

HOPE

Hope is knowing that there are wonderful possibilities, and that miracles make them happen.

Hope is believing that when nothing seems left, that something good still exists.

Hope is understanding that change is possible, and accepting that anything can happenand it does!

Hope is being able to imagine, to imagine something positive can eventually come out of the heartache and pain.

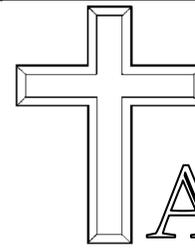
Hope is to know that nothing and no-one is 'hope-less'.

Hope gives each of us the courage to face life's challenges.

Hope is our strength, given by God, to carry-on when life seems tough.

(adapted from www.dailyinspirationalquotes.com July 2020)

Go forward with
God, live in
Hope.



St Mary's Parish Church, Haxby
September 2020



TALKABOUT..

We are back!

We have washed our hands, donned our face coverings, dusted the cobwebs off our quill pens and come out of hiding.

After by far the longest break in the production of your favourite magazine - well, definitely a publication at Yorkshire's favourite price - it is so good to be once again working together to bring you news and views from the pews and beyond.

Talkabout will not be back to a monthly magazine in the short-term, but we will be producing one whenever we can, and when we have sufficient articles to produce one.

What a strange time we have been through, how different our lives have become and what an uncertain future we face.

Through all of this our church has been a strong and solid support and remains a beacon of hope.

Thank you to our leader, who has walked mile upon mile around the benefice sharing our news and bringing good cheer; to the team of clergy, readers, intercessors, musicians and computer wizards who have provided our weekly services online and on paper; to our regular pastoral teams, together with some very welcome new volunteers, for making

telephone calls, visits, deliveries, offers of help and a listening ear when we have felt lost, lonely, overcome with anxiety and needing a friend.

Thank you especially to all those who have shown, by using our outside spaces, that our faith is not bounded by buildings, not enshrined behind high walls and closed doors, but is available for everyone and there for the taking. The Lord is with us and always will be. His is the hope that will take us forward. May we live in His love and always put our trust in Him.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow - not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below - indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8 38-39.

The Editors



be in your household. We were all treated to a 'daily briefing' - anything but - when scientists and politicians collided on our screens in a bid to explain the 'R' and exhort us to 'Stay alert, control the virus, save lives'. More like 'Stay awake, try to book a delivery slot, sigh with relief'. Then there were 'key workers' and 'lockdown', the latter eventually to be eased by the whims of the government rather than a generous application of WD40.

Now we have to practise what seems like a complete contradiction in terms, 'social distancing'. Social used to mean gregarious, needing companionship, living in communities. Now it means stay at least 2 metres apart, keep well away from each other, unless you are on a beach on the south coast. The list goes on - 'home-schooling', 'staycation', 'safecation', air bridge', 'bubble', 'pod', 'face covering', 'second wave', our language either being transformed or added to on a daily basis. Latest slogans include 'Hands, face, space', as in wash, cover, make, together with that urging young people to act responsibly and 'Don't kill granny'. I'll second that.

Stay safe.

E.N.M.

Contributions for the next Talkabout may be delivered by hand to any member of the editorial team:

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Or electronically to: jlornie1@hotmail.com

Contributions may be edited

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Free Speech

(or words we didn't know we knew)

Have you noticed the rapid transformation of our language, the new vocabulary we have embraced and eased into our everyday speech, since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic? Words we knew but which were used infrequently or only in certain contexts, words we didn't know we knew until they began cropping up daily, words, phrases and slogans coined especially for the strange times we now live in.

To start with coronavirus. Covid-19 is not *the* coronavirus, it is **a** coronavirus, a deadly member of a family of diseases that includes the common cold. Then there is pandemic, a word we had consigned to history, imagining our modern medicine would protect us from ever having to use that description again.

As the virus spread, language was employed as tool to bind the nation together and encourage us all to act responsibly. First 'Wash your hands', then 'Stay at home, save lives, protect the NHS'. Stay at home might include WFH, working from home, previously experienced by some employees and considered by others to be an excuse for an officially sanctioned day when you didn't need to make the effort to go into work. Now WFH was to be encouraged. Alternatively, you could be put on 'furlough'. There's a new term - nothing to do with the distance of a horse race on the Knavesmire, or what happens to a farmer's field when it isn't planted with any particular crop, or even those parallel lines made by a tractor, but a word of Dutch origin meaning temporary leave of absence. Conveniently rhymes with a popular red wine, so that for some 'furlough Merlot' became an antidote to anxiety and boredom.

Many were subjected to 'shielding', cut off from the outside world altogether, whilst those of us in the 'elderly and vulnerable' - but not enough so to be favoured with a delivery slot from a supermarket - category went into 'self-isolation', meaning yourself with any other selves that happened to

Letters of John

Of all the books in the New Testament John's letters are my favourite. The Gospels give the facts (*dispute that as you wish!*), Paul's letters come from someone steeped in theology, Peter writes with urgency, during a time of persecution but John, now an old man, having had most of his life to consider Jesus and his teaching, writes about basics. What really matters and what can we hold on to in difficult times?

'From the very first day, we were there, taking it all in - we heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands. The Word of Life appeared right before our eyes; we saw it happen!' (1 John 1-5 The Message).

The message is simple. God is Light. God is Love. God forgives sin. Follow him.

Everything stems from God's love. Jesus, who was both man and God, and his life and teaching all showed the love of God to others. Parents and grandparents know that when you love your children and grandchildren it sometimes means saying, 'No', to something they think they can't live without. When we pray, we should remember that our loving Father does answer our prayers, usually yes, no, or wait. We are all familiar with the phrase, 'everything works out for the best'. It comes from Paul's letter to the Romans, "*we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him*" (Romans 8:28). Love goes in two directions; God loves us, but he wants us to love him too. John proclaims that love in the sure and certain knowledge of it's truth and reality.

It is most likely that the same John, John the disciple whom Jesus loved, wrote the Gospel of John, Revelation and the three letters of John. John had lived for some time in Ephesus and, it is



probable, that he wrote his letters to the church in Ephesus from Patmos, a Greek island, where he was exiled as a result of anti-Christian persecution under the Roman emperor Domitian. This would be around AD 85-95.

John was an eyewitness to the work, life, death and new life of Jesus the Christ. Having spent about 60 years living through persecution, the death of friends, time meditating and a life proclaiming all that he had seen and heard, John wants to make sure that his 'dear children' are not being swayed by the cares of the world or the mis-information of others. John is concerned for the truth. In his first letter John calls those to whom he is writing his '*dear children*' (9 times) and '*dear friends*' (6 times). That's in 105 verses!

These are kind letters, showing God's love and proclaiming the Gospel. They are letters to groups of Christians who are in spiritual danger from those who did not believe Jesus was fully man. John wants to assure people that what was first preached to them, that Jesus was both man and God, which is why he could forgive sins, was true and they should keep their faith intact.

Reading John's letters shows us a man who has lost none of his enthusiasm and commitment in the realisation that Jesus was God's promised Messiah and rose from the dead giving us all hope of eternal life. John was still excited by this and still wanted to share his faith and proclaim it to others.

For John, Love was all; because God loved us we should love one another. Love was everything. John, although an old man at this point, shines with the light of Christ and wants others to have that light within them. He is loving and caring but no push-over! His second letter, sent from one church to another, makes it known that they have strayed away from the truth and John ends by saying he hopes to come and visit them to talk face to face. He tells people not to be deceived by untruths and to be careful of their behaviour. If they call themselves believers they must act like it. They must show love to everyone. We might, today, say, 'they must be kind to everyone'.

Farewell to our Church Mouse

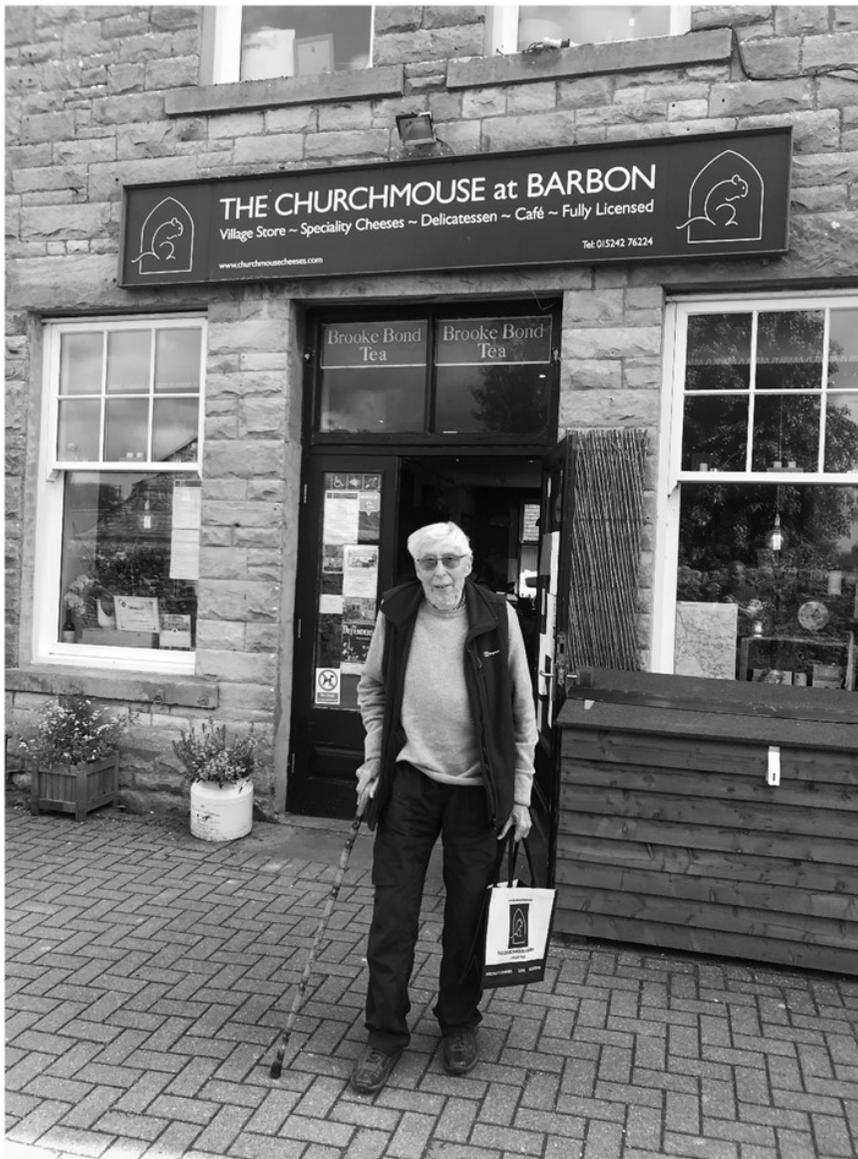
Charles Brian Wainwright

23 September 1929 - 21 July 2020

We are all very sorry indeed to record the passing of our dear Church Mouse. He had been one of our regular and committed contributors for many years, offering a selection of pieces on a variety of topics. We welcomed and enjoyed his musings, whether from under the pews, behind the organ or up in the hallowed corners of the sanctuary. He had a knack of seeing what was needed and highlighting a way forward in his own gentle, yet firm, inimitable way. Never pushy, he gave us his thoughts in many a considered passage, intended to spark our own thoughts on that subject, encouraging us to respond in a practical and prayerful manner. His wise words were always delivered with humour and kindness, his observations valued and valuable. He has been described as faithful, thoughtful, a beacon of goodness, an important part of St. Mary's church family, irreplaceable. Talkabout, along with so many others, will miss him. May the wonderful, wise, St. Mary's Church Mouse rest in peace.



Footnote: just before Brian's funeral service in St. Mary's a little mouse popped out from the organ and made for the choir stalls. Farewell, but not goodbye.



The Church Mouse visits a namesake!

These are letters written by a man who had spent about 60 years contemplating the amazing happenings of three years spent with Jesus. They are not difficult to read, not a thesis or high-brow waffle. These are insights into what it is to be a Christian. We must believe that Jesus was both fully man and fully God and live by God's law which is love.

In John's words, '*this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*' (1 John 5:11-12 (NIV)). May you have life and Love in abundance.

Barbara Symons

Talking about our Faith Community

A Living Church

'Covid19 - lockdown - closed church' have seen many gains and losses since March. What might these be? How might 'healthy gains and losses' inform ways of nurturing our faith community? Our Rector shared similar questions by email with Benefice congregations. Thank you for your responses. In June, St Mary's PCC began praying and reflecting on our next steps.

Losses

Feelings of isolation and loneliness add anxieties in uncertain times. We can't go out for a quick journey to a favourite place. So many of us have found it tough losing familiar routines or not seeing family and friends. It's tricky remembering that this is 'a time to refrain from embracing' (Ecclesiastes 3:6). Keeping physical distance from others is especially hard when loved ones are unwell or we are grieving.

Some people are missing being in our beautiful church buildings - their memories, calm prayerful spaces and connectedness with God. Opportunities for singing and fellowship with our supportive Christian family have been missed.

Gains

In the Bible, 'church' is a reference to people, not a place. The church is a body of believers who leave the building to live out the Gospel in words and actions. Some people have felt closer to church family through new ways of connecting. God's message of Love has been shared in new ways. Some familiar: phone, email, conversations at 'safe, garden gate' distances. Some less familiar: an outdoor Easter Garden with a Prayer Walk, YouTube, doorstep sharings of Bags of Hope or the written Word or Messy Church in a Bag, the Rector's Update emails, Zoom meetings, Benefice website links to recorded local services or livestreams from around the world!

Extending faith community

In Ephesians 2:22, St Paul writes that 'In Christ Jesus you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit'. One of the many blessings gained from the six 'gardens' created in St Mary's churchyard has been the very special conversations with passers-by. With attention drawn to the seasons of the church, connections with wider global concerns have brought playfulness and prayerful discussions.

Pondering and wondering

Everyone has had different experiences of 'lockdown'. For some, physically getting to a church service has become an increasing challenge. Where individuals may have hesitated to enter a church building, a visible presence online or in creative prayer spaces is enabling new relationships with God and each other. Without being dismissive of familiar liturgy, the 'new' offers increased access to worship and discipleship in the 'ordinariness' of daily life.

Next steps

Prayerful reflections can nurture us, extending our worship and faith community. How might we, the living church, contribute to the process of restoring social connections in our local community and broaden our personal faith community?

Alyson Christy

Church Services

Applications to attend a Church Service can be made online (<https://www.haxby-wigginton-benefice.org.uk/our-worship/apply-for-a-place>) or by contacting Michelle Potter by telephone (07919 097449) or by e-mail (mpotterubhw@gmail.com).

Sunday Services: Haxby - 10.15am Holy Communion and 6.30pm Evening Worship and Wigginton - 9.30am Holy Communion or Morning Worship

Wednesday Services: Haxby - 10am

Thursday Services: Wigginton - 10.30am

Special Dates to Note:

Sunday 27 September - Harvest at both Churches, please see below for details.

Saturday 17 October Ordination of Rev Nigel Benson to the Priesthood at St Mary's Church, Haxby (numbers limited to 30).

Sunday 18 October: Haxby - 10.15am Holy Communion (Rev Nigel's First Celebration of Holy Communion at Haxby) and 6.30pm we hope Evensong if the choir are back.

Sunday 25 October: Wigginton - 9.30am Holy Communion (Rev Nigel's First Celebration of Holy Communion at Wigginton).

Harvest Sunday for both churches is Sunday 27 September. Chris and Anna Hembury are coming from Hull to thank us for supporting the Breakfast Club.

As in the last few years we will collect Rice Krispies, Cornflakes and long life fruit juice as a Harvest offering. Please bring items to Services or to the Outside Team at St Mary's on Saturday 26 September. We will be there creating a Harvest display during the morning and look forward to seeing you while maintaining Covid19 rules - groups of 6 and social distancing.

Jean Swanson.