

# Oswald's Outlook



Spring 2021



# From the Vicarage



I love it when the clocks move forward and the hours of daylight increase. Every year my reaction is the same as I feel a lightness and a freshness breathe into my spirit. As a child it heralded extra 'playtime' outside and increased opportunity for fun, exploration and adventure and as an adult its association with the celebration of Easter and all the promises associated with those amazing events never fails to have the effect of 'lifting my head' and filling me with a new sense of hope and purpose.

We have all walked through a time of darkness in the last 12 months and for some it has been very dark indeed with the loss of loved ones, businesses and financial security. For many, hope has seemed a long way off. We have been taken down a path that none of us either anticipated or wanted and it has been painful and costly. The disciples and followers of Jesus must have felt the same as they were taken on a journey they were not expecting. It was swift and brutal and in the few days they spent in Jerusalem, it tore their lives apart. But it didn't last. The astonishing news of the empty tomb and the appearances of a risen Jesus brought new hope and the promise of new life to replace the grief and loss as so many met Jesus, face to face.

As the signs and sounds of Spring begin to invade the landscape, we sense a change of atmosphere. There has been much to be thankful for in the care and the love that has been expressed within our communities and as our lives begin to open up once more there is much we can look forward to. The articles in this edition give a sense of how much has been going on during 'Lockdown number 3' and I feel a sense of gratitude and joy as I read them.

So; the clocks have moved on, let's hope and pray that we can all do the same as we begin to rebuild and restore one another with a fresh heart and fresh hope .... face to face.

*Rev. Dave*

## A VIEW FROM THE PEW

I don't know how many years it is since I was first asked to write a "View from the Pew", giving a reflection of parish life as a member of the congregation, but it is true to say that we would never have imagined then, that our "pew", during Lockdown would be our living room chair, and that we would probably be linked in to a screen of some kind.

In my particular case. my little three-legged rescue cat, Trinity, forms the other part of ...."when two or three are gathered together...." On Mothering Sunday., by chance, I tuned into a service which was. mainly recorded., from Salisbury Cathedral. It was a very beautiful service. which, amongst other inspirational worship, included a story from a member of the community which I found so moving, I felt compelled to share it on an online Prose and Poetry Evening for Mother's Day, and now I would like to share it with you.

The speaker told how she had had the privilege to go on a Pilgrimage to The Holy Land a few years ago. She had found it wonderfully inspiring and affirming, and though travelling alone, she had come to befriend an eighty-year-old lady on the same coach. The younger woman had overheard a rather spiteful conversation from the back seat of the coach, because the old lady was always the last to get back to the coach. One of them said rather sharply "She would do better if she had something more suitable on her feet!"

In Jerusalem, the old lady did in fact stumble. Which was what probably prompted her friend to ask if she had any other shoes; She was wearing leather flip flop type sandal that appeared to be several sizes too big. The old lady told them that she had originally been going to come on this Pilgrimage with her son, who had sadly contracted terminal cancer. "I am walking in Christ's footsteps in my son's shoes so that he is able to be here with me...."

I don't know the outcome of that story, but as I work my way through another Lent, the sorrow of Passion tide through to the glory of Easter and the Resurrection, my prayer will be a very simple one, Lord, help me to walk in another's shoes, Lord have mercy.

May God bless you all this Easter and help us all to bring Peace and Love to all people.

with love from all at St Matthew's. Lesley x

## **ASKRIGG WEATHER UPDATE**

2021 started on a cold note with nightly frosts and heavy snow on 2 Jan. There was snow every day until 9<sup>th</sup>. On 10<sup>th</sup> we had rain for a couple of days which caused a thaw, but then more snow from the 11<sup>th</sup> with about 3 inches on 14<sup>th</sup> and a temperature of minus 5.6 overnight on the 15<sup>th</sup>. On 19<sup>th</sup> Storm Christoph gave us 3 days of wind and rain with a flood alert for the River Ure. Snow arrived again on 21<sup>st</sup> and we had frosts again each night from 25<sup>th</sup> and new snow on 28<sup>th</sup>. Total rainfall/snow melt was 121 mm.

February brought further snow, with a heavy fall of about 6 inches on 2 Feb making the roads quite difficult. On 9<sup>th</sup> Storm Darcy arrived also named The Beast from the East 2! Snow arrived on 10<sup>th</sup> and it snowed on and off all week. On 11<sup>th</sup>, the lowest temperature of the winter was recorded at minus 7.7 and feeling like -12 adding on the wind chill factor. The snow melt started on 14<sup>th</sup> and on 20<sup>th</sup> in sharp contrast we had a lovely early Spring day with a temperature of 13.1 degrees. Total rainfall/snow melt was 101 mm.

March started with a welcome dry spell followed by snow on the tops on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March. Severe gales blew in and a lot of rain on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> but has since been quite a dry month so far, with 51 ½ mm rain by 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Nature notes: Lapwing flocks were seen by the Ure between Worton and Aysgarth on 3 Jan and curlews heard on 15 Jan. Oystercatchers and Lapwings were seen again in the same area on 7 Feb and 10 curlews on Worton Bottoms on 20 Jan. On 21 Jan, 2 barn owls and one little owl were seen around Worton. The snowdrops in our wood were in bloom by 22 Jan.

*Mel Willis*

## **BELL JAR 5Ps**

We originally asked people to save their 5ps in January 2020. Covid 19 suddenly made collecting the money exceedingly difficult but we are now taking money in; if it needs collecting Paula Hague will be contacting you after her second vaccination.

I have a very heavy collection of 5ps and other coins and notes awaiting collection by our treasurer, Paul, who has access to a weighing device for coins. He is happy to do the banking in stages as the money is collected. So far, I have donations from 19 people which comes to almost £300, this includes monies for masks, marmalade etc which people bought, donating the money to the Tower Fund. The church is very grateful for the support this collection has been given. All money collected will go to help keep the bell chamber dry enough to ring bells --hence the name Bell Jar. If you wish to donate your money now you can leave it with me -MaryRose Kearney, Summerdown, Silver St, Askrigg. Every Little helps!

## **THE KING JAMES BIBLE**

I have been reading the memories and musings of Laurie Lee as he reached the end of his life. He writes of the many things he has seen and experienced and the reasonings he has come to including this on the King James Bible...

*“But so far as the Bible is concerned, I feel that the enrichment of language which the Old Testament, as well as the New, gave us was so important to our ways of reacting to life, to the seasons, to our relationships, our goals, our ambitions.*

*The language was so rich, I think that one of the great, one of the most diabolical, changes that I cannot really forgive, is the pollution of the modern translation. Pollution is a word I use almost deliberately. The richness of the King James Bible, which was a public gift from the early scriptures, and whose unforgettable images that we learned and were brought up with, have all gone. The language I now hear in morning service I find is scaled down to a platitudinous voice of, forgive me for saying this, but of building society managers, suburban bank clerks or insurance salesmen.*

*There is one passage in the King James Bible which says that when a man was cured by Christ, he'd been brought on a stretcher to Christ and they begged that he should cure him, Christ laid his hand on him and said 'Arise, take up thy bed and walk'. Now in those few short epithets is an occurrence of suggestions, 'arise' does not just mean 'arise'. I don't have to tell you this, any old country vicar would tell you what 'arise' meant. But the new version says, 'Get up, pick up your bed and go home'. It sounds just like the local policeman arresting you for drunkenness, you lying in the gutter. It is not the gentle, healing voice of Christ used in the New Testament that set the man on his feet, and not just on his feet but on the road to a future belief, expectation. And it is brutally dull.*

*And that is why I resent, no, why I grieve for the passing of the King James version.”*

He also mentions how he can still recite parts of Paradise Lost that he learnt in his little village school in remote Gloucestershire when he was about 7!

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## **TOWER UPDATE**

We are still working hard to find the finance for the Tower. The position of the Tower is becoming critical, water ingress is making it more and more unsafe to use it for events such as bellringing. In another article you will find what the people involved in grant applications are doing and what the PCC is doing to try to fulfil the conditions attached to grant applications.

A particular worry is that the damp is affecting the clock. The village raised a huge amount of money to renovate the clock & to fund its annual maintenance and we must all be concerned that water ingress might be having a detrimental impact on it. For a short- term solution we are buying infra-red heaters to try to keep the clock area free of damp.

We have also had to pay over £2000 to repair the north aisle roof where water had found a way into the church. Fortunately, we were able to get a grant for this work.

At the moment the church feels like the Forth Bridge -you get to the end and you start again. Except we never seem to get to the end! If you look at the huge amount of work that has been done on the church in the past few years, thanks to the generosity of the village and the never- ending efforts to get grants, we can only be thankful that we all are still working to preserve our Grade 1 listed, medieval church for future generations. *MRK*

## **ASKRIGG ARCHIVES**

Last year Eleanor Scarr, Colin Anderson and myself decided to set up an archive for the village as there are many valuable documents in houses or elsewhere. Many of our precious documents are already in safe places such as Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes and North Yorkshire County Record Office, Northallerton. Unfortunately, because of Covid, we have not been able to go forward. The Village Hall Committee also had to stop their work on the Hall. When we can be moving forward, we hope that the Archive will be housed in a room in the Hall. We will have fire & waterproof cabinets put in and some open shelves for books and photocopies of other documents. Once the Archive room is up and running, we will be looking folk to help. The room will be locked and if anyone wants to look at a specific document, we need someone to be sitting in the room with them.

Documents can be lost easily. In the 1980s when I was finishing my PhD I asked around if there was extant material about the Askrigg Equitable, Benevolent and Friendly Society. Eventually, I found a large ancient metal trunk. It was in someone's loft and was very damp. It took me three months to work through the fascinating material and eventually I put it in a book. These documents will be eventually in the Archive room.

Another find more recently was when the Askrigg Foundation decided to change their building into sheltered accommodation. Under the eaves there was a roomful of dust. There were many documents about the Askrigg Foundation when Rev. Malcolm Stonestreet was vicar. However, more interesting was William Banks & later his son, Billie's details from 1904 of his Seed Merchant Business. Part of the room was full of all his ledgers etc. Elma Banks was happy for these to go into the Archive.

If you have any documents that would be better in a safe environment do let us know. They will be still in your ownership and can be retrieved anytime you wish.

Christine Hallas

## **CHRISTMAS IN ASKRIGG**

There was a worry that Christmas with Covid restrictions may have been a non-event, but that was never a possibility, once consideration had been given to how to celebrate Christmas within the restrictions. The Advent Windows went ahead and were truly beautiful. The Christmas Tree Festival moved outside, with over 30 decorated trees dotted around the churchyard – looking absolutely magical after dark. Many people commented that having them outside was really special.

Socially distanced services went ahead in the church, including the annual Memorial Service at the beginning of the month. A Christmas Eve service of Carols was held outside on the cobbles with Rev Dave leading the congregation in a mixture of traditional carols and other Christmas songs. Father Christmas also passed by! Although impossible to count accurately, over 100 adults attended.

## **THE TOWER PROJECT**

Although face to face meetings have not been possible, the Project Group has met virtually and are about to launch Phase 1 of the Tower Project. This phase consists of all the preparatory work needed before Phase 2, the building work, can take place; for example, reports on the condition of the wooden flooring, trying out render samples etc. It is expected that this work will cost in the region of £20k and we are seeking grant funding for part of this. As part of this we hope to build up a picture of how the tower was constructed and to document the changes made over the years, so we can better share the architectural history of the church.

Over the coming weeks, we will endeavour to share our progress and hope that some of you may wish to be involved in the project in some way.

## **ASKRIGG FOUNDATION**

Work on the Foundation properties continued through the winter and by the time you read this, the building is fully tenanted. Unfortunately, the plans to invite the village to see the beautifully renovated buildings was not possible due to Covid 19 restrictions but pictures will be available soon. We are thrilled with the work that has been done and the opportunity to bless the community with affordable housing for the future.



The Open Pantry is run by a group of volunteers from the 4 churches of the Benefice of Upper Wensleydale. We support local households struggling in uncertain times, providing parcels of essentials including food, toiletries, household products and a few little luxuries.

The scheme was set up in 2019 before anyone had any knowledge of the Covid-19 global pandemic that would hit us all so hard. With jobs in our locality relying heavily on hospitality and the tourism industry we quickly realised that local families would soon struggle during the national lockdown, now in our 3rd period of lockdown the service is needed more than ever. The Open Pantry had previously operated from St Oswald's and St Margaret's church buildings but changed to a delivery service once the churches were closed.

Donations come from the local community and the generous shoppers at the Co-op in Leyburn. We were also lucky enough to be approved for a grant from DEFRA which has meant that we could provide weekly deliveries of parcels that are sufficient to make up 3 or 4 evening meals, a few lunches and even some weeks a bag of fresh fruit and vegetables. The weekly deliveries are made by volunteers who have enjoyed getting to know other folk in the community.

We currently support around 15 households with new referrals being received each month, via our link with The Good Life Project run by Julie Greenslade.

The generosity of local people has amazed us and we are truly grateful to all who have made food and financial donations. It has meant that the service has been a comprehensive one relieving some families of the stress on people facing job losses, ill health or having to provide extra meals whilst the children were not in school.

We will continue to operate the service whilst there is still a need so please do feel free to be in contact if you need some help or point any friends/family who may benefit in our direction. The service doesn't need to be weekly, it can just be a one off or occasional help, there is no need for a referral from any kind of agency, we work on trust and the service is completely confidential. There is a donations box at the end of the Vicarage Driveway, Burterset Rd, Hawes DL8 3NP

For further details on how to ask for help or donate please contact Reverend Dave or Karen Jones at the Benefice Office on Tel 01969 667553



## **Askrigg and District Produce Show Sunday August 29th 2021**

Spring is in the air and there are beautiful flowers and birdsong all around so it must be time to start thinking about the Askrigg and District Produce Show – or is that just the show committee and me? We were really hoping that we could have the show back in the village hall this year but, after much thought and discussion, we have decided to keep the show online for another year to avoid any potential last minute dramas. After all, the show was a great success last year and we welcomed a whole host of new competitors. There were lots of fantastic entries in all of the categories and I think we would have struggled to fit them all in the hall. We are really hoping for an even bigger and better showing this year. If it is safe to do so, we will try and run something small in the hall on show day but I'll let you know nearer the time if that is possible.

With what we learned last year we have made a few changes to the rules but nothing drastic. The show schedule and rules are already up on our website and you can enter any time from now. In fact, we'd really appreciate some early entries, so we have something to inspire and encourage others. Last year we had a slow trickle that built into a frantic tsunami of entries on the last day which gave us a challenge to upload – albeit a rather lovely one.

We have tried to keep the classes as open and generic as possible in order not to put anyone off entering. For example, in the Art category there is a class for pen or ink drawing and a Sunrise or Sunset. In the handicraft section there is a class for a decorated flower pot. We have again made the classes for all 3 age groups of children the same to make it a bit easier for busy mums (and dads?). I keep hearing about how many skills have been learnt and re-discovered over the past year and I really hope that you will share your talents with everyone.

You can find out more details, look at other entries and get inspired by going to our website at [www.askriggproduceshow.weebly.com](http://www.askriggproduceshow.weebly.com) . You can also find out how to get help if you aren't confident with your photographing or uploading skills – we are happy to help in any way we can to enable you to enter.

We look forward to another creative and productive show. Our thanks for all of the support and appreciation we continue to receive from friends near and far. We are also indebted to the many local businesses who have contributed to cover our costs over the years so that we can keep this lovely traditional show going.

Mike Dechezeaux Chairman – Askrigg and District Produce Association

## **Askrigg Community Energy**

At the beginning of 2020, a number of Askrigg's community organisations got together to investigate ways of moving towards greener energy. Founder members of Askrigg Community Energy (or ACE) are Yorebridge Sports & Leisure, Yorebridge Education Foundation, Low Mill Outdoor Activity Centre, St Oswald's Church, the village hall and the BAWB schools with support from the Parish Council.

One of the first actions was to secure a £36k grant to appoint an energy consultancy company to carry out a feasibility study on Askrigg. This was completed by Rupert Blackstone from Wattcraft at the beginning of this year, giving options for ACE to consider for implementation, including solar panels on the community buildings to provide light and heat, and in some cases power electric vehicle charging points; making a bid under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for the schools, and looking at ways to share the biomass pellet boiler heating system at Low Mill with the school. We are now moving on to the next phase, transitioning from feasibility to getting permissions, plans and quotations to proceed to implementation.

In the short term, ACE are actively seeking funding to convert all the lighting in the community buildings to the more efficient LED bulbs and is having a model made to demonstrate the energy efficiency of LEDs compared to regular bulbs to local groups. In addition, we have local children on a 10-week online course to build a model electric car and you can follow their progress on our website and through social media.

The project has attracted national interest and ACE now have representatives on the Northern Power Grid Community representative panel, and Richmondshire Climate Change Partnership. ACE has also featured in several presentations at energy conferences! We have been working with the Yorkshire Energy Doctor scheme and North Yorkshire's Warm and Well campaign across the Upper Dales and have two fully trained Energy Ambassadors, one based in the Upper Dales Community Office in Hawes, to give energy saving advice to all.

ACE have a webpage - <https://www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk/ace/> and are active on Facebook if you are interested in updates on the project. We also have a community meeting scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> June at the village hall. Further details will be available shortly.

## **Easter**

So many things have been different in the last year, so it was good to be back holding services in the church again in time for Easter. It is still not normal – no singing for a start and it was so strange not to be able to sing that Easter classic – Thine be the glory - but lovely at least to hear Diana play it on the organ on Easter Sunday.

On maundy Thursday, there was a beautiful evening service which was both reflective and moving. On Good Friday, a quiet afternoon hour was spent remembering the cross and the sacrifice made. On Easter Sunday, the church looked beautiful, decorated with some wonderful seasonal flowers by our lovely flower ladies and the service, led by Rev Vera was very powerful

## **Obituary**

### **JOAN MARGARET PALEY 1943-2021**

Joan was the only child of Frank and Ella Paley and was born at the Maternity Hospital in Darlington in November 1943. She lived in Bainbridge all her life – attending Bainbridge primary school and then Hawes County School.

On leaving school, Joan helped her father with the family business, but left to start a job as an assistant cook at Hawes school and later as cook at Bainbridge school. She enjoyed an active social life – she was a member of Bainbridge WI for 62 years (and a committee member for most of that time); the Wensleydale Flower Club; the Hawes Drama Club; Diana's Singing for Pleasure Group; the Dales Countryside Museum and the Red Cross. She took a proactive role in these organisations, helping with the catering where she could, helping with flowers for many events, including weddings at the church.

Joan enjoyed days out and short breaks with her parents and the WI and from the 1960s enjoyed holidays in Europe and many other parts of the world with her many friends. She was an accomplished artist and enjoyed photography, painting and card making.

Joan will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

## St Oswald's is open

The church will now be open daily from Sunday (after the service) to Thursdays inclusive. If you are visiting, please use the sanitiser on entry and leaving and observe all the Covid instructions, including the wearing of a facemask please.

## Register

21 January 2021	Funeral	Joan Paley
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## Services

11 April	Holy Communion	Rev Dave Clark	10.30am
	Evening Prayer Telephone Service	Askrigg Team	4.30pm
18 April	Morning Prayer	Elizabeth Fawcett	10.30am
	BCP	Rev Dave Clark	2pm
	Evening Payer Telephone Service	Hardraw Team	4pm
25 April	Holy Communion	Rev Dave Clark	8.30am
	Praise in the Pen*	Rev Dave Clark	10.30am
	Evening Payer Telephone Service	Hawes Team	4pm
2 May	Morning Prayer	Lay lead	10.30am
	Evening Payer Telephone Service	Rev Dave Clark	4pm
9 May	Holy Communion	Rev Dave Clark	10.30am
	Evening Payer Telephone Service	Askrigg Team	4pm
16 May	Morning Prayer	Lay Lead	10.30am
	Evening Payer Telephone Service	Hardraw Team	4pm
23 May	Holy Communion	Rev Dave Clark	8.30am
	Praise in the Pen*	Rev Dave Clark	10.30am
	Evening Payer Telephone Service	Hawes Team	4pm
30 May	Morning Prayer	Lay Lead	10.30am
	Evening Payer Telephone Service	Rev Vera Sinton	4pm

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