



## **BRIDGE** December 2020/ January 2021

**Newsletter of the parish of Middleham with Coverdale,  
East Witton & Thornton Steward**

*With thanks to Liz Sheehan for this beautiful photo of the  
bridge over the Cover, beyond Woodall*

Please cascade 'Bridge' to others.

Please email [jervaulxliz@gmail.com](mailto:jervaulxliz@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

## THE GATE OF THE YEAR *by Minnie Louise Haskins*

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

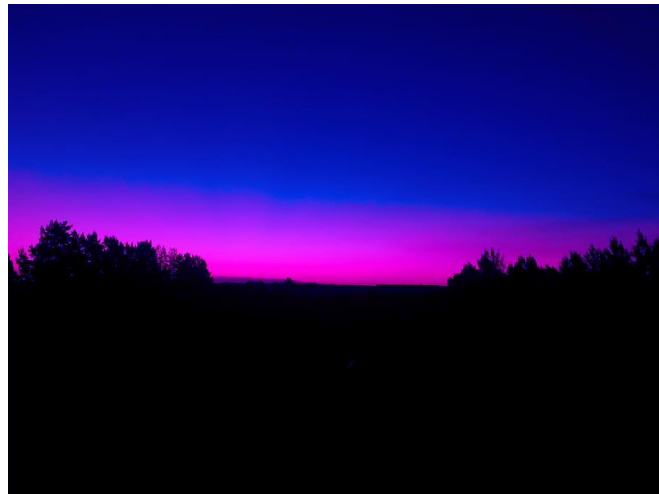
And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand  
of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a  
known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly  
into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.



George VI read this as part of his Christmas address in 1939. Though World War II had started, no one knew what 1940 would bring. Among other things the Battle of Britain would rage in the skies, and rationing would be introduced.

As we stood at the gate of 2020, few of us would have imagined the year we’ve had. As we stand at the gate of 2021, we are hopeful of a vaccine for Covid-19, but we don’t know what the year will bring, personally, nationally or internationally.

The person in the poem who stands at the gate of the year, wants to know what is going to happen – they ask for a light so that they can see. They think this will make them safe. But the gatekeeper advises another option, describing it as a better option – to go out into the darkness, putting their hand into the hand of God. In other words, the gatekeeper asks the enquirer to have faith, to walk with a God they cannot see into an unknown darkness.

As we reach the end of 2020 and prepare to embark on 2021, we might find ourselves wanting to know exactly what the new year holds. Just like in 1939, we may know that there is the potential for darkness ahead especially when we consider not only the pandemic, but the potentially catastrophic challenges of economic uncertainty, the creeping issue of climate change, food security, and the fragility of the ecosystem as biodiversity declines.



We see the darkness, and want to take control of the situation – demanding a lamp so that we can navigate the year safely by ourselves.

But if 2020 has taught us anything, it’s that we as human beings are not in total control. ‘Take the hand of God,’ the gatekeeper says. Why recommend this course?

God is very familiar with earthly darkness, and in Jesus Christ came into the darkness of this world as a vulnerable baby in the dark streets of Bethlehem. He was intimate with the darkness the world can throw at a human being, and was seemingly overpowered by it in the agony of death by crucifixion.

Knowing that God in Christ understands our darkness is comforting, but does that qualify him as a guide through the dark? All of us face darkness of one sort or another, so what’s God got that we don’t? It’s this: that he is the one who has overcome the darkness by Jesus’ resurrection from the darkness of death – and the light of the risen Christ shines inextinguishable. One of our Christmas readings tells us that ‘The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it.’ As we approach the gate of 2021 and face the unknown of the coming year, the gatekeeper’s invitation rings out again. Our choice is whether to accept.  
*(by Rev’d Liz – in thoughtful mode)*

# OPEN PANTRY

If you currently need help with groceries due to benefit delays, redundancy, late payments etc.... Please contact 07796 988302 (text/phone. Confidential. Discreet collection/delivery can be arranged)

## NEW HELPLINE: Citizens Advice Money and Benefits Advice Service, North Yorkshire

citizens  
advice

If you need support with:

- benefit entitlement, claims and appeals
- accessing other income such as charitable and statutory grants
- managing your money and making it go further
- help with debts etc

Call 0300 3031 598 Monday to Friday 9.00 to 4.00 Please tell us if you need us to call you back (if you have low credit). (Or you can leave a voicemail outside these times).

Email advice can be requested via the contact form on website [cany.org.uk](http://cany.org.uk)



## Middleham author publishes novel

Thelma (*who recently celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday*) Howden's son, Andrew, has just fulfilled a long-term ambition to write and publish a novel, and acknowledges his mother's support in doing so. He explained that Thelma had always encouraged him to write since he was at Middleham Primary School (over 50 years ago) and finally as Thelma reached 100 he has managed to do so!

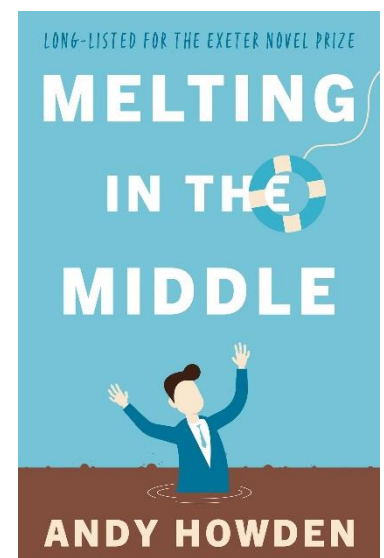
Andrew describes ***Melting in the Middle*** as a comic story of 'redemption, second chances - and chocolate.' The central character, Stephen, sees his career heading for the rocks when the chocolate company he works for is taken over by US confectionery giant Schmaltz – and the rest of his life is in turmoil too. Then he meets Rachel, who dances to a very different beat. She challenges him to do good among the carnage that surrounds him. But to do so, he must confront his past and work out all over again what really matters.

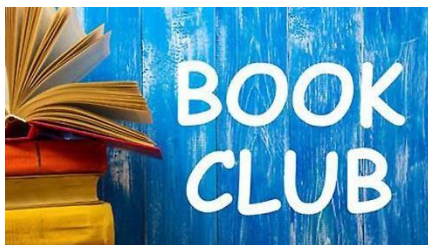
When Stephen meets Rachel, she tells him that she is trying to live as a Christian and one element of the book is how Stephen, who hasn't set foot in a church for years, views Rachel's faith and how he experiences being in a church. The story explores themes of redemption and forgiveness, and the seasons of Advent and Lent feature strongly in the narrative.

Andrew adds a 'health warning' that there is plenty of office politics and language which *isn't* remotely 'churchified' as Stephen has a boss who sprinkles swear words and Stephen himself is prone to more than the odd unholy thought! Andrew says 'I absolutely did not want to write some purist tract, but rather to explore if Stephen could rise to the challenge of living a better life in the sometimes grubby world of the office which is his everyday reality.'

The novel already received some good reviews even before publication. Other authors described it as 'brilliantly observed... sharp and clever comedy' and 'funny, poignant and uplifting'.

If anyone would like to order the book, they can do so either directly from the publisher [www.troubador.co.uk](http://www.troubador.co.uk), who have been very supportive to Andrew, or from a bookshop. Or if you would just like to know more about it to see if it might be your sort of thing, you can contact him at [andy.howden@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.howden@btinternet.com)



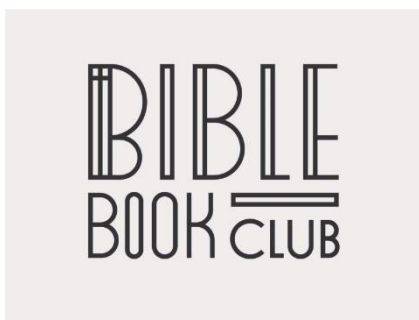


## Coverdale Book Club

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday December 8th at 11am** when we will be discussing *The Leopard by Giuseppe Tomasi Di Lampedusa*.

The following meeting will be **Tuesday January 12th at 11am** when we will be discussing *Lark Rise to Candleford: A Trilogy by Flora Thompson*.

All meetings are currently being held on Zoom for a lively discussion of the book. If you'd like to join us please email [martindstott@gmail.com](mailto:martindstott@gmail.com)



## Bible Book Club – by Zoom.

Email Liz for the link [jervaulxliz@gmail.com](mailto:jervaulxliz@gmail.com) if you would like to join in.

Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11.30am – 12.15pm.

We'll be looking at the gospel of Mark

## LEYBURN LIBRARY SERVICES DURING and AFTER LOCKDOWN

### Select and Collect

**During Lockdown:** The volunteers are still in the library to take your calls for your book selections, and to book a time for the collection of your books. Reservations for books from any of the NYCC libraries can be ordered online, or you can telephone us and we can request the books for you. Returns continue as before into the green boxes at the door.

Ring us on 01609 535971 on

Mondays 10-12pm, Tuesdays 10-12pm and 2.30-4.30pm, Fridays 10-12pm and Saturdays 10-12pm  
An answerphone is available out of hours.

**After Lockdown:** browsing and Public Computers will return alongside Select and Collect

**BROWSING:** Same times as above.

Come to the door in the corridor and you will be welcome if there are no more than 4 customers in the library already.

To guarantee a definite space, please telephone 01609 535971 to book your time slot.

### PUBLIC COMPUTERS

Two computers available to book on Tuesdays & Fridays at 12.30pm or 1.30pm for 45mins

These sessions must be pre-booked, please telephone as above.

### JANUARY PLANS

We hope to extend browsing and public computers sessions to include Monday and Friday afternoons. Please telephone 01609 535971 in January to check!



## A little bit of Christmas fare:

### The Real Christmas Quiz

True or False?

1. The Bible says that Jesus was born in December?
2. Jesus was not born in 0 A.D.?
3. We are told that Mary rode into Bethlehem on a donkey?
4. The barn animals miraculously spoke when Jesus was born?
5. God is really the Father of Jesus?
6. The angels told the shepherds that they should worship the baby Jesus?
7. There were 3 magi (wise men) who visited Jesus with the 3 gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh
8. The angels sang at the announcement of Jesus' birth?
9. The star led the magi straight to Jesus?
10. The tradition of giving presents at Christmas comes from the wise men presenting gifts?



Answers at the end of Bridge.



#### What the donkey saw by U.A. Fanthorpe

No room in the inn, of course,  
And not that much in the stable  
What with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,  
Joseph, the heavenly host –  
Not to mention the baby  
Using our manger as a cot.  
You couldn't have squeezed another cherub in  
For love nor money.

Still, in spite of the overcrowding,  
I did my best to make them feel wanted.  
I could see the baby and I  
Would be going places.

Detail from painting by Gentile da Fabriano

#### Once there was a snowman Anon

Once there was a snowman,  
Who stood outside the door,  
He wished that he could come  
inside  
And run about the floor.  
He wished that he could warm  
himself,  
Beside the fire, so red,  
He wished that he could climb



Upon the big white bed.  
So he called to the North Wind,  
'Come and help me, pray,  
For I'm completely frozen,  
Standing here all day.'  
So the North Wind came along,  
And blew him in the door,  
And now there's nothing left of him  
But a puddle on the floor!



**December 2020**

**Middleham Key Centre, Park Lane, Middleham DL8 4RA** Tel: 01969 624002

Email: [office@middleham-key.co.uk](mailto:office@middleham-key.co.uk) [www.middlehamkeycentre.co.uk](http://www.middlehamkeycentre.co.uk)

**The Key Centre office** is open from 9.30am – 2.00pm Monday to Thursday. Anyone entering the centre must wear a MASK and use the HAND SANITISER provided on entering and leaving the building. At all times you should observe distancing of 1 or 2 metres away from other people.

The services we can currently offer are photocopying, internet access, information and collecting recycling boxes and blue bags if necessary.

**'T' in the Afternoon and Coffee morning** in the Richard III hall will resume as soon as it is possible.

Both events are set up with tables and chairs 1m apart. Once seated, you may remove your mask and refreshments will be served at your table. Please remain at your table until you leave.

**Book Swap** will be back in operation as soon as restrictions are lifted, following the same system as being used by book shops: newly donated, returned or rejected books are quarantined. The boxes are clearly labelled. We can only accept paperbacks in reasonable condition.

**The Hair Shoppe:** at Middleham Key Centre will open as soon as possible. Phone Claire on 01969 624401 for an appointment.

**FiftyfiveUP:** Tony Talbot, the founder, is based at The Key Centre – this is a free upbeat, online lifestyle magazine aimed at informing and sharing information relative to exercise, motivation and overall wellbeing. fiftyfiveUP has been designed as a community platform where those over 55 can simply enjoy what has been written or use it to showcase their own editorial or photographic talents. [www.fiftyfiveUP.com](http://www.fiftyfiveUP.com)

**Seasons Art Class (Thirsk)** for further details contact Tracy on 07775 898474 who is based at The Key Centre

**Middleham Town Council:** If you wish to contact the council telephone 07531 580499 or

Email: [office@middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:office@middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk) Website: [www.middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk)

**Community Police:** Messages can be passed on to our local PCSO by Pam in the office, or telephone 101 the non-emergency number.



## LEYBURN ARTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tickets / Info: 01969 624510 [leyburnartscentre.com](http://leyburnartscentre.com)

### MOVIES (£6 or 60+/U18 £5)

- |                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| FRI 4 DEC 6pm  | Richard Jewell (15) 2hrs 11m |
| FRI 11 DEC 6pm | Harriet (12A) 2hrs 5m        |
| FRI 18 DEC 6pm | Summerland (PG) 1hr 39m      |

### LIVE CINEMA (£12)

- TUE 8 DEC 7pm Three Tenors: Voices for Eternity** 1hr 30m  
Pavarotti, Domingo & Carreras. Recorded live at Rome and Los Angeles.
- THU 10 DEC 7pm Uncle Vanya** 2hrs 35m (no interval)  
Recorded live at London's Harold Pinter Theatre. Starring Toby Jones.
- SUN 20 DEC 4pm War Horse** 2hrs 45m (includes interval)  
The play, not the film! Recorded live at London's National Theatre.

**Please book and pay for tickets in advance, call us Mon-Fri 1-4pm**



Do you know which bridge this is?

Which film did it feature appear in?

Answer at the end of 'Bridge'.

**Bird notes from Richard Wells - December 2020**

The unexpected floods of early November produced torrid moments for a few stranded motorists. But once the levels started to recede some great habitat was produced for a lot of water-loving birds.

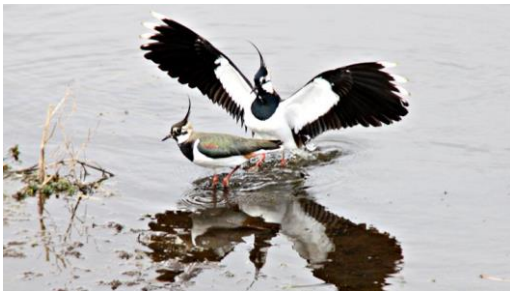


Wigeon (L) Teal (R)



once the levels started to recede some great habitat was produced for a lot of water-loving birds.

Wigeon and teal were spotted at Jervaulx, Harkersbeck, and just across the river from Middleham. 370 curlew (*below*) were to be seen below the



church at Thornton Steward along with 65 lapwing (L).

The highlight was a bevy of 9 whooper swans along with an estimated 750 greylag geese in one partially flooded field adjoining the Ure near Jervaulx.



A week or so later, with fields still soggy, Dennis Clarkson saw 2 little egrets near Witton Mill and on the same day a great white egret flew over Jervaulx and the Ure



before landing near to Thornton Steward church. All very exciting (if you are a nerd like me and love scanning flocks of birds!). (L=Little; R= Great White)

However, on a less upbeat note— where have all our garden birds gone? It is a question posed by Julie Whitwham who lives on Kingsley Drive in Middleham. Throughout the summer she has had blackbirds, tits, woodpeckers and robin coming to the bird table and

feeders but now that it is late autumn, they all seem to have disappeared. The food is put out but nothing is eaten.



My view is that it has been a mild autumn and there is a lot of natural food still out in the countryside - berries in hedgerows and insects and other invertebrates in woodland. So that is where the birds are. When that is exhausted and it gets colder I believe, and certainly hope, that they will return to our gardens.



I would be very interested to hear what others think and if you too are not seeing as many birds in your garden as usual. And do things improve when a cold snap comes as itsurely will before we meet up again with the next edition in two months time? E-mail me at [rmwellsew@btinternet.com](mailto:rmwellsew@btinternet.com)

Care and support  
through terminal illness



## WENSLEYDALE FUNDRAISING GROUP

**Christmas Wreaths** - For several years Wensleydale Marie Curie Fundraising Group has sold hand-made Christmas wreaths at an annual coffee morning in Leyburn's Methodist Church Hall. Sadly, it's unlikely that this will take place this year, so the group is doing all it can to raise much needed funds for Marie Curie. Marie Curie nurses visit homes throughout Wensleydale, up to Hawes & across the Dales communities.

The cost of a decorated wreath is £14.00 (left) or a simple wreath is £10.50 (right)

The wreaths must be paid for in advance by cash, or cheque payable to Marie Curie.



To place an order, please call 01969 623813 or 623533, or e-mail:- [wensleydale.mariecurie@gmail.com](mailto:wensleydale.mariecurie@gmail.com)

The wreaths will be available for collection from 5 Cliff Drive, Leyburn DL8 5EX, Friday, 4 December from 10.30 am – 3.00 pm. Marie Curie Christmas cards will also be on sale.

Approximately 40% of the price will go to the local Marie Curie Nursing Service.



## LOW LANE CHRISTMAS TREES

Low Lane, Middleham Road, Leyburn

Locally grown Christmas trees, ornamental wreaths and tree stands.

Plantation open from 09.00 - 4.00, everyday day until Christmas Day, starting on Saturday 28th November.

Come and choose your own tree from the plantation and we will cut it fresh for you or choose from our extensive range of pre-cut Norway Spruce and Nordmann Fir trees.

Contact Mike – Tel (01969) 625594, mb 07775 422043  
e-mail [lowlanetrees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lowlanetrees@hotmail.co.uk)



## Middleham Luncheon Club – Christmas hampers

As we all know 2020 has been the most challenging of years and our seniors have missed out not only on their weekly lunch meetings but their annual outing and now their much enjoyed Christmas Party. We are planning a Christmas Gift for all members in the form of a small Christmas Hamper to be delivered in the week leading up to Christmas.

If you are not a member but would like to be included please contact Janet or Pam at The Key Centre 624002 and we will add you to our list.

We are hopeful that we can start again in 2021 with all our activities but in the meantime

Best Wishes keep safe and well, Sue

## Christmas Shoebox appeal for the elderly

Can you make a difference to a lonely or isolated elderly person this Christmas?



Many elderly people will be facing a very different Christmas this year. They may have to face Christmas alone and will miss out on social contact with family and friends. Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington would like to try and help by collecting shoe boxes to show that someone cares. We are asking all colleagues, volunteers, friends and family if they could put a shoe box together full of presents that an elderly person would love.

### How can you help?

We would suggest items such as puzzle books, hot chocolate, biscuits, warm socks, gloves, slippers, scarves, hats, toiletries, confectionary, pens or handmade gifts – the list is endless but no alcohol please. If you plan on wrapping a box in wrapping paper please make sure the lid can be taken off. Please could you also label if the box/gift is for male/ female/ unisex.

### If you would like to help, please drop your shoebox off at St Matthew's, Leyburn – by 6<sup>th</sup> December.

We will then arrange to distribute the shoeboxes to local people across the whole of the Richmondshire area.



In aid of St. Botolph's Church, Horsehouse

## **Christmas Hamper Raffle**

Tickets £10 each

1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE – Large Hamper will include Champagne, Smoked Salmon, Christmas Pudding and Brandy Butter, Fruit Cake, Cheese, Wine and Chocolates

2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE – Hamper will include Champagne, Christmas Pudding, Brandy Butter, Cheese and Chocolates

3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE – Hamper will include Prosecco, Fruit Cake, Cheese and Chocolates

Please give your ticket money and your name and telephone number to

a member of the Church Committee

Anne Readshaw 640448 Natasha Johnston 640457 Nigel Briggs 640058 Linda Dent 640608  
Harriet Corner 640218 Jo Harrison-Topham 640575 Eileen Harrison-Topham 640269

**Winning tickets will be drawn at the Carol Service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
which this year will take place at Coverham churchyard at 2.30 pm  
(please bring a mask and if you would like, a chair)**

**LAST CALL**  
**for the RAFFLE for this beautiful painting by a local artist:**



**Coverham Bridge, framed original, oil on board 10" x 12"**

The raffle will be drawn after the service at Horsehouse church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December. All funds raised will go to the churches of the parish.

To join the raffle, it's £5 to enter:

- Put cash or a cheque into an envelope. (Cheques made out to one of the following: 'St Alkelda's, Middleham; St Botolph's, Coverdale; St Oswald's, Thornton Steward; or St John's, East Witton).
- Write your name and phone number on the envelope, so that we can enter you into the draw and contact you if you win.
- Give it to either clergy or churchwardens, or post through the doors of the following:  
Liz and Jeff – Applegarth House, Leyburn Road, Middleham DL8 4PL  
Marina and Nigel – Quakers' Garth, Carlton DL8 4BA  
Mary – Tilsey, Low Thorpe, East Witton DL8 4SW  
Sue and Richard – Old Cottage, Thornton Steward HG4 4BD

**Or enter by clicking below and then email [jervaulxliz@gmail.com](mailto:jervaulxliz@gmail.com) so your name goes in the hat**

Middleham: <https://www.jervaulxchurches.co.uk/middleham.php>

Coverdale: <https://www.jervaulxchurches.co.uk/coverdale.php>

East Witton: <https://www.jervaulxchurches.co.uk/east-witton.php>

Thornton Steward: <https://www.jervaulxchurches.co.uk/thornton-steward.php>



**Our churches continue to be open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 9am – 5pm (unless there is a funeral)**

**Parish e-services:**

We are also continuing to email out services on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Please email [jervaulxliz@gmail.com](mailto:jervaulxliz@gmail.com) – to be added (BCC) to our email services group.

**Sunday Services December:**

|                                  |         |                                     |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December  | 10.00am | St Alkelda’s, Middleham             |
|                                  | 11.00am | St Botolph’s, Horsehouse            |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December | 11.00am | St John the Evangelist, East Witton |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December | 10.00am | St Alkelda’s, Middleham             |
| Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December | 11.00am | St John the Evangelist, East Witton |

**Christmas Services:**

***Please bring MASKS to all services, whether indoor or outdoor. You may like to bring a chair for services are outdoors.***

|                                  |         |   |
|----------------------------------|---------|---|
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December | 6.30pm  | Christmas service, Thornton Steward (outdoors)    |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December | 2.30pm  | Christmas service, Coverham churchyard (outdoors) |
| Christmas Eve                    | 7.30pm  | Christmas Communion, St John’s, East Witton       |
| Christmas Day                    | 10.00am | Christmas Communion, St Alkelda’s, Middleham      |

**Sunday Services January:**

|                                 |         |                                     |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January  | 10.00am | St Alkelda’s, Middleham             |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> January | 11.00am | St John the Evangelist, East Witton |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> January | 10.00am | St Alkelda’s, Middleham             |
|                                 | 11.00am | St Botolph’s, Horsehouse            |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> January | 11.00am | St John the Evangelist, East Witton |
| Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> January | 10.00am | St Alkelda’s, Middleham             |



‘Comfort and Joy’ app – download from link below – daily readings for Advent and Christmas  
[Comfort and Joy: our Advent and Christmas reflections | The Church of England](#)

## Methodist Services for Coverdale

- to be held in the Memorial Hall, Carlton. Each Service will last about 35mins and will start at 10.30am.
  - Masks must be worn and Covid guidelines on Social Distancing and Sanitisation will be followed.
- Any enquiries please ring 640660.

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December                  | to be led by Rev Melanie Reed.        |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December                 | to be led by Mr Kevin Pellatt         |
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January                   | to be led by Rev Julia Reid.          |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> January                  | to be led by Mrs Liz Haythornthwaite. |
| Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> January Covenant Service | to be led by Rev Melanie Reed.        |

## Weddings and Funerals Update: (subject to change)

Weddings are permitted up to a maximum of 15 guests.

Funerals are limited to a maximum of 30 people, though this could be less depending on the capacity to safely social distance in each particular church building or crematorium.

Up to 15 people are allowed at the interment of ashes.

Funerals directors have current information on government guidelines, and parish policies, which vary.

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## Remembrance Sunday 2020



We are thankful that we were able to have outdoor Acts of Remembrance in Middleham, Coverdale, East Witton and Thornton Steward, and thanks go to Neil Mabbott and Dave May for conducting two of those services as well as Jeff and Liz.

William Sugden, who served in the British army said, 'It was an honour laying the wreath today at the Remembrance Service at Middleham, it may have

been low key event but, 'We shall always remember our glorious dead.'

May they rest in peace.



*Sue Fairhurst, Mayor of Middleham, and William Sugden, lay wreaths*

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## Next Bridge: February 2021 (Dec/ Jan is a joint issue)

Please send any items to: [jervaulxliz@gmail.com](mailto:jervaulxliz@gmail.com) by the deadline: 14th January, 2021.

Please note that the views expressed in the articles are those of the author.

### Contacts:

Revs Jeff and Liz: 01969 326069

Churchwardens:

Middleham – Margaret Brabban 01969 624388;

East Witton & Thornton Steward: Mary Fawbert 01969 623007/ Karen Newsam 01969 622395;

Coverdale: Anne Readshaw 01969 640448

Methodist Minister: Rev Melanie Reed: 01969 623818; RC priest: Fr Michael: 01969 623141



## Pick it up, please!

If you have been walking around Middleham recently, you may have seen one or two new dog poo bag dispensers with some artwork created by pupils at our local schools (Middleham & Spennithorne).

Here are councillors Nigel Hopper and Honor Byford at the sports ground – with their exceedingly well behaved dogs – next to the one at the sports field.

There are lots of reasons why it's important to pick up dog poo:

- It looks awful, and if you've ever stood in it – you'll know it STINKS.
- Elderly, disabled, and people with buggies might inadvertently step in it, or get it on wheels or walking sticks
- It's toxic. Due to the microbes, parasites, worms, bacteria etc in dog poo, it can cause blindness (so it's an extra big no-no anywhere children might be playing / sport is taking place)
- The same microbes etc can make other pets seriously ill
- Dog poo contaminates water supplies

- Farm animals and wildlife can also pick up parasites and worms from dog faeces (which can take up to a year to break down). It can lead to the death of sheep, and to both sheep and cattle aborting their lambs/ calves.



So as the sign says, please 'Pick up after your dog.' Even in the countryside where we may be tempted to leave it or flick it.



Someone, or some creature, somewhere will thank you for it.

## Covid 19 Vaccine – volunteer clinicians and stewards wanted:

A message from Rev'd Stephen Hanscombe, vicar of Leyburn and Bellerby:

*I have received a request from Cllr Ian Woods from Richmond Town Council about the administration of the Covid-19 vaccine. This is the message:*

'With the announcement of the vaccine success and the mass vaccination campaign which will be needed to be done, there is a need to gather together an 'army' of retired clinicians to help with the programme.

It is more or less certain that the initial site for Richmondshire will be Tennants of Leyburn and they will be operating each day from 08.00 hrs - 20.00 hrs.

As well as clinicians, there will more than likely be a need for volunteers to help facilitate pedestrian flows, parking and other miscellaneous duties. Last night I put out a second call to the Richmond support group and already have 25 volunteers who want to put their names forward.

They will be looking for:

- a) any retired clinicians who could volunteer to administer vaccines (up to date training will be given)**
- b) people who would be willing to steward / marshal**

I am now linked into the Heartbeat planners so probably best if you ask anyone who is interested **to email me with their contact details** [ian.woods@thornton-le-moor.co.uk](mailto:ian.woods@thornton-le-moor.co.uk) (for any clinicians a mobile number would be helpful as they will be put on to a special Whatsapp group) and I will compile the lists and send them off to Heartbeat.'

Cllr Ian Woods

*Please forward this message to anyone else who might be interested. It feels a good thing to support this as it is happening in our community.*

*Many thanks, Stephen*

Rev'd Stephen Hanscombe, Vicar of Leyburn and Bellerby 01969 622977 07734138431



## Hospital Transport – there are new arrangements to medical facilities and hospitals:

~ Parish support groups may be able to provide transport to local medical and dental practices (different parts of the local area have their own arrangements. In Middleham contact David Keep 07531580499 [oroffice@middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:oroffice@middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk) in the first instance



~If you have an appointment at one of the hospitals for our district, and no family or friends are available to help, you will be asked to contact PTS (Patients Transport Service) which is provided by Yorkshire Air Ambulance (0300 3302000 between 8am – 6pm). They accept the most critically ill people within the following criteria: outpatients; admission or discharge from hospital; regular life-saving treatment e.g. dialysis, chemotherapy. PTS are reluctant to speak to anyone but the patient who must have appointment details when they phone. PTS is free of charge.

~If none of the above is possible, contact the Leyburn Hub on 01969 624510 or

[admin@leyburnartscentre.com](mailto:admin@leyburnartscentre.com) The Hub has arranged to provide transport via NYCC Transport Service run by volunteers, but is not free of charge. For journeys up to 44 miles, the charge is 45p a mile. For journeys more than 44 miles, the charge is capped at £20. Pay the driver by cash or cheque at the end of the journey.



# THE WENSLEYDALE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM LEYBURN



The last term has been far from normal, with the pressure on staff and students to maintain distancing and the ever-increasing cleaning regime is relentless. Thankfully our cases have been few, but the impact of even half a dozen cases on the rest of our school and wider community has been significant.

As I write we are closed to years 7,8 and 9, who have been returned to online learning for 2 weeks, whilst we contend with significant staff shortages due to the need for self-isolation. Furthermore, we have only had 2 linked cases, so Covid-19 is largely being transmitted into our setting from elsewhere. Everyone is doing their best, but this is not education as we know it.

On a positive note we have had some marvellous examples of positivity. Our Head girl- Lydia Allison gave a cracking interview on Monday 9 Nov on Breakfast with Georgy Spanswick on BBC Radio York. Worth a listen (available until 7 Dec) - at about

2hrs 9 minutes in: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08wklx2>

The Senior Student Leadership team arranged for all students to make their own paper poppies in tutor time on Wednesday 11 Nov, as we were unable to sell poppies in the usual way and Mr Ashcroft used his drone to take photos of us all. - Useful socially distanced Fire Drill practise at the same time.

We resurrected an old tradition as the CCF paraded for Remembrance Day. Some grandparents may remember that our school had a cadet force many years ago.

Our enrichment clubs are thriving with a vast range of opportunities which has never been logistically possible before. Finally, we have joined forces with other community groups to support Reverend Hanscombe in his Nativity Trail project. Our DT students are busy using the laser cutter to produce our nativity scene, the sewing club will make robes and dress the images and some 'handy' Year 11s will be helping me to position it in due course.

Many things have come out of Covid-19 and some of them have been heart-warmingly lovely.

Happy Christmas to you all from all of us at The Wensleydale School & Sixth form

Julia Polley, Headteacher      01969 621007    07808209365    [www.wensleydaleschool.net](http://www.wensleydaleschool.net)

\*\*\*\*\*



## The Federation of Middleham VA and Spennithorne VC CE Primary Schools

We were pleased to reopen fully for all our pupils and have the corridors filled with the sound of laughter. Keeping bubbles of children separate has not been too much of a challenge to us due to us having 2 buildings but safety has been at the top of our agenda.

Our pupils have come into school with maturity. Our new starters have blown me away, starting school without any transition sessions and easing into federation routines easily. We have prefects, school councillors, eco-monitors, collective worship monitors, and buddies all set up so our pupils continue to work for each other, develop independence and help in the organisation of our school family.

We are trying to keep things as normal as possible, but some things have had to change. Children, in their bubbles, have to stay separate and one of the facets of our schools which makes me so proud is that all children play together, regardless of age. I look forward to this returning when this is all over.

Another change has been our inability to sing. This is something we are not able to do due to the risk of transmission of COVID through airborne particles. Singing in our schools is fantastic. We all sing with passion and gusto and hearing this on a daily basis in school is such a delight. However, at this strange time, adaptation is the name of the game, and all the songs we now sing as part of collective worship involve actions so that the children can participate in an alternative form.

However, we are back, we are open and let's hope we continue to hear laughter reverberating around our corridors.

Mrs Lindsay Evans

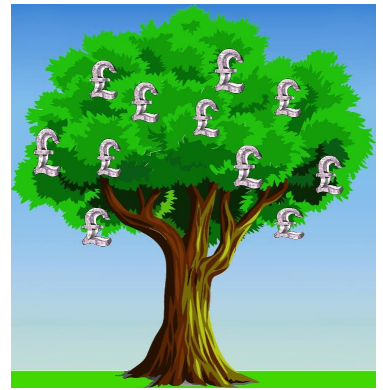
***'Friendship, Endurance, Forgiveness, Trust'***



## Does the Church of England have a magic money tree?

Following a discussion with Church leaders about Church finances, I was asked to write an article for Bridge to provide some clarity to the subject. It was thought that because they support Church fundraising activities the wider community might also be interested.

When you see occasional media headlines about the £8.7 billion investment portfolio that the Church Commissioners manage it can look like there is a money tree. However, this portfolio is an endowment. Therefore, there are restrictions on usage and its purpose is to financially support the Church both now and for future generations. If the capital was spent today there would be less for the future. Church leaders are advised annually by professional actuaries how much can be spent each year and at the same time maintain sustainability for future generations.



What happens to the £170 million income generated from investments? Approximately half goes towards pre 1998 pension deficit, approximately a quarter goes towards bishops' ministry and cathedral costs and the remaining approximately a quarter goes towards supporting different Dioceses and contributing towards outreach. If you would like to know more please see the Commissioners' Annual Report for 2019 - [https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/33295\\_CofE\\_AR19.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/33295_CofE_AR19.pdf)

The Leeds Diocese of which we are a part also has an enormous budget - £23 million in 2020. Again, such a vast budget might make us think of the money tree again. But it's a large organisation, 460 parishes, 656 churches and 240 schools spread over an area of 2,425 square miles and inhabited by 2.6 million people. The primary sources of the income in the budget are approximately £14 million from parishes, £5 million from the Church Commissioners and £4 million from charitable and other activities.

How does Leeds Diocese spend this money? The main expenditure is £12.4 million on clergy stipends, £3.4 million to maintain the 450 clergy houses including council tax and water rates, £2.2 million goes towards supporting the 240 Church of England schools in the Diocese, and parish support e.g. safeguarding, buildings and HR; £1.9 million goes towards training e.g. candidates for ordination, clergy courses and support for outreach projects. Only £1.3 million goes on things like governance, finance, ICT. We can see that all the money that parishes contribute (and a bit more) pays for clergy stipends and housing. If you would like to know more, The Leeds Diocese annual report for 2018 is available here - <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/annual-report/2018> The report for 2019 has been delayed. Due to Covid19 the meetings to approve the report have only relatively recently taken place.

Bringing it down to the local level. The cost to run each parish, including ours, using approximate figures, is £58,000. This breaks down to £27,000, the stipend which Liz and I share, £2,000 National Insurance, £9,000 pension (this doesn't go into our private pension pot – it's a general clergy pension pot and includes contributing to historic deficit), £10,000 housing and £10,000 towards the stipends and housing of curates and archdeacons. The Diocese has a calculation to work out how much of this it requests from each parish. The Diocese has asked our parish for £37,000 towards our parish costs. Therefore, we're subsidised by other parishes in the Diocese (for example, parishes like Bedale which pays over £70,000 to the Diocese, much more than its costs). On top of what the parish pays to the Diocese, the parish also has overheads and building maintenance costs, plus utilities, to be paid along with other church activity.

I hope that people will see that we benefit from the shared cost system by being significantly subsidised in addition to other support that we receive from the Diocese. Plus, there are other areas in which we benefit as a community from the Diocese e.g. schools, and that the Diocesan administration costs are a small portion of the budget.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone who contributes to the life of the Church in many different ways. I hope that this article has gone some way in demystifying Church of England finances. Alas, there is no magic money tree.

Rev'd Jeff

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*Above: Goat Willow*

## **PINKERS POND PLANTING**

A plan for planting some trees in the areas near Pinker's Pond has been agreed with the council. The areas chosen will enhance the existing land and trees but will also preserve the lovely open views up Coverdale and towards Braithwaite and East Witton. You can help make a difference this winter and help enhance the biodiversity of Pinker's Pond and Low Moor.

Lower Wensleydale Biodiversity Action Group are inviting residents to help plant approximately 200 native tree species around the Pinker's Pond area,

to bring additional colour and enrich biodiversity. The trees are being supplied by The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and will include wild cherry, goat willow, grey willow, rowan, oak, field maples, and dog rose.

It is hoped planting will take place in January. If you would like to get involved please email:

[lbgroup@gmail.com](mailto:lbgroup@gmail.com)

Many thanks,

Elise and Kayleigh

frfm LWBAG



*Pinker's Pond (LWBAG photo)*

*This year has been different, and our Christmases this year will be different for many of us. But in the middle of the uncertainty, we stop to remember that into the chaos of our world, God came in Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. He is with us still, and in spite of the circumstances, he wishes to give us his peace and joy this Christmas time. Here is a prayer and a blessing which we hope captures the sentiment:*

### **A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson**

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherd,  
and worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with very gift  
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.  
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



### **An Irish Christmas Blessing**

The light of the Christmas star to you,  
The warmth of hearth and home to you,  
The cheer and good will of friends to you,  
The hope of a childlike heart to you,  
The joy of a thousand angels to you,  
The love of the Son,  
And God's peace to you.



### **Radio York invites us to sing some carols:**

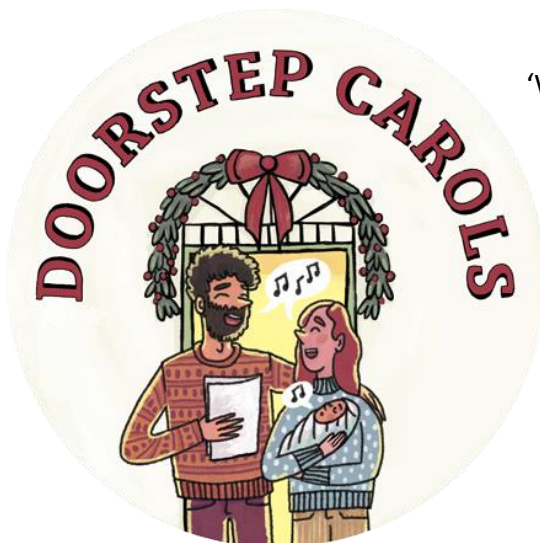
'We are so pleased you're joining us in singing together on the evening of **Wednesday 16th December** - how amazing would it be to have the whole country singing together?'

Sing along with 'Carols on the Doorstep' with presenter, Georgey Spanswick on **Wednesday, December 16th at 6pm.**

Tune in to frequency: FM: 95.5, 103.7, 104.3

To download your carol sheet, go to:

[Is your area getting involved? \(doorstepcarols.co.uk\)](http://doorstepcarols.co.uk)



**Wishing you all a joyful Christmas, and a New Year filled with hope and peace**

## ADVERTS

During lockdown and the publishing of a limited version of bridge, we have not included our advertisers who contribute towards the cost of publication with thanks. With the opening of shops and businesses, we now give the latest list of advertisers to whom we are thankful for their donations.

**With new government restrictions in place, please contact the organisation for up to date details of how they are trading.**

If you would like to advertise in Bridge, please contact Richard Fletcher ([rgfsmarden@btopenworld.com](mailto:rgfsmarden@btopenworld.com)/01969 625365).

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to book or for further info. See also Facebook page 'Lesley Williams, Fitness, Nutrition & Weight management coach'.

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#### ANSWERS:

**Name of Bridge:** *Glenfinnan Viaduct featured in 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' (though you may know others too).*

*More answers on next page*

**The Real Christmas Quiz answers:**

1. False. No mention of the month is made – shepherds were still tending flocks in the fields, which they did April to October .
2. True. There is no 0 A.D. The calendar jumps from 1 B.C. to 1 A.D. King Herod died in 4 B.C. so Jesus was most likely born around 5 or 6 B.C.
3. False. It's possible, but the Bible doesn't specify.
4. False. This is a legend, not biblical.
5. True. Mary conceived miraculously by God the Holy Spirit. But Joseph effectively adopted Jesus, and as with adoption today, assumed all the responsibilities of a father.
6. False. The angels told the shepherds to go and see him.
7. False. No mention is made of the number of magi
8. False. No mention is made of the angels singing.
9. False. The magi first went to Herod.
10. True and false. The magi offered gifts, but the tradition is also rooted in the story of St Nicholas (the saint)