



# ADEL BELLS

Parish Magazine 70p



## April 2025

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**The Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Adel**  
 Enquiries including Home Communions, Baptisms, Confirmation,  
 Weddings, Funerals; please look at the church website  
[www.adelparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.adelparishchurch.org.uk)

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 Diocese of Leeds



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**13th February**

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**17th February**

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## Festivals & Feasts

**13th April**

Palm Sunday

**18th April**

Good Friday

**20th April**

Easter Day

**28th April**

George, martyr, patron  
 of England

**29th April**

Mark the Evangelist



*We should not forget how precious clean  
 water is*

### Living water

We are connected in creation  
 by water which gives us life.  
 Tides move in our blood,  
 and on distant shores  
 our kindred lift their heads  
 in the salt air  
 and scan the horizon  
 for a trace of our mark on the earth.  
 Let our marks be gentle.  
 Let us respect the sacredness of  
 water  
 which moves between us  
 as a blessing from the hand of God.

Yvonne Morland



Association for Church Editors

**Church Open for Visitors**  
 Monday and Saturday 1.45pm to 3.45pm



Part of Christ's family, welcoming everyone, sharing God's love and being a voice of hope

## From the Editor

As I am writing this, it is still the early days of Lent and even when you read this month's magazine it will still be some time until Easter. We need to get through the sadness of Holy Week; please look at page 12 to find out how you can participate in our journey through those challenging days. However, happiness will come on 20th April and I wish you all a Happy Easter as you celebrate the joy of the Easter message.

My husband Trevor recently handed over the job of managing the church website to Heidi Harban. You can read about Heidi on p. 14. I am happy to say she is enjoying her new rôle. The website still has the same address but it has a new look and some features that were not possible before. I would encourage you to spend some time looking at the website, prepared to explore every item in order to familiarise yourself

with it. Click on everything in turn and see what it has to offer. It still has copies of Adel Bells, but a good feature is the **Church Calendar**. Find this and you will be rewarded with very useful information, not only about church services but about events in the churchyard and in the Stables. Happy browsing!

Sylvia Halliday was responsible for setting up the original social committee, with the idea of organising regular events not only for our church family but also for our whole community here in Adel. Although Sylvia is no longer with us, the committee still exists and some members have been offering their services for up to 20 years. Sad to announce, but we are struggling and feel we need some new blood, some younger members to help carry us forward into the years to come. Do give this some thought and get in touch with Alison, Jenny Jones or myself if you feel you can help in any way, however small.

**Marjorie Cole**

If live in Adel and would like to have an annual subscription to Adel Bells delivered to your home, please get in touch with me and I will give you the necessary information.

**Marjorie Cole, Editor, 0113 2610069, adelbellscm@gmail.com**

## Rector Alison's Letter

Dear Friends

I am far from an expert gardener, but 2025 seems to have been a very good year for spring flowers. Perhaps the cold period at the start of the year delayed the snowdrops and crocuses, but whatever the cause, having those and the daffodils all flowering at once made the churchyard a beautiful place to sit or wander.

Part of the reason the display was so stunning this year was all the work that has been done clearing brambles to give the bulbs space to flower and be seen. We are very grateful to our 'rake, cake and chat' team who give up their time for this work.

This 'decluttering' of the churchyard is a constant battle. I think the same can be true of our lives. Modern society is built so much around the need to get us to keep buying, that stuff builds up without us noticing. This is true of things we **do** as well as stuff we have. There are so many activities on offer we can find ourselves rushing from one to another without time to stop and enjoy the moment.

I can always tell when I am too busy, as my study gets so cluttered that a parishioner glancing through the window once thought it had been turned over by burglars! Tidying it somehow makes it easier to spend

some time reading or praying. I have also been trying to 'declutter' my life to make space to wander the churchyard or sit in the bird hides at Adel dam.

I am sure you are all much tidier than I am, but spending time getting rid of things we no longer need is a good way of thinking about what our priorities really are; and it is always good to find time just to be.

In the church we are approaching Holy Week and Easter, a time when our faith is somehow 'decluttered' and stripped back to the basics. On Palm Sunday we process joyfully, singing as we go, remembering Jesus' triumphant entry through the crowds into Jerusalem. But by Good Friday we have only Jesus on the cross, stripped of dignity, abandoned by friends.

The night before, in our Maundy Thursday service, we physically strip away everything from the altar and the front of church. It is very powerful and moving, and shows us that what is left, when everything else is gone, is God's love for us, demonstrated in the death of Jesus.

Then, just like the bulbs springing back once the brambles are cleared, on Easter Sunday we come joyfully to a church filled with flowers and music. We celebrate the new life on offer,

based not on stuff or busyness, but on love.

I hope this Easter you can find time and space to just be, and to enjoy our beautiful world and time with family and friends. If you are able, do join us as we journey through Holy Week, decluttering our lives to make room for God's love.

With love and prayers

**Alison**

## Lent Discussion Series

### 2nd April

Last one in the series  
1.30 to 3pm  
in the Stables

It will be based on the gospel of St John:

'John-poet and theologian.'

## Dates for your diary

### 10th April

Special Service for Lent  
See p. 8

### 12th April

Social Event?

### 20th April

Easter Sunday  
With baptisms at 10am service

### 10th May

Concert by Alison Battye  
and Heather Woodhead

### 28th June

Green Fair  
With stalls, refreshments and  
children's activities

### 29th June

Service of Confirmation  
led by Bishop Arun  
as part of our  
Patronal Festival weekend

## Please Note

There may be an event  
arranged by the social  
committee on

### Saturday 12th April

In the afternoon

Unfortunately the event was  
not confirmed by the time  
the magazine had to be sent  
to the printer.

Please look for posters near  
church, information on pew  
sheets and Facebook nearer  
the time.

Sincere apologies

# Lent 2025

## A special service in Lent

10th April, 7pm

**D**o you carry around burdens, regrets, have a conscience about choices you have made, or unresolved resentments, anger or other feelings you haven't dealt with?

Lent is the opportunity given to us to address these burdens and sorrows and to receive God's forgiveness and free ourselves from the weight they cause us to carry.

Common Worship contains a service for us to do this together as a community. It's called a Corporate Service of Penitence and we are planning to hold one as part of the series of Compline. It's a structured service of prayer and hearing God's word. During it we give ourselves space to reflect on the matters that burden us and talk to God about them - and let's be clear, we each do this silently, we are not called to speak out our innermost thoughts.

After this period of reflection we each come to the altar for personal absolution and the laying on of hands. The result of receiving such absolution following our personal confession to God gives us joyful release from any burdens we have



been carrying. Through this service we are reconciled and restored in our relationship with God and with one another; we are restored to our original baptismal state, renewed in our joy of having died and been reborn into new life in Christ.

## Receive the joy of absolution

This will be a very special service that is a powerful way for us to collectively come to God and witness to one another our commitment to a life lived in Christ. What might sound like a downbeat service ends in great joy.

We hope that you will all consider coming to the service to receive the joy of absolution and strengthen our common life.

**Ian and Alison**

# Rev'd Ian Reflects

## What the Dickens?

One of the things I try to do is read a novel by Charles Dickens each year or so (more so than annually, actually). I love Dickens for his arresting prose, his gripping drama and his unfaltering portrayal of the gap between the rich and poor in Victorian London and the pain and sorrow that it causes. And amongst all the pain and chaos of the Industrial Revolution and its transformative changes to people's lives, he also shows us people of goodness and kindness, whose lives, however harmed by society or family, somehow bring redemption to other equally harmed people.

What I didn't expect to find in Dickens was a statement of Jesus' compassion in an account of our young hero, Florence, reading to a woman greatly damaged by her life of pride and now seeking redemption. Dickens writes:

"She read the eternal book for all the weary and heavy laden, all the wretched, fallen and neglected of this earth - read the blessed history in which the blind lame palsied beggar, the criminal, the woman stained with shame, the shunned of all our dainty clay, has each a portion that no human pride, indifference or sophistry, through all the ages of the world shall

last can take away, or by a thousandth atom of a grain reduce - read the ministry of Him who through the round of human life, and all its hopes and griefs, from birth to death, from infancy to age, had sweet compassion for, and interest in, its every scene and stages, its every suffering and sorrow.' (From *Dombey and Son* Chapter LVIII)

What Dickens doesn't go on to say (he's writing a novel, after all) is that Jesus didn't just have compassion. Jesus says, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11.28) From Jesus' compassion for every suffering and sorrow, for all the weary and heavy laden, Jesus gives his life that, whatever our earthy circumstances, he can share our burdens, console us in our griefs, and make us whole as human beings.

And in Him, we share the same compassion and in the power of the Spirit we share God's love with the needy, those carrying heavy burdens and cares in our century, where once again we see the gap between rich and poor growing.

**Ian Johnston**

# In Brief

## Our Green Fair

**28th June 12 noon to 3pm**

Can you help us by collecting items for us to sell? It makes sense to recycle whatever we can. Please hang on to them and bring them to church nearer the time. More details will be given later.

- Jigsaw puzzles
- Books, for adults & children
- Toys
- Children's clothes
- Adult's clothes
- Plants you have grown
- Boxes that could be used on the day to carry pieces of cake home in

## 100 Club Draw For February

- |                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Sarah Johnson    | £80 |
| 2. Christina Bolton | £40 |
| 3. Maureen Pitts    | £30 |

## Snippets from the past

*I have in my possession copies of Adel Bells from the eighties and nineties. I intend to share some of that information with you each month. You may recall some of the names.*

In May 1987 Tony Walker wrote about a hymn singing event to raise money for Polio Plus by asking people to sponsor the hymns; 15 hymns could be sung in one hour, following which they would go down to the Stables for cheese and wine. Jenny

Jones (formerly Jenny Walker) told me that Polio Plus was close to Tony's heart.

## Also in April . . .

### Prayer Meetings 10am every Wednesday In church or at home

Praying this month for:  
Wednesday Prayer Group  
Churchyard Group  
Coffee Rota Team

### Rake, Cake & Chat 9.30am

in the Churchyard  
Saturday 4th April

### Bible Study 10 am in the Stables

Thursday 10th April  
Thursday 24th April

## Electrical equipment

Mary Larner has some items that she no longer needs:

Electric lawnmower, electric hedge trimmer, electric rotunda (not always working), electric Bosch Easytrim, Proline freezer (can fit on a shelf)

Ring Mary if you are interested.

**0113 2612589**

Donations to church funds, please.

# Letter from Lily

Hi Everyone,

I'm writing this in March for Easter, so I'm a bit confused, but I'll sort it! So far, this month has been interesting. I'm a great lover of watching t.v. You humans make lots of programmes I love and, partially, understand. 'From Underdog to Superdog' – is my favourite. I'm glued! I'm not inclined to be as erm . . . 'naughty' as some of these dogs, but the stuff these scampy dogs get to learn is quite inspirational'; I might give some of them a go! I love some of the David-what's-his-name programmes. I could give the undersea ones a miss – looks like a lot of wet paws to me but some of the others, WOW!

My Mum and I were walking on Dunstarn Drive, when I heard this most scary, dreadful noise. Now, when I hear or see something I don't understand/ know about/ am frightened of, I just want to go home where it's safe to think about it and sort it out in my own mind, no immediate pressure: chill. What an unearthly racket! As a lover of all things nature, I'm becoming very tolerant, except when it comes to certain rodents, big uncertain-tempered felines and others yet to be discovered. I've learned about lots of animals, including crocodiles and other mean creatures, so when I thought my Mum said, "Don't be

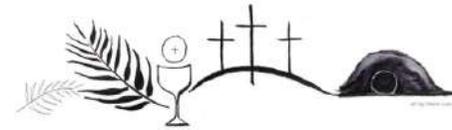
frightened of the noise, it's only a Crockerell," that was it! HOME!

End of walkies! The name was too near 'that creature' and the sound so scary. Mum was very understanding and told me a *Cockerell* was a male hen. Reeelax! I like hens, peaceful things, always making eggs for me to enjoy. Result! Not scared. Ignore. Every day's a school day!

Eggs. Lots around at the moment. Chocolate ones – ones I can't have ☹️. But that's not what Easter is about, is it? I'm still learning, but I do understand that Easter is so important to the Church throughout the world. God hates sin but He loves us. Jesus loves us and He wants to help people to be acceptable to God. In the past God's people Israel made sacrifices to God to say sorry for their sins. Then Jesus, Son of God and only perfect human being, came and took upon Himself the whole burden of human sin and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin throughout the ages. Belief and faith in Him makes people acceptable to God.

Christ **has** died, Christ **is** risen,  
Christ **will** come again.  
Alleluia He is Risen – He is Risen indeed.  
Wishing you a very blessed Easter.  
Woofs & lix,  
**Lily xx**

# Holy Week & Easter



## Palm Sunday, 13th April

8.30am Said Eucharist with blessing of palms

10am Sung Eucharist with procession and blessing of Palms

## Monday 14th April

7.30pm Compline (Night prayer)

## Tuesday 15th April

7.30pm 'Looking to the Cross', words and music for Holy Week

## Wednesday 16th April

7.30pm Said Eucharist

## Maundy Thursday, 17th April

7.30pm Sung Eucharist with foot washing, stripping of the altar and (optional) watch until 10pm

## Good Friday, 18th April

10am - 12 noon Family activities in the Stables

2pm An Hour at the Cross

## Easter Day, 20th April

6am – Dawn Eucharist with the new fire of Easter, renewal of baptism promises and the first Eucharist of Easter (followed by breakfast)

10am Parish Eucharist with baptisms and children's Easter egg hunt

# Environmental News

## A positive impact on the local wildlife

Opening this month in April, tucked away in the corner of North Leeds is this amazing little garden. Where it may lack in size, it certainly makes up for it in heart. Lovingly brought to life by the late Spencer family between 1951 and 1994. After Sybil Spencer's death in 1994, rather than selling it, York Gate Garden was bequeathed to Perennial, a charity founded in 1839. This will ensure the garden will be looked after for years to come.

York Gate Garden is widely recognised as one of England's best small gardens and has often been featured on BBC's Gardeners World. Although small, set in an acre, it has a big positive impact on the local wildlife in the area. The garden is divided and crafted into smaller outdoor rooms, all connected by a trail made from reclaimed materials, a vision started by Robin, carried on by his mum, Sybil, and now continued by the gardeners at York Gate. A vision truly ahead of his time.

Walking through the twisting path connecting the different garden areas, with the calming trickling sound of the multi-level pond fed by an underground water source running from our church, intrinsically connecting the two, it is easy to imagine you are transported away to some far off magical land. This

garden is well worth making a special trip for, and when you are done, there is a café with an outdoor terraced area that is open throughout the year for refreshments, with a menu crafted from produce from the garden. How much more local can you get?

This year, you will see the opening of an important new area that York Gate has been working on. Past the meadow, the gardeners have been busy rewilding a little area they have affectionately named Foggy Close. This helps the local ecosystems adapt to climate change by restoring biodiversity to the area. Each season will bring new colour and life into the garden as the year passes, so it is well worth multiple visits. I will have more to say about this next month.

There is a small car park but if able, there are regular buses from Leeds to Otley Road. A short walk to York Gate will take you past our church; please do pop in if it is open, you might find Julia, River and myself there. Or you can catch the 28 from the city, which will bring you to Sir George Martin Drive.

York Gate Gardens reopens on **2nd April**, LS16 8DW. Adults £10, Child (5-16) £4, under 5s FREE. Assistant dogs only.

**Tang x**

# My Day in Cups of Coffee

*I asked Heidi Harban, who has recently taken over the job of managing the church website, to tell us about a typical day in her life.*

## How do you like to start your day?

Before I had my son back in October, I'd set an early alarm to have time for a quiet yoga practice, some morning cardio and a slow cup of coffee. It was a sacred ritual for me to get the day off to a good start before the rest of my family surfaced! At the moment though my son is my alarm clock and I'm greeted with gummy smiles anytime from 5am!

## Tell me a bit about your work.

I'm on maternity leave at the moment from my role as a Senior Legal Technology Manager for an international law firm. I work with tech companies, our lawyers and their clients to source and implement tech solutions in our legal service provision.

## Kettle's on - what do you fancy?

I never turn down a brew and I almost always have one on the go! I'll have tea or coffee depending on my mood/time of the day. As my son has a cow's milk intolerance I have to take all my drinks with oat milk, which I think tastes better in coffee, so I'm having more of that right now. I reserve caffeine for first thing in the

morning and at lunchtime if I've had a bad night - otherwise it's strictly decaf for me as I'm very caffeine sensitive.

## How did you end up doing what you do now?

I was a corporate solicitor for five years before being approached for my current rôle. Working with technology has always been a hobby of mine; I feel so lucky to make a living in an area which is a passion for me. I get to travel the world speaking with people and experiencing new cultures too, which is deeply rewarding.

## When do you down tools for the day?

Normally I have busy evenings getting my three year old and four month old fed, bathed and to bed. I then collapse in a chair for an hour between 8 and 9 before heading off for sleep/the night shift (my baby is a long way off sleeping through the night!)

## What do the next few months hold for you?

I will be soaking in as much of my maternity leave as possible before I resume work in September. I'm also looking forward to learning more about our new look church website, spending time while my son naps updating the content and playing with the aesthetics to ensure all of our information is easy to find and looks really appealing. It's been fun so far

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and I'm loving meeting more members of the church community as I'm doing it!

### Tea break - do you have a favourite mug?

At the moment all my hot drinks are made in my beloved travel mugs. They're big and they keep drinks warm for hours which is perfect for a busy mum!! I have a couple of huge colourful pint mugs that I also love to use - the bigger the mug, the better - I can't stand a small cup!

### What are you most looking forward to right now?

A good nights sleep!! Every night I hope it will happen but it hasn't yet! And getting back into the routine of coming to the service in person on a Sunday.



## We need you

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 6th April

at 11.30

in the Old Stables

Please come and support Alison and the PCC

## Our Little Adventure

*You may remember an enquiry in February Adel Bells about the ironmongery by the West gate on top of some steps. Those very same steps inspired Trevor Brown to write a story for his granddaughter.*

### A Day with Emilia: The Secret Steps Adventure

I had the delightful opportunity to entertain Emilia, our seven-year-old granddaughter, for the day. The challenge? To devise a plan that would both stimulate and engage her. After some thought, I came up with an idea: a walk to the "Secret Steps" - at least, that's what I decided to call them.

Together, we set off on our little adventure. Well, perhaps "adventure" is a bit of a stretch - as it was really just a stroll through the churchyard to the West Gate - but even the mundane can become magical when seen through the eyes of a seven-year-old.

I asked AI (Artificial Intelligence) for a picture of secret steps; it delivered something far more mysterious and enchanting. Reality, as it turns out, was a little less dramatic.

### First Impressions and a Curious Mind

When we arrived, Emilia's first reaction was less than enthusiastic.

"These are hardly secret, Grandad," she pointed out. "Everyone can see them, and there are only three!"



I had a response ready: "Ah, but the mystery doesn't lie in the steps themselves - it lies in where they lead to. We climbed to the top of the steps, and I challenged her: "Can you guess what we're standing on?" It's worth noting that Emilia is an avid horse rider. Over the past year, she's become quite the equestrian, with a favourite T-shirt that proudly declares, "I would rather be riding, but my parents have sent me to school."

During her early lessons, she'd used a mounting block to help climb onto her horse. Yet, even with this knowledge, she couldn't connect those experiences to the stone steps beneath her feet. Finally, I revealed the secret: the "Secret Steps" were actually an old horse mounting block. Emilia looked at me, puzzled, and

asked, "How do you carry these to the horse, Grandpa?" I couldn't help but laugh as I explained that people used to ride horses to church in the "olden days" and used these steps to mount and dismount.

### Imagining the Past

Her enthusiasm at once grew as she began to picture this historical practice. I could see her imagination at work, envisioning a bustling churchyard filled with horses and riders. For a moment, I think we might have even gained a future parishioner - though the 30-mile round trip from Bailiff Bridge would be a logistical challenge. Of course, I had to clarify that this was a tradition from a bygone era. I tread carefully when mentioning "olden days," as Emilia's curiosity about history often takes us on unexpected tangents. Thanks to her dad's mischievous approach to homework, she's already asked me about World War II, rationing, and evacuees.

I explained to her, "It goes back to a time when poor people had horses and rich people had cars. Nowadays, it's the other way around." She giggled at the thought, and I could see her pondering how much life has changed.

### A Link to the Past

So, the old mounting block has now become "The Secret Steps" in our family lore. I've never seen anyone use them, and I don't know their full

history. They're not unique; there are others scattered around the area, like bus stops for horse riders. Still, they're a fascinating reminder of a very different age. For Emilia, the steps may have started as a minor curiosity, but by the time we headed home, they had transformed into something far more magical. And for me, it was a joy to see the past come alive through her vivid imagination.

### Trevor Brown

*And here below you see the AI picture of steps that can truly be described as secret, but I am sure there is more excitement in Trevors's description of our not-so-secret steps than in the AI version.*  
Editor



# The Lost Words

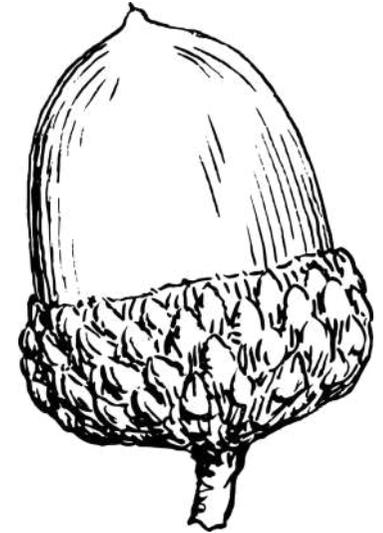
Last month I mentioned the book "The Lost Words". This is my story of how I came across it and fell in love with it.

I visited Mary Larner for coffee at her home seven or eight years ago. She showed me a book which was a present from her now late husband, Peter. It was such a beautiful book that I instinctively stroked it. (I do not stroke books usually!) I went out and bought my own copy for which I then made a cover to protect it. I took my sewn cover and book to my sewing class and numerous people said they were going to buy it for themselves or their grandchildren as it was such a gem of a book.

So why is it called "The Lost Words"? The writer Robert Macfarlane noticed that the Oxford Junior Dictionary had been revised. Words had been taken out – old fashioned words that were no longer needed or being used – words like conker, acorn, wren, magpie, otter and many more. If you have not got a word for it how are you going to speak or write about it?

Robert Macfarlane, together with illustrator Jackie Morris, created a book that put this right. It is a beautiful book.

Individuals have donated books to



schools as they deem the book so valuable. A schoolbus driver in Scotland raised enough money for every school in Scotland to have their own copy. The story of individual donations to schools went on all over the country.

Jack, at York Gate, had not seen it so I let him borrow my copy. I know that Rector Alison has a copy as does Marjorie\*, the editor of this magazine. It is a pricy book but well worth it. Maybe you too will stoke it when you first sit down to read it.

### Hilary Taylor

*\*I told Hilary I was going to buy it, but my grandsons already had a copy, so we shared it!*

# Words from Joyce Hill

## Good Friday Rituals

Good Friday rituals vary from church to church, but whatever the degree of formal ceremony, the day is unlike any other: in our commemoration of the Crucifixion, there is a direct engagement with the day's sequence of events as detailed in the Gospels. In some traditions this may be through readings and meditation, but in many churches there is some degree of dramatic enactment: observing the Stations of the Cross, the Adoration of the Cross, and the Easter Sepulchre, which comes into use on Good Friday.

The earliest account of direct engagement is from the 380s in a narrative of a pilgrimage made from Spain, or possibly Gaul, to the Holy Land by a woman called Egeria who sent an account of her travels to a community of fellow-believers, whom she addressed as her sisters (although this does not necessarily mean that Egeria was a member of a formal religious community). She spent three years in Jerusalem and described in detail the local rituals of Holy Week and Easter, in which she took part. Pilgrimages to the holy sites had rapidly developed in the fourth century, following St Helen's travels in the Holy Land in 326-28, when she sought to identify the sites of the major gospel events. This led to the

development of special liturgies at these places.

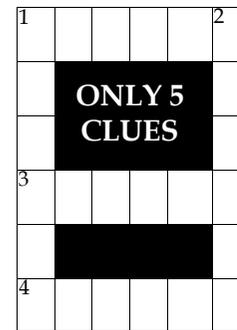
Jerusalem lent itself particularly well to symbolic re-enactment, and the sequence of events of Palm Sunday through Holy Week to Easter Day are narrated in detail in each Gospel. Egeria describes: Good Friday morning, the faithful gathered to venerate the relics of the Cross, going then to Golgotha, the site of the Crucifixion, to keep watch for three hours as referred to in the Gospels and then when Jesus was taken down from the Cross, they went to the Holy Sepulchre, where the account of the entombment was read.

Jerusalem was not universally accessible and churches developed symbolic dramatic liturgies of their own. For Good Friday, a 10<sup>th</sup> century English work describes how a cross was held up in front of the altar, then laid on a cushion for veneration, with an option to wrap the cross in a cloth and place it within a sepulchre on the altar itself 'in imitation of the burial of the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ'. Such symbolic enactment of Good Friday rituals is an aspect of worship with its own special value and power.

This was the very reason on-the-spot devotional practices began in fourth-century Jerusalem and then developed into the symbolic liturgies that are still used today.

# Only 5 Clues

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CLUES



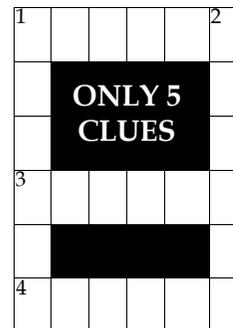
### ACROSS

- 1. Eg Chinese, Indians etc
- 3. Duck with soft feathers
- 4. Annoy; plant

### DOWN

- 1. At the rear (of ship)
- 2. Suffer great hunger

## CRYPTIC CLUES



### ACROSS

- 1. Distant meteor to break up
- 3. Tyrant posted abroad
- 4. Fictional horse's reward for coming second

### DOWN

- 1. Island ways verbalised
- 2. Newspaperman recalled repetition  
About one day

Solutions on p 47. Each puzzle has different answers.

There are 15 words for you to find, all associated with Holy Week.

## Holy Week

S	N	S	H	O	T	E	E	F	D	E	O	A	A
N	O	I	T	A	T	I	D	E	M	T	N	E	L
N	I	O	H	E	E	S	N	O	I	T	A	T	S
V	A	P	M	G	O	L	G	O	T	H	A	A	M
A	N	N	A	S	O	H	R	T	N	I	S	E	I
M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J	V	R	D	I	S
L	N	A	R	G	S	U	V	E	I	S	O	E	I
R	F	S	H	T	A	U	A	S	N	T	L	N	N
E	S	P	O	Y	T	N	P	S	M	Y	O	P	E
L	E	V	O	L	N	S	L	P	A	A	R	A	N
F	I	N	I	S	H	E	D	S	E	G	O	L	A
S	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	R	T	R	S	M	H
N	T	O	A	O	A	C	R	O	S	S	A	S	L
A	L	T	O	S	E	V	E	N	T	E	F	A	O

FINISHED  
PALMS  
STATIONS  
CROSS  
LOVE  
DOLOROSA  
FEET  
HOSANNA

GOLGOTHA  
SEVEN  
SUPPER  
FORGIVE  
MEDITATION  
THIRSTY  
JERUSALEM

**Solution on p.34**

## York Gate Update

**F**or over 40 years the Spencers created and tended their garden at York Gate.

Since 1995 the garden has been in the care of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, now Perennial, and we are celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A garden is continually growing and evolving; there are always new and restoration projects to ensure that the garden continues to thrive and survive for another generation of gardeners and garden visitors. The garden never stands still.

### The Arbour has long generated public interest

Last year we saw the restoration of the Folly and over the winter there has been major conservation work on the Arbour. The iconic crossed timbers needed to be replaced and after many months of planning, replacement timbers were sourced at Machells Reclamation in Guiseley and the services of local conservation specialists, Cruse Paving, were called upon once again.

Seen from the road, the Arbour has long generated public interest – it is certainly a most unusual, possibly

unique, garden feature. Designed by Robin Spencer as a focal point in the Orchard Garden leading into what was at that time the Duck Run, now the Pinetum, the Arbour started life in Chapel Lane, Armley.

As a surveyor, Robin had been called upon to arrange the demolition of an old building which had been destroyed by fire and it was following the demolition that he was attracted to two king-post trusses lying on the ground, a little blackened by fire, which he thought he might find a use for. The trusses which were 2 to 300 years old also had a story to tell.

The building from which they had come had been a chapel and had been haunted by a hooded monk-like figure, the current tenant asserting that he had seen the ghost in the very room where the beams had fallen on more than one occasion! Robin later recorded, "The demolition must have released the unquiet spirit as the ghost has never been seen again."

The trusses were delivered to York Gate and lifted into the garden by crane from the road. Later, in what was quite an architectural feat, the two heavy oak beams were mounted on to four stone pillars, lifted into place by crane once again. Robin then completed the structure with a base of

rose-pink granite setts surrounded by blue roofing tiles set edge on edge.

Over 50 years on, the Arbour's old oak beams have now been removed by the conservation team and the new timbers, after some initial preparation and planning with a mock construction in the working area behind the garden, were loaded onto a lorry with a crane so that they could be lifted into place from the road, just as it had been done in Robin's day. The old trusses will live on and will be used to create a new feature in the garden.

It has been a long winter for us all but York Gate has well and truly woken up and is ready to welcome visitors back for the new season. Gardens do wonders for our well-being and spring is a great time to be out of doors, so do come along and see all that has been happening while we have been closed.

**Gillian Smith**  
Heritage Volunteer.



**Councillor Billy Flynn with Head Gardener Jack Ogg in front of the newly restored Arbour.**

## What a Tree!



### York Gate's Sequoiadendron Giganteum Pendula

Sequoiadendron - what a tree! towering tall above York Gate's six-sailed Yew hedge, like a watchful guard who waits - with three evergreen, strong arms, strangely waving, on the far edge of Sybil's small front lawn.

Sequoiadendron seems to be like a phantom, on a misty day, full of mystery and strange charm against the back-drop ridge of frosted oaks and birch and beeches, in nearby woods, beyond Stairfoot's old bridge.

Sequoiadendron's strange, long arms reach out - high in the sky, and wave to me, while I walk by this low stone, 1767 sundial.

Then I make my home, alone, along the ancient Hollow Way, with Red Kites high-flying by.



**Val Crompton**  
March 2025

Way back in the late 1970s, Sybil Spencer of York Gate acquired a small, young evergreen tree. She planted it in the far corner of the front lawn.

Head Gardener, Jack Ogg, tells me that it is a **Sequoiadendron giganteum pendula**.

This tree was pruned in the early days. Now in 2025, it has become YG's strange, lolloping guardian. Many visitors asked about this tree. You can't miss it!

Last year, 20,493 visitors came to YG Garden. In 2022, York Gate Garden was granted Grade II national heritage status, in the list of post-war gardens and landscapes for England.

**Bible quote**  
**KJV ISAIAH 55 v. 13**  
*Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree.*  
Some versions use **Sequoia**.

# Walks and Talks

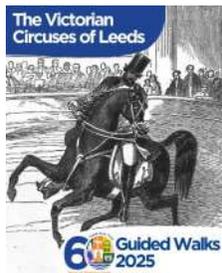


**Leeds Civic Trust Heritage  
Guided Walk 5th April 6pm -  
7.30pm**

Walk repeated  
9th July 6pm - 7.30pm

Join Professor Joyce Hill for a Civic Trust Walk along Leeds Waterfront. See *Civic Trust Website* for booking. Tickets are £6 for members £8 for non-members.

How Leeds became an inland port, taking freight off the roads - and Leeds flourished. By 1700, there was access from Leeds to the North Sea and the Baltic - by the Aire and Calder Navigation. Then 100 years later the Leeds - Liverpool Canal was completed with access to the Atlantic.



## The Victorian Circuses of Leeds

A walking tour of the city centre sites of the Victorian Circus venues with Dr Steve Ward.

**30th April 2.30- 4.30pm**  
**Book on the Civic Trust Website**  
Tickets are £6 for members  
£8 for non-members.

## Owls at Kirkstall



At Half-Term, in the Cloisters at Kirkstall Abbey, we enjoyed meeting and holding the Owls from the **Wise Owl Bird of Prey Rescue**.

**The 1152 Club**  
usually meets once a month  
on **Tuesdays**  
at **10am - 11.15am,**  
during term-time.  
at **Abbey House Museum.**

Next Meeting  
**Tues 1st April AIDS Crisis**  
*Speaker: Aleks Fagelman*  
This is a free, friendly local history group for adults aged 55+, includes a hot drink.

No booking is needed.  
Pat Bourne Leeds LS5 3EH  
**0113 378 4079** or contact

**Val Crompton**

# Playing the Ukulele

**T**hree years ago, my wife and I decided to go on a winter warmer cruise to The Canary Islands and Portugal. As you are at sea for 3 days before you get to the first island, there's plenty of entertainment.

One of the classes you can join - was to learn to play the Ukulele. I must admit I was a bit apprehensive, as I had tried to learn to play the guitar since I was 16. Although I can play slide guitar quite well, I never really mastered the chords. I decided to go to the classes and have a go.

The good thing for me is the Ukulele only has 4 strings and the neck is much smaller and thinner. The chord shapes are much easier and you only usually use 3 fingers to play them. Quite a few songs only use 3 chords, so I could easily strum along.

I really liked this instrument and I couldn't wait to get back home and buy one, or should that be two? The first ukulele I bought was a Ukulele Banjo. This has the same neck as a standard ukulele but has a banjo resonator body. The tuning and chords are still the same.

I remember George Formby playing one of those when I was younger. I must admit I love the sound of it. It is loud which I quite enjoy; there's no volume control. The only volume is

controlled by how hard you play/ hit the strings. A couple of my friends played the ukulele, so we formed a group. Both of them were in a larger band, and as I wanted to learn more, I asked if I could join a local band?

The band closest to me is The Crossgates Good Neighbours' Ukulele Band. They meet on a Tuesday at The Newman Centre, opposite the Arndale Shopping Centre in Crossgates. I went along and joined. The rest they say is history as I have been playing with this band ever since.

We have performed quite a few concerts mostly at sheltered housing/ care homes, also at The Arndale shopping centre, The Light in Headingley, and at The Grove Methodist Church.

My other Ukulele I bought from one of my Heydays friends. It's a concert-sized instrument. I have put a low G string on this instrument, as I broke the high G a few times. I guess this is because I don't use a plectrum but just use my finger nails. I probably hit the top G string too hard? Since fitting the lower string I haven't had any trouble.

## David Blakeley

*David is a member of the Holt Park Creative Writing Group and has written pieces for us in the past.*

## In Your Garden

"April ... hath put a spirit of youth in everything."

~**William Shakespeare**

Remembering back to last April we were just coming out of one of the wettest winters I can recall. The ground had endured months of saturation or flood and it was certainly a slow start to the season. But the weather did turn for the better and the recovery was swift. This winter has been thankfully unremarkable. Just the one cold snap in January and average amounts of rain, cloud, frost and sun – just how most plants like it.

The clocks have gone forward, the days are longer and the sun is higher and warmer in the sky and so your garden is really coming to life. Buds are bursting, grass is growing and early flowers are tilting towards the sun. All great news – but be cautious. Snow, frosts, drought, gales or floods are all perfectly possible and the tender early growth of most life is susceptible, particularly with fluctuations between extremes. Many early flowers, bulbs and new shoots growing in east facing areas are badly damaged by the combination of a hard frost and a sudden thaw. A protracted cold spell might impact on future crop yields as many fruiting plants have April flowers which can be scorched by frost, or do not get pollinated as insects delay their emergence.

I like to start the outdoor season with the weeding and hoeing. It is so much easier to tackle small emerging weeds rather than those larger, established ones that will take up residence if you don't! Also, by getting you close to the soil you can check on its health and fertility. Any remaining dead-heading can be tackled together with removal of any dead stems and branches to make way for fresh growth. You may also want to resume the mowing of your lawn by the end of the month, if the hoped-for warm and dry weather materialises. Start with a relatively high blade setting and lower it with successive cuts.

Woodland flowers take centre stage in April, together with their garden cousins. They are making the most of the spring sunshine before the tree canopy closes in, so enjoy the anemones, primroses, brunnera, euphorbias and the smell of wild garlic. By the end of the month it will be time to remove faded flowers, nipping off heads and the developing seed pods at the same time, but leaving the green leaves.

Keep any eye on any nest boxes you can see. They will be occupied if they are going to be, but not all are chosen every year. And do enjoy the comings and goings of the occupants!

**George Turnbull**

enquiries@adelgardencare.co.uk  
www.adelgardencare.co.uk

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# What's On

## Headingley Flower Club at Bramhope

Wednesday 2nd April

Workshop

7pm Guests are welcome at all meetings. A guest fee will be charged. Bramhope Village Hall, Old Lane, Bramhope. LS16 9AZ Contact Mrs Jean Money Tel 01924 468714



## Leeds & District Association of the National Trust

Tuesday 8th April

"From Copper to Shepherd"

Sue Woodcock, writer of murder mysteries and columnist with the Yorkshire Post's Saturday's country supplement will recount her life story. An amusing talk on a full life!

All meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, 10 for 10.30am in St. Chad's Parish Centre, Far Headingley. Easily accessible by Otley Road (A660) buses - nos. 23-28.

There is a car park.

Guests welcome - entrance fee £7.00.

Refreshments before the meeting by donation.

Further information:

c.lightman@sky.com (Ann Lightman)



## Adel Gardeners' Club

Monday 14th April

'Growing Fruit & Vegetables Undercover'

David Allinson

In Adel Methodist church

David has provided us with several interesting talks. And judged at our Annual flower and Produce Show. This will be David's last talk before he takes his well-deserved retirement. He will be bringing plants for sale. <https://adelhort.chessck.co.uk/>



## Adel Players

Wednesday to Saturday  
23rd to 26th April, 7.30pm

Separate Tables

by Terence Rattigan

Directed by Beth Duce

Separate Tables is the collective name of two one-act plays by Terence Rattigan,

both taking place in the Beauregard

Private Hotel, Bournemouth

To book tickets, please email

[boxoffice@adel-players.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@adel-players.org.uk).



# Books of the Bible

There are the names of sixteen books of the Bible mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find. A minister is reported to have found fifteen books in 20 minutes, but took several days to discover the sixteenth. Have fun.



I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.

**Solution on p. 34**

# Barry Anderson

## Trees for Streets

The Council has advised that they will no longer continue with the Trees for Streets initiative, the majority of locations proving unsuitable. Since August 2023 to date, we received 105 requests and only 13 locations were suitable. Instead, the relevant team have worked with Highways colleagues to develop new guidance for planting. Agreement to plant in grass verges and previously capped tree pits were potential approved locations.

All enquiries for potential street tree planting can now be signposted to the woodland creation scheme where suitability checks can be carried out. The only possible locations within streets are previously capped tree pits and grass verges and these will be subject to checks. Notification for residents to suggest any tree planting locations will be live in March.

## Adel burglary

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February a suspect for a burglary in Adel was charged with that offence and another of interference with a vehicle. On 6<sup>th</sup> February the suspect appeared in Court and was given a 6-month prison sentence.

## Starship robots

I received a report about an issue with the robots that operate out of the

Coop. Unfortunately they had been causing an issue for anyone wanting to use the ramp to get access to the store as the ramp was being blocked at times. They have now moved the idle area for the robots very slightly so that it is not at the entrance to the area where the ramp is accessed.

## Emmerdale coaches

I receive a lot of complaints about the Emmerdale tour buses travelling on local Adel roads e.g. Church Lane when they should not be. I have been in protracted correspondence with the Planning Department's Enforcement officers as the original planning application conditions in 2014 had an agreed route though Weardley.

ITV studios have agreed that the approved route is via Weardley and they have instructed their coach operators accordingly.

## Leeds local plan

The Council are working towards preparing a new planning document titled Leeds Local Plan. This will focus on a wide range of topics, including the Overall Spatial Strategy – this is looking at where new development should take place between now and 2042; Housing – ensuring that the right amount, type, size and tenure of housing is developed to meet needs; Economic Development – providing

space for new / expanding businesses; City and Local Centres – responding to the changing role of Leeds City Centre, the high street and local centres; Minerals & Waste – planning for the need for mineral resources and the processing of waste; Transport & Connectivity – using development to enable more people to travel by more sustainable options; Other important policy areas – to ensure policies are in place to secure high quality new development that respects the environment. It is proposed that public consultation

will take place in late Spring / early Summer so please look out for this. I will send the information out when I receive it. The Council will publish details of all the sites that are being considered, and the results of their initial assessment, to enable local residents, businesses and other stakeholders to feed into the process.

Cllr. Barry Anderson  
Adel & Wharfedale Ward  
Direct Dial 0113 3367742  
[www.barryanderson.org.uk](http://www.barryanderson.org.uk)  
Twitter @barryanderson19

# Billy Flynn

## York Gate - restoration of historic arbour

Now Spring is here – at long last - I am delighted to say that the magnificent arbour in the garden originally erected sixty years ago has been fully restored to its original glory after falling into disrepair. I was invited by Jack Ogg the Garden Manager to inspect the arbour last month and it really is an excellent piece of work. You can see the top of the arbour from Back Church Lane although it is much better seen in the garden itself. It is a quite remarkable construction using oak dowels. The completion of the arbour coincided with the thirtieth anniversary this year of Perennial taking over the custody of York Gate Garden and with the Snowdrop Days in February. I am equally pleased to say that Adel &

Ward councillors were able to contribute to the restoration work with a sizeable grant from the funds we have locally. This is exactly the kind of project we should be supporting because the entire local community are able to enjoy it.

## Talking about grants – do you need one?

Following the financial help, we were able to give York Gate Garden to restore the arbour, it is probably a good time to remind residents that local councillors have access to a considerable amount of funding to help out local organisations, good causes and other community projects. For example, last year we were able to support the churchyard tree replacement project and have

contributed almost £30,000 to a local club to help fund three local improvements in sport and leisure facilities. This is a huge amount for one club, and we want to ensure all local organisations are aware of the help available. There is a large amount still unspent mainly from the community infrastructure levy paid by developers on virtually all local housing developments. The qualifying criteria is not overly bureaucratic, applications are welcomed from a registered charity or community group etc. The funding must be for a demonstrable need within the local community and directly benefit those living in the Adel & Wharfedale Ward. If you think you meet the criteria, please do get in touch with me.

**Bring out your lawnmowers – brown bin collections are back, permanently**

Spring is here, so do not forget that the brown bin collection starts again on 1 April. In addition, food waste will now be allowed in brown bins rather than black bins, and consequently the council is planning to extend the brown bin collection to all year round. Not before time. Please consult the council website for further information on your bin collection days as they vary from area to area.

**Road repairs or lack of them**

People approaching the church from any direction cannot miss the

disgraceful state of the roads or avoid potholes and in particular the corner of Back Church Lane and Church Lane proper. This is a notorious spot for one large, recurring pothole although there is currently a large area approaching the junction from the golf club direction sorely in need of repair. There is another real “teeth rattler” where you turn right from Church Lane where it meets at Adel Lane, towards the traffic lights on Otley Rd. I have asked highways to make good these areas and several other locations in Adel that are in an appalling state. Some of the road signage removed from Sir George Martin Drive during the road works coming from the ring road has been restored at last. I have had several complaints about vehicles parking on the zig zag lines at the new zebra crossing outside Adel Wood Store and seen it for myself, one was parked up for a considerable amount of time on the crossing itself during the recent snow fall. This is an obvious hazard but particularly so at school times. I have asked our enforcement team to carry out regular visits to check for illegal parking.

If you would like further information on the issues above or have questions about anything else in the ward, please do contact me.

Telephone 07810 640282 or email [billy.flynn@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:billy.flynn@leeds.gov.uk)

**Books of the Bible, Solution**

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.

S N S H O T E E F D E O A A  
 N O I T A T I D E M T N E L  
 N I O H E E S N O I T A T S  
 V A P M G O L G O T H A A M  
 A N N A S O H R T N I S E I  
 M E L A S U R E J V R D I S  
 L N A R G S U V E I S O E I  
 R F S H T A U A S N T L N N  
 E S P O Y T N P S M Y O P E  
 L E V O L N S L P A A R A N  
 F I N I S H E D S E G O L A  
 S E V I G R O F R T R S M H  
 N T O A O A C R O S S A S L  
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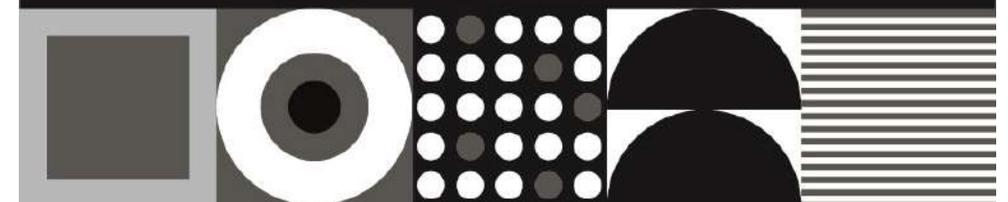
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*J Pitts*

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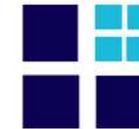
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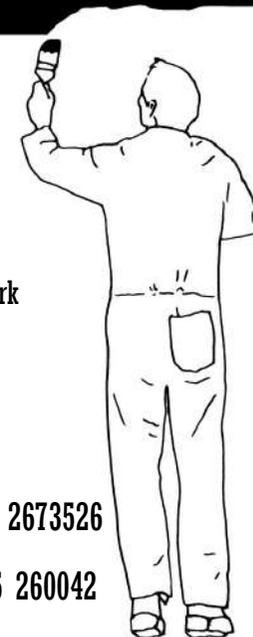
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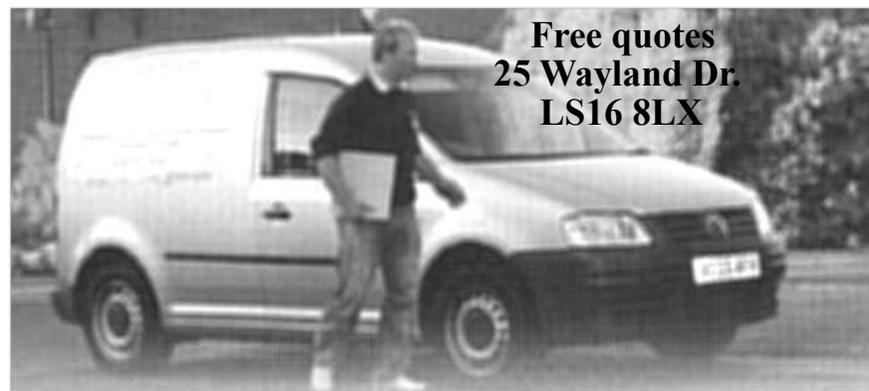


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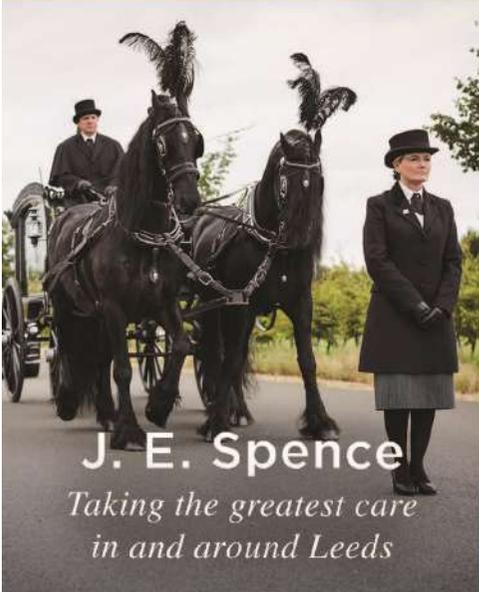
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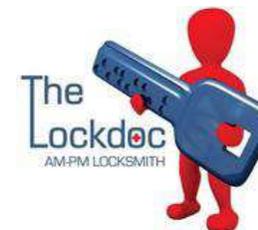
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## Church Services in April

**Special services for Holy Week are on p. 12**

<b>Wed 2nd</b>	11am	Holy Communion followed by coffee & biscuits
<b>Thurs 3rd</b>	7pm	Compline
<b>Fri 4th</b>	1.30pm	J Js (for the under sixes)
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	
	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Evensong
<b>Wed 9th</b>	11am	Holy Communion
<b>Thurs 10th</b>	7pm	Corporate Service of Repentance
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	
	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am	Parish Communion
	5pm	ACE meeting followed by ACE+
<b>Wed 16th</b>	11am	Holy Communion
<b>Thurs 17th</b>	3.15pm	Holy Communion in the Stables, with tea & coffee
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	
	6am	Dawn Eucharist, followed by breakfast
	10am	Parish Eucharist with baptisms
<b>Wed 23rd</b>	11am	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>	
	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am	Parish Communion
	5pm	ACE meeting followed by ACE+
<b>Wed 30th</b>	11am	Holy Communion

**Junior Church** is held during term time, but not on the 3rd Sunday when there is a 10am All Age service, with communion, and children are welcome for the whole of the service in church.

**ACE** is a group for school year 4 and above. We meet in the Stables in term time to discuss our faith and play silly games. Ace+ starts at 6pm on 2nd Sunday of the month in church (at the Ace communion) and 6.15pm on 4th Sunday of the month in the Stables.