

## For your Diary – August 2017

30 July	11-4	National Gardens Scheme Open Day at Coverham Abbey (Coverdale Churches to do refreshments, in aid of Church Funds).
2 August	10.30am	Drop in for coffee and chat, East Witton Parish Room
21 August	2pm	St John's Cleaning Session
23 August	10.30am	Drop in for coffee and chat, East Witton Parish Room
26 August		Deanery Presence at The Wensleydale Show
27 August	11am	Service on the Green at East Witton – collection for Yorkshire Air Ambulance
28 August	2pm	East Witton Bank Holiday Sale
31 August	2pm	Bridge Collation

### Parish of Middleham with Coverdale and East Witton and Thornton Steward - Special dates and events

11 September 7.30pm PCC meeting, Middleham

Friday 15th September at 6:30 pm at St. Botolph's, Horsehouse. Coverdale Harvest Festival

16 September, 7pm. Concert in St John's Church given by the choir of St Margaret's Church, Horsforth, Leeds.

23 September Curry Lunch, East Witton Parish Room. 12.30pm.

6 October East Witton Harvest Festival and Supper

13 October Quiz Evening, East Witton Parish Room.

21 October East Witton Parish Room, 10 am - 12 noon. Bonanza Traidcraft Sale. Gifts, cards, food, jewellery etc.



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### From the Rectory

August. What a fantastic month. It has to be my favourite. Why? Because it's holiday season and everyone stops (it's also my birthday!). As people go on holiday it's one time where work fits in with people rather than the other way around. Generally, work deadlines don't occur in August, meetings are cancelled and it can be more tricky to progress business because people are away. For me, August is up there with the week between Christmas and New Year for being a restful time when the pace slows legitimately.

When I left school I got a job in a bank. Some of my friends worked in factories. They often had set times off when the factory closed in the summer and at

Christmas. I used to tease them that they were told when to take time off whereas I could take time off whenever I wanted to. However, on reflection I think they had the best deal. Why? Because, if you're off and business is continuing as usual, when you get back from holiday you have to catch up with where everything is at. If the factory has been closed there is no catching up to do, plus you have the shared communal experience of everyone having a sense of excitement before the factory closes and any sadness about going back to work being offset by seeing colleagues who were all refreshed and eager to tell stories of where they had been.

Technological developments increase the pressure on holidays. The fact that we can receive emails and phone calls wherever we are on a variety of devices means that many are on call rather than on holiday.

Working life in recent years has become increasingly flexible. Shift work has been around for a long time but has extended to new fields. The global economy means that many office workers are now on a shift pattern rather than 9-5 as staff need to communicate globally with different markets. We require shops to open earlier in the morning and later in the evening requiring staff to work shifts. Flexibility is valued these days which gives rise to zero hours contracts and the so-called gig economy.

In my view, there is a cost to these changes. It has an impact on family life as it becomes increasingly difficult for families to eat together regularly. It's more difficult to pursue hobbies and other leisure activities which enrich our lives because it's difficult to commit to a regular time. It erodes the rhythm of a community or even a nation when there aren't regular patterns where people are working together, resting together, having fun together, celebrating together. Working Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm used to be considered boring but now it can be rather desirable. The danger is that all we do is work and are absorbed into the cycle of production.

In an increasingly fragmenting society the Church offers people and communities a rhythm to life. The Church year begins on Advent Sunday with a time of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Christ's birth. Then there are 12 days of Christmas celebration. The Christmas season moves into Epiphany, still a time of rejoicing as we think of Christ being for everyone. After a brief period of 'ordinary time' come Ash Wednesday with its theme of penitence and Lent, the period of preparation to mark Christ's death on Good Friday, before we celebrate his rising in glory on Easter Day. Easter is also a season of 40 days and is followed by Christ's Ascension into heaven and the outpouring of his Spirit at Pentecost so that his presence is everywhere. Then there is an extended period of 'ordinary time' which includes harvest and a time of remembrance before the cycle completes as we celebrate Christ the King on the Sunday before Advent. Various saints are remembered throughout the year.

Each week we have a Sabbath Day. A day of rest but also a statement of faith as we stop production for a day and trust that God will meet our needs. Monastic communities have a cycle of prayer at various times during the day.

How wonderful to be part of a global Christian community journeying with this rhythm of life and worship together, celebrating together and renewing our commitment to Christ together. How wonderful that God came in Christ and experienced the rhythms of human life and seasons with all its highs and lows.

Revd Jeff Payne.

**Are you thinking about having your baby baptized?**

**We would love to share your joy at the birth of your baby and to welcome him or her into the Christian community. If you would like to arrange a baptism in any of our churches please contact the Co-Rectors.**

**...or if you would like to have a chat about getting married in church, please speak to the Co-Rectors**



Become a 'friend' of The Parish of Middleham with Coverdale, East Witton, and Thornton Steward and visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Jervaulx.Churches/](http://www.facebook.com/Jervaulx.Churches/)

### **EAST WITTON NEWS**

The August "**Drop-ins**" will be on Wednesdays 2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10.30am in the Parish Room for an hour. Do call in for a coffee & chat: we would love to see you.

**Joint Church Cleaning Session** is on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 2.00pm. If you can spare an hour please meet at the church – you will be most welcome.



There will be a **CONCERT** in church on Saturday 16th September at 7 pm given by the choir of St Margaret's Church, Horsforth, Leeds. All welcome.

### **THANK YOU**

It was most kind of Nicky Hansell to leave the flowers from her daughter's wedding in the church for Stanley's funeral and also kind of Margaret Sharp, Eileen Clarkson and Charlotte Roberts for keeping the flowers fresh and adding lots of garden flowers to them. The church looked beautiful and Stanley would have been very pleased. Thank you also to all who sent me cards and those who offered me help & support. It cheered me up no end. *Jean Ireland.*

### **Diary Date**

St. John's church East Witton - Our next quiz will be on Friday October 13 in the Parish room at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are £6:50 and will be on sale from September 1st. Please contact Graham or Pam on 01969 625434.

### **St John's Church Bank Holiday Sale**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 2.00 pm  
East Witton Parish Room

The sale will be held in the Parish Room and will consist of the serving of Afternoon Tea, Tombola and a Raffle. Printed Raffle tickets are available in books of 10 (each ticket costing £1 – these can be sold separately) from Mary Fawbert, Karen Newsam or any church member. Prizes are: A luxury Food Hamper, Additional Hampers of Food and Toiletries, Bottles of Wine, Gift Vouchers. If you would like to contribute towards the Raffle prizes, or the Tombola, please contact the above.

## **East Witton News** *from Judy Metcalfe*

Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup>, a glorious summer day, a busy time was to take place in the village. It began with many of us going to no. 29 to support Phoebe Whitbread's Coffee Morning. It was lovely sitting out in their attractive garden enjoying coffee and delicious homemade cakes. None of us felt like rushing away; it was just super catching up and chatting to everyone. Well done Phoebe and family. We wish Phoebe well as she goes on her sponsored walk – the length of Hadrian's Wall.

Following the Coffee Morning the wedding of Iona Hansell and Nicholas Harper took place in St. John's. We send our best wishes and congratulations to both of them.

In the evening many of us took chairs and picnics onto the Green to enjoy, what has become the annual theatre on the Green. Richard Wells welcomed us and introduced Debbie and Roger from the "Library Theatre Travelling Company" who performed "Happy Jack" by John Godber after which Richard expressed our enjoyment and thanks. Thank you to the Parish Council for organising the event.

The following day our United Parish Communion Service was held in the beautiful grounds of Jervaulx Abbey. The service was led by Rev Jeff Payne and Rev. Liz Payne. It was lovely to have Leyburn Brass Band accompanying us with the hymns. Thank you to them and to Ian and Carol Burdon for allowing us to hold the service in such a beautiful place.

We were all very sad to hear the news that Stanley Ireland had died at the age of 92. Stanley was a truly remarkable gentleman who played a great part in the life of the village. He was a bell-ringer, sang in the United Parish Choir and always gave a moving word at the Remembrance Service. He joined in every activity in the village. Stanley was carried to church on the Village Bier, an old village custom. The choir sang, the church bells rang and the beautiful and heartfelt service was led by Stanley's family, with his daughter Caroline his daughter-in-law Mel and all his grandchildren giving personal tributes and readings. Stanley will be greatly missed and our love and sympathy goes to Jean and her family.

Blessed with another lovely day on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Chris Fawbert organised a knock-out quoits match in memory of his father Johnny – the winner was Billy Hudson who used to live in the village. It is great to keep these village events going. Well done Chris.

We now look forward to the Wensleydale Chorus singing in St. John's church next Saturday (22<sup>nd</sup>) evening. Another busy day with another wedding and the W.I. are to serve lunch to a coach trip.

## **COVERDALE NEWS**



### **COVERHAM ABBEY**

#### **Open Gardens and Specialist Plant Fair.**

**Sunday 30 July, 11am – 4pm.**

Private garden rarely open to the public

Knot garden within the ruined abbey vegetable garden

Wild areas, herbaceous border and lawned beds

Quality plant fair featuring top specialists and growers

Home made refreshments.

*(all tea and percentage of gate money goes to Coverdale Churches)*

Admission £3.50. Free Parking. Children Free

## **MIDDLEHAM NEWS**

### **Middleham Open Gardens**

Sunshine all the way, we were so lucky! A magnificent total of £1,263 was raised for Church funds. A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this day a success.



### **Food Bank**

We continue to support the Richmond Food Bank: If you would like to donate, please put any of the following items in the collection box at the back of church:

Cereal/porridge, UHT milk, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, squash, packet noodles, tinned meals (chilli, stew), tins - vegetables, meat, fish, or fruit, pie in a tin, tinned pasta, packet pasta and sauce, tinned beans, packet noodles, jars of sandwich fillings, jars of jam, rice pudding Thank you.