



# *Oswald's Outlook*

March/April



**‘What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?’  
William Henry Davies**

‘What are you doing for Lent, then?’ is a question I’m often asked and probably you as well. Even for those who wouldn’t classify themselves as religiously observant, there is an understanding that Lent is traditionally a time when things are given up, indulgencies and luxuries denied with any financial benefit being given to those in greater need. It’s a time of reflection and self-denial based on the account and experience of Jesus spending 40 days alone in the wilderness before he began his earthly ministry.

Increasingly however, and to my delight, is the idea that it should become a time of ‘taking something on’ rather than ‘giving something up’. It’s a more positive approach and brings with it the real possibility for change in our own lives and in the places in which we live and work. Recent promotions for ‘Center Parcs’ – *the spelling has always irritated me* – have made good use of William Davies’ poem ‘Leisure’. Its words encourage us and entice us to do something different; to take time out to consider greater things and to take time to enjoy the life we are living and have been given.

The focus of his words is to direct us towards an appreciation of the natural world, its beauty and grandeur and, after storm Ciara and Dennis, we can also reflect upon its awesome power, but perhaps we can use it as well to help us consider and think upon the things of God, for spiritual refreshment and understanding often come when we create the time and opportunity to pause ... breathe in ... and think. Let the wonder of the amazing environment within which we live speak to us of greater things, for when we take time to be still, that is when we create the opportunity to hear our own heart speaking and when we can do that, it becomes easier for us to hear the voice of God himself.

So why not take something on this Lent? Why not create some designated space and time to be still and to ponder, to meditate and to consider the greater things of our lives? It might be pulling over on a journey for a few minutes, seeking a secluded corner in a lunch break or settling into a favoured armchair. I often encourage members of the church family to, *‘have a coffee with God’*. We make arrangements to enjoy time with others over a brew so why not with God himself?

As we enter Lent there will be plenty of opportunities to engage in something different, from a personal 40 day journey of short reflections that consider the beauty and wonder of God’s creation (booklets available in church), creative prayer and meditation stations, flower festivals, community meals and a rich variety of services offering space for rejoicing as well as that all important quiet reflection. Easter day will begin once again with a breakfast of barbecued fish on the shore of Semerwater at 6am and it would be wonderful to welcome you there. Some of these things might

be new to you, but why not use Lent as a time to explore something different?  
*Experience* something different?

I love the promise of God that he is not hiding from us and that if we want to find him we can:

*'You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart'* Jer 29:13

May the weeks that lie ahead bring you refreshment and a new perspective on the greater things of life and what it means to live it - as God intended - to the full.

Rev! Dave .

## **VIEW FROM THE PEW**

It somehow seems a long time since the Christmas Festivities as we enter the next season of the church year, Epiphany. It is a time for reflection and change, an opportunity to take stock of our spiritual lives, and maybe have a spring clean, hopefully rather more enthusiastically than Mole in "Wind in the Willows".

It can be very therapeutic to stand back and take a look at the way we respond to life's challenges, which often involve those we love, and those who we find difficult to love. The Diocese has suggested that we look at the subject, in our various parishes, under the umbrella of Mission: to discover what our mission might be in each parish. It is true that the word mission has sometimes taken on an unhelpful meaning, carrying the notion of a too controlling and organised way in which to live out our spiritual lives. Indeed "pushy " Christians can soon discover their pathway to be counterproductive. It is truly amazing how God opens up the most interesting opportunities to share His Love, which seem to drop right into our laps, and turn conversations into what might be described as conversion (if it wasn't too churchy a word!). I love a spiritual conversation, which springs apparently from nowhere, when someone turns to me and says, "You're a church goer, what's your take on this?" Or when a friend says she doesn't "get" why Jesus was created by God the father to suffer in order to complete the Trinity, then I know I am in serious theological territory and it is time to think on my feet, and very likely learn something new myself! It is a blessing to discover and explore ideas together and to sharpen up our own beliefs.

As we move into 2020, with all its attendant national and international problems somehow seeming to be still so vast, I know in my heart that on a parish level, there is always Hope. Because God is good and through all our frailty and flaws, He loves us, unconditionally. He made us and loves us .... as we are... and that is something to be excited about and to find deep comfort within. St Matthew's will attempt to approach this time of Mission, by doing what we do best: by offering our hospitality with more shared lunches in church. and opening our doors to those who will

hopefully find the peace, love and tranquillity which keeps this small community so strong and faithful.

I heard someone talking on the radio, suggesting we must change, in order to live graciously with those who think differently from us: it is destructive to Peace not to listen to those with opposing opinions. Not easy! But anyone who has learnt lessons from a challenging life, knows the best in life, costs! We can reflect on what it cost Jesus ... and back we come to the Trinity. St Matthew's welcomes you to share our hospitality and invites you to grow in the Spirit with us on our journey through Epiphany and share with us A Happy New Year full of Grace and Hope and Love. God Bless, Lesley x

**Lesley Coates Jones**

## **NEW DECADE, NEW NAME FOR LOW MILL**

As we start this new decade Low Mill Centre has successfully finished its application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The old charity name has changed from Low Mill Residential Young People's Centre, to Low Mill Outdoor Education Centre CIO. What's in a name you may ask?

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is a new form of legal entity designed for non-profit organisations, promoted by the Charities Commission. The main intended benefits of the new entity are that the CIO has its own legal personality. It has a defined legal status with limited liability so that its members and trustees will not have to contribute in the event of financial loss. This is very important, so Low Mill can attract and maintain the right number of Trustees to support and further the work of the charity.

The main aims and objectives of the charity remain unchanged, keeping true to Malcolm Stonestreet's vision of being "the lungs of the city". The new name is a more modern reflection of the work we do, or how we achieve those objectives of developing and enriching people's lives through adventurous outdoor activities. This new charity status gives us the power to do anything which is calculated to further the objectives of the charity ie use the facilities to raise money to benefit the charitable work. This will improve the viability of Low Mill and secure the charity for the future.

These proposed changes were presented at a public consultation evening in June and voted on in a general meeting open to the public in July. Those from the local community who attended voted unanimously in favour of the changes.

## **What is happening at the Mill in 2020?**

February 2020 has some new events on the Low Mill calendar. We are very excited to be part of this year's YDNPA Dark Skies Festival, starting with the renowned astronomer Richard Darn guiding us through the night sky, at a Star Gazing Evening

at Low Mill on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. Zoom through the night sky at our Zip Wire on the 24<sup>th</sup>, or join us for the rare opportunity of a night paddle in canoes on Semerwater on the 25<sup>th</sup>. All these events are open to the local community.

The summer looks busy with our regular wide range of school groups coming to join us. Our bursary scheme continues too. This relies on public donations that we can then allocate to visiting youth and young people with special needs to help fund their visit to Low Mill. Low Mill really is a centre for all.

During the Easter and Summer school holidays we will once again be running our very successful Holiday Activity Days. These were enjoyed by local children and those from further afield. There will also be the opportunity to come and look around the centre, join us for one of our legendary Big Breakfasts or try some activities at our Open Day in September.

If anyone would like to know more about how and what we do at Low Mill, or how you could be involved please feel free to contact the centre or any member of the management committee.

Terry Hailwood: [info@lowmill.com](mailto:info@lowmill.com), 01969 650432, <https://www.lowmill.com/>

## **NEWS FROM SYCAMORE HALL**

As many of you will know, Sycamore Hall is a Housing21 Extra Care Scheme situated in Bainbridge. We are a leading national provider of retirement housing and care services for people over 55 years of age. Extra care housing is a specialist type of housing designed with older people in mind. It allows people to live independently whilst receiving care and support if needed.

We have a vibrant community hub with the village shop, hair salon and library on site. The post office is here on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9am and 11am providing a range of services from paying bills to cash withdrawals. We also have our very own restaurant which is open to residents, friends, family and anyone who would just like to pop in!

Sycamore Hall hosts a range of activities and entertainment and we would like to extend an invitation to the wider community to come and join us for any of our events. Activities include a weekly coffee morning every Thursday morning. Why not come along and have a chat with friends or meet new friends? We also have a weekly gentle exercise group to music every Friday morning to which everyone is invited. This is just a sample of the kind of things we have on offer here and we would be very happy for you to come along and join us. Please do call in for a chat or call Jane Cairns, Court Manager (Tel: 0300 7901716).

## **APRIL IN ASKRIGG**

You could have Springtime in Paris, but instead join in with a packed April in Askrigg. Further details to come later but here are the highlights:

- Holy Week 7: Prayer stations around the church with flowers
- April 9<sup>th</sup>: Usual Maundy Thursday supper in church
- Easter Sunday: Sunrise service at Semerwater with BBQ fish & bread
- 12th-18th: Flower Festival Celebration of Spring
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>: Big Art Auction in the village hall
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>: Soup lunch in the church
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>: Folk concert in the village hall
- An afternoon of films of the area and a village treasure hunt

## **THE VILLAGE CHURCH**

If you look at the list of names of those who lived in Askrigg in the 1300s & 1400s you will find many of the same names found in the village today. It would seem that the ancestors of current villagers were the people who built, or provided labour to build, the church which replaced the much earlier church on the same spot. So Askrigg Church is truly a village church built by local labour, the descendants of whom are living here today.

It is interesting to see that problems which we face today are not new. In 1749 - 88 villagers subscribed to a new clock (sound familiar?). In 1773 the south aisle was rebuilt and a new vestry built. The ravages of time continued and repairs and improvements also continued:

- In 1831 it was suggested that a peal of 6 bells should be installed to replace the 3 bells in use. This was defeated by 125 to 124, but in 1897 there must have been a change of heart as the old bells were recast and 3 new ones hung.
- In 1850 the singing gallery had to be repaired as it was falling down
- In 1851 the whole church was so dilapidated that a meeting was held to consider repairs. The cost was met from a rate levy on the whole village.
- In 1853 a restoration was undertaken which was later considered a disaster. The singing gallery was demolished, windows were changed and it could be that at this time the rendering was removed.

So, it seems that this beautiful medieval church has gone through periods of neglect and deterioration but also periods of expenditure and renovation, which is where we are today.

## **Finances**

There is often a misunderstanding of the finances of a church such as ours. Someone said that as we get collections every Sunday, we should never ask for more, and that the church is always asking for money. To put the matter straight, St Oswald's only ever asks for wider fundraising to repair the building and make it safe. Funds for anything else are raised by members of the church itself. Money is currently required for both the tower and for the north aisle roof which leaks. At present we are focusing wider fundraising on the tower which is becoming unsafe. The money for the roof will, we hope, come from previous church fundraising. It is estimated that the north aisle roof will cost £2000.

To give some idea of costs for which we do not focus fundraising, annual insurance is £3326, in 2020 the Parish Share is £19508, and the 5 yearly report which is due will cost about £1000. The first two are annual costs met by the church as are the heating and lighting bills. The Parish Share is to go towards all the costs relating to having a vicar, including pensions and vicarages etc. It seems a huge amount for a small village to have to pay but we are subsidised by the wealthier churches in places like Harrogate. The Anglican Church like any other employer has legal responsibilities regarding its employees.

You may not agree with the way the Anglican church nationwide organises its finances. Unfortunately the fact remains that we must deal with the situation as it is, not as we would like it to be. The Parish Church is there for everyone, church goer or not. Although some people say "let it fall down", most people would still wish to see the church in the centre of the village, and that comes at a cost.

We do not want to be the generation that lets 600 years of history disappear. Many of those who think the church is always asking for money will not read this, but perhaps those who do could explain that the money we try to raise is to prevent the collapse of the building, not for anything else. St Oswald's Church PCC

## **THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX**

Members of St Oswald's are good at thinking 'outside the box' to solve problems and this is also true of Stewart Huntington, who is a member of the Askrigg/Aysgarth Bell Ringing team and has become concerned about keeping the bell ropes supple and easy to use. For Aysgarth church, he made a special warming device, using a very low watt bulb, a piece of piping and some mesh. By mounting a piece of pipe above a low wattage bulb and feeding the ends of the rope into the pipe, the warm air from the bulb goes up the pipe and gently warms the ropes. Job done! Stewart has since made another such device for Askrigg. The bulb is switched on by a bell ringer before the practice, making the ropes soft before they were withdrawn for practice. Brilliant Stewart and many thanks!

## **WEATHER REPORT ASKRIGG**

My last report ran up to 22.8.19 so for completeness, the total rainfall for August was 128ml. August Bank Holiday turned out to be a very hot and sunny one for a change!

September started quite cool and damp, so no Indian Summer this year. On 7<sup>th</sup> we had a cold night at 2.4 degrees and our first frost of the season was on 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a very wet day on 22<sup>nd</sup> scuppering plans for Harvest Festival outside at Lowlands Farm with 15.5ml that day. September continued very wet with 96.5ml in one week from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, this coincided with the UCI World Championship cycling event causing the elite men's race to be re-routed at late notice due to flooded roads. The total rainfall for September was 137.5ml.

October started quite cold with a sharp ground frost on 3<sup>rd</sup> with a temperature of 0.6 degrees, followed by 2 very wet days with 36ml rain. There were further frosts on 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The lowest temperature was on 30<sup>th</sup> at minus 1.8. Total rainfall was 128.5ml.

November brought a cold snap between 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> with frosts at night and this brought out more birds to our feeders including Nuthatches and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. It was very wet for a few days after that before a return to frosts. Minus 4 was recorded on 19<sup>th</sup> followed by a milder few days and then the coldest night of the month on 29<sup>th</sup> at -5. Total rainfall 82.5ml, so quite a dry November.

December started very windy with severe gales on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> with winds in excess of 50mph. 8<sup>th</sup> was very wet with 17.5ml that day. The first snows of the winter arrived on 12<sup>th</sup> with wet snow on the lawn and snow on the tops and then further snow on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Total rainfall was 92ml.

The New Year started with a wet week with 21ml rain on 8<sup>th</sup> and then gales on 11<sup>th</sup>. This heralded Storm Brendan on 13<sup>th</sup> with winds in excess of 50mph and 20ml rain. The woodpeckers returned to the feeders on 16<sup>th</sup> and have been regular visitors since. Hard frosts returned on 18<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and wet snow on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>. Total rainfall for January was 86ml.

Mel Willis

## **HUMBLE PIE COOKERY KITCHEN, HAWES**

We wish Elizabeth Fawcett all the best for her new venture. Elizabeth and her daughter Betty ran Humble Pie as a hugely successful concern in Askrigg until they both felt it was time for a change. Elizabeth has had a couple of months of well-earned rest and is now ready for her next challenge. Good luck Elizabeth!



## **THE BAKE-WELL**

What was Humble Pie has a new name and new owners. Bridie Sheehan and Craig Stanley took over a thriving business and are now putting their own stamp on it. They thoroughly enjoy being busy and it is certainly doing well, with slightly more space inside for people to sit and have coffee and delicious cakes or a meal.

They have always wanted to have their own place and as Bridie said, the early start is amply compensated by having the evenings free. Good luck Bridie and Craig!

## **RINGING THE BELLS FOR YOU**

Would you like the Church Tower Bells rung for you, or someone you know?

To raise money for the Church Tower Restoration the Bell Ringers will be ringing the bells in dedication of a Birth, Birthday, Christening, Wedding Anniversary or any other occasion, for you or for someone you know. For a minimum donation of £25, which will all go to the Church Tower Restoration, the bells will be rung for 20 minutes in celebration of your named event and a certificate will be given in recognition of this.

Starting in April, bells will preferably be rung on a Sunday nearest to the event but could be on a day of your choice subject to the bell ringers being available.

To request that the bells to be rung for your special event you can use this slip and put in the box marked 'Bells for Celebrations requests' at the back of the church or put in an envelope, clearly marked 'Bells for Celebrations requests' and leave at Sykes shop. Spare slips will be available by the 'Requests' box in the church throughout the year.

Call Kevin Sorsby (Tower Captain) on 01969650396 for any further information.

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Name:

Contact No.:

Celebration:

Date of Celebration:

Narrative:

(to be printed on certificate)

Requested Date for Bells to be rung:

## **WHAT A DING DONG.....**

The Askrigg Handbell Ringers certainly had a busy run up to Christmas 2019 with a number of performances, from our usual 'season opener' at Sycamore Hall, to performing in the 'Great Barn' at East Riddlesden Hall (National Trust), Keighley, return visits to Thoraby Village's Carol Concert and Gayle Chapel, all culminating in our much anticipated appearance at Wakefield Cathedral on the evening of Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

We were very excited to have been asked to be the special guests of the fabulous Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir who have a sell-out Christmas concert every year. As part of the concert we were able to play eight of our pieces to a very enthusiastic and appreciative audience. Wakefield Cathedral is an exceptionally lovely building with acoustics that suited the handbells perfectly, and whilst in comparison to a large mixed voice choir, organ and a brass quintet in full flow, we were 'quiet', the wonderful acoustic allowed the bells to be heard evenly and clearly throughout the building.

During the interval and at the end of the concert we were taken aback by the number of people who came up to the team to say how wonderful it was and how much they had enjoyed it, many never having heard handbells played before. During our Christmas performances we were able to collect donations and we were also given a very generous donation by the Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir. The team is pleased to announce that we can donate the sum of £500 to St. Oswald's PCC fundraising appeal for repairs to the Church Tower.

In addition, the team also ran a 'Diary Dates' competition, which required participants to choose a unique date from the diary. Two lucky winners were drawn at our performance at Gayle Chapel, Beryl Percival and Robin Minnit. Following the pay-out of prize money, we can confirm that the profit of £200 will be given to Askrigg Village Hall as part of their ongoing fundraising efforts.

The team are always happy to welcome potential new members. We generally meet for rehearsal on a Thursday evening in the back room at Askrigg Village Hall, so if you are interested in coming along to see what we are about and whether it may be for you, we'd be happy to see you. As we are having a 'break' following the rather intensive pre-Christmas period, please email us at [askrigghandbells@gmail.com](mailto:askrigghandbells@gmail.com) to find out when we start again or if you have any other questions you would like to ask us.

Malcolm Carruthers – Musical Director, Askrigg Handbell Ringers

## **BAWB FEDERATION NEWS**

Last term, the children enjoyed the start of their Forest School sessions. This popular activity has always formed part of our outdoor curriculum but has been given a new direction by teaching assistant, and former soldier, Rob Stokes. Mr Stokes has created a range of tasks, inspired partly by his military experiences, that are designed to develop the children's skills in teamwork, resilience and to encourage innovation and problem-solving, but the emphasis is on enjoyment.

The location of the three schools provides the perfect setting for these outdoor activities, which take place mainly in woods between Askrigg and Bainbridge, and on land close to the school at West Burton.

The KS2 children prepared for the 'Futuristic Fair' in December, featuring items created by the children on their space theme. Everyone dressed in 'futuristic' clothes and the event, open to families and the wider community, was a great success. The fair was part of the work for the Federation's entry for the Rotary Enterprise competition. This encourages schools to develop their own 'business', calculating expenditure and profit, with all the proceeds being donated to charity. Having won this competition last year, we are keen to retain our crown!

The new term started well with a presentation from the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter writing competition. The editor of the Newsletter, Mr Alistair Macintosh, and the competition judge, Ann Pilling, came to congratulate all our Year 5 and 6 children for their wonderful stories on the theme of 'A Night to Remember'. We were proud to hear that two of our children had won their age categories, each of them receiving a trophy and a book token for £50. Another pupil was the runner up in her category and she received a certificate. The Federation was also awarded book tokens worth £200.

The competition judge Ann Pilling, a local author, gave the children some fantastic feedback about their stories. There was a particular commendation for one pupil who had written a very interesting story entitled 'A Knight to Remember'!

The talk proved inspiring and following the presentation the children have started to write more stories, this time for BBC Radio 2's famous "500 Words" competition. Let's hope we can be as successful again.

To add to the mix of the excitement of Christmas, Ofsted arrived at Askrigg in mid-December, and confirmed that Askrigg is still a **GOOD** school. The inspectors confirmed that our children are respectful, happy, safe and display excellent behaviour, together with positive attitudes to learning. The report highlights the strength of middle and subject leadership in the core subjects of Mathematics English and Early Years."

## An EVENING WITH marie little

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – ASKRIGG VILLAGE HALL**

***(Doors open 6.30pm for 7.15pm)***

As part of the fundraising efforts for the work required to save St Oswald's church tower, the acclaimed and well-known North-East folk artist, Marie Little, will be sharing her talents on the evening of Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at Askrigg Village Hall.

Marie, who sings and plays guitar, is a native of Salford but has been resident in the North East since the early 70's. She has been a well-respected figure on the folk scene for a number of decades, appearing at clubs and festivals all over the UK and Europe. Over the years Marie has recorded several albums following her first release 'Factory Girl' in 1970. Her material ranges from industrial and contemporary songs of social significance, through music hall and country, all of which she performs with her own unique stamp of quality. As a performer Marie has never lost her 'Salford chat' and earthiness, and along with her warm personality, her natural 'Northern Wit' and of course her choice of quality material, she delivers songs in a relaxed manner, making her a much sought after act held with great affection by all who have seen her perform. Marie delivers songs that can be sad and thought provoking one minute, then have you howling with laughter the next. Her years of experience, an ability to understand and work an audience combined with her tremendous natural talent, makes her an entertainer of the highest order. The renowned Folk music journalist Karl Dallas once wrote of Marie in 'Melody Maker' *"What is remarkable and surprising is that when she sings she turns out to have the sort of rich, pure tones of which international folk superstars are made, if she were to care about such things, which I rather doubt."*

To make the evening even more special, Elizabeth Fawcett of Humble Pie Cookery Kitchen will be providing and kindly sponsoring a hot two course supper. There will also be a bar. Tickets are priced at £15 and will be available from the beginning of March from Sykes Shop in Askrigg, Sycamore Hall Shop, Bainbridge and Three Peaks Shop in Hawes (or email [caseymal@live.co.uk](mailto:caseymal@live.co.uk)). Raffle tickets will be available from the beginning of March from the same outlets and designated individuals, priced at £1 a ticket. Tickets will also be available for sale on the evening of the concert; the draw being made by Marie during the evening.

There will be a limited number of tickets for the event, so put the date in the diary, get your tickets early and come along and enjoy some great entertainment and wonderful food and help us to raise much needed funds to aid the vital repairs necessary to St Oswald's Church Tower. For information on Marie and her music visit <http://www.marielittle.co.uk>

Malcolm Carruthers, on behalf of St Oswald's PCC.

## **CHRISTMAS 2019 AT St OSWALD'S**

Our Christmas festivities this year went very well, starting on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December with the preview of the Christmas Tree Festival. Elizabeth, who was organizing it, suggested that rather than have a concert we should 'Sing Carols'. People called out their favourites and it was great fun. Afterwards we had a supper. The trees were wonderful, but this time Elizabeth suggested that folk could use something different from the pine trees. So, one person had made a tree out of steel tins and another group used a large old branch, along with other delightful ideas. Many came to look, some from far away. On Sunday we had the Family Carol Service.

Finally, Christmas Eve arrived with our Christingle service. It was a beautiful service. The 'Mums Set' and others helped in the morning preparing the oranges etc. The service was filled with families and others. There were about 250 people in the church. This year Father Christmas came on a tractor and sat under the big Christmas tree out on the cobbles and gave each primary school child a present.

The Midnight Communion was led by Rev. Vera and many people attended. On Christmas Day morning Rev. Dave led the service and, very unusually, the service was well attended. The whole period started with Advent coming from the beginning of December and then into Christmas and this helped to remind us of the wonders of the birth of Jesus Christ and his life given for us.

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE AT St OSWALD'S CHURCH**

On December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm a large congregation attended St Oswald's to remember family and friends who have died.

This is always a very moving service during which lists of names are read out, candles are lit for each name and stars are hung on a Christmas tree by members of the congregation, with a name and perhaps a message. The silence and the respect and dignity of the service allow people to remember quietly those who are no longer with them and the light of the many candles focuses minds on the love of Christ.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **Professor Cuchlaine King**

Professor Cuchlaine King, who died at the age of 97 in December, was many things: a much-loved aunt to Jane Ritchie of West Burton and her three brothers; an eminent geomorphologist; a distinguished author; a lecturer at Nottingham University; and an adventurer - she was the first woman ever allowed on an Arctic expedition.

I only knew her for the last two and a half years of her life, through taking Maud,

my border terrier - her favourite breed - to see her in Sycamore Hall. She would sit quietly on Cuchlaine's knee, sometimes accidentally pressing the panic button, summoning staff. "She's just testing it to make sure it's working," Cuchlaine would say: Maud could do no wrong.

Cuchlaine had been a regular attender at St Oswald's Church and when she retired in 1982 trained as a bell ringer under Jack Metcalfe. "Bellringing was one of the great pleasures on my life" she told me. She rang at the 8am and 10.30am services at St Oswald's, and sometimes in Aysgarth.

Her memorial service in St Oswald's in January was an exact replica of her father's, William Bernard Robinson King, held there in 1963, and her connection with the church continued until her death: the collection at the service went to the tower fund, and three and a half years ago she paid the full cost of replacing the bell ropes which, because of severe damp, had broken.

No-one visiting Cuchlaine would have known of her outstanding professional achievements, which she never talked about but which were captured in a book, Baffin Island, by a former student, Jack Ives, published as recently as 2016.

Of the many tributes paid to Cuchlaine after her death, by colleagues and former students, one on [www.richmondshiretoday.co.uk](http://www.richmondshiretoday.co.uk), stood out: "I was taught as an undergraduate by Cuchlaine King during the 1950's and worked with her as Departmental Demonstrator in Geography while a research student. She combined a fine intellect and academic dedication with kindness and good humour and I remember her with gratitude and warm affection for all she brought into my life." She will be greatly missed.

Betsy Everett

## **Dorothy Baker**

Dorothy Baker was born in Askrigg in 1921 and grew up in the village, attending Yorebridge Grammar school. On leaving school she worked as a civil servant, during which time she met and married Frank. They had two sons and two daughters. When the children were older, Dorothy trained as a teacher and worked in Newcastle. On Frank's retirement they returned to Askrigg and became involved in many village activities. Dorothy was for many years the secretary of the W.I. and was always a member of Yore Club, enjoying all aspects of the organisations. Throughout her life she had a thirst for knowledge and loved reading, music and travel. Dorothy was a lifelong Methodist and regularly played the organ in the local Methodist Chapels up until her latter years. She was always interested in others and was most kind and generous in every way. Never judgemental, and loving towards her large extended family of whom she was very proud, her many friends, and her neighbours, who will miss her greatly.

## REGISTER

24 <sup>th</sup> November	Baptism	Charlie Matthew Harrison
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Funeral	Poppy Jean Margaret Hey
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Funeral	Dorothy Baker
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Memorial Service	Cuchlaine Audrey Muriel King
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Funeral	Leonard William Colton
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Funeral	Charlotte Harrison Fawcett

### Flower Festival

Easter at St Oswald's Askrigg will be extra special this year. We are planning to hold a Flower Festival entitled 'A Celebration of Spring' which will begin on Easter Sunday 12th April after the Easter Holy Communion Service and continue until Friday 17th April. There will also be a Songs of Praise on 13th April from 6-7pm.

We are looking for help with the Flower Festival at St Oswald's. If you could help with flowers or be on the rota for coffee during that week please let either Eleanor Scarr, tel 650216 or MaryRose Kearney, tel 650880 know. We will need 3 people for 2 hour sessions for the rota: 10am-12, 12-2pm, 2-4pm (for the donations and for coffee) and Eleanor would appreciate help with the flowers.

### Helping an Askrigg History Walkabout.

I have been asked to offer HPB visitors a weekly (as that is their usual turnover) historical walkabout in Askrigg. I cannot do this every week and, therefore, I am looking for anyone who has a strong voice to, occasionally, do the walk. Of course, I would give you a walkabout induction and I will give you a detailed crib sheet. Ideally, I would like at least five folk to be on the group. The money given by the visitors will go into the fund for the church tower which is in a dire state. If you can help or want to find out more about it do contact me.

Thanks. Christine Hallas, 01969 650408; [christine@hallases.plus.com](mailto:christine@hallases.plus.com)

## DIARY

February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Family Communion with Bishop Helen Ann	St Oswald's Church	10:30
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday Service Rev Dave Clark	St Oswald's Church	7pm
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	The Gathering Rev Dave Clark	St Margaret's, Hawes	10:30
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning with cake stall and tombola	Askrigg Village Hall	10-12
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion Rev Dave Clark	St Oswald's Church	10:30
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Café Style Service MaryRose Kearney	St Oswald's Church	10:30
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Communion Rev Dave Clark	St Oswald's Church	10:30
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Askrigg in Pictures Christine Hallas	Askrigg Village Hall	7pm
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	United Service	St Oswald's Church	10:30
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Gathering Rev Dave Clark	St Margaret's, Hawes	10:30
April 6-9 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Stations	St Oswald's Church	
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Supper	St Oswald's Church	7pm
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Sunrise Service	Semerwater	6am
	Easter Day Service Rev Dave Clark	St Oswald's Church	10:30
April 12 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Festival	St Oswald's Church	
April 13	Songs of Praise	St Oswald's Church	6-7pm
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	The Big Art Auction	Askrigg Village Hall	7.30pm
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Café Style Service Christine Hallas	St Oswald's Church	10:30
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Soup Lunch AV Presentation: Wonderful people, places and Wildlife	St Oswald's Church	12-4
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Marie Little Concert (see details in article)	Askrigg Village Hall	7pm
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Family Communion Rev Dave Clark	St Oswald's Church	10:30
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	The Gathering Rev Dave Clark	St Margaret's, Hawes	10:30