



BRIDGE

December 2021 /January 2022

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

Bridge over River Cover – with thanks to Liz Sheehan

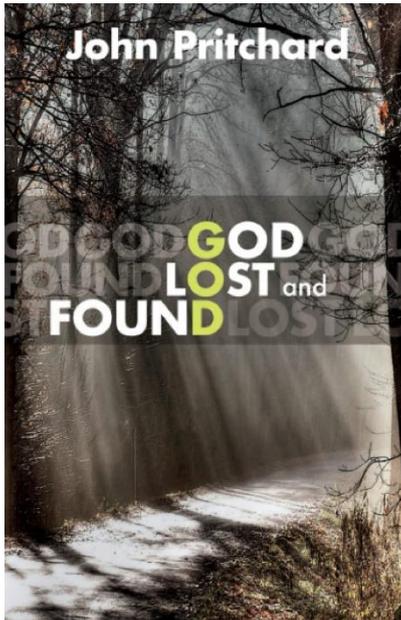
Please cascade 'Bridge' to others.

Please email jervaulxliz@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

If you have any photos of bridges in the parish, please send them to jervaulxliz@gmail.com

Letter From the Rectory by Rev'd Jeff

In November I succumbed to Covid19 which meant that I experienced the tedium of self-isolation. Many in the parish will have experienced this too. During my isolation I read a book called God Lost and Found by John Pritchard who was Bishop of Oxford until his retirement in 2014.



He cites a number of reasons which cause people to lose faith, things like:

- Frustration with Church. There isn't enough 'shock and awe'. The rites and ceremonies feel empty.
- The tragedies of life, for example, illness, lost livelihood and many other ways that can make us feel that God has abandoned us or doesn't care.
- The tsunami of other ideas, for example, consumerism, atheism which overwhelm us and we feel isolated as a person of faith.

Pritchard makes the following suggestions to help re-establish our faith are:

- Re-imagining our faith. Remembering that it's about a relationship with Jesus rather than rituals. The rituals are there to help the relationship but can become empty rituals. Sometimes we struggle to connect with our friends because the internet has gone down or the 'phone doesn't work but that doesn't mean they're not our friend anymore.
- Earth's crammed with heaven. As we look round the natural world we see God's handiwork in its beauty, in its intricacy and diversity, in its detail and its magnitude. These can reinvigorate our sense of wonder.
- Communities of Grace. Find a Church where we do encounter God in the worship and see faith making a difference in the lives of the congregation.

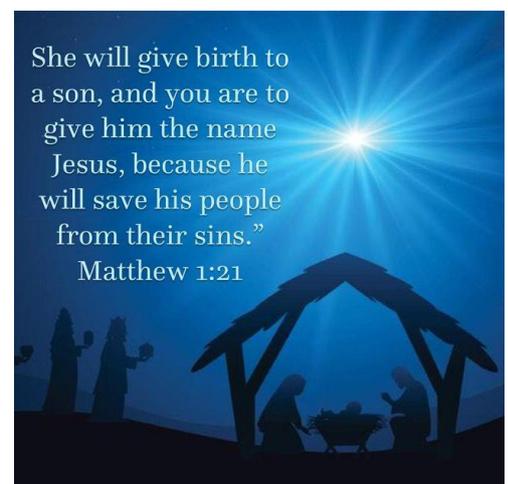
These suggestions resonate with the Christmas season. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God coming into the world for our salvation. Celebrating a birthday helps us to remember that our faith is a relationship with a person.

As the earth is crammed with heaven, all the fulness of God was crammed into this one person, Jesus. Nature might reveal some of the characteristics of God in the world but nothing compares with Jesus. He supremely reveals what God is like.

This Christmas I would encourage you to attend one of our carol services that are advertised elsewhere in Bridge. When the community of grace comes together and hears the Christmas story in readings and sings praise to God in the rich words of the traditional carols it is an uplifting experience which inclines our souls towards God.

If your faith is feeling a bit wobbly this Christmas time don't worry, you're not the first. Come and be inspired by the message of Christmas. When we come through the difficult time, we find that our faith is stronger. Pritchard likens our relationship with God to a marriage relationship. The fireworks of the early days might die down but what emerges over the years is much deeper. Merry Christmas!

Verse of the month: Matthew 1: 21 (see right)



OPEN PANTRY

Emergency food supplies available:

Text/ phone 07796 988302 Or pm Lorna Skelton on Middleham Residents Facebook page. Confidential



HELPLINE: Citizens Advice Money & Benefits Advice Service, N Yorks

Call 0300 3031 598 Monday to Friday 9.00 to 4.00

Email advice can be requested via the contact form on website cany.org.uk

Extra Legal Help for North Yorkshire Residents

... for those who need it to solve problems in their everyday lives, and support for those representing themselves in court. Three newly recruited legal advisers are already helping clients with issues around housing, family and discrimination.

Office Opening times

Citizens Advice Offices in Mid-North Yorkshire are open for emergencies or for clients unable to access online or telephone support.

Northallerton Mon & Thur 10.00 – 14.00 Hambleton: 277 High St, Northallerton DL7 8DW. Tel: 01609 776551

Richmond Tuesday 10.00 – 14.00 Richmondshire: 23 Newbiggin, Richmond, DL10 4DX. Tel: 01748 823862

www.citizensadvicehrs.org.uk



Who is eligible for help? Anyone who is unable to afford their energy bills or worried about heating their home. People on low incomes or benefits Families with young children. Anyone with physical or mental health issues. **Phone 01609 767555**

Hear To Help [Just B](#)



Just B is offering emotional wellbeing support to people in the Harrogate District, Hambleton and Richmondshire, with the 'Hear to Help' phonenumber. Available to anyone who may be dealing with anxiety/low mood etc - children, young people, and adults. Available seven days a week, 8am-8pm.

Call (01423) 856 799. Calls charged at local rates/ may vary on time of day/maybe inc in your call package.

People's Postcode Lottery Scam



Police have warned about a new scam doing the rounds.

Criminals have been sending out fake messages and making phone calls to convince a person that they have won a lottery or a prize draw. The victim is then informed that they will need to pay an advance "fee" in order to receive the winnings.

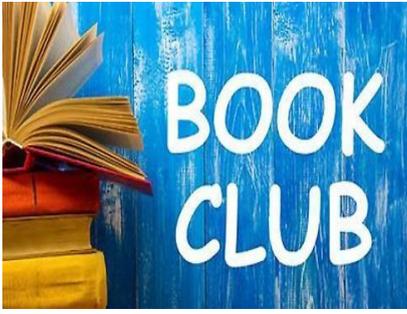
Victims are commonly asked to pay these advance fees by purchasing gift cards and relaying codes to the fraudster.

In some instances, victims have reported being asked for personal and financial information in order to obtain their "winnings". Some victims

reported providing their bank details thinking they would be sent a small payment to verify the account. In reality, criminals use these details to steal the victim's money.

If you receive a letter from The People's Postcode Lottery, stating that you have won a large sum, please DO NOT give your bank or personal details out. Please check with the official company before you take any action. The letters look exceptionally professional and it's easy to be duped.

Andy Fox (Police, Financial Abuse Safeguarding Officer, North Yorkshire)



Coverdale Book Club

Our next meeting is on Tuesday December 14th at 11am when we will be discussing *Mothering Sunday* by Graham Swift.

In the following month we are meeting on Tuesday January 11th at 11am when we will be discussing *Home Fire* by Kamila Shamsie.

All meetings are being held in The Foresters Arms, Carlton. If you'd like to join us, please email martindstott@gmail.com

Author Rhiannon Jenkins Tsang visits Coverdale Book Club by Martin Stott

Author Rhiannon Jenkins Tsang was the special guest at October's meeting of the Coverdale Book Club. Rhiannon has written several books including *The Last Vicereine* and most recently an Anglo-Indian love story, *The Dream that Held Us*, which is partly set in a fictional Yorkshire Dale with a strong resemblance to Coverdale!



Rhiannon has strong links to our area. Her parents, Edgar and Isobel Jenkins, have been popular visitors to Carlton for many years. Rhiannon has fond childhood memories of building dams in all the streams in the Dale, and milking the cows with old Simon Horner.

The book club members enjoyed hearing how Rhiannon (pictured in orange) had the inspiration for her novels and the process of how she formulated her ideas into a finished novel. The discussion, held

in the Foresters Arms, continued over an excellent lunch.

Rhiannon's novels are available from Amazon and to order from local bookshops. The Coverdale Book club meets monthly. If you'd like to join us, please email martindstott@gmail.com

Leyburn Library Service

STORYTIME

Stories and craft activities for 0-5 years

Alternate Saturdays 10.30am-11.15am – check on the Library Facebook page

BUZZY BEE for 0-4 year olds - collect your Goody bag when you register, stickers to collect every time you visit the library and take books home to read

LIBRARY OPEN FOR BROWSING

Mondays 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm Tuesdays 10am-4.30pm Fridays 10am-3pm Saturdays 10am-12pm

We are OPEN for customers to Browse, to pick up reservations, and to return books. You are all very welcome.

PUBLIC COMPUTERS: Available whenever the library is open. No booking required.

Technical advice Tuesdays 12.30-2.30pm, just drop-in



East Witton News

Sincere thanks to all who attended the St John's, East Witton, Quiz Night on October 22nd. It was a pleasure to welcome so many new and familiar faces.

A sign with the words "QUIZ NIGHT" written in blue, glowing letters on a dark background.

£340 was raised for church funds, which is very much appreciated.

Pam and Graham Rhodes

SAVE THE DATE: The date of the next proposed quiz is March 18th 2022.



Saturday 4 December 10 – 12pm

Christmas Coffee Morning

with stalls

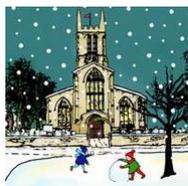
in the Parish Room, East Witton



Carol Singing in East Witton village

arranged by St. John's Church, East Witton, will be taking place on

Wednesday 15th December. This will be around East Witton Village only this year. Please gather at the bottom of the village green at **6.30 p.m.** Donations for the carol singing will be shared between Martin House Children's Hospice and the upkeep of St. John's Churchyard.



Christmas Services at St John's, East Witton:

Christmas Eve 3pm Crib Service

Christmas Eve 7.30pm Christmas Communion



EAST WITTON AUTHOR, David Watterson, a resident of East Witton, has used the recent lull in school work due to the Covid pandemic to undertake some serious writing work.

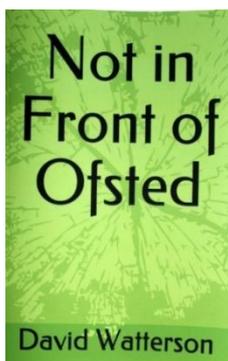
The latest of his five books has its climax in Middleham. Part 1 of the 'The Amazing Adventures of a Small School' takes the reader to the mystical and beautiful islands of Orkney. In Part 2, a valuable icon, missing for 500 years is traced to the town where the object was left when Middleham was known as Medelai. The story also uses the location of Jervaulx Abbey in 1536 and 2021, as well as mentioning the rood screen being preserved at Aysgarth.

Although written with adults in mind, the book is suitable for children 9 years and over as well. His experience as a head, his local knowledge of Coverdale and experiences in Orkney, helped him to write the book.

David was a headteacher for over 25 years, but has spent the last 17 years touring the length and breadth of the UK with his collection of over 200

puppets, undertaking interactive workshops in schools. David

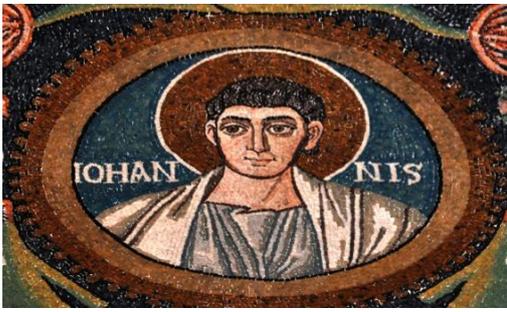
moved to the area 10 years ago when taking a break from his workshops to teach for a year and half at Leyburn Primary School. Next year he will undertake his fifth story-telling tour of the Orkney islands.



One of his other books will make entertaining reading for anyone working in education – it is called 'Not in Front of Ofsted' and is a tongue-in-cheek journal of real happenings in a real school. It has been receiving excellent reviews from its readers. The other three books are all for children.



The books can be sampled and bought on Amazon Books and are available worldwide.



St John the Evangelist Patronal Festival: will be celebrated on Sunday 26 December at 11am St John's, East Witton

John is reputed to have been the youngest of Jesus' disciples. He and his brother, James, were fishermen and were nicknamed 'Sons of Thunder' by Jesus, suggesting that they were a bit of a force to be reckoned with. He was also one of Jesus' closest friends.

John wrote the gospel of John – including the famous words in every Christmas Eve service: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word

was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.'

We will celebrate John's faith and witness at our service on 26 December. (Above left: 6th century mosaic, Ravenna)



A Rose for Oma

'A Rose for Oma' was written and read by Ursula Bussey's granddaughter, Eleanor Gill, for the occasion of Ursula's Memorial Service at St John's, East Witton, 30.10.21

'Every time I came up north to visit my grandparents at Rookery cottage, the first thing I'd see upon arrival and the last thing I saw before I left was always the beautiful roses growing in the garden. Therefore as a memoir to my Oma, I was inspired to write this poem.'

A Rose for Oma by Eleanor Gill

Bursting into the world she pushes out of the seed's shell into the damp earth.

Earth that gets pushed aside as she seeks the light above.

Above her lies many challenges yet she does not falter to reach them, curious in her approach yet fierce in her ambition,

Ambition to take them all on.

Onwards she rises until she emerges victorious, an independent young shoot making its way through.

Throughout her life she continues to grow day by day

Daily seeking out the sunlight in the world around her.

Her content only comes when she is finally surrounded by others,

Others that are both alike and unlike in their nature.

Nature then begins to take its course and it is here surrounded by everyone that she blossoms,

Blossoming into a flower so full of scent and spirit that to pass her by is enough to make your heart flutter.

Fluttering in the wind, her flowerhead blooms full of soft, delicate petals

Petals as red as lipstick and as soft as the heart of an angel.

Angelic in her stance, yet resilient in her nature as time passes her by.

By and by her petals finally begin to fall.

Falling to rest at last on her flowerbed she lies.

Laying amongst the leaves.

Leaving an empty hole in the life around her, in the space where she once grew.

But it is thanks to this space that other life may now grow, on their own search for the sunlight in the world, guided by her forged paths.

Paths that began at the same soil where she now lies forth.

For she would give herself in its entirety to nourish the lives of others.

Others who now gather around her fallen body to pay their respects, as life cycles onwards and what was once resting beneath is now ingrained into the very beings of those who surround her.

Coverdale News



Coverdale WI

Over 65s Christmas dinner with entertainment

Residents aged 65+ of Coverdale you are invited to our
Thursday 2nd December - 6.00pm for 6.30 start at
Coverdale Memorial Hall, Carlton.



Please book your place before 22nd November with the following people: Sara on 01969 6400550 or Julie Clarke 640271



Muker Silver Band

Sunday 5th December - Doors Open 1:30pm for 2:30pm start

Mulled wine, cake & raffle

Tickets in Advance £10 - PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL (Memorial Hall, Carlton)

Margaret 01969 640200 or Howard 01969 640689



Christmas Services:

Coverham Carols:

Sunday 19th December at
2.30pm Coverham churchyard
– *with mulled wine*

Christmas Eve Family Service 7.30 pm at the Methodist Chapel, Carlton

Christmas Eve Service 9.30pm
at St Botolph's Horsehouse



Tailgate Theatre Productions are coming to
Coverdale Memorial Hall on

Wednesday 29th December 1.30pm for 2pm

Followed by refreshments Adults £8 U16 £5

Tickets from

Margaret 01969 640200 or

Howard 01969 640689

Please wear warm clothes

Coverdale WWI Veterans – information sought

Val Slater is updating the profiles of Coverdale WWI Veterans who featured in the centenary exhibition in Coverdale Memorial Hall in 2018. If you have any further information about the men named on the plaque in the Hall - some are also on the plaque in Coverham Church - please get in touch with Val.

A mystery man is 'H LOFTHOUSE - KING'S ROYAL RIFLES'. He doesn't seem to belong to the Lofthouse family of Carlton Highdale (Revd Ralph Lofthouse's branch) and to further confuse us, there is no H Lofthouse recorded as ever having served with the KRR. Any clues welcome as he is the only unidentified person on the list.

A repeat of the Coverdale Veterans Exhibition is planned for

Saturday 1 October 2022 in the Memorial Hall, by which time an accompanying book should be ready. Thanks in advance.

Val Slater vgslater55@icloud.com Middleham and Dales Local History Group

Photo: Richard (Dick) Polden Walls – KRR, Val's grandad



Thornton Steward News



Carol Service: Friday 17th December at 6.30pm

Gather near the bus stop opposite the green for a service of Christmas carols and Christmas readings. Everyone is most welcome (plus canine friends.) Followed by mulled wine and minced pies in the village (outdoors)

Christmas Day Service: 11am at St Oswald's

Middleham News

Christmas Services



Town Carols and switching on Christmas lights

Friday 3rd December at 6.30pm. Gather in the square.

Followed by mince pies and mulled drinks.

Christingle – Sunday 19th December at 3pm Middleham church

Christmas Day – 10am Christmas service for all the family with Holy Communion



Over 60s Luncheon Club Christmas lunch is on Thursday 9th December at 12pm at the Key Centre.

Ring 01969 624 002 to book

Women in Middleham – WIMS

Tuesday, December 14th 2021: (Garden Room, Key Centre 7pm) our speaker is Glennis Whyte, who volunteers at York's most haunted property, The Treasures House, and she will relate some of its ghostly tales.



Thursday January 13th 2022: Members lunch, (which will include a raffle in aid of Yorkshire Cancer Research) at the Garden Rooms, Tennants Auction House. Even if you are not a member of W.I.M. you can attend up to three meetings per year for £1 per meeting. Just turn up on the night, you'll be made very welcome.



Ripon Cathedral Christmas Services www.riponcathedral.org.uk/christmas/

In the Bleak Mid-Winter: Weds Dec 1st 10am – 11am

A quiet, reflective service for those who find Christmas difficult.

Festival Of Lessons & Carols: 5.30pm – 7pm on Sun 19th Dec, Thurs 23rd Dec & Christmas Eve.

Come and hear the Cathedral Choir sing some wonderful familiar Christmas music in the spectacular surroundings of a candlelit Ripon Cathedral. Non ticketed event

Journey to Bethlehem: Christmas Eve 11 – 11.45am – families' service with dressing up.

Christmas Eve: Midnight Mass 11 – 11.45pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion 8 – 9am Traditional said service including the singing of one Christmas carol.

Christmas Day Festal Eucharist 10.30am – 12pm Music and readings with incense and ceremony to mark the birth of the saviour of the world, with the choristers and lay clerks of the cathedral choir.



The Parish of Middleham with Coverdale, East Witton and Thornton Steward 'Jervaulx Churches'

Private Prayer in Church: Horsehouse, Thornton Steward, and East Witton are now open every day for private prayer. Middleham is open Sunday – Friday.

Parish e-services:

Sundays - a weekly email service of worship

Wednesdays - a weekly email reflection following 'We make the road by walking' by Brian McLaren – pursuing 'aliveness'. Please email jervaulxliz@gmail.com – to be added (BCC) to our email services group.

Sunday Worship – everyone is welcome to all of our services

We are continuing to encourage people to follow the guidance that face masks are 'expected and recommended' to be worn indoors, including church, though they may be removed when seated during the service.

Sunday 5 Dec	11am	East Witton Church Holy Communion
Sunday 12 Dec	10am	Middleham Church Holy Communion
	11am	East Witton Church Holy Communion
Friday 17 Dec	6.30pm	Thornton Steward Carol Service Gather at the bus stop opposite the green
Sunday 19 Dec	10am	Middleham Church Holy Communion
	2.30pm	Carol Service, Coverham Churchyard <i>with mulled wine</i>
	3pm	Christingle at Middleham Church
Christmas Eve	3pm	Crib Service at East Witton Church
	7.30pm	Christmas Eve Communion East Witton
	9.30pm	Christmas Eve Communion Horsehouse
Christmas Day	10am	Christmas Day Communion Middleham
	11am	Christmas Day Communion Thornton Steward
Sunday 26 Dec	11am	East Witton St John the Evangelist Patronal Festival with Holy Communion

Sunday 2 Jan	9.30am	Middleham Holy Communion
	11am	East Witton Holy Communion
Sunday 9 Jan		Plough Sunday
Sunday 16 Jan	9.30am	Middleham Church Holy Communion
	11am	Horsehouse Church Holy Communion
Sunday 23 Jan	9.30am	Middleham Holy Communion
	11am	East Witton Morning Worship and Holy Baptism
Sunday 30 Jan	11am	East Witton Holy Communion
	3pm	Middleham: Candlemas – festoon of candles

Methodist Services in Coverdale in Dec/ Jan:



Dec 5 th	Carlton Chapel at 10.30am	Led by Ruth Poultney
Dec 12 th	Melmerby Chapel 10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Melanie Reed
Dec 19 th	Carlton Chapel at 10.30am	Led by Rowland Dent
Dec 26 th	No Methodist services in Coverdale	
Jan 2 nd	Carlton Chapel at 10.30am	Locally arranged
Jan 9 th	Melmerby Chapel at 10.30am	Led by Rachel Martin
Jan 16 th	Carlton Chapel at 10.30am	Covenant Service led by Rev Melanie Reed
Jan 23 rd	Melmerby Chapel at 10.30am	Led by Rowland Dent
Jan 30 th	Carlton Chapel at 10.30am	Led by Rowland Dent

Christmas Eve Family Service at Melmerby Chapel at 6.30pm led by Rev Kathy Couchman

Walk with Jesus, witness to others, worship the Lord



Bellringing in our parish

If you are interested in finding out more about bellringing please email wensleydaleringers@gmail.com or via Facebook at Wensleydale Ringers, via twitter at [#wensleydaleringers](https://twitter.com/wensleydaleringers)



A thin place?

Monastics ages past looked for a place, or the place, where they would be closer to God; trying to bring the Kingdom of Heaven nearer. Some, for many reasons, chose geographically 'perfect' places, many on mountain tops; remote places, were popular. Peace, tranquility and being at one with nature is possible, even today.

Can we, in today's world, act out as a monastic? It is possible.

Taster: As a taster we invite you to join us for a monastic day. A day of prayer, reading the offices, a little 'monastic' work and silence plus reflection on

Tuesday 1st February 2022.

If you are interested contact Neil: neil.mabbott@gmail.com

Biodiversity in the churchyard, Middleham



Holly – *Ilex aquifolium*

Holly is something we associate with Christmas with its glossy green leaves and bright red berries.

But holly also helps support our ecosystem and encourages biodiversity. It provides dense cover

and good nesting opportunities for birds, and its leaf litter can be used by hedgehogs and small mammals for hibernation.

Holly flowers in late Spring/ early Summer, and provides nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects. The leaves are eaten by caterpillars of the holly blue butterfly (*above right*), along with those of various moths, for example, the yellow-barred brindle (*right*).



The berries are a vital source of food for birds and small mammals during the winter.

Mistle thrushes seem particularly fond of them as they will defend 'their' holly bush in the winter to stop other birds eating the berries.

No berries? There are holly trees in Middleham churchyard – but they don't have berries. Why not? Holly is dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers occur on different trees and cross pollination is necessary for berries to be produced. So either the trees are female, and have not been pollinated and so have not produced any berries, or they are male, which do not produce berries.

Symbolism? In Christianity, the sharpness of the leaves recall the crown of thorns worn by Jesus on his way to crucifixion, and the red berries are a symbol of his blood shed for forgiveness. The fact that holly is evergreen is a metaphor for eternal life. These symbols, as well as the fact that holly maintains its bright colours through the winter and makes a joyful decoration, made it a natural choice to help celebrate the season of Christmas.

The Holly and the Ivy – a traditional Christmas carol: [The Holly And The Ivy With Words/Lyrics - YouTube](#) – extols the virtues of holly and relates it to the crucifixion, bringing the events of Easter into Christmas.

The holly and the ivy

When they are both full grown
Of all trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown

Refrain: O, the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing in the choir

The holly bears a blossom
White as the lily flow'r
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our dear Saviour *Refrain*

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good *Refrain*

The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn *Refrain*

The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all *Refrain*

The holly and the ivy
When they are both full grown
Of all trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown

Weddings, Funerals and Christenings Update:

Weddings: Weddings are permitted but local restrictions may apply. Please check with the venue.

Funerals: Funeral directors have current information on government guidelines, & parish policies which vary.

FRUITFUL LIVES



ROOTED IN LOVE

The Federation of Middleham (VA) and Spennithorne (VC)
CE Primary Schools

Executive Headteacher – Mrs Marie Mann

A PLACE TO LEARN, LOVE & GROW

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17: 7 - 8

Phone: Middleham 01969 623592 or Spennithorne 01969 623474

Midday Supervisor

Required for The Federation of Middleham and Spennithorne Primary Schools

Part Time (1 hour per day, 12 noon-1pm, Term time only)

Fixed Term Contract to 31.08.22, Starting as soon as possible

£9.43 per hour

The Federation has a vacancy for a part-time Mid-day Supervisor based at Middleham school. Applicants must be able to come into School for an hour at lunch time for five days per week. It may be possible to offer the post as a job share, whereby two people or more, share the five hours per week. You will be required to supervise the children during their lunch and then during lunchtime play. You will be required to undergo training relevant to the role.

An enhanced DBS Check will be required.

If you are interested, please call Mrs Martin or Mrs Ramsay for an application form.

Relief Bus Driver

Do you have a PCV driving licence?

We are looking for an additional bus driver to join our team.

If you are interested, please call Mrs Martin for further details.

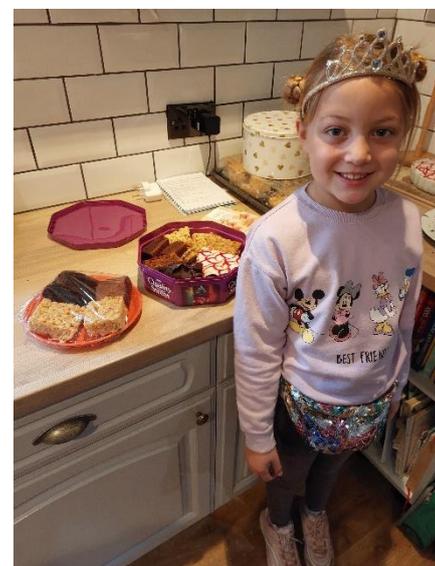
An enhanced DBS Check will be required.

This half term in Collective Worship the children at The Federation of Middleham (VA) and Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools have been focusing on the Christian value 'Compassion' and the theme of 'Love Your Neighbour'. The children have been looking at themselves and others. Ella, (*bottom right*) who is in Year 3 was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. As you can imagine, it has been quite a year for Ella and her family. They have had to adapt to coping with some significant changes as a family. We are so proud of how resilient they have been, in particular Ella who has been so brave and manages her diabetes with such a mature attitude.

This year also marks 100 years since Canadian doctors Frederick Banting and Charles Best had one of the biggest type 1 breakthroughs in history – the discovery of insulin!

As a Federation we wanted to support a diabetes charity and decided to choose JDFR, which is a charity that funds research to improve treatment for people with type 1 diabetes and strive to one day find a cure!

The children in each class decided on various "100 Challenges" and raised sponsorship money to support the charity.



As our core Christian value is love we wanted to spread a little love and happiness as part of our celebration with 'acts of kindness'. The children and families committed to acts of kindness including:

- Making packed lunches for my family for the rest of the term
- Sweeping up my elderly neighbour's leaves
- Helping to keep my house tidy and clearing the dinner table

It was lots of fun to take part in the many 100 challenges (including 100 laps of the school field), we also planted 100 spring bulbs in the shape of 100 and are looking forward to watching this grow in the new year. An excellent day of collaborating and sharing love within in our community.

As we head into the Christmas season we are preparing for our Christmas play: Stable Story.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas from all at FEDMAS.

Above left you can see Ella, who baked 100 treats to give as gifts to people.

Above right: F Banting and C Best who discovered insulin. Photo: H Mahon 1921

File:Photograph of F.G. Banting and C.H. Best with a dog on the roof of the Medical Building (12309019434).jpg - Wikimedia Commons



Friends of Middleham and Spennithorne Schools: Hamper Raffle

Unfortunately we made the decision to cancel the Christmas Fayre this year due to the extreme weather forecast and rising Covid cases in the area. We are now going to make up several hampers with all your kind donations and create a Christmas prize grid, £5 per square. Please let me know how many squares you would like to buy!!

Please contact me via Facebook

or text/ phone/ Whatsapp: 07866132787

or email wheelerskmj@aol.co.uk

or contact either school.



The draw will be made the week commencing 13th December.

Thank you.

Kathy Wheeler





Winter is coming!

It's getting close to Christmas and the school is starting to flood with festivity and excitement. One of the most thrilling developments for our school, and especially for our choir of around 30 students, has been the opportunity to compose a new song and perform it in the glorious surroundings of Ripon Cathedral.



The song, which is called '100 Years of the Poppy', was composed with actress, singer and The Voice finalist Bethzienna Williams, making the experience even more memorable for everyone in the choir. We rehearsed for weeks, leading up to us all travelling to the Remembrance Day ceremony in Ripon on Friday 12th November, where we performed in front of an audience of hundreds of people. We will never forget this day!

Back in the school itself, our timetable has had a shake up, with a new subject - Oracy - introduced for year 7, 8 and 9: Oracy is all about us learning a vital life skill - being able to voice our opinions, political and personal, and to express ourselves fluently. We believe this is important because not only does it

help us find our voices, it also teaches us how to listen well to others, which is an essential communication skill.

The School Council has now been reintroduced so one student from each form group has the opportunity to run for it. We are excited about this because it gives the students a chance to debate what they think should happen in our school, and express our opinions, so those oracy lessons should come in handy!

In other news, to make our school as inclusive as possible, a lift has been added to give people access to our higher corridors.

The enrichment programme has changed slightly for the new half-term, giving people the opportunity to try new activities. There is now a murder mystery club, graphic novels, gardening, football and the opportunity to learn heritage crafts, calligraphy and engineering as well as some much needed revision time for year 11 as they prepare for their GCSEs.

In our forms, we have all packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, which is a charity campaign organised by Samaritans Purse ([Operation Christmas Child](http://OperationChristmasChild.org.uk) (samaritans-purse.org.uk)) Every form group has collected toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and other beautiful gifts to give to children around the world.

It has reminded us all of how lucky we are at this time of year. Merry Christmas!



Bird notes from Richard Wells

It has all seemed so unnaturally quiet. The bird news of late autumn and early winter is supposed to be about big numbers – parties of geese several hundred-strong, fieldfares and redwings gorging themselves on hawthorn and holly berries, sizeable numbers of lapwings flying over the parishes on migration.

There has been next to none of this so far in late 2021. There was one morning when I saw four parties of fieldfares probably totalling 300 birds, pass over. Yes, the occasional small group of lapwings have put in a brief look-in. But that has been about it. *(Top right, lapwing in flight AJ Cronin)*

I hope the reason for this is due to a phenomenally warm and dry period which is allowing the migrants to stay in continental Europe to feed rather than being forced by cold weather to fly across the North Sea to join us. Let us believe that the birds are there somewhere, just not with us.

The same is true of our garden birds. Nothing to write home about. Perhaps they are still in the hedges feeding and have not found the need – yet – to enjoy what our garden plants and bird feeders have to offer.



As I write a cold snap is forecast. Even a threat of sleet!! Perhaps that will enliven our avian friends to delight us, whether we are out for a walk in the countryside or at home looking out over our gardens.

Paul Thurlow told me about a large barn owl hunting between Thornton Steward and Jervaulx. My highlights in November have been two groups of siskin – one on the banks of the Ure near the Cover Bridge Inn; the other near the Stepping Stones. *Left – female siskin. Bottom right – male siskin.*

Little Egrets are a regular sighting between East Witton and Jervaulx and what were 8 little grebe (*below left*) doing on the Ure near Harkers Beck? They are usually to be seen in ponds and lakes. Perhaps these were devoid of water after such a dry spell and the Ure was their lifeline.

Let me know your sightings at rmwellsew14@gmail.com



OUT OF BOUNDS by Mike Sweeting

Why choose this subject? Two reasons. This article tells **you** something about me. It tells **us** something about **us**. To the first, you might respond with a 'meh, so what?'; but to the second, possibly quite worthwhile?

I have always been attracted by barriers, boundaries, and borders. If there is an edge, I want to be over it! As a little boy, just going from Nursery to 'big' school, we were given a solemn lecture about not going 'out of bounds', which meant some nearby scrubland. My little friend Simon Coney and I had made a base in those woods within that same day. Most breaks on most days were spent there rather than the playground.

When moving school, I immediately looked for both a boundary and a pal to cross it with. Several further years of daily 'out of bounds' followed. From age eleven, attendance at a tough Grammar School with high walls and vigilant teachers kept me in, until I discovered the joys of bunking off to go rock climbing.



My very wise Headmaster calmly suggested that I consult him on the matter in future. He also ordained that rock climbing enter the school curriculum, so I got away every Wednesday afternoon from then on. He was equally wise when I started leaving the 'pack' during school runs because I wanted to get fit for the Alps. I was permitted to do a second harder run, the only boy ever allowed out alone.

Left: The school wall I dared not jump! (Well actually, I did - twice, but jumped back again immediately, undetected.)

It was this search for the 'edge' that led me to Christianity at the age of fifteen, and almost certainly saved me for needing to cross other edges. I worked with heroin addicts but didn't want to be them. I hung out with bikers but didn't want to die on a motorbike. If I met a climber or caver who I thought had a death wish, I declined to join them! By the age of 21, I had lost 7 friends to one or another.



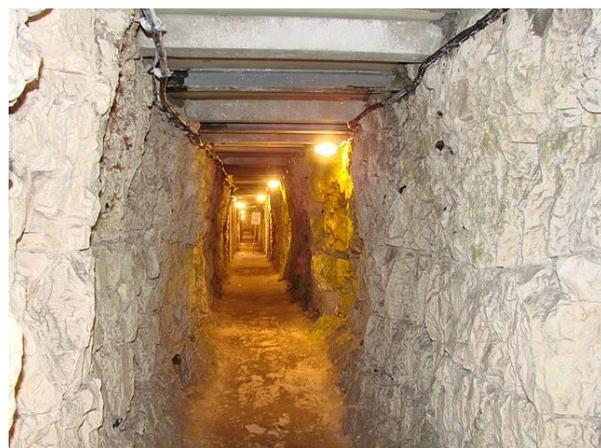
Left: The 'Outward Bound' School in Berchtesgaden. I was caught climbing onto the roof here.

The habit became almost benign, although rather irritating to family. They **knew** I would duck off another way in the Catacombs under Rome. They **knew** that if a Dordogne castle had a cavern, I would have brought a head torch. Even when courting, Lesley realised very early on that I never walked away from edgy events. On my first visit to meet her Mum in Liverpool, a bar fight caught my eye.....

Another positive outcome of the constant acquaintance with the edge - besides my Christian faith - has been the fact that crises make me calm. Chicken or egg? Either way, it's been a blessing in three major car crashes, encounters with bandits in India, with secret police and mafia in Romania, etc. (I do get agitated but am keeping secret what does it!) God takes what He has already made - and mixed with Faith, even faults and silly habits can become redemptive. When others have been paralysed, I have been able to help the injured, calm the hysterical, call back the suicidal.

Right: Canadian WW1 tunnels under Vimy Ridge. Closed to the public - so I hid in a group of Canadian dignitaries.

Look at it the other way. You may avoid the edge, never take risks, etc. God has a use for that just as much. I know that I have always needed to be in a team, have others of different types and temperaments around me. Otherwise, what can be helpful becomes harmful very fast. Balance is all. If you associate only with doubters, you will never build confidence. If you only associate with winners, you will never know how to lose with grace. If you only associate with the risk averse, you will miss a lot of breakthroughs, and so on.





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FRI 3 Dec 6pm **The Last Letter from Your Lover** (12A) 1hr 50m

FRI 10 Dec 6pm **The Courier** (12A) 1hr 29m

FRI 17 Dec 6pm **Last Christmas (PG)** 1hr 53m

OTHER EVENTS

Sat 4 Dec 7pm **Live Cinema: Cliff Richard – The Great 80 Tour** £12

With his greatest hits recorded Live this year at the Royal Albert Hall.

This will also be shown on 19 Dec, Sunday 4pm

Sat 11 Dec 7.30pm **Live Music: Magical Christmas Concert** £15

U16s £12 (Includes Mulled Wine & Mince Pies). Amy Fudali and Colin Bailey

Thurs 16 Dec 1 – 4pm **Workshop: Chocolate Truffle Making** £18 Includes all ingredients, coffee and cake

Thurs 27 Jan 7pm **Live Cinema: Leopoldstadt** £12

FIRST LEYBURN JAZZ FESTIVAL ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE



A varied weekend of high quality jazz music ended with The Pedigree Jazz Band evoking the Trad Jazz boom of the 50s and 60s in a concert which packed the Lower Gallery performance space at Tennants.

The participating pubs in Leyburn were filled to the doors to enjoy the music on offer and the New Orleans style marching band performance by the Voodoo Brass Band was acclaimed by a big crowd in Leyburn Market Place.

During the weekend, a wide spectrum of jazz genres was showcased from the highly regarded Josephine Davies and "Satori" in the modern jazz idiom to Hot Club du Nord re-enacting the music of the Hot Club of France in the 1930s.

A special feature of the weekend was the workshop for aspiring young jazz musicians tutored by Paul Edis Triptych who also played a memorable concert at Tennants. The young people then played an impromptu concert for family and visitors displaying remarkable musicality.

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend was a hugely entertaining performance by internationally renowned singer, song writer and pianist, Ian Shaw, who topped the bill on Saturday night.

Leyburn Jazz Festival took place at Tennants Garden Rooms and venues in town and was generously sponsored by Tennants.

Above: Emma Fisk and Hot Club du Nord playing at the Leyburn Jazz Festival.



MIDDLEHAM AND THE DALES LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Middleham Key Centre, Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 2.00pm

History-lovers will enjoy the talks at the Middleham and the Dales Local History Group. Our 2022 programme will include topics such as Harkerside in the 1800s; Yorkshire Heroes of Waterloo; the Swinton Estate; and Timothy Hutton of Clifton Castle. In the summer we arrange a visit for our Members' Day.

Join us at our AGM which will be followed by a short talk on **David Brooks and saving the Georgian Theatre Royal**. (Pictured above left)

Members, new members and visitors are always welcome, annual membership is still only £10 for 9 meetings and visitors can attend for £3 per meeting.

More information: Tony Keates 01969 640436 dotandtonyk@btinternet.com

Middleham Key Centre, Park Lane, Middleham DL8 4RA

Email: office@middleham-key.co.uk ☎ 01969 624002

www.middlehamkeycentre.co.uk



GREAT NEWS: MKC now has a dedicated BT Super-Fast Broadband line. If you are a technically driven small business looking for facilities contact us to find out what offices we have available.

The Key Centre office is open Monday to Thursday 9.00am – 2.00pm. The services we offer at present are photocopying, internet access, providing recycling boxes and bags, general information and local bus time tables. Fridays the office will be covered by volunteers 9.30am – 1.30pm when possible.

Yoga Class: Tuesdays at 6.30pm – 8.00pm finishing on 14th December and returning January 11th. For further info contact with Karen on 07825 554284.

'T' in the Afternoon: Wednesdays 2.00pm – 3.30pm in the Garden room, last one before Christmas break is 15th December, back on the 12th January. All welcome and bring a craft if you wish. Everyone welcome.

Coffee Mornings: On Saturdays in The Garden room 10.30am – 12noon, last one before Christmas break is 18th December, returning 8th January. Everyone welcome.

Middleham Quilters: Every Monday 11.00am – 2.30pm. Finishing on 6th December returning on 10th January. Welcomes new members.

Over 60s Luncheon Club: Every Thursday at 12noon. Christmas lunch is on the 9th December. Lunch club returns on 6th January. Ring 01969 624 002 to book.

Women in Middleham: Evening event on Tuesday 14th December at 7.00pm in The Garden room. For further details contact Liz Stocker on 01969 625260

Antique & Collectors' Fair Sunday 30th January at 10.00am – 4.00pm Refreshments available.

Stage School: Learn to act, sing & dance. Sundays at 10.00am – 12noon. Last session on 19th December returning on 9th January. For details on joining, ring A J Productions on 07369 205764 or 07999 428171 or contact@ajproductions.tv

Our Book Swap is working well and has a lot of choice, but we can only accept *paperbacks* in reasonable condition.

Volunteers: We are on the lookout for willing volunteers. If you can spare some time to support our work in the community and the smooth running of the centre, please contact us for a chat. My number is 01969 622615. Thank you, Lesley.

The Hair Shoppe: To make your appointment ring Claire on 01969 624401.

Middleham Town Council: Email: office@middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk Tel: 07531 580499 during office hours. www.middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk Meeting in Garden room Wednesday 15th December 7.00pm.

Community Police: If you need to contact our local PCSO ring 101 or we can contact them for you.



LOW LANE CHRISTMAS TREES

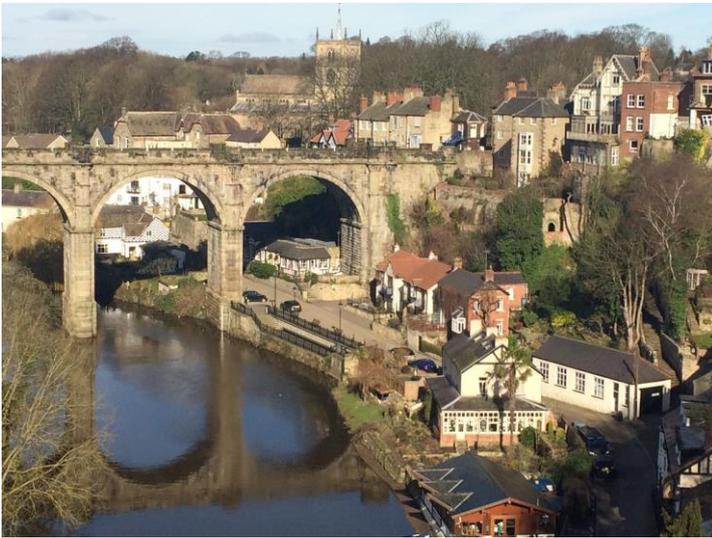
Low Lane, Middleham Road, Leyburn.

Locally grown Christmas trees, ornamental wreaths and tree stands.

Plantation open from 09.00 - 4.00, everyday day until Christmas Day, starting on Saturday 27th 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



Which bridge?

What is the name of the bridge and what river does it span?

Answers at the end of 'Bridge'.

Next Bridge: February 2022

Please send any items to: jervaulxliz@gmail.com by the deadline: Monday January 17th, 2022

PLEASE NOTE: This is a double issue. There will be no separate Bridge in January.

It may sometimes be necessary to edit articles. Sometimes we are limited for space so not all articles can be included.

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

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ANSWER: Which bridge? *Knaresborough Railway Viaduct, spanning the River Nidd*

Photo by Karen Roe [Knaresborough View - EXPLORE | Knaresborough Railway Viaduct... | Flickr](#)

Contacts:

Revs Jeff and Liz: 01969 326069 jervaulxjeff@gmail.com jervaulxliz@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Middleham – Margaret Brabban 01969 624388;

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

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