards whizzed around the streets of our small market town with many people applauding, cheering and encouraging on. Believe you me – it's not for the faint hearted! The speeds they turn corners, in a massive peleton of up to 30 riders with little more than a few inches between each man, makes the hairs on your neck rise with the exhilaration but also the fear of a catastrophic crash!

The more I think about it, the more I realise that the Christian life is a lot like a bike race.

**The Race Is Longer Than We Expect**
Most of us begin life imagining the journey will be fairly straightforward. We think: "I'll work hard, make sensible decisions, and everything will go according to plan." Then life happens. There are unexpected hills. Health concerns. Family worries. Bereavements. Financial pressures. Disappointments. The race becomes longer and harder than we expected. One cyclist described a mountain stage by saying, *"I kept thinking the summit must be around the next bend. It wasn't."*

The writer of Hebrews says: *"Run with perseverance the race marked out for us."* Not the race we wanted. Not the race somebody else got. The race marked out for us. God's grace is sufficient for every mile.

**Hills Build Strength**
Nobody likes hills. Yet every champion cyclist knows that hills are where strength is developed. And I think the same is true spiritually.
Looking back over our lives, many of the lessons we treasure most came through difficult seasons:
Patience develops when we must wait.
Faith develops when we cannot see the outcome.
Compassion develops when we have suffered ourselves.
A retired minister once said:
*"I would never choose many of the experiences I've had. But I would not trade what God taught me through them."* That is wisdom.

Continued on page 8





Those are treasures that never melt. Ice cream teaches another lesson too. The tighter you squeeze the cone, the bigger the mess. Perhaps that's true of life. The more tightly we grip our plans, our ambitions, our reputation or our possessions, the more anxious we become. Peace often comes not from holding on more tightly but from placing everything into God's hands. After all, everything we have is a gift from God.

One of the great joys of summer is watching children with ice creams. Before they've eaten half of it, they're wearing the other half. Chocolate on their cheeks. Vanilla on their noses. Strawberry on their T-shirts. Sticky hands. Beaming smiles. Best of all, they don't care. They aren't worrying about calories. They aren't wondering if someone else's looks bigger. They're simply enjoying the gift. Somewhere along the journey into adulthood we become experts at worrying and amateurs at wondering.

Perhaps that's why Jesus said, **'Anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it'** (Mark 10:15 NLT).

Not childish. But childlike. Trusting. Grateful. Ready to receive.
So, the next time you find yourself holding an ice cream, enjoy it. Don't complain when it starts to melt. That's what ice cream does. Smile when it drips. Laugh if it lands on your shirt. Life is far too short to be defeated by a scoop of vanilla. Instead, let it remind you of something far more important. Life is a gift. Time is precious. People are always more important than possessions. Gratitude is better than grumbling. And eternity is never as far away as we imagine.

So enjoy God's gifts. Delight in them. Laugh over them. Share them generously. But never confuse the gifts with the Giver. Hold tightly to Christ.

Hold everything else with open hands. Because life is rather like an ice cream. If you grip it too tightly, it becomes a mess. If you leave it too long, it disappears.

So savour every day God gives you. Love your family. Treasure your friends. Help those in need. Laugh often. Pray faithfully. Trust Christ completely.

One day your ice cream will be gone. The summer will be over. The photographs will fade. But the love of God in Christ will never melt, never fade and never fail. And that's the sweetest truth of all.

Grace and peace,
J.John jjohn.com

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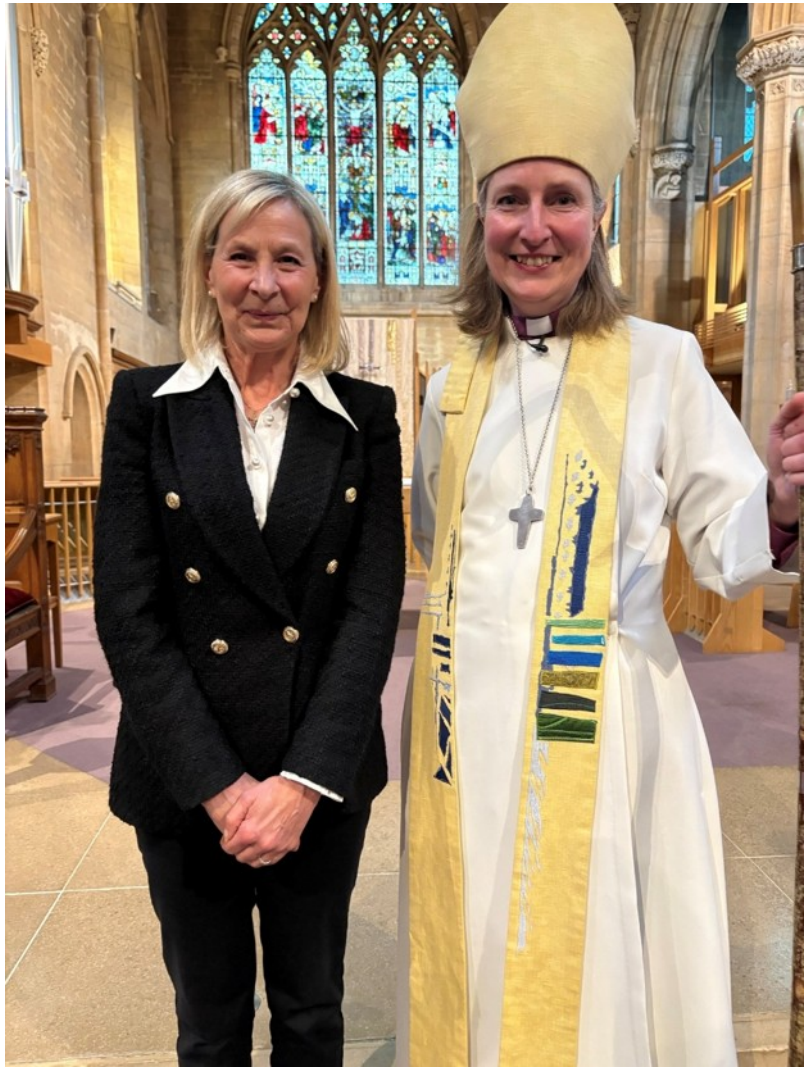
## Confirmation in Harrogate

It was great that a member of the Benefice from St Helen's Church, Denton went forward for Confirmation in May. It was such a great privilege to walk along side Jo on her Christian journey and to support her on her Confirmation Day. St Marks in Harrogate was packed and there were so many people being confirmed, lots of young people and older adults. Anyone wanting encouragement that our faith was alive and growing needed to look no further! Some were even brave enough to give a testimony of how they had come to faith, it was all very moving. Bishop Anna made it a very special occasion for each of the candidates and for everyone who was there to support them. Please keep Jo in your prayers as she continues her journey of faith.

Blessings
Teresa





# News from Norwood Methodist Church ...
# Continued from page 2

**We Need Other Riders**

One fascinating thing about cycling is something called "drafting." Riders travel behind one another to reduce resistance from the wind. The rider in front does the hard work for a while, then another takes a turn. Nobody succeeds entirely alone. That sounds remarkably like the church. There are times when we are strong and encourage others. There are times when we are tired and need others to support us.

Many of us can probably name people who helped us keep going in faith. A Sunday school teacher. A spouse. A friend. A minister. A parent. Church is not merely a gathering. It is a support team. God often strengthens us through one another. Let's remember that as we seek to care for one another in Christ's name each and every day.

So, I would suggest that the Christian life is not a sprint. It is more like a long bike race. There are hills. There are headwinds. There are companions. There are falls. There is laughter. There are beautiful views. And through it all, Christ rides with us.

So, whether today you feel strong or weary, confident or uncertain, remember: Keep pedalling. Keep trusting. Keep looking to Jesus. And remember that the God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion. Amen.

Grace and peace,
Cameron
(Rev. Cameron Stirk – Norwood Methodist Church)

## From the Registers

### Baptism

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5th July | Saints Oswalds Leathley | Eva Frances Campbell |

### Weddings

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 27th June | All Saints Weston | Charlotte Victoria Gibson and Louis Gabriel Poole |
| 18th July | Saint Michaels and Saint Lawrence Fewston | Louise Mary Nelson and Thomas David Bland |

# Community Notice Board

## Denton Flower and Cleaning Rota
### August & September

| | |
|---|---|
| 2nd August | Karen Boothman |
| 9th & 16th August | Sue Wood |
| 23rd & 30th August | Julie Crowther |
| 6th & 13th September | Ann Chadwick |
| 20th &27th September | Helen Cobley |

## Weston Flower and Cleaning
### August & September

9th August Mr & Mrs Senior
16th & 23rd August Mrs J Cowgill
30th August & 6th September
Tom & Ruth Raper
13th & 20th September Sally Stanley
27th September & 4th October
Mrs H Pullan

## Askwith Ladies Social

The social evening is on the 2nd Thursday of the month, the next meeting is 6th August at 7pm at The Penny Bun

Contact Anne for more information - Tel: 07713884328
Email: laeatham@gmail.com

## Fewston Parochial Hall Charity teas

Teas, lunches and homemade cakes
Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th & Monday 31st August
10.am till 4.00 pm

All proceeds to Yorkshire Air Ambulance on Saturday & Sunday and St Michael's Hospice on Monday.



## Fewston Foxy Ladies

### Medieval Monks & Nuns

Join us on Tuesday 18th August 7.30pm at Fewston Parochial Hall to find out from David Banks What Medieval Monks & Nuns didn't want you to know!

See you then!

If you would like more information please contact Gillian 07795 464042 ; Sue 07812 071636; Sheila 07931 292910 ; or Margaret 07949 765888

## Help with Charity Teas

Any cake donations would be greatly appreciated for either Saturday, Sunday or Monday. 29,30,31 August.
OR
Volunteers to help out for afew hours,
Please what's app jane on 07590355953 or e mail jjackson840@hotmail.com

# 106th ARTHINGTON SHOW
## SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2026

To be held on The Showground, Pool Road, Otley, LS21 1DZ (A659)
Join us for the 106th Arthington Show — a fantastic family day out showcasing countryside traditions, community spirit, agriculture and horticulture.

Enjoy a full programme of attractions for all ages, including livestock and equestrian classes, horticultural and produce displays, children's entertainment, local food, trade and craft stands, and much more.

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Expect thrilling stunt riding, high-energy displays and entertainment throughout the day, alongside traditional show favourites and a warm Yorkshire welcome.

**Find out more:** www.arthingtonshow.co.uk
**or email:** admin@arthingtonshow.co.uk

## Leathley Parish Room

# Domino Drives 7:00 pm

## Friday 28th August

Friday 2nd October

Raffle and Cash Bar. Supper included:

Pork Pie, mushy peas, tea or coffee - £5

Pizza and drink - £2.50

Vegetarians option available – please tell us when booking

All welcome, whether a seasoned pro or never picked up a domino before, any age that can stay awake until about 9:30. Please let us know (using contact details below) by the evening of the Wednesday before so we can be sure to order enough pies

Booking; Booking Secretaries on 07802212111
or leathleyparishroom@btinternet.com

# HERITAGE OPEN DAY

at
St Helen's Church Denton
and
All Saints Church Weston

On Saturday 12th September
From 11am – 5pm
Followed by teas at the Tithe Barn,
Weston Hall from 2 – 5pm



# FARNLEY CHURCH OPEN DAY

**Visit our beautiful country church**

**Saturday 12th September 2026**

**from 10am to 2pm**

**Refreshments available**

**Second-hand BOOKS/CDs/DVDs and Jigsaws to buy**

**And look out for the Church Mouse!**

**Plenty of parking!!** [LS21 2QH]

For more details please email:
plyngood@icloud.com **OR** fed.curlew@gmail.com

# Norwood Social Hall Dominoes

## Friday 18th September

Raffle & Pie and Pea supper
7pm for a 7.15pm start.

**2026 Domino dates for your diaries**

Friday 16th October
Friday 20th November
Friday 11th December Christmas Dominoes
Hope you can join us.

DT

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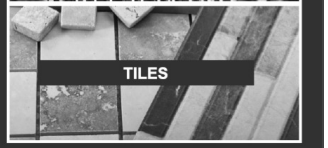


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## Leathley Parish Room

*Why not hire the Village Hall in Leathley for a Business Meeting; a Fundraising or Social Event - or a Children's Party?*
*The hall now has WiFi.*

For details of facilities and rates, and to make a booking please go to: www.leathleyvillagehall.org.uk
or telephone the booking secretary on 07802 212111

## Robinson Library and Village Hall, Timble

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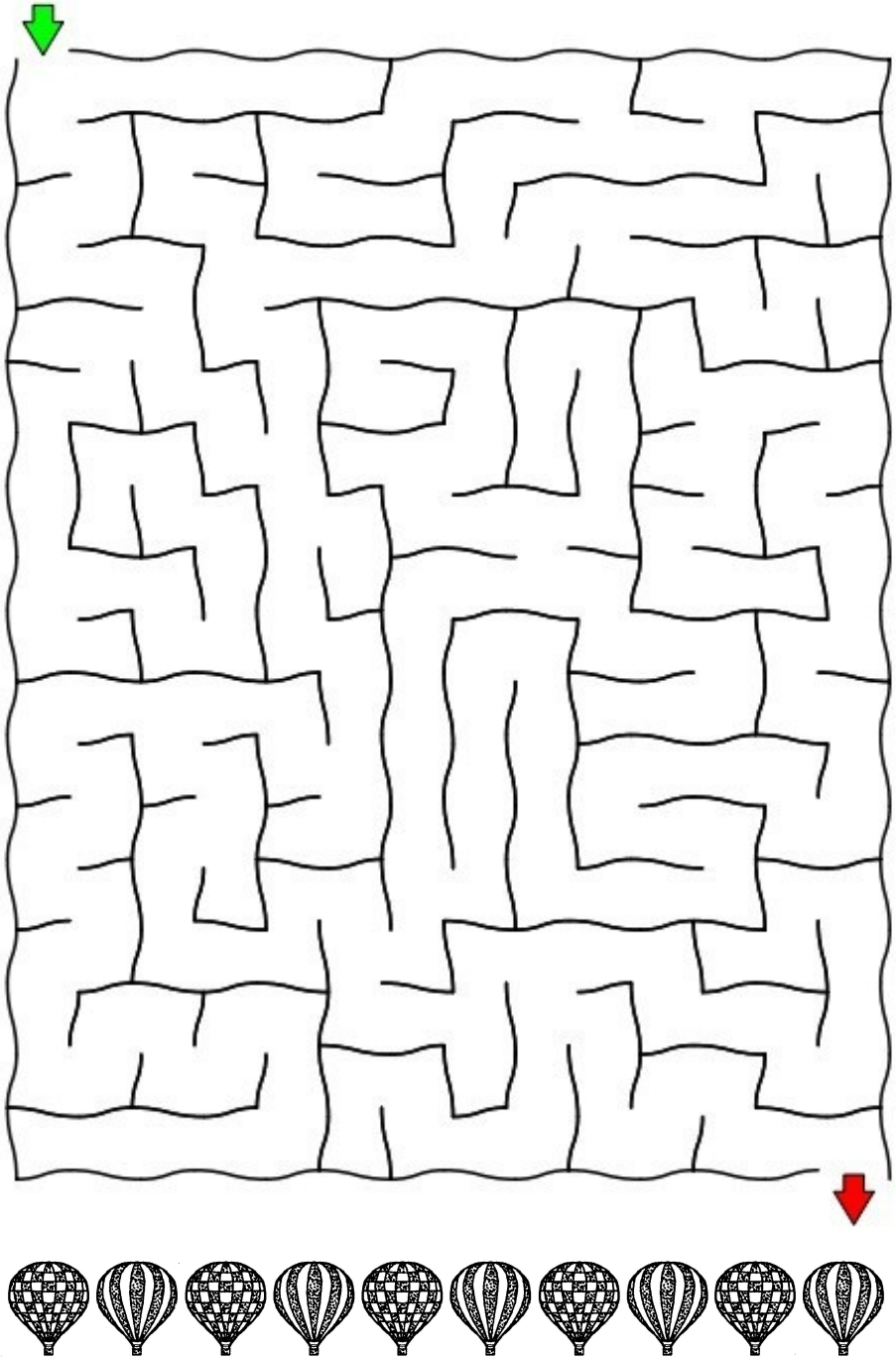
# STORY. PUZZLES AND COLOURING-IN



## Word Search

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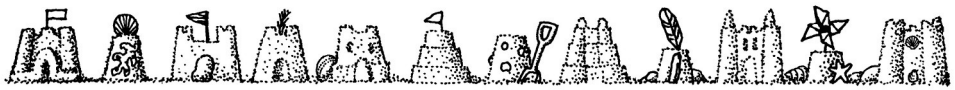

## Sudoku

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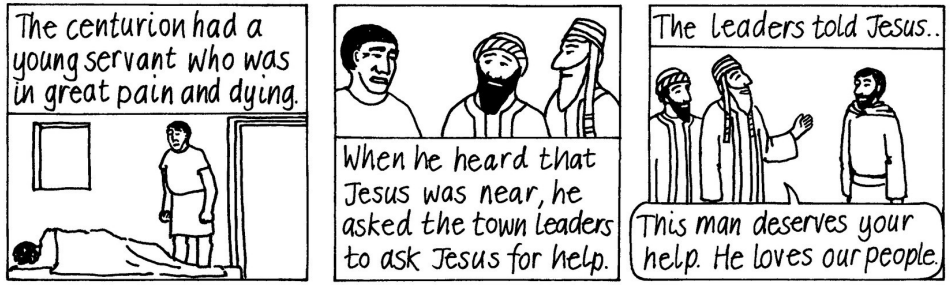
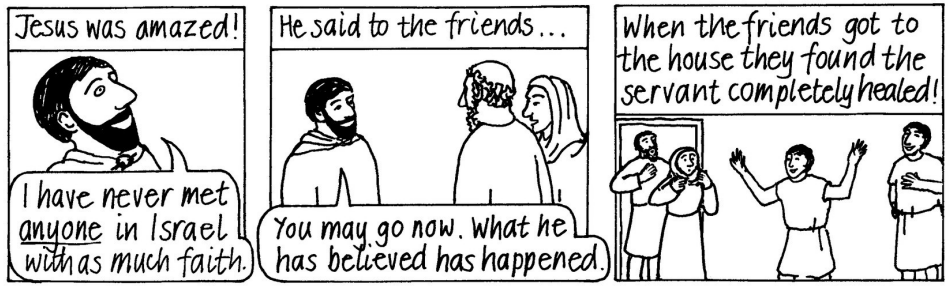
# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

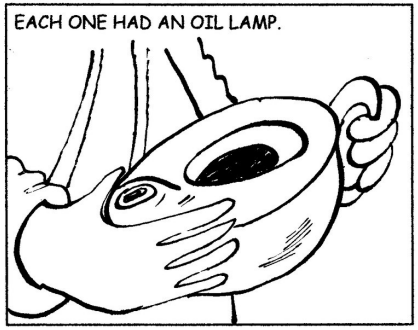
It can be read in the Bible in Luke 7:1-10, Matthew 8:5-13

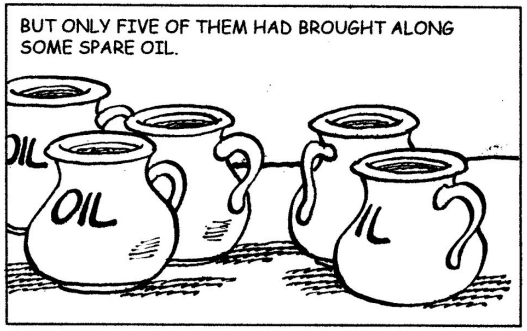
When the Romans invaded Israel, they used soldiers to keep order. For the centurion in Capernaum it was more than just a job...

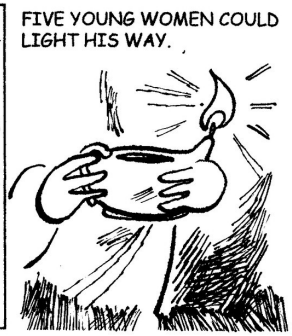


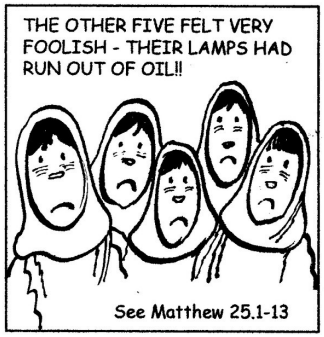


# The TEN YOUNG WOMEN

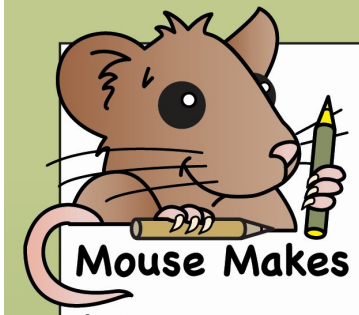






# Mouse Makes

**1.** To which city did God send Jonah?
*Jonah 1:1-2*

**2.** Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?
*Acts 16:9-10*

MOAB

**3.** Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?
*Matthew 15:29*

**5.** Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?
*Ruth 1:22*

**4** *across*
After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?
*Acts 14:19-20*

LYSTRA

**4** *down*
Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?
*Acts 9:3*

**6.** Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?
*Acts 13:51*

EGYPT

JERUSLEM

**7** *across*
Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?
*Acts 11:22*

**7** *down*
Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?
*Genesis 8:4*

**9.** To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?
*Acts 8:5*

**10.** To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?
*Mark 1:5*

**11.** After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?
*Acts 20:6*

GALILEE

**12.** Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?
*Exodus 15:4*

**8.** To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?
*Matthew 2:13*

JUDEA

**13.** Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?
*Acts 18:1*

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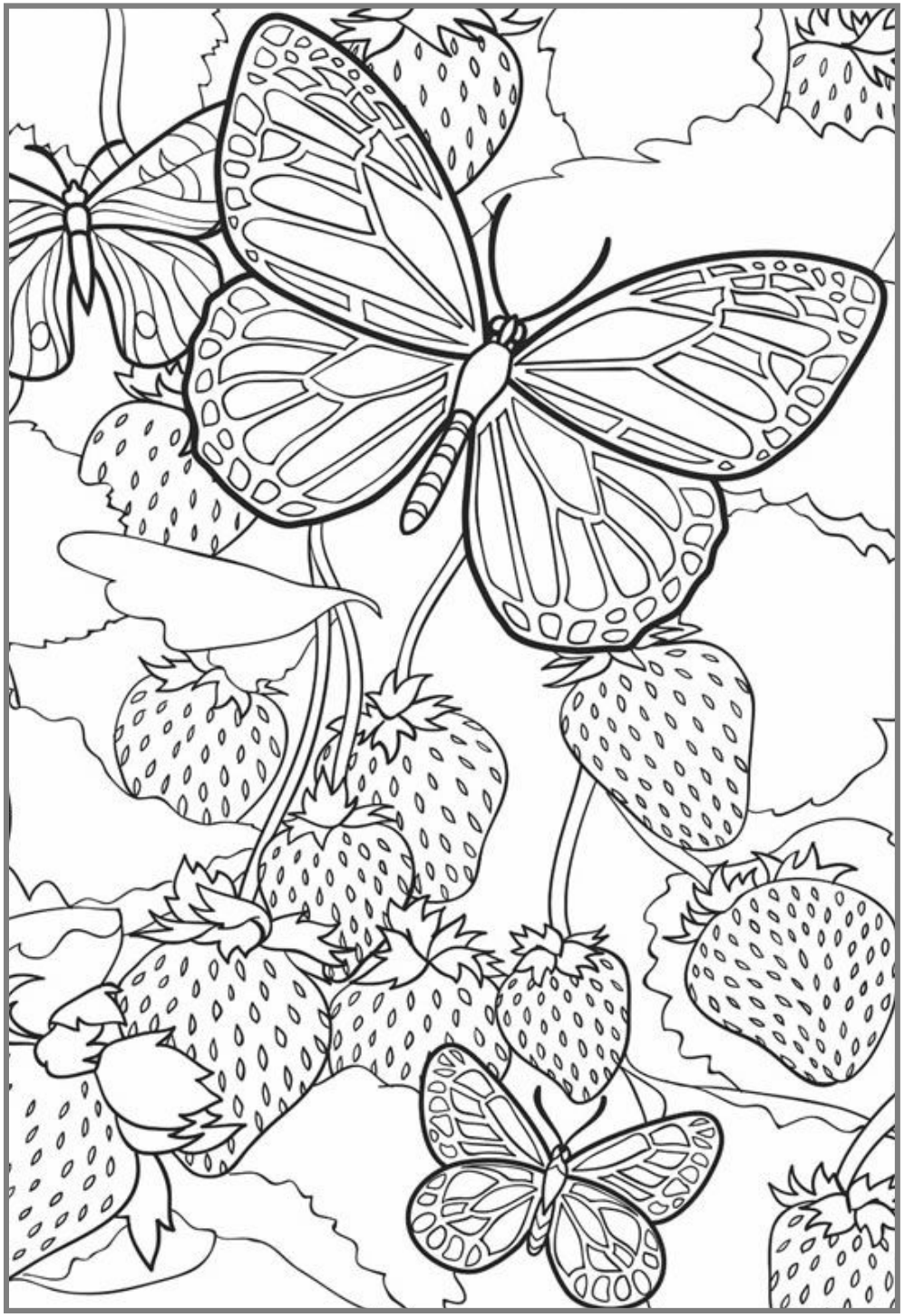



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# All in the month of August

It was:

250 years ago, on 2nd August 1776 that the formal signing of the US Declaration of Independence took place.

175 years ago, on 12th August 1851 that the American inventor Isaac Singer was granted a US Patent for his sewing machine. Since then, well over 100 million various models of Singer sewing machines have been sold worldwide.

175 years ago, on 22nd August 1851 that the first America's Cup yacht race was held. That first event was a race around the Isle of Wight, won by the American schooner *America*. The trophy was then named in honour of the first year's winner. The race is the oldest still-operating international sporting competition in any event.

150 years ago, on 7th August 1876 that the birth of Mata Hari, Dutch exotic dancer and courtesan was born. She was convicted of spying for Germany during WW1 and executed by the French in 1917.

150 years ago, from 13th to 17th August 1876 that the German composer Richard Wagner's complete Ring cycle (Der Ring des Nibelungen) was performed for the first time, over four nights, at the Bayreuth Festspielhaus.

150 years ago, on 19th August 1876 that the British Assyriologist George Smith died. Known for discovering and translating the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, one of the oldest known works of literature, written in about 2100 BC in ancient Mesopotamia.

125 years ago, on 4th August 1901 that Louis Armstrong, American jazz trumpeter and singer, was born.

100 years ago, on 17th August 1926 that George Melly, British jazz/blues singer, critic and writer on art history, especially Pop Art and Surrealism, was born.

90 years ago, on 1st August 1936 that Yves Saint-Laurent, Algerian-born French fashion designer, was born. (Died 2008)

80 years ago, on 13th August 1946 that H G Wells, British science fiction novelist (*War of the Worlds, The Time Machine*, etc) died.

70 years ago, on 11th August 1956 that Jackson Pollock, American abstract expressionist artist, died. Known for his drip paintings. (Car crash, aged 44)

70 years ago, on 27th August 1956 that Britain's first nuclear power station, Calder Hall in Cumbria, began operating. It was the first nuclear power station in the world to generate power on an industrial scale and formed part of the Sellafield complex. Closed in 2003.

65 years ago, on 13th August 1961 that East Germany sealed the border between East and West Berlin with barbed wire to prevent an exodus of refugees to the West. Construction on the Berlin Wall began on 15th August. The border reopened in 1989.

60 years ago, on 1st August 1966 that

Continued on page 31



# Friends of the Dales

## Where Art Meets Action!

Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust's summer exhibition, hosted at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes, is the culmination of work undertaken during the first half of the *Rivers4Life* schools and community engagement project.

The family-friendly, interactive exhibition is open until 27 September 2026, and presents a superb opportunity for people to connect with the nature and wildlife of our rivers along with the challenges they currently face.

*Rivers4Life*, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, is a celebration of our beautiful rivers, brought to life through films, music, art, soundscapes, drama and compelling facts.

Find out more and sign up to the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust newsletter at: www.ydrt.org.uk

# All in the month of August ... continued

the Cultural Revolution began in China. Intended to preserve China's Maoist Communist ideology, millions of people were persecuted or displaced. It ended after Mao Zedong's death in 1976.

60 years ago, on 4th and 5th August 1966 that US newspapers and radio stations quoted John Lennon as saying his Beatles band was "more popular than Jesus." He provoked widespread protests, and many radio stations refused to play Beatles' records. Lennon apologised on 12th August, at the start of the Beatles final tour of the USA.

50 years ago, on 7th August 1976 that NASA's Viking 2 spacecraft went into orbit around Mars. In two years it orbited Mars about 700 times and sent back 16,000 images.

40 years ago, on 9th August 1986 that the rock band Queen performed its final live concert at Knebworth Park before the death of singer Freddie Mercury. (Pneumonia, late 1991.)

40 years ago, on 31st August 1986 that Henry Moore, British sculptor, died. His monumental, semi-abstract bronze sculptures are displayed in public spaces around the world.

30 years ago, on 23rd August 1996 that Saudi Arabian-born terrorist Osama bin Laden issued a fatwa entitled *A Declaration of War Against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places.* Few people knew who he was, and his declaration received little attention.

30 years ago, on 28th August 1996 that Prince Charles and Princess Diana were divorced after 15 years of marriage.

20 years ago, on 20th August 2006 that Joe Rosenthal, American photographer died. Best known for his iconic WW2 photograph *Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima.*

15 years ago, on 21st August 2011 that Hurricane Irene hit the Caribbean and then North Carolina. 49 people were killed and more than $14 billion worth of damage was done.

10 years ago, on 29th August 2016 that Gene Wilder, American film actor, died. (Films include *Willy Wonker and the Chocolate Factory and Blazing Saddle.)*

# Washburn Heritage Centre

www.washburnvalley.org.
Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

The Tea Room at the Heritage Centre is open on **SATURDAYS** AND **SUNDAYS** during the summer from 11am until 4pm. We welcome **NEW VOLUNTEERS**. If you can spare a few hours at the weekend once a month we would love to see you in the Tea Room. It's a busy environment, warm and friendly, but you are rewarded with cake!

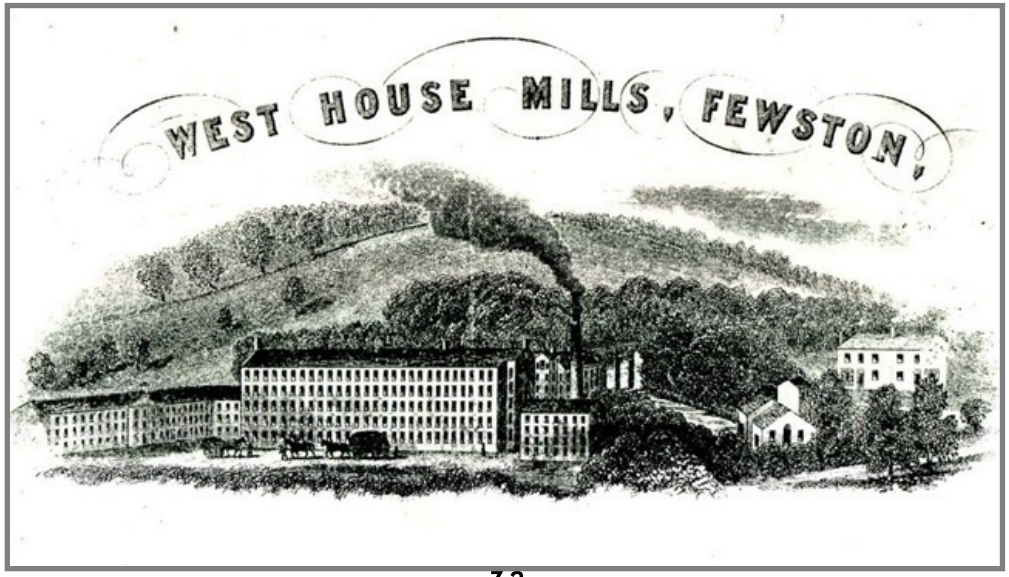
Our new programme **Churchyard Secrets Shared** began in July and we have already enjoyed fascinating talks, walks and a pie and peas supper. The stunning exhibition is available to view inside the Centre. The events programme is part of a larger project, a sequel to our previous project *Churchyard Secrets Revealed.* Both projects are a collaboration between the Washburn Heritage Centre and the Universities of York and Durham. Leaflets for Churchyard Secrets Shared are available to collect from the Centre.

To book a place at any of our events please contact Jenny at the office on **01943 880794** or email centre@washburnvalley.org

## Events in August:

<u>You can't take it with you: artefacts from the Fewston excavations</u>
<u>Tuesday 4th August 7.00pm to 8.30pm</u>
Hear about the excavation findings from John Buglass, the archaeologist who undertook the initial excavation at Fewston. Starting from the initial trial digs through to what was recovered, there was much more than bones! John will bring some of his recent finds for us. Light refreshments served. Cost £10 member, £12 non-member.

<u>Book Group Taster</u>
<u>Thursday 6th August 2.00pm – 4.00pm</u>
The Lovely Bones written by Alice Sebold was the biggest selling novel of



2002. It is narrated from Heaven by 14-year-old murder victim Susie Salmon. She watches from above as family and friends react to her death and the story reaches a satisfying conclusion when the murderer reaps his just deserts. Light refreshments served. Cost £3 member, £5 non-member.

The Expendables. Where children worked and died
Tuesday 18th August 9.30am to 2.00pm
Starting from Blubberhouses we explore the industrial history of the upper Washburn valley where pauper apprentices employed at Westhouse Mill lived, worked and died. We will hear stories about the children who became part of the Fewston Assemblage. About 5 miles including uphill and stiles. We will drive back to the Centre for our two-course lunch. Cost £12 member, £15 non-member.

The Expendables: Children of the Mill
Friday 28th August 2.00pm – 3.30pm
This fascinating talk by Dr Rebecca Gowland of Durham University explores the health consequences of child labour during the industrial revolution in the North of England. The skeletal remains of young people found in the excavation of Fewston churchyard revealed the harrowing lives of these children; born into poverty and forced to work long hours in dangerous conditions. Light refreshments served. Cost £10 member, £12 non-member.



# The Birds in Your Garden

## Cuckoo

It's all gone quiet in the garden, hasn't it? Mind, there are more butterflies around that usual to provide some interest, as well as plenty of dragon- and damselflies if you are near water.

They've pretty much all headed south by now, but when did you last hear a Cuckoo? This year, last year……?

Like many migrant birds, the Cuckoo is in long-term decline as a breeding bird in Britain, and is on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern. Their breeding behaviour has been very well-studied, but until the last ten or fifteen years, knowledge of their migratory behaviour was very limited.

In 2011, a BTO team set out to change this, using satellite-tags to track the migration movements of male Cuckoos from different parts of Britain. Males specifically because the females, being smaller, might be affected by the weight of the tags, even though it's only a few grams.

This work has not only revealed details of Cuckoos' migration timings and wintering grounds, but has also showed "our" breeding birds take one of two routes south to Africa. Crucially, different rates of mortality have been found on these two routes, which strongly correlate with population declines. Birds either migrated southwest via Spain and Morocco or southeast via Italy or the Balkans before converging in the Congo basin of central Africa.

Cuckoos taking the Spanish route were more likely to die before completing the Sahara crossing, even though their route was shorter. There was no difference in survival rates between the two routes south of the Sahara, or during their return journeys to the UK. This difference in survival rates provides the first direct evidence that conditions encountered during migration have an impact on population numbers. In general, English Cuckoos, whose numbers have declined by about two thirds, take the west route, and Scottish and Welsh birds, whose numbers have declined less, the east, along which fewer birds are lost.

Despite having to cross the Sahara, most of the mortality on the western route occurred in Spain, suggesting that conditions at sites where they stop en route to feed are responsible. In recent years, Spain has suffered droughts and wildfires, which have reduced significantly the availability of food, although other factors like large-scale habitat change might also have played a role. One way of reducing losses en route may well be to improve the environment around the known feeding points, and this is being looked at.

As well as the problems en route, declines in the Cuckoos' main food source in the UK (caterpillars of large moths) were also particularly severe in areas in which birds migrating on the west route were tagged. The fact that the western route is still used despite

its apparent disadvantages suggests that these changes have arisen recently.

This study shows how conditions during migration can influence the survival of long-distance migrants, and underlines the need for a full annual-cycle approach to understanding migratory birds and their conservation needs. This is something which not only affect Cuckoos, but also many other migrants too. Yet another effect of climate change.

What's next?

The BTO is looking more closely at how dependent Cuckoos are on the drought-busting rains of the west African weather frontal system, known as the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). This rain produces the food they need to fatten up before heading back to breed in the UK, and its timing is critical to their arrival back here where spring is getting ever earlier. If the birds whose nests they parasitise lay earlier, the Cuckoos need to get back earlier too, but the ITCZ seems not to be moving.

You can see the current position of all the tagged Cuckoos on the BTO website https://www.bto.org/cuckoos#map

If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (www.bto.org/gbw).

**Titles:** ringed Cuckoo
**Photograph credit:** Mike Gray



# Recipe ~ Tomato Chutney

This Recipe is reproduced from the All Saints Weston Recipe book, that was first printed 1st December 1956. 52 years later it was discovered by Reverend Marlene Wilkinson in her mothers possessions and reprinted again. She dedicated it to "Edith and all the other saints who made their Contributions"

68 years later we are sharing the recipes again.
Thank you to the people of Weston for their recipes

## Ingredients

3lbs green tomatoes
1 large cooking apple
3 onions
1 Pint of Vinegar
1/2 lb raisins
1 lb Demerara sugar
1 tablespoon of salt
1 teaspoon of pepper
1 teaspoon of ginger
1oz mustard

## Method

- Cut up the tomatoes, cooking apples, and onions into similar sized chunks
- Place the vegetables and the rest of the ingredients into a large heavy-based pan
- Bring to the boil stirring gently and simmer for an hour
- Put into sterilised jars and allow to cool before covering.

Mrs Middlemiss

# Poetry Request

## The Apple Rhyme

Apples ripe and apples red,
Grow they high above my head.
Alack-a-day! For I am small
And apple-trees are mostly tall;
Dreary me! But what is sadder,
Nobody can find a ladder!

by Madeline Nightingale

## A Breton fisherman's prayer

Protect me, dear Lord;
My boat is so small,
And your sea is so big.

---

On 12th August there will be a partial eclipse of the sun, unless you are in Spain, Iceland or the Atlantic Ocean.

## A Transient Darkness

A shadow steals across the land;
A darkness in the summer sky.
The sunlight thieved by silent hand -
No robins sing, no blackbirds fly.

Celestial spheres align in space
A band of shadow on the earth;
Reminding mortals of our place
The fragile nature of our birth.

And then! A flash of diamond light!
The King regains His rightful crown!
The gloom is but a fleeting sprite -
The King returns! The shadows drown!

Observe with joy the lunar shade
Mourn not the passing of the sun,
The light returns! The debt is paid!
Christ is alive! The battle's won!

By Nigel Beeton

# Gardeners Corner

The recent heatwaves have certainly brought the gardens on quickly this summer. The roses have been fabulous, but the blooms have faded very quickly in the heat. Do keep deadheading, with a bit of judicious pruning to keep the plants in trim. Rambling roses can be pruned by cutting some of the oldest stems back to ground level, tying in new stems to replace them. Even if you pruned your wisteria last month it will probably have sent out some more whippy stems. These should be cut back to 5 or 6 leaves to encourage the short spurs which will carry next year's flowers. Lavender can be pruned towards the end of the month when the flowers have finished. Cut all back to leafy growth, but not into the woody stems as these won't regenerate.

If the hot weather continues, don't bother cutting lawns and don't waste water on them either, even if they go brown. Grass is really tough and will come back once the rains eventually arrive.

Plants in pots, however, will need water as will tomatoes and sweet peas. Standing pots in trays will save wast age and it also helps to group them together. Dead head annuals and pick sweet peas daily to prevent them from setting seed.

August will be the month when the kitchen garden flourishes. Do keep harvesting peas and beans and especially courgettes as these quickly develop into monsters hiding under the foliage! Sweetcorn should be ready to pick once the feathery fronds have turned brown – just test the kernels for milky sap; if it is clear wait a bit longer.

As perennial wildflower meadows start to die back at the end of the month, they should be mown. Leaving the cuttings on the surface for a few days to let the seeds drop ready for next year, then rake and remove to keep the soil fertility low.

Just when you thought you could relax and enjoy the summer in the garden it turns out that there are still lots of jobs to be done!

## Our favourite butterfly

The colourful peacock butterfly is our favourite, according to a recent poll.

The butterflies, with their striking colours and 'eye-spots' designed to fend off predators, beat 59 other British species in the vote run by Butterfly Conservation.

More than 20,000 votes were cast across the UK, with a rainbow of colourful species making up the top five.

The orange-tip butterfly came a close second to the peacock, followed by red admirals in third, holly blues in fourth and the bright yellow brimstone butterfly in fifth.

Butterfly Conservation, a wildlife charity, declared a "butterfly emergency" in 2024 as numbers recorded during the annual count fell to a record low.



# OUR MAGAZINE

## Feeling inspired?

The magazine is created by compiling contributions from readers, the many people associated with running the churches, societies, clubs and event holders. Thank you to everyone for sending in items each month.

If you feel inspired to write an article for the magazine. Share some news, a poem or a seasonal recipe, please send them to the editor.

Email your items to:
magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

Or send by post to;
C/O The Heritage Centre Office
Washburn Heritage Centre
Fewston Church
Harrogate
HG3 1SU

## Our Community

The magazine was created to link the communities of the Anglican and Methodist churches in the Mid-Wharfe and lower Washburn Valley. The Anglican churches of the United Benefice are All Saints Weston, Saint Helen Denton, Saint Michael and Saint Laurence Fewston, St Andrew Blubberhouses, All Saints Farnley and Saint Oswald Leathley. Norwood chapel is in the Wharfedale & Aireborough Methodist circuit

Please find contact information on page 2.

The magazine is managed by our Treasurer Ann Johnson, Distributers who include Cheri Beaumont and the Editor Anna Bowman.

## Advertising

We encourage business that are happy to provide a service in our rural parishes to advertise with us.

Please contact Ann Johnson by email ann@apmj.co.uk or Tel: 01943 880000 to discuss your advert

Our Prices are £100 for a half page or £50 for a quarter page, per annum (12 issues).

**We are also happy to discuss single adverts for events.**

## Magazine Archive

To see past issues we have an online archive. Thank you to Paul (one of three Pauls who help create and deliver the magazine) for editing the website www.fewstonwithblubberhouses.org.uk/church-life/parish-magazine/ .

## How to Subscribe

The magazine costs £7 a year to have 12 copies of the magazine delivered by hand or £17.50 to have it posted directly.

Please contact the Editor if you would like to arrange delivery and payments

# Answers to the July Magazine puzzles

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"Yes" cried the stranger, "I am the Greek you forgot as soon as you left college!"

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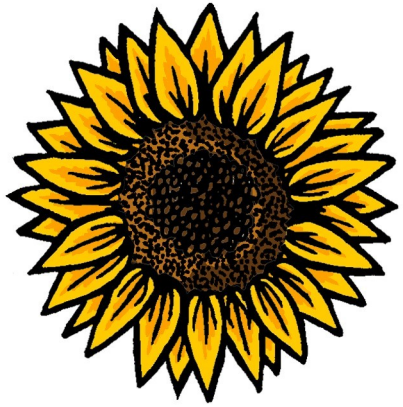
H S L A T N E N I T N O C N U L
O U I O I F D S N E F J L E R E
J N N O O E I I C E R O A E S E
R S S E N I P P A H E S U M U M
I F G C O N G R E S S N Q R I N
B J E F F E R S O N K B E N T N
S E A O R J Q N E R B S A F S H



## The printer

This magazine is printed by Avenue Printers of Harrogate



## DIARY DATES

Please see the Community Notice Board and notices on pages 9 -12 for events, notices and future dates for your diary.


- Friends of the Dales — see page 30
- For the Washburn Heritage Centre — see page 32-33


**Puzzles and colouring, in the centre pages**

...Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word with you about your carbon footprint!

## Next Contribution Deadline: 10th August

2026 Deadlines;
10th September, 9th October, 9th November


Edited by Anna Bowman
Email; magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk
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