

BEDALE AND BEYOND

*Linking Church and Community
in Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass*



Lent

February and March 2023

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, WEDDINGS & MEMORIALS

BAPTISMS Anyone who is wanting a child christened please contact the parish office or via admin@bedale.church.

Remember, that baptisms can happen any day of the week or evening as well as Saturday or Sunday.

CONFIRMATIONS A confirmation service is planned for the summer, Contact the parish office admin@bedale.church.

WEDDINGS Weddings are taking place throughout the benefice. The churches are usually available during the week and most weekends. Basic legal primaries need a month's notice although there are other means of marrying with less notice. Contact the Rector directly or via the office admin@bedale.church

**FUNERALS
& MEMORIALS** Funerals are usually organised though an undertaker or by contacting the Rector directly. Memorial services can be organised through the parish office admin@bedale.church



THIS EDITION

Lent thought

Lent Observance

Lent Course Details

The Chosen

Clock Refurbishment

Tuesday Togetherness

News from the Parishes

THE RECTOR WRITES



Lent need not be a dramatic forty days in the wilderness. It need not be the physical and emotional fasting and deprivation that Jesus endured in the wilderness. But, it does need to impinge on us even if that is in the most subtle of ways. It has been said, the smallest of journeys begin with a single step, or the starting of an engine.

You will have heard me say doing nothing during Lent is a waste of opportunity, yet if each person in our Benefice takes up one challenge during Lent, the spiritual growth may be immeasurable. So, the challenge is to make a 'small step' in your own personal faith experience. These 'small steps' are not for the holy, but for the ordinary who have a will to draw closer to the divine. There is no magic formula but resources are offered in this edition for you to dip your toe into and have an inspired Lent.

If you're new to the idea of how small the "small steps" really are, here is a short list of seven examples. In each one you'll see the subtle art of cooperation with God, of walking toward a new kind of life "yoked" together with a very strong & capable Jesus (Mt 11:28-30). See if any of these are small steps God might be calling you to take to go deeper with him into the good life of his kingdom:

Bible study: keep a Bible close & tempting; where you eat breakfast or sit for a coffee. Leave it open to the last place you read. When you sit down to eat or rest do so with your Bible there, recognise as you see it that God is welcoming you into his presence and into the day he has made. Why not read the Bible while you eat (instead of surfing your smartphone or watching the television.) So that when you're done that period of time, you've actually read your Bible. Before you get up to set your dishes in the sink or you're ready for action, pause for just a brief moment, listening for how God might be speaking to you through the Scripture you've read. Take one phrase or idea with you, ruminating on it for as long as you can as you start your day.

Prayer: just choose a simple prayer routine that you can easily memorize, such as the classic A.C.T.S. format: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Pray one sentence each for these and then sweep your mind for anything else God has placed on your heart. Take with you that moment of connection with God, knowing he has heard you and that his presence and power go with you into whatever comes next in your day.

Silence: after everyone else in your house is either getting ready for bed or already asleep, go find a quiet space even if that is only within your own psyche. If you live in a noisy neighbourhood or household or can't escape the sound of music or other distractions, contemplate buying yourself a pair of inexpensive ear protection. Be aware of a modest amount of time, say five minutes. Your thoughts will try to fill the silence; simply brush them away as they arise, attending to God's quiet but sure presence with you. When you are finished, take whatever sense of peace God has granted to you and treasure it as a gift, carrying that peace with you into your day or your sleep.

Charity (love): choose one person in your world with whom you have a relationship and with whom you interact on a daily basis. In addition to whatever other interactions you have them each day, speak a very brief word of prayer for them: something like, "Father, show them your gentle care today" or "God, help them carry their burdens today" or "Holy Spirit, fill them with life and joy today". Then expectantly watch for an opportunity that God will set up for you to love them in one small, subtle way. Some ideas: give them a meaningful compliment; empathise with something they say by repeating it back in order to show that you are truly listening to them; reach out to them with meaningful physical touch appropriate to your relationship with them; write them something via text or email that will bless or encourage them; anticipate something they need to do and do it for them.

Fasting: (not necessarily part of our culture although I was moved and influenced by my time in Huddersfield and the observance of Ramadan) so skip a single meal like breakfast or lunch. As each signal of hunger comes from your body, let that be a prompt to you to direct your attention to God. Re-assure yourself that another meal is coming soon. Listen to the rebellion of your body, how bossy and tricky it is, paying attention to the way it tries to manipulate you. Remind yourself that your life is sustained not merely by food but by that which comes from the hand of God. Let God be your sustenance and strength as you fast.

Recording: put a little notebook or a stack of index cards close at hand. Before turning the light off each night, jot down a maximum of three quick bullet points of things that you think your future self might want to look back on: something you heard from God, a reflection about some part of your day, a significant event, a

meaningful interaction you had with someone that day, a decision you made and want to stick with. Make these bulleted statements as short as you can while still preserving enough of the context for your future self. Keep these short records for a week, and then on Saturday or Sunday, set aside 10 minutes to flip back through them prayerfully, asking God if he's got anything he wants you to do with anything you wrote down.

Vital exercise: immediately before breakfast, make a part of your food preparation a short set of strength-training exercises focusing on major muscle groups like push-ups or squats or like me walk around town or the park. Before you begin, pause & acknowledge that all your strength comes from God. Then complete the exercise. As your heart pounds when you're finished, thank God for the strength he has given your body. Then go about the rest of your normal morning routine. Even a short set of exercise repeated daily can have a big impact and positive long term effects on your stress, overall strength & health, and your energy throughout the day.

Don't try all of these at once. Just pick one or two that appeal to you, or come up with a variation of your own. Remember that just about anything can be a spiritual discipline if it leads you to love God and others (including yourself) well.

Give yourself at least three weeks of repetition during Lent for the habit to become "the new normal", and then evaluate the impact and value of the change. If it is worthwhile and you have seen positive benefits from it, ruminate on that fact and give thanks to God. If you are in the habit of keeping a spiritual formation journal, be sure to reflect on your experience and any factors that have caused you to falter in your commitment. Tell yourself and friends about the truth of the change's benefits in order to further establish it as a part of your life.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls," says Jesus (Matthew 11:29). He doesn't expect superhuman effort from us, because the superhuman strength for lasting spiritual formation comes from him. Our part is to recognize our weakness and to offer what little strength we do have in small but faithful steps of obedience. And as we do so, we will see him multiply our small efforts as he did with the loaves and the fish (Luke 9:10-17).

Simon

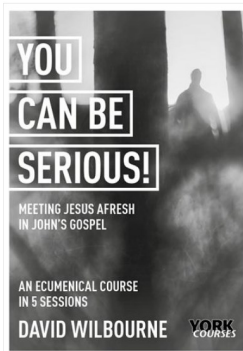
FEB AND MARCH '22 PRAYER DIARY

Intercessions for the streets, roads and lanes within the Benefice and specific themes for daily prayer during the months covered by this magazine.



1	Sussex Street	Bedale	Anvil Gardens	Leeming Bar
2	Sycamore Avenue	Aiskew	Ascough Wynd	Aiskew
3	Sycamore Drive	Bedale	Ash Tree Close	Bedale
4	Sycamore Lane	Leeming	Ash Tree Road	Bedale
5	The Coppice	RAF Leeming	Ash Tree Walk	Bedale
6	The Court	Bedale	Back Lane	Aiskew
7	The Crescent	Aiskew	Badger Hill Drive	Aiskew
8	The Grange	Leeming	Barras Terrace	Bedale
9	The Paddock	Aiskew	Bedale Road	Leeming Bar
10	The Spinney	RAF Leeming	Bedale Road	Aiskew
11	The Square	RAF Leeming	Bedale Rose Avenue	Leeming Bar
12	The Wynd	Bedale	Beech Close	RAF Leeming
13	Thirn Village	T/Watlass	Beechwood Close	Bedale
14	Tofts Lane	Exelby	Beechwood Court	Bedale
15	Tom Hall Court	Bedale	Benkhill Drive	Bedale
16	Tornado Close	Bedale	Beresford Close	Bedale
17	Tutin Road	Leeming Bar	Bielby Close	Aiskew
18	Vasey Close	Bedale	Blind Lane	Aiskew
19	Water Lane	Leeming	Bluebell Way	Aiskew
20	Watlass Lane	T/Watlass	Bowe Crescent	Bedale
21	Watlass Moor Lane	T/Watlass	Bridge Street	Bedale
22	Westfield Lane	Exelby	Brookside Avenue	Bedale
23	Willow Close	RAF Leeming	Brookside Close	Bedale
24	Willow Drive	Aiskew	Burrill Road	Bedale
25	Willow Gardens	Leeming Bar	Calvert Way	Bedale
26	Woodland Drive	RAF Leeming	Cherry Grove	Aiskew
27	Wren Close	Aiskew	Chestnut Close	Aiskew
28	Wycar	Bedale	Church Close	Leeming
29	Aiskew Bank	Aiskew	College Court	Bedale
30	Alder Close	RAF Leeming	Connaught Terrace	Bedale
31	Alexandra Court	Bedale	Conygarth Way	Leeming Bar

1	For the Archdeacons in the Diocese
2	For the sides-persons, welcomers and bell ringers
3	For new members to come into our church family and their welcome
4	For Simon, Caroline and their family
5	For the musicians and choirs who help to lead us in our worship
6	For all involved in the administrative support of the Benefice
7	For all who minister & attend the Methodist & Catholic Churches in our Benefice
8	For Doctors, Home Helpers, the McMillan Nurses and Hospices and the Marie Curie Nurses
9	For the retired clergy and their support in the ministry within the benefice
10	For all involved in home visiting and who administer home communions
11	For our ministry with children and young persons both in school and in outside activities
12	For Michelle and her work with the families in the Benefice
13	For those who provide and maintain our utility services.
14	For all who help provide refreshments after services and at other functions
15	For all who suffer from addiction in its many and varied forms
16	For all who use the Chantry Hall whether associated with the church or for private functions
17	For our local prayer and study groups, the leaders and those who attend
18	For residents and staff of the Residential and Care Homes in the Benefice
19	For the mission and ministry of our churches in their respective parishes and in the benefice
20	For people suffering from mental health issues and those who care for them
21	For the families who come for baptism and those involved in this ministry
22	For all who volunteer help in the many and varied ways in the local community
23	For the staff and children in the pre-school groups
24	That we will become a praying benefice and that we will be strengthened through prayer. For all Lenten activities.
25	For the Health Centres and those involved in private practice who provide individual health care
26	For all who help provide the meals on wheels service from Chantry Hall.
27	For the uniformed organisations in all our churches.
28	For Local Government, Town & Parish Councils & Forums & the local Councillors
29	For those whom you find it difficult to pray for
30	For the clergy and volunteers at Ripon Cathedral
31	For the visitors to our churches and those leaving prayer requests



You Can Be Serious! Meeting Jesus afresh in John's Gospel

This inspiring York Course on John's Gospel, the most mysterious of all the gospel accounts of the life of Christ, invites us to meet Jesus afresh.

'Both vintage and fresh David Wilbourne, whose gift is to enable us to see again the face of Jesus delightfully present with us through a Lent journey.'

Using our Sunday Gospel the sessions are based on each of the previous Sunday's Gospel Reading, providing a brilliant connection to the preaching and teaching that has just taken place. Serious yet full of life and humour, the course covers:

Week 1: Temptation . . . On checking every word that comes out of the mouth of God.

Week 2: Strangers in the night . . . Nicodemus came to Jesus under cover of darkness: finding God in surprising places.

Week 3: The winner takes it all . . . 'You worship what you do not know': upping our game with worship

Week 4: I was blind but now I see.. 'A god who can be understood is no god'

Week 5: Them bones, them bones, them dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ..Contrasting events in John with parables in the Synoptics

The course booklet is accompanied by a lively CD, in which David Wilbourne and guests from various denominational backgrounds, put forward their thoughts on the themes of the course.

This Lent has an ecumenical feel as we are sharing the material with our friends at Bedale and District Methodist Church. Each week will have three times, three venues and three different days.

Each Monday @ 7.30pm in Bedale and District Methodist Church

Each Tuesday @ 2pm in Chantry Hall

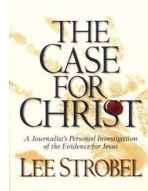
Each Wednesday @ 4pm in the home of Chris Carruthers

Please feel free to move between venues and if you cannot make a particular Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday go along to another day.

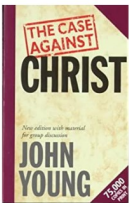
Other Lent Resources

The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel Published by Zondervan

Using the dramatic scenario of an investigative journalist pursuing his story and leads, Lee Strobel uses his experience as a reporter for the Chicago Tribune to interview experts about the evidence for Christ from the fields of science, philosophy, & history.



The Case Against Christ by John Young Published by Hodder and Staunton



This straightforward book provides a defence of the Christian faith for atheists, agnostics, enquirers and Christians alike. It answers the questions - what keeps people in the Church and is the Christian faith worth investigating?

Risen (2006 Sony Pictures)

A detective is summoned to his chief's office, where he's read the riot act. Get some results and get them fast – the head of the entire department will be here in a matter of days! Lean on your informants if you have to, just solve this case and solve it now! It's a scene from a thousand different cop movies, only this time the detective is a Roman tribune, his angry boss is Pontius Pilate, the ticking clock is a visit from Emperor Tiberius and the missing person is Jesus of Nazareth, the risen Christ.



Copies of these books and films will be on offer to borrow from each of the Benefice Churches. Please take one and bring back the following week. Or you might even indeed purchase your own copy. The film will be shown on Tuesday of Holy Week in Chantry Hall beginning at 2pm.

Clock, Bells and Celebrations!

Being the one who regularly winds your church clock, I have noticed that the clock and the two “treble” bells in the tower all carry the date of 1873 (The clock is specifically November 1873),



and back in August last year it occurred to me that we should do something to commemorate their 150th anniversary. So I started the ball rolling for us to celebrate this significant anniversary. Events have overtaken us a little since I had my daft idea but we still think it good to have a celebration.

So this year will be a year of celebration in Bedale, marking the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in May, and our celebrations around the 150th anniversary of our present church clock and two treble bells in our tower, over the summer months and across the August bank holiday weekend.

We are planning that our main “celebration event” will take place over the weekend of the 26th, 27th and 28th of August 2023 (the summer bank holiday). We are asking the schools to get involved and to produce displays to go in church on the theme of “Clocks and Bells” to run through the summer holidays and through the festival weekend. We will also work with the town council to engage the wider community and town traders with (hopefully...) events in the town over the weekend and the summer months.

As part of the celebrations we intend to refurbish the clock face as it is looking a little tired as can be seen in the image accompanying this piece! We are currently consulting with companies who can undertake this work.

If you have any ideas for events and fundraising and would be willing to help us organise such events, please contact Simon or the Wardens.

Here’s to a summer of celebration!

Phillip Witty (Churchwarden)



Why not come and watch the first-ever multi-season series about the life of Christ.

The Chosen is a historical drama of the life of Jesus, which offers us the opportunity to see his life and the Bible in a new way. Each episode lasts about 30-40 minutes and it brings to life the words that we read and listen to week by week.

We are meeting each Thursday afternoon at 1.30pm in Chantry Hall and are watching one episode each week. Afterwards, we spend a little time talking together about what we've seen.

We've all found it to be really moving, thought provoking and inspirational. We would love more members of our community to come and see and experience this remarkable series.

We also enjoy simple refreshments and conversation together on a whole range of topics! It's proved to be a lovely time of getting to know one another better, whilst exploring our faith.

Come and join us! We look forward to seeing you.



“Ringing from Home”

Discover the world of online change ringing as a hobby to make friends and enjoy time with them.

Ringing_at_Home@outlook.com

Online change ringing is an excellent pastime at home that allows you to make new friends and keep your mind alert. It requires nothing more than a computer and an ability to count to 8 or 12 or even a little more. It is an ideal way for those who are restricted in their ability to leave home to create a social life and an absorbing hobby.

I am a bell ringer with a chronic disease that causes me too often to be unable to ring real bells. During the lockdown, nobody could ring real bells and I joined local ringers in ringing online instead. I found online bell ringing to form an enjoyable social life that I could do even when I wasn't feeling so well. I would like other people to be able to enjoy this hobby, especially those who have difficulty being active or getting out of the house.

I am therefore hoping to form an online ringing group, to teach people to ring online and then enjoy it as a hobby. It would be very helpful to have a few bell ringers who can help with initial tuition but the hobby is open to anybody. If you are interested, please email me at Ringing_at_Home@outlook.com.
Jonathon Couchman



Alternatively you might like to learn to handle a bell and then learn method ringing.

Come along to St Gregory's on a Wednesday for 7.30pm and watch, perhaps have a go and maybe catch the bug. Both a physical and mental workout!!

Service Times and Venues.

Thursday @10.30am
HC @ St Gregory's

	9.15am—Communion * Facebook	10.45—Communion *Conference Call	16.00—Evensong Conference Call
Week 1	+8am St Gregory's Bedale	10.45 T/Watlass *11am Leeming	St Gregory's Bedale
Week 2	St Gregory's Bedale	St Mary's Thornton Watlass	Burrill Church
Week 3	St Gregory's Bedale	*10.45 T/Watlass 11am Leeming	St Mary's Thornton Watlass
Week 4	9 am Burrill Church *St Gregory's	St Mary's Thornton Watlass	St John's Leeming



Church Floodlighting

Have you noticed that in the darkness of Autumn and Winter is upon us, St Gregory's is well lit in the evenings.

The floodlighting of the tower recommenced at the end of September and is sponsored week by week. Quite often 'in memory' if requested the name can be mentioned in the Benefice Bulletin, although the sponsoring can remain totally anonymous.

To sponsor the floodlighting in memory of someone then please get in touch with Sarah in the office on 07949 006681 or by email on admin@bedale.church

***A misty night view of the
Advent Cross***



WHO'S WHO AROUND THE BENEFICE

Rector

Rev'd Canon Simon Moor samoor@bedale.church 01677 988175

Clergy

Rev'd Robin Brown robin.stel1@btinternet.com 01677 425483

Rev'd Philip Carrington philipjcarrington@gmail.com 01677 425077

Rev'd Canon Adrian Gatrill adrian.gatrill@gmail.com 07920 837256

Rev'd Andrew Woodhouse - via admin@bedale.church

Readers

Michelle Dearlove michelle@bedale.church 07483 296927

Steve Madsen snmadsen@outlook.com 01677 988178

Family Chaplain

Michelle Dearlove michelle@bedale.church 07483 296927

Parish Administrator

Sarah Ryder admin@bedale.church 07949 006681

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Linda Collingwood safeguarding@bedale.church 07944 599351

Chantry Hall Lets

Sarah Ryder admin@bedale.church 07949 006681

Bulletin and Magazine

Via the Rector or Parish Administrator

ST GREGORY, BEDALE

Church Wardens

Phillip Witty cw.phillip@bedale.church 07891 537082

Linda Collingwood cw.linda@bedale.church 07944 599351

Treasurer

Paul Carnell treasurer@bedale.Church 01677 422503

PCC Secretary

Sarah Ryder admin@bedale.church 07949 006681

Organist

Richard Boyton rickdomino47@aol.com 01677 425800

Bell Ringers

Rev Robin Brown robin.stel1@btinternet.com 01677 425483

Electoral Roll Officer

Andy Winkle andyjwinkle@gmail.com 01677 424306

MISSION CHURCH, BURRILL

Church Warden

Chris Griffiths chrisandmargie@btinternet .com 01677 422632

Treasurers

John Gill jd.gill@btinternet.com 07850 922035

PCC Secretaries

Elaine Averis elaineaveris@gmail.com 01677 424300

Jonathon Page 077894 36119

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, THORNTON WATLASS

Church Warden

Christopher Carruthers cjcskiwatlass@aol.com 01677 423519

Treasurer

Rick Dunn rickkdunn16@gmail.com 01677 426835

PCC Secretary

Carol Armstrong carol.armstrong21@outlook.com 01677 460063

Organist

Christine Carruthers cjcskiwatlass@aol.com 01677 423519

Electoral Roll Officer

Anne Jardin 01677 422317

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, LEEMING

Church Warden

Elizabeth Pratt dandep Pratt@hotmail.com 01677 427117

Chris Lyon chrislyon_52@hotmail.co.uk 01677 425168

Treasurer and PCC Secretary

Diane Crisp mail@thecrisps.plus.com 01677 426049

Organist

Joan Lyon chrislyon_52@hotmail.co.uk 01677 425168

Electoral Roll Officer

Joyce Barker 01609 774108

Sharing and Caring in our Community

Food for thought



I am very pleased to be able to share some exciting news with you.

As you know we work alongside with the Schools in the Benefice, one being Mowbray.

As part of the school's curriculum and community engagement, they are always looking at ways that they can help and support others.

I have had the pleasure of being invited by Mrs Cleary one of the Cookery Teachers, to do some themed recipe demonstrations over the past couple of years and working alongside students in helping prepare for special events, one of which being the Big Jubilee Tea last summer.

Well, I am pleased to let you know that some of the cookery pupils have agreed to share their talents with us and they will be making us some scrummy treats which we will be selling at Tuesday Togetherness so keep your eyes and ears open for that.

From the Art (No, it's not a spelling Mistake)

You may have noticed that the walls in Chantry Hall have looked a little bare for a while, so I approached the Art Department at Mowbray School and am delighted to share that they have agreed to exhibit some of the pupils work and are hopefully going to produce some works of art to support the Clock Festival.

Miss Brownless, the Art teacher has said they have some exciting pieces which are ready to display now on the theme of animal

collage faces and, next term the project will be about animals, insects, beetles, butterflies and bees.

Miss Brownless said the Clock Festival sounds very exciting and would love to plan and create something and she thanked us for considering them and giving the opportunity.

We look forward to working together on these exciting projects.

Michelle

News from Thornton Watlass

As I write this in the middle of January, not far from the beginning of a new year, it seems appropriate to consider what we think about time. I commend a re-reading of



Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verses 1-15 to you. We are reminded that God is in control of everything that happens, that what-

ever season we are in we can see God in it and as He is always faithful to us so we should try even harder to be faithful to Him as we face up to the challenges ahead of us in the coming year.

When I was teaching at Bedale High School one of my favourite themes for morning assembly was to talk about time. I still maintain that we do not always appreciate the value of the time that is allotted to us in this life and we certainly don't always use it wisely. At university I was introduced to the works of Michel Quoist, a French Roman Catholic priest, and still occasionally read passages from his "Prayers of Life." There is a passage in there called "Lord I Have Time." You can find it by typing "Lord I Have Time" into Google and it should be there. I recommend a reading of it as it gets us all to think about our use of time and to stop trying to convince ourselves that we "never have time!"

“All complain that they haven’t enough time. They look at their lives from too human a point of view. There is always time to do what God wants us to do, but we must put ourselves completely into each moment that He offers us.” Whether or not you are one of those people that makes New Year resolutions I think we could do a lot worse than to take on board what Michel Quoist is saying to us all.

Prayer:

*Lord Jesus Christ,
there are times when we have not done what we ought;
a time to embrace, to reach out – but we chose not to;
a time to weep with others – but we chose not to;
a time to laugh with others – but we chose not to;
a time to plant – but we chose not to;
a time to build up – but we chose not to;
a time to remain silent – but we chose not to;
a time to speak up – but we chose not to.*

Forgive us for we are sorry.

*Help us recognise the times we need to be present
and the times we need to act.*

Give us the courage to not walk away.

*I am not asking you today, Lord,
for time to do this and then that,
but your grace to do conscientiously,
in the time that you give, what you want me to do.*

AMEN

As many of you know Thornton Watlass Church runs a “Hundred Club” draw each month and the time has come to either renew memberships or take out a new one. Subscriptions remain at £12 for the year, £1 per month. Two prizes each month. If you wish to join for 2023 then please let me have your cheque (payable to “PCC of Thornton Watlass”) or cash at your earliest convenience. (Chris Carruthers, School House, Thornton Watlass, Ripon, HG4 4AH). Many thanks to those who support our church in this way. The first draw will take place in mid February and will be for the two months of January and February. “You can’t win if you’re not in!”

Chris Carruthers

Words From Leeming

I know it’s a bit late folks, but Happy New Year. I’m sure that all of us are glad to see the back of 2022. We wish everyone good health and happiness throughout 2023.



So, what’s been going on in Leeming since the last issue? We had a chilly, but well attended, service of Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. It was nice to see that more people are attending each year. A really nice touch was the appearance of a new sculpture” (replacing the one that was “removed” last year), many thanks to our anonymous Artist, see the picture overleaf.

Our local school continue to amaze and entertain us all with their superb productions in church. The Nativity was, as usual, wonderfully produced and enthusiastically performed by all the children who obviously love doing it. Likewise, their production, in November, was first class and very well attended during both performances. Credit must be given to the dedication and skill of all of the staff who assisted and coached this very talented group of children.

As with all our Benefice churches, December was very busy, with services well attended and our ladies decorated the entire church beautifully. Our Christmas Communion service seems to be well received as we have it earlier in the evening (7:30). We're all getting on a bit now and like to be back home well before Midnight!!

Looking forward, thinking caps are on to see if it would be viable to do something within the church for the forthcoming Coronation.

Anyone else doing the same? On a similar theme, our lovely church will be celebrating its 600th anniversary next year. I'm looking into updating our small brochure that describes a great deal of its history and have learned today of a large amount of documents about the church that are available to me to scan/copy. I foresee a lot of interesting hours for me trawling through it all.

So, there we have it. An interesting, busy and enjoyable couple of months. Lots to look forward to throughout 2023 and especially 2024.

Chris L

STOP PRESS: Record numbers at our Coffee Morning this month. It continues to go from strength to strength. Many thanks to all who attend and support us on the 3rd Thursday of each month (10:00am-12:30pm).

This photograph shows the replacement for the "mini sculpture" that appeared on the War Memorial, and was subsequently stolen, as per my earlier reference. It just appeared!! I know who the donor is, but he does not wish to be named. We think he's the same gentleman who left a lovely Christmas scene which was subsequently displayed in St John's Church

