

PARISH LINK



The Magazine of
St James Chapelthorpe

OCTOBER 2023



50p

THE PARISH OF CHAPELTHORPE



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Dear Friends

I was recently given a book which is a compilation of retired priests funny stories and of regaling their experiences in parish ministry, in the foreword the author states all the stories are true. As I scanned the book I came across this story which made me chuckle.

'A senior retired priest was often invited to preach at a number of churches usually on a special occasion. One year, he went to a church, and gave the sermon at a Harvest Festival service. Afterwards the vicar approached him and thanked him for his contribution and how the congregation thoroughly enjoyed his words and insight. "Oh, that's all right," replied the visitor, "that was the sermon I preached at my first Harvest Festival over 40 years ago, I often use it, as some things never change."

We live in a fast-changing world. I suspect that that visiting priest would find life in our 21st century very taxing. Things seem to change exceptionally fast these days. But there are some things that do indeed never seem to change. Now that the harvests are all in we remember the hard work and labour of those who produce the food we eat: our farmers, fishers, gardeners and growers. Since earliest times, Harvest has been a time of thanksgiving and thankfulness for the abundance God has given us, and an acknowledgement of those who have planted seeds and gathered crops in to feed the rest of us. We are often more detached from them now than in past years, but we still have good reason to be thankful to God and for those who feed us with their produce. There is the stark truth that there has never been a time in our world when everyone has had easy access to enough to eat. In spite of technology and plenteous resources across the world, people still go to bed hungry and struggle to feed themselves and their families. Some have more than they could ever eat in a lifetime, while others starve. It is a scandal that in this modern day, people are still dying of hunger an estimate is that one person dies on average every 10 seconds because of hunger. Even in this country there are now over 2000 food banks, providing for those who struggle to stay on top of things. We used to believe food banks were mainly for those who found themselves unemployed but we now know that some are working fulltime but still can't afford to either eat or heat their homes.

From the Epistle of St James, where his readers were urged to follow up their words with action. "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims

to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2.14-17)

Praising God for our good fortune is important, but it has most meaning when we reflect God's generosity in our own actions and share what we have with those who are far less fortunate than us. There should be no shame in needing help from others; it might be us in that position one day, "By the grace of God, go I." The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, which Jesus told, makes clear God's thought on the matter: "For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me."

They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?" He will reply: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." (Matthew 25.42-45)

As we move into the winter months and as we all feel the pinch please pray for those in our community (possibly even on your street) who feel the pain more. Can I ask that you continue to be generous as ever and bring your food donations to church, so that they can be collected by volunteers from Calder Grove Cricket Club Food Bank. Which is our local food bank helping local individuals.

Your friend and priest

Kevin



Holy Days

10th October

Thomas Traherne - lover of nature

Thomas Traherne (1636 - 1674) is a good saint for anyone who loves our planet, and who wants to preserve Creation. This 17th century poet and clergyman wrote extensively about his love for nature, seeing in it a reflection of the glory of God.

Traherne was not of a literary family, for his father was either a shoemaker or innkeeper in Hereford. But Traherne did well at the Hereford Cathedral School and went on to Brasenose College Oxford. From there he became rector of Credenhill near Hereford in 1657, and ten years later was appointed to be the private chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgement, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II, who lived at Teddington.

Throughout his years at Credenhill and then Teddington, Traherne led a simple and devout life, and his friendliness drew people to him. He was described as "one of the most pious ingenious men that ever I was acquainted with", and being of "cheerful and sprightly Temper", ready to do "all good Offices to his Friends, and Charitable to the Poor almost beyond his ability". Aside from his beloved books, he seems to have possessed very little.

Instead, he poured his energy into his writings, which had an intense, mystical, metaphysical spirituality. His poems and prose frequently mention the glory of Creation, and his intimate relationship with God, for whom he had an ardent, childlike love. Traherne has been compared to later poets such as William Blake, Walt Whitman and Gerard Manley Hopkins, and his love for nature has been seen as very similar to the Romantic movement, though he lived two centuries earlier.

He is best known for his Centuries of Meditations, which has been described as "one of the finest prose-poems in our language." Lost for many years, and then finally first published in 1908, it was a favourite of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, the Christian humanist Dorothy Sayers, and the writer C.S. Lewis, among others. C.S. Lewis considered Centuries of Meditations "almost the most beautiful book in English."

Traherne died in 1674, and is buried in St Mary's Teddington, under the church's reading desk. Today he is counted as one of the leading 17th-century devotional poets.

Holy Days

12th October

Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer

Elizabeth Fry had endless compassion and endless energy – and together with a steadfast determination to do God’s work, this outstanding philanthropist became one of the foremost promoters of prison reform – not just in Britain, but in all of Europe.

Elizabeth was born in 1780, far from any prison. The family lived in Norwich, where her father was a wealthy Quaker banker and merchant. In 1800 she married a London merchant, Joseph Fry.

Elizabeth could have spent her life safely at home, raising her many children. But instead, she felt compelled to help the desperate social needs of the time.

There was a good reason for this. Back in 1798, when she had been attending a Quaker meeting in Norwich, someone had spoken what Elizabeth felt was a prophetic word for her life. As she noted in her diary at the time:

‘Deborah Darby then spoke... she addressed part of it to me; I only fear she says too much of what I am to be. A light to the blind; speech to the dumb; and feet to the lame; can it be? She seems as if she thought I was to be a minister of Christ. Can I ever be one? If I am obedient I believe I shall.’

And she was.

Elizabeth was accepted as a Quaker ‘minister’, and her good works in London began.

But it was not until one day in 1813, when she visited Newgate Prison in London, that Elizabeth’s life changed forever. That day she witnessed such horrors of the circumstances in which women and children were kept, that she knew she had found the focus for her life’s work.

Soon her daily visits to the prison, where she read the Bible and taught the women to sew, grew into a campaign to achieve basic rights for the women prisoners. She fought for the classification of criminals, the segregation of the sexes, female supervision of women, and some provision for education.

In 1817 she created the Association for the Improvement of Female Prisoners, and then lobbied Parliament. By 1818 Elizabeth had raised such a storm that

she was called to give evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee who was examining conditions in prison. They accepted many of her proposed reforms.

In 1820 Elizabeth tackled the huge problem of destitution in London. She opened a ‘Nightly Shelter for the Homeless in London’, which became the first of many. She founded a society to help released prisoners with rehabilitation. And she was certainly a ‘hands-on’ sort of lady; it was said that for the next 20 years she personally inspected every single ship containing women convicts before it sailed to Australia.

Between 1838 and 1842 Elizabeth visited all the prisons in France, reporting to the Interior Minister. She then inspected prisons in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Scotland and Ireland.

Elizabeth also founded schools for poor girls, soup kitchens for the hungry, better housing for the poor, and also investigated mental asylums. She even established a nursing school, which influenced her distant relative, Florence Nightingale.

By the time Elizabeth died in 1845, she had helped tens of thousands of helpless people to find some relief from their suffering. She had indeed lived her life as a ‘minister of Christ’.



The Rectory, St James the Least of All

On the perils of Harvest

My dear Nephew Darren

In the unlikely event of ever being put in charge of designing the course for those being trained for ordination, I would make a few significant changes. Modules on doctrine, Church history and Greek would all be dropped as unnecessary. In their place, I would add courses on how to run a tight jumble sale, ways to keep your church council in order – and especially close to my heart at present, how to negotiate Harvest.

The first skirmish starts in early Summer when it becomes clear that the flower arrangers' plans mean that the choir would disappear behind a huge array of chrysanthemums. The choir then retaliate by announcing that their Harvest anthem must take place just when the Sunday School intended to re-enact the parable of the Good Samaritan. They, in turn, raise the stakes by insisting that a stage will be needed for their performance, thus ensuring that I will be separated from the congregation by an impenetrable barricade.

In September, therefore, there is the traditional meeting to iron out all these little difficulties. This inevitably results with the annual act of the verger handing in his resignation, of the bell ringers threatening a mass walk-out, and those who organise coffee afterwards demanding that my sermon lasts no more than three minutes, so there will be plenty of time for socialising after the Service.

I greet all suggestions with a spontaneous burst of indifference, smile, agree with it all – and do nothing (this, incidentally, is a good policy for all decision-making). Inevitably, everything goes ahead exactly as it has always done for the last century.

Come the day, there will be the usual arrangement of eggs round the font, with the strategically placed card saying 'Given anonymously by Elsie Jones' and the pyramid of apples temptingly near the choirboys, so designed that when someone tries to pinch one during the sermon, the whole pile disintegrates as they roll all over the chancel.

On the following Friday, all will leave after the Harvest Supper saying that the entertainment was worse than the previous year and that the absence of red cabbage had quite ruined the hot pot. Everyone therefore has had an enjoyable evening.

My Harvest training course would be compulsory and a pass mark of 90% would be needed before ordination could be considered.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



Poetry Corner

Loaves and Fishes

They came together from far and wide
All wanting to hear what the preacher would say
Hanging onto His every word
Nobody ever taught this way.

The crowd were hungry, so many to feed
As a young lad offered the Master his lunch,
Five barley loaves and two small fish -
For such a crowd it wasn't much.

Who could imagine what He would do
As He blessed the crowd on the mountainside?
And looking up and giving thanks
Bread and fish were multiplied.

Whatever we give the Master to use
Just like the lad with an offering small,
Placed in the hands of the Miracle Worker
He multiplies the gift bringing blessings to all.

By Megan Carter



All in the month of October

It was:

150 years ago, on 1st Oct 1873 that Edwin Landseer, artist and sculptor, died. Known for his animal paintings, and for his famous lion sculptures at the base of Nelson's Column in London.

100 years ago, on 10th Oct 1923 that Nicholas Parsons, radio and TV game show host and actor was born. Best known for hosting Just a Minute and Sale of the Century. (Died 2020)

90 years ago, on 17th Oct 1933 that physicist Albert Einstein arrived in the USA as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

80 years ago, on 17th Oct 1943 that the Burma Railway was completed. The Japanese built it using Asian labourers and Allied prisoners-of-war, thousands of whom died. One of the railway bridges is the famous film Bridge over the River Kwai.

75 years ago, on 27th Oct 1948 that the Morris Minor car was launched at the British Motor Show at Earl's Court in London. It cost £358.

70 years ago, on 30th Oct 1953 that former US Secretary of State George Marshall was awarded the 1953 Nobel Peace Prize for engineering the Marshall Plan – a massive economic aid programme for Europe in the aftermath of WWII.

65 years ago, on 1st Oct 1958 that Michael Bond's children's book A Bear Called Paddington was published. It marked the debut appearance of Paddington Bear.

Also 65 years ago, on 28th Oct 1958 that the State Opening of the British Parliament was televised for the first time.

60 years ago, on 15th Oct 1963 that the term 'Beatlemania' first appeared in the Daily Mirror newspaper in the UK. It described the intense, frenzied reaction of fans of the Beatles.

50 years ago, from 19th Oct 1973 to 17th Mar 1974 that the 1973 Oil Crisis took place. OPEC suspended oil exports to nations supporting Israel in the Yom Kippur War. It led to major shortages and rationing in the UK, USA, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Portugal, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and South Africa.

40 years ago, on 5th Oct 1983 that Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity movement in Poland (and later President of Poland) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Also 40 years ago, on 25th Oct 1983 that Microsoft Word 1.0 was released. It was the first version of the popular word processor, and Microsoft's first full-featured application.

30 years ago, on 15th Oct 1993 that South African leaders Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk, won the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end apartheid.

25 years ago, on 16th Oct 1998 that David Trimble and John Hume won the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for brokering the Northern Ireland peace accord.

20 years ago, on 19th Oct 2003, that Mother Teresa was beatified by Pope John Paul II and given the title Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. (She was canonised as Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016.)



15 years ago, on 24th Oct 2008 that the 2008 financial crisis 'Bloody Friday' took place. The world's stock exchanges suffered one of the worst declines in their history – about 10% in most cases. About £89.5 billion was wiped off the value of Britain's biggest companies.

A Bear called Paddington



It was 65 years ago, on 14th October 1958, that Michael Bond's children's book, A Bear Called Paddington, was published. It marked the debut of the lovable Paddington Bear, who is now a household name after appearing in two irresistible films.

Paddington starred in more than 20 books written by Bond, who died aged 91 in 2017. The original story was inspired by the author witnessing Jewish and British evacuee children passing through Reading station. Bond wanted the bear to have come from "darkest Africa", but this was changed to Peru when his agent pointed out that there were no bears in Africa.

Many people have found Christian characteristics in the bespectacled, kind, red-hatted, innocent Paddington, who always tries to do the right thing but often gets into trouble as a result. He is invariably polite, but has a "hard stare" for those who behave badly. The two hugely successful films, with Ben Whishaw voicing Paddington and household names in other roles, established the bear in the national psyche – a natural successor to Winnie the Pooh.

A stuffed toy Paddington Bear was chosen by British tunnellers as the first item to be passed to their French counterparts when the two sides of the Channel Tunnel came together in 1994. The books have been translated into 30 languages and have sold more than 30 million copies.

Paddington has also reached the very top of society. Comedian and later President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky dubbed him in the Ukrainian version of the films, and to cap everything, Paddington joined the late Queen in one of her last public appearances – a brilliant comedy segment in the Platinum Party at the Palace on 4th June 2022, in which the Queen 'revealed' that she always carried a marmalade sandwich – Paddington's favourite food – in her handbag.

By Tim Lenton

Remembering the Marshall Plan



Seventy years ago, on 30th October 1953, former US Secretary of State George Marshall was awarded the 1953 Nobel Peace Prize for engineering the Marshall Plan – a massive economic aid programme for Europe in the aftermath of World War Two.

Marshall was widely admired at the highest levels, although he had not always been successful. He failed in his bid to persuade nationalists and communists to form a joint Chinese government after the war, which led to the communist takeover; and his recommendation not to recognise the new state of Israel was turned down.

However, his Nobel Prize "for proposing and supervising the plan for the economic recovery of Europe" in 1948 was widely admired, as was his role in planning the Allied invasion of Normandy: Winston Churchill called him "the organiser of victory".

Before the Second World War Marshall served in China, until he was appointed Chief of Staff by President Roosevelt in 1939. When the United States entered the War, he was given the main responsibility for the US organisation of it. He also gave the direct order to use atomic bombs on Japan, after President Harry Truman agreed.

But he is best remembered for the Marshall Plan, which he devised as Secretary of State, although much of the detail was worked out by Under-Secretary Robert A Lovett. A modest man, Marshall did not realise that he was being honoured when the congregation stood for him at the Queen's Coronation, looking round instead to see what dignitary had come in.

Marshall was said to be a quiet Christian, who attended army chapels as an example for his troops. To avoid appearing partisan, he never voted, saying his mother was Republican, his father Democrat, and he was Episcopalian.

By Tim Lenton

HALL GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Saturday 7th Oct 2023
open 1-30pm

Hall Green community Centre
1A Painthorpe Lane.
Hall Green, Wakefield WF43JU

Donations of: Books, Toys, Clothes and Bric a Brac
will be gratefully accepted.
Refreshments will be available.



If you have any jumble you would like to donate please bring it along to the centre. If you are unable to bring it yourself, contact a member of the committee or email binnsynthia@yahoo.co.uk or ring 01924 25144 and we will make arrangements to collect it from you.

Please no electrical items.

HISTORICAL WEEKEND.

Hall Green Community Centre.
1A Painthorpe Lane Hall Green Wakefield WF43JU

Presented by Keith Wainwright

Saturday 28th October 10-00am – 5pm
Sunday 29th October 2pm -6pm

Entrance is £4 including refreshments.
So come along and sample the sights of a long-forgotten time, it could help you to research your family tree, or discover relatives from the past.

Versus Arthritis

We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 10-00am
in Hall Green Community centre
1A Painthorpe lane. Hall Green, Wakefield, WF43JU.

Why not come along and make new friends or meet up with old ones.

Thursday 5th October

Slide show of Crigglestone and Newmillerdam Presented by Keith Wainwright

Thursday 2nd November

Talk by a member of Cancer Research on the origins of the charity.

Thursday 7th December

Christmas Lunch
to be arranged

ST JAMES CHURCH

Social Committee



Friday October 27th	Alessandro Bianchi Organ recital 7pm
Saturday November 25th	Bingo Evening
Saturday December 2nd	Christmas Fair 1pm - 3.30pm

All St James' Church social activities are detailed on the notice boards, both inside and outside of church.

Craft Fair held at St James' Saturday September 16th

Thank you to everyone who came along to support our first 'Craft Fair' held at St James' Church. It was an enjoyable event with various crafts on sale. We intend to hold another craft fair in the new year.

The Social Committee

Menu

Light lunch

Thursday
October
26th

Light Lunch At St James

12 noon to 2pm.

Last orders 1.15pm

Come along and share some great homemade cooking!

Menu

Melon

*Gammon, roasties and mixed veg
Quiche and salad
Jacket potato and salad*

*Dessert
Tea/Coffee*

£6.00

*The next light lunch will be on
November 30th*

World Famous Organist Gives Recitals in the benefice



Alessandro Bianchi was born in Como and studied in Piacenza Conservatoire where he was awarded Organ Composition diplomas with Luigi Toja. He also attended the master classes of Nicholas Danby and Arturo Sacchetti. He is organist of St. Paul's Basilica in Cantu' and Artistic Director of the Musical Association "Amici dell' Organo di Cantu'".

Organ Concert tours have seen him play, always as a soloist, in many International Organ Festivals in Italy, The Vatican, Switzerland, Germany, France, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Austria, Spain, Balears, Tenerife, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland, Russia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Croatia, Israel, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Australia, South Africa.

He has given master classes and lectures on Italian Music in Italy, England, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, USA, Singapore and Mexico and he has undertaken several CD and Radio-TV broadcasts in Europe, USA and Brazil. He was juror in several organ competitions and many composers have dedicated to him new organ works.

He is organist of the St. Edward's Anglican Church in Lugano. In 2014, the City of Cantu' awarded him with the title of "Honorable Citizen" for his work in Art and Culture.

Alessandro tours the UK every two years or so, and his tours are always eagerly anticipated. Please see below details of when he will be visiting the benefice.

The recital is **free** though you may wish to donate something on the night for church funds.

St James the Great Parish Church Chapelthorpe

Friday 27th October 2023 at 7.00pm

Details with regard to admittance for this recital are to be confirmed nearer the time.

At the end of the recital you will have the opportunity to meet Alessandro over refreshments.



All are welcome. Please come along and bring your friends. The evening will be a great night of organ music and great company



Can you help raise funds for St. James' Church when you shop online?

You spend,
brands donate.

Sign up to easyfundraising and see your favourite brands donate to the cause you care about whenever you shop with them.

Sign up and get started



How you can help:

- Go to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and sign up.
- Select **St. James the Great – Chapelthorpe** as the cause you would like to support.
- Do any online shopping through the site and the brands donate to us. Over 7000 brands are signed up, including the big names. It is FREE for you to use and you will be helping to raise vital funds needed to help maintain the church.

Thank you for your support and happy shopping!

Chapelthorpe PCC

IN THE NEWS!



Is your car too big to park?

For decades, parking spaces have remained largely the same size, but our cars have grown bigger and bigger. And bigger.

So now we have a glut of 'autobesity', according to motoring experts.

The consumer watchdog WHICH? has found 161 models which are simply too big for the average parking spot. 12 of the models exceed the standard parking bay limit by more than 12 inches.

The BMW i7 exceeds a standard bay by more than 20in. The Mercedes-Benz S-Class hybrid is 17.5in longer. The Audi A8 exceeds the limit by 14.6in.

And it is not just length. WHICH? found that 27 models are too wide for drivers to comfortably open their doors, once parked between two other cars. (Vehicles are "too wide" if their width leaves less than 8.7in between the car and the bay.)

The Land Rover Discovery is 81in wide, leaving only 6.5in of space between the doors and the bay's borders. The Jaguar I-Pace is 79in wide, while the BMW X5's width spans 78.7in, leaving motorists with only 7.8in each side in a parking bay.

The simple answer would seem to be wider parking bays. But the British Parking Association (BPA) told Which? that adapting car parks is not always simple. For example, the additional weight of larger cars poses major problems for multi-storey car parks.



WORDSEARCH FOR OCTOBER 2023

ST LUKE

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.



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|------------|-----------|------------|
| LUKE | GOOD | LEPERS |
| PHYSICIAN | SAMARITAN | SACRED |
| COMPANION | PRODIGAL | PROFANE |
| HOUSE | SON | PAGAN |
| ARREST | WOMEN | EARLY |
| PAUL | VIRGIN | CHRISTIANS |
| COMPASSION | BIRTH | JERUSALEM |
| PARABLES | POOR | ROME |

Deadline date for inclusion in the next edition of Parish Link is:

October 15th 2023

Editors:

Dawn & Kenneth Poucher

Any contributions can be forwarded to
Rev. Kevin Greaves, David Wainwright,
Keith Wainwright or Margaret Poucher

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September Puzzle Answers

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Those over-the-top words that we use

I'm trying to stop saying the word 'incredible'. It's overused and has become almost meaningless. "We are incredibly grateful"; "I had an incredible meal". As the word really means 'beyond belief or understanding', it can't actually apply - in either case.

'Unbelievable' is similarly misused. So is 'fantastic', which is meant to describe something belonging to an imaginary world. So, strictly speaking, a fantastic tennis player can't be a real one.

How about 'amazing'? Count how many times you hear it today. It should be reserved to describe something astonishing, out of this world. If you think about it, if everything is amazing or incredible, then nothing really is. When the exceptional becomes normal or commonplace, nothing is special.

We seem to be struggling to find words to convey something out of the ordinary. Try 'iconic'. Iconic only appeared recently and has been distorted to mean 'historic' or 'traditional' or 'classic'. My dictionary tells me iconic actually means something to do with an icon, which is a depiction of Christ, the Virgin Mary, or a saint.

In fact, most of these over-the-top words, now in everyday use, have a religious association. Originally, they were reserved to communicate otherness, difference, deep respect.

For example, what about 'awesome'? It should mean 'awe' or reverence. It's a take-your-breath-away word. Awe is what Moses felt when he saw a bush on fire, because it didn't actually burn away, and he sensed the presence of God. Awe is something St Peter experienced, when he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!'

If you try to imagine what Moses and Peter actually felt, words like 'unworthiness' and 'fear' might come to mind. They really were experiencing something out of the ordinary, too hot to handle. They were out of their depth. An experience like that stayed with them for life. They had encountered holiness. Now there's a word worth using.

The Ven John Barton

October 31st

All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.



When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.



Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

USEFUL CONTACTS

City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Switchboard 01924 306 090
Typetalk 18001 08458 506 506

Email Address: es-contactcentre@wakefield.gov.uk

Environmental Services (24 Hrs) - 0345 8 506 506

Abandoned vehicles, Air Pollution, Anti-Social Behaviour, Blocked Drains, Bulky Refuse, Car Parking, Cesspools, Cleansing, Clinical Waste, Dead Animal Collection, Dog Fouling, Fallen Trees/Branches, Floods, Food & Hygiene, Fly Tipping, Graffiti, Grass left after Cutting, Highways Maintenance, Hypodermic Needles Disposal, Ice on Footpaths, Leisure Enquiries, Litter, Noise, Noxious waste, Overflowing Litter bins, Overhanging Vegetation, Pest Control, Potholes, Recycling, Refuse Collection, Septic Tanks Skip Hire, Snow Clearance, Spilled Refuse, Street Cleaning, Traffic Matters, Traffic Signals, Weeds Overgrown.

Social Care Direct (24 Hrs) - 0345 8 503 503

Adult Services, Advice, Assessment of need, Bus Passes *Disabled), Children's Services, Community Meals Service, Fostering, Guidance, Help with Adoption, HIV/Aids, Home Care

Wakefield District Housing (24 Hrs) - 0845 8 507 507

For all housing enquiries including: Allocations, Arrears, Lettings, Repairs, Tenancy Issues

Citizens Advice.....0844 499 4138

Council tax & Housing Benefits.....0345 8 504 504

Gas Emergency.....0800 111 999

Floodline.....0345 988 1188

NHS (24 hr non emergency).....111

Metro Access Bus.....0113 348 1903

Police (non emergency number).....101

Street Lighting Faults.....0800 783 1654