



ADEL BELLS

Parish Magazine 70p

MAY 2026



**Where ordinary days became memories
A painting has been removed · New kitchen
Long racemes of pale purple flowers in May
A man in uniform holding a loaded gun
Engage in conversation with local people**

Contact Information

Rector Revd Alison Battye
25 Church Lane, Adel, LS16 8DQ
alison.battye@leeds.anglican.org
0113 267 3676

Church Website

www.adelparishchurch.org.uk

Parish Contacts

Lay Minister	Paul Barker	07306 282 827
Churchwardens	Anne Andrews Alison Howarth	0113 275 5585 anne.andrews@ntlworld.com 07738 082 582 ahowarth@hotmail.com
PCC secretary	Andy Neal	07415 424 964 adelpccsecretary@gmail.com
PCC Treasurer	Bob Holloway	0113 267 9360 hollowaybob11@gmail.com
Planned Giving	Helen Hallett	helenhallett00@gmail.com
Environmental Officer	Thang Tang	adel.eco.church@hotmail.com
Stables Bookings	Loveday Loveridge	07974 321 466 adeloldstables@gmail.com
Junior Church	Ruth Cunliffe	07753671123
Magazine Advertising	Gerald Gaunt	0113 267 6708 geraldgaunt@btinternet.com
Magazine Distribution	Sandra Lavery	0113 261 2008
Safeguarding	James Moxon	07984 164 782
Website	Heidi Harban	hgharban@gmail.com
Enquiries		adelparishchurch@gmail.com

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

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 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**
 Diocese of Leeds



Adel PCC Members 2026–2027

Anne Andrews, Paul Barker,
 Lucy Best-Shaw,
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 Marisa Clayton, Marjorie Cole,
 Bob Holloway, Alison Howarth,
 Sarah Johnson,
 Jenny Jones, Sandra Lavery,
 Sue Lawson, Loveday Loveridge,
 Andrew Neal, Mark Seaward,
 Carole Smithies, Leanne Winfield

Magazine Editor

Marjorie Cole

Illustrator

Val Crompton

Church Open for Visitors

Monday and Saturday 1.45pm to 3.45pm

Parish Registers

Funerals

2nd March

Anne Baxendale

17th March

Patricia Brown

26th March

Ian Watson

Burial of Ashes

23rd March

John Surtees

Bernard Riley



Festivals & Feasts

1st May

Philip & James, Apostles

14th May

Ascension Day

15th May

Matthias the Apostle

24th May

Pentecost

31st May
 Trinity Sunday



My to-do list for today

Count my blessings
 Practise kindness
 Let go of what I can't control
 Listen to my heart
 Be productive yet calm
 Just breathe

In the Presence of Jesus

When everything around you
 Feels like it's closing in,
 Remember. . .
 He is still in control.

Hold on to this promise:
 The battle is not yours alone.
 He has already made a way.

Mindful Christianity



Association for Church Editors



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

From the Editor

I like to think that Adel Bells, although it always, and importantly, contains details about events, services, dates etc, is essentially about people and their reactions to the world around us. I am sure we all like to read interesting things about other people. Trevor Brown's description of his life in Adel continues this month; see part 2 on page 12. Also this month is an account by Geoff Steel of a difficult journey he made to Moscow in 1978, a time when travelling to Russia was no easy matter. Please read about his at times frightening experience on page 16.



We have a wonderful team of volunteers who help to keep our churchyard tidy. Why not join them

on a Saturday morning? This month they will meet on **9th May at 9.30am** and finish with rewarding refreshments in the Stables.

People who know me are aware of my love of hedgehogs. It will be Hedgehog Awareness Week from **3rd to 9th May**. We can all help by creating gaps under fences or leaving wild corners in our gardens.

A big thank you to the person who may live in Wayland Croft and who has planted tulips and hyacinths in front of Adel Wood Store and in top of the wall leading to the Mulberry Estate. I am sure they have given joy to many, as they have to me.

Also this month Every Wednesday at 10am in church or at home, prayers for Rector Alison & Churchwardens, Family Activities Group, Treasurer and Planned Giving Officer

Bible Study 14th & 28th May, 10.30am in the Old Stables

**Magazine Editor
0113 2610069**

**Marjorie Cole
adelbellscm@gmail.com**

RECTOR ALISON'S LETTER

Having been born in 1937, my Dad doesn't remember the start of World War II, but he does remember the end. One of his memories is of hearing on the radio, 'and now The News'. He says he didn't understand why this program still existed since the war was over. He had no experience of news that wasn't about the war.

It is understandable that between 1939 and 1945, what people wanted and needed to hear was news of the war. But even in peace time, our news channels tend to focus on the difficulties and dangers of human life. I know that having a free press means a country's rulers cannot suppress bad news, or stories of their mistakes, but sometimes it feels the pendulum has swung too far the other way. It would be good to hear a little more good news!

I am clearly not the only one who feels this, since a quick internet search comes up with a number of news sites focusing on positive stories – and even the BBC has a

section for 'uplifting stories', although it is well hidden.

I found a pen-pal scheme in Accrington between school children and retirees; a care home giving out free packed lunches to children to counteract holiday hunger; some good news conservation stories; and a podcast aimed at helping people have positive conversations about divisive topics.

Having read a number of these stories, I definitely felt uplifted and I think this even fed into the rest of my day. Of course, we need to be aware of what is happening in the world, and I think it is good to know how hard life is in some places. But a balance is always healthy, and if we hear of people working to make life better, we may be inspired to support or copy them.

As Christians, we are in the business of sharing good news. The word 'gospel', the first four books of the bible New Testament, means 'good news'. Mark's gospel starts, 'The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, son of God.' This is the news

of God's love for us, shown most clearly in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

It doesn't mean Christians are immune from the difficulties faced by all humans, but it can mean knowing we don't face them alone. It also means we try to look at the world, and its inhabitants through Jesus' eyes; seeing other people too as loved by God, seeing their potential.

It doesn't mean our services are only full of smiles and happiness. In fact, it means we are able to share our challenges and sadnesses as well as our joys, and face them together, confident in the Easter message that darkness does not have the last word. Everyone is welcome to join us as we share the good news and the more difficult.

With love and prayers

Alison



A fun multi-media quiz
with a hint of bingo

Anyone can win, all you
need are 5 correct
answers and a bit of
luck!

Saturday 16 May

7.30pm

in the Stables

£12 per person

Fish & chip supper
included

Booking essential

adelparishchurch@gmail.com

LEEDS MARATHON

This year the Rob Burrows Leeds Marathon is on Sunday 10th May. Members of our church family are taking part. Part of the route will take those doing the full marathon past Adel Church. Others doing the half marathon will be running up Otley Road. Each year the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon has been a fitting tribute to the city that launched Rob's career.

The event will, as usual, be held in support of the Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Appeal as well as the MND Association. However, many participants have their own reasons for taking part. As such, entrants are encouraged to raise money for a charity of their choice.

Heidi Harban and Helen Hallett have shared with us their reasons for taking part this year. Please come and encourage them on the day. It can make all the difference.

Heidi says . . .

I will be running the half marathon to raise money for the MND Association and to honour the memory of my wonderful late mother, Sue, who passed away in 2024 after a one year battle with motor neurone disease. I was at the time seven months pregnant with my

second child. Training for the run has served both as a means of helping me process my grief but also to improve my physical fitness and mental resilience. I am equal parts nervous and excited for the event, but have been utterly blown away by the tremendous support I've received so far by the church family and wider community, which I know will carry me every step of the way.

Helen says

I'm excited to say that on the 10th of May, I will be running the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon for the fantastic Leeds Hospitals Charity. It will be a day defined by grit, community spirit, and the legendary hills of Yorkshire. The climb next to the Chevin at the 18-mile mark will be a true test of my mental strength! My goal is simple: to complete the 26.2-mile course and support the incredible work at Leeds Teaching Hospitals, including the Leeds Children's Hospital and the new Rob Burrow Centre for MND. A particular highlight on the course will be running through Adel and seeing our fantastic community spirit in action. Please give me a cheer and a wave when I run past!

If you would like to donate to Heidi and Helen's fund-raising challenge, please email them and they will provide you with a link. Email addresses are on page 2.

REV'D IAN REFLECTS

An unexpected ministry

From a young age I had been afraid of dogs. I think this had to do with the number of strays roaming the streets of South London. I have always had cats. So, I took some convincing that we should have a dog. I gave in at about the time I was ordained. Among many promises made, I was assured that I wouldn't have to walk the dog!

Well, that went West and I came to enjoy my walks with Pip, our miniature schnauzer, although not in the freezing cold of winter. And slowly I came to realise that God had plans for this walking the streets where we live. You see, one thing that had concerned me about my ministry in Adel, was that I was not living there to be a priest among the people. What I hadn't anticipated was that God had a ministry for me in Harrogate.

Most people on our estate know that I am a priest. What has delighted and encouraged me is that, while I was out walking the dog, I would have the opportunity to stop and chat with people. Often that conversation became essentially pastoral: wives whose husbands were close to death, people struggling with mental health, people who needed encouragement. All of whom needed to feel the love

of God and to be helped to be released from the burdens they were carrying.

Well, Pip died in Autumn last year. Obviously, we missed him greatly. What was less obvious until I thought about it, was that people were asking where I was.

Well, now we have two dogs and before too long I shall be back on my beat engaging in conversations again, learning what God has in store this time round.

So, why all this writing about myself? Because I think it is a reminder of what God calls us all to do. To engage in conversation with people in our communities and to share God's love with them. Conversations that show our concern for them, taking the 'how are you' question seriously, can lead in many directions; sometimes about what we believe, why we go to church and the love and joy we experience.

And in troubled times, personal or international, we tell of God's desire for reconciliation, not conflict; peace, not violence. Everyone should know the love of God: we are called to shine the light of that love in our daily lives.

Ian Johnston

IN BRIEF

Old Stables Kitchen Refurbishment

After starting some research last year, the full refurbishment of the kitchen will hopefully take place this summer.

Thanks to generous legacies, we are able to plan a complete refit of the somewhat tired 1980s kitchen, including units, appliances, tiling, flooring, lighting and decorating. We will look to have the windows repaired and update the openers. An outside tap will be installed at the same time.

An up-to-date kitchen will enhance the function of the Old Stables for the benefit of the Church family, local community and lettings.

Thanks to all who have had an input into this exciting project so far.

Sandra Lavery

100 Club

February Draw

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|
| 1. | Beryl Stoker | £80 |
| 2. | Edith Cheesbrough | £40 |
| 3. | Maureen Pitts | £30 |

March Draw

- | | | |
|----|---------------|-----|
| 1. | Scott Johnson | £80 |
| 2. | Kath F-Welsh | £40 |
| 3. | Mark Seaward | £30 |

Church Paintings

Visitors to Adel Church cannot fail to notice the large paintings on the North wall. They date back to 1745, were painted by the Dutch artist Van der Bank and were a gift of Rector William Jackson. Originally placed in the chancel, they were moved to the nave in 1879 and have remained there ever since. As you will have noticed they are in a sorry state of repair and it is difficult to see what they depict.

The one nearest to the chancel, the Ascension, has been removed recently as we have received a legacy which was specifically given for the restoration of the paintings. It is a costly process so we have decided to start with one and will think again when we see the result. Many thanks to Anne Andrews for attending to this matter. Look out for its return.

Marjorie Cole

LETTER FROM LILY

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter. We had a great family time, I say 'we' because my Mum and Dad seemed to be out quite a lot during the week, but after that it was super and I saw lots of my family and we celebrated birthdays as well. Lots of people in our family have birthdays around this time! I'm just glad I don't have to buy all those presents and cards; I just get included in them.

I've decided that walking is a good thing and my Mum is very pleased! I've been a bit wicked when it came to walkies time as I didn't really understand what it was all about. We didn't have walkies in the place I came from. We were just put in a field and we could do what we liked. I found it a bit strange walking on the hard stuff – pavements I think you call them – so protested in the only way I knew how: refusal! Anyway, having seen all the flowers and trees, I've decided it's well worth the effort of walking to see such lovely things and find so many great smells. I know the smell of fox, squirrel, wood pigeon (don't like them), hedgehog, deer, rat and mouse and am always looking for new things to learn the sniff of. However, just so my Mum doesn't take my walking for granted, I reminded her this morning that I can

still exercise refusal, but right now I'm bored and wish she would stop 'trying' and take me out again.

I mentioned earlier, I like the idea of being included. when I'm out walking. A few of the dogs seem to think my friendliness is a bit over the top, so I must learn to tone it down a bit, although this is not easy. It makes me feel so warm when I can make everyone feel wanted and welcome and I can tell by just looking at someone if they are lonely or sad – apparently empathising with others is one of our doggy super powers.

Jesus is very good at including people, and would like everyone to be included in His kingdom. He is always so pleased when someone *does* welcome and make Him part of their life and in return, He responds with open arms. Jesus teaches and shows us how important it is to welcome and include His diverse family from all over the world into our lives. Wouldn't it be super if we could find more new friends for ourselves and share Jesus with them. Come on, let's do it.

She's stopped 'trying' – I'm off out! God bless.

Woofs & Lix
Lily xxx

MY ADEL, PART 2

The House That Held Us

We didn't go far — just to Stairfoots. There, life unfolded at its own pace. We planted a laurel hedge (again courtesy of the car boot), hung a hammock from the pine tree, and watched the children grow. There were challenges — there always are — but Adel Woods was on the doorstep, offering adventure. This was before the document store was sealed up, and the boys still tell stories about their “underground discovery.” The woods were an excellent bike track even then. Mountain biking in Adel Woods became a big part of their childhood.

Along with the pine trees, an apple tree adorned the front garden and still delivers a cascade of apples every year. The children grew up and moved out, but they never really left. Now they return with their own children.

There's a saying that if we'd known how much fun grandchildren were, we'd have had them first. I think there's truth in that.

Our granddaughter Emilia at eight, gathers all the apples for her pony friends — not the sweetest apples, but I don't think there have been any complaints.

French cricket on the lawn became a family tradition, passed from our children to our grandchildren. Georgina, now twenty, still joins in but would rather lie in the hammock with a good book. Livi, twelve years old, refuses to be called Olivia. And Joe, fifteen, bowls fast enough to start arguments. Our neighbours have endured many a raucous summer match — bless them.

The bigger garden also brought treasure hunts — like Easter egg hunts but played all summer long. A series of clues leading to more clues. A particular favourite of the girls. There is a flowering cherry in the front garden. Some things never change. We didn't plant it, but it puts on a beautiful show for about two weeks every April.

It's our home. The house has a new roof and new windows, but it's still our forever home. We are lucky to live in Adel — a stone's throw from York Gate and its little café, where we sit outside in the summer, more often than not with the grandchildren. A tradition they now expect.

The Quiet Season

In September 2023, Pauline slipped away. Everything now is a third

anniversary of her passing. Simon and Matthew are always there to support me through them.

Since then, the house has felt different — quieter in the mornings, gentler in the evenings. Sometimes it feels as though it holds its breath, listening for her voice. Pauline rests now in Adel Churchyard — the same stone church where we once stood, nervous and smiling, decades ago. I visit often; the conversation continues, just differently. The children and grandchildren remember her and bring flowers to her grave. I'm only sorry she isn't here to see them grow.

What Remains

What remains are the memories — the kind you carry with you wherever you go.

I walk to Adel Pharmacy for my prescriptions and pause outside the school where I used to wait for our children. I think of their daily stories, the things they learned, Mr Horn and his music, Mrs J and her arts and crafts. I swear they started making Christmas decorations in July. I walk through Adel Woods to the shops on King Lane, past the places our children played — Adel Crag especially. Adel is still our family home, and I hope the centre of our expanding family.

“Adel is more than a place. It was, and still is, our family hub, where our children grew up and went to school.”

It's a community — even if it's just “Rake and Cake,” the nickname for those who tidy the churchyard each month.

Adel is where we grew into a family, where ordinary days became memories. The prefabricated houses are gone, York Gate is now a garden centre and café, but some things never change — Adel Church, its churchyard, and the horses that Caroline and Emma tend daily in the adjoining fields. I hope it stays this way for the next generation. Forever, my Adel.

Trevor Brown



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Who turned up the heat?

In March, the World Meteorological Organisation and the UN published the State of the Global Climate report. 5 key messages are: **2015-2025 hottest 11 years on record**

Earth's energy imbalance is highest in sixty five-year record

The ocean has been absorbing about eighteen times the annual human energy use each year for the past two decades

Extreme weather impacts millions and costs billions

World Meteorological Day: observing today to protect tomorrow

The past decade is now officially the hottest on record. Last year, in the UK, temperatures exceeded 1.5°C above the average.

The crisis in the Middle East shows our reliance on fossil fuels. The use of coal for energy surged and the Trump administration, which championed coal, threatened to further increase harmful greenhouse gas emissions. As Mike Childs, from Friends of the Earth puts bluntly: “*The solutions are clear: better energy efficiency and unleashing the world's abundant renewable power. What's missing isn't technology - it's the political will to act.*”. As the planet absorbs solar energy, with a stable, balanced climate, our atmosphere would

normally release excess energy, like opening our windows at home when the house gets too hot. But the increased greenhouse gases are keeping excess energy in, trapping it, and our planet is now out of balance. More than 90% of that excess is absorbed by the oceans, which experienced the highest heat content in history last year. The rate of ocean warming has more than doubled over the past two decades, compared with the average over the previous 45 years. This poses the risk of melting sea ice, further increasing the chance of flooding, or of losing our coastal areas to rising seas.

With rising temperatures, we saw extreme weather events around the world, including intense heat and drought, and with the warming of the seas upsetting the currents, which I wrote about in March, bringing about powerful tropical hurricanes and typhoons, causing major devastation across our planet, costing thousands of lives, displacing millions and costing billions.

World Meteorological Day, celebrated on the 23rd March, may have passed, but we can still do our part every day with our actions, and keep the health of our planet in our thoughts and prayers.

Tang x

Adel Boundary Walk 2026

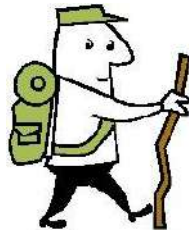
Saturday 9th May

8.30am start at the Stables

The ancient tradition of

Beating the Bounds

of Adel Parish will take place



Join us for all (14/15 miles)
or for part of the walk.

Booking essential via:

carole.smithies@gmail.com

or ring 0113 2813190/ 07786485485

**At the end of the walk Afernoon Tea will
be served in the Stables**

TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

I was talking with Geoff Steel recently about the Winter Olympics and he told me how he had once organised a coach tour from London to Moscow so that people could visit the Summer Olympics there. We decided we would tell you about that undertaking over 40 years ago. "This was history in the making", said Geoff. Visiting Russia was very different in those days, as I was to realise. This is what Geoff said:
Editor



"I worked for Wallace Arnold who were already running international services to cities such as Barcelona, Rome and Athens and it befell me to trial new ideas, have a practice run and decide if it would work. Travel was very different 48 years ago. Wallace Arnold were only responsible for getting people to Moscow, but they had to sort out their own accommodation.

To do something like this, we could not do it alone. We had to have partners for our tours to work. British coaches and Russian coaches would be needed as Russians would be travelling to London as well as British tourists travelling to Moscow. A Russian partner was essential and we got a transportation company, called Sovtransacto, on board. They were invited to come to Britain to see what Wallace Arnold was like,

particularly the quality of their coaches. They were taken to Leyland in Lancashire and also to Scarborough to see where coaches were built. They, however, decided they would buy Mercedes coaches.

During discussions in London with the Russian company we always had a KGB official with us; he was an ex-military man and was a very strict disciplinarian.

In June 1978 we began a trial run without passengers, starting from Victoria Coach Station and using a Russian coach, management and drivers from both companies travelling together. The first leg of the journey was to cross over to Calais and travel on to Poland without stopping. This involved one night spent in the coach, but a nice hotel was waiting when we reached Warsaw.

Crossing over borders could have been tricky, but having the Russians

on board facilitated matters, particularly in Poland when it was the middle of the night. After a night spent there it was on to Russia.

The border crossing into Russia was quite interesting. We were halted and scrutinised by a young man in uniform holding a loaded gun! We were brought out of the coach which was then put through a tank dip, because they were so suspicious that a possible asylum seeker might be clinging on under the coach! We carried on to Minsk and another night's stay in a hotel. Travelling to Russia in those days was quite a risky business, but with having a partnership with a Russian company it became reasonably safe.

On entering Russia I had to show how much foreign currency I had and having recently been in America I had American dollars as well as several European currencies. This money would be checked on departing the country.

Being in the Russian hotel was a very mysterious experience, even a little frightening. We had curfews to obey and there was a supervising woman on every floor checking the comings and goings. The hotel was fairly basic. We stayed about 4 days there, as there were meetings with officials.

The return journey was by plane. At Moscow airport I had to declare my

money. At first I thought I had lost it, but I did find it, so I was not arrested!

We came back confident that it would work and we started the service in 1979 and carried on into 1980, the service being offered twice a week. The Munich Summer Olympics were in 1980 and that was the last year we offered the service, as interest had waned once the Olympics were over."

Geoff Steel



Whilst Geoff was doing his trial run, his wife Margaret stayed at home, busy teaching music and being a magistrate. Margaret was a much-loved member of our church family, playing the organ and welcoming people with a warm smile. Geoff and Margaret had a bit of an altercation with a former Rector and switched their allegiance to the Methodist Church in Leeds city centre, but we are so grateful that they returned and both did valiant work for our church. Geoff is still a much-loved member of our church family.

WORDS FROM JOYCE HILL

On the fiftieth day after Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles (Acts 2). The church has always called it Pentecost, a Greco-Latin word which derives from the Greek for 'fiftieth'. This year it falls on 24 May. It also happens to be a bank holiday weekend, although nowadays that only occurs occasionally, because in 1971 the late May bank holiday was fixed as the last Monday in May, whereas the date of Pentecost varies because it is counted from Easter, which is a movable feast. Prior to 1971, the bank holiday (then known as the Whitsun bank holiday) moved around in May because it was the weekend of Pentecost itself.

In Common Worship this feast-day is listed as Pentecost, with Whit Sunday being given in brackets after it, in smaller type and not in bold, indicating that this is an alternative name but not with the same status as Pentecost. Yet the Book of Common Prayer uses Whit Sunday for the feast-day itself, and Whitsun-week for the days that follow (Monday in Whitsun-week etc.) which constitute the Whitsun season, before Trinity Sunday, which occurs on the next Sunday (31 May this year). So why does the BCP use Whit Sunday/

Whitsun rather than Pentecost; why have we changed back in Common Worship; where does Whitsun come from; and why is it no longer so commonly used?

Whitsun is an English term for Pentecost, just as there was (and is) a popular English name, for example, for the Feast of the Purification on 2 February, commonly called Candlemas because of the distinctive experience of the day: the spectacle of everyone holding lit candles in church. Whitsun is an abbreviation of Whit Sunday. It's first recorded in 1067 with the unambiguous meaning of 'white Sunday' — although we have changed the pronunciation of the first syllable over the centuries by shortening the 'i', leading to a confusion with 'wit', and, as a result, various false explanations of the word. Dictionaries explain that the name denotes the day on which white was worn in church. However, although we know that white was worn in the early church on the set days for (adult) baptism — Holy Saturday being the primary occasion and Pentecost the secondary one — this was not characteristic practice by the time England was converted. Fixed dates were impractical in a missionary context, and in any case infant baptism quickly became the norm. For obvious reasons it was

carried out as soon as possible after birth. Yet in an echo of the older tradition, babies were required to be dressed in white for baptism and to be brought to the daily mass for a week thereafter, still in white. The popular naming of Whitsunday suggests, nevertheless, that older traditions were reflected in a practice of wearing white at Pentecost, although I'm not aware of any references to or descriptions of this in Anglo-Saxon times, despite the word coming from the language of this period. The BCP chose the

popular English name in preference to the Greco-Latin one of Pentecost as a break from Roman practice. Now, however, we more commonly use Pentecost within the church. Culturally we have lost sight of 'Whitsun' since 1971 when the late May bank holiday was divorced from the church's liturgical year, and so 'Whitsun' is used less and less. This year, however, the dates come together, and Monday 25 May is a bank holiday. It won't be called Whit bank holiday, though!

YORK GATE UPDATE

In early photographs of York Gate, the house is unadorned; there is no garden, just the old orchard amidst an unkempt area of rough grass and brambles.

The Spencers quickly embarked upon the creation of a garden, culminating in the magical place that we see today. The influence of the Arts and Crafts style is seen throughout the garden and the integration of the house and garden was one of the key design features of the gardens of this period, where the house is at the heart of the garden, with walls used as prominent backdrops, often smothered in climbers.

One of York Gate's iconic plants is the Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria*

sinensis) which spreads across the front of the house, clothing it with long racemes of pale purple flowers in May. A vigorous climber, it is now being trained across the alley or ginnel at the side of the house to wander afar!

Cascades of flowers

The gorgeous cascades of fragrant wisteria flowers are one of spring's most joyous sights in gardens all over the country. Unknown in the west before 1816 when agents of the East India Company working in China sent cuttings to England, over the next decades the plant became and remains a quintessential ornamental climbing vine in our gardens.

As I write there is a *Chaenomeles speciosa* or Japanese quince with its scarlet red flowers cheerfully spreading under the window sill, but the wisteria and its companions are only just awakening. There is an *Actinidia kolomikta* climbing up the wall at the corner next to the ginnel; its heart shaped leaves will soon appear tipped with silver and pink, and an ornamental vine, probably *Vitis vinifera* 'Purpurea', climbing up the other side of the window. Sadly, the square box-shaped box plant in front of the *Actinidia* is no longer there, another casualty of the dreaded moth larvae. Walk along the path past the white front door and there is a Pineapple broom, *Cytisus battandieri*, which will be smothered in stunning yellow flowers in June and its heady pineapple scent will fill the air. And the gardeners will be ensuring that there will be an array of seasonal flowers both in the borders and in pots for everyone to enjoy.

The stone Chinese lion was one of a pair

Guarding the front door, you cannot fail to notice the stone Chinese lion, right paw raised on a decorated bone or stick. Traditionally it was a pair of lions that would have stood in front of Imperial palaces or tombs where they were believed to have protective benefits. In Western culture, these statues often became known as lion dogs, possibly reflecting the popularity of Pekingese dog breeds, but they are never referred to as "dogs" in China.

As summer approaches, now is the perfect time to visit the garden, to enjoy all the sights and sounds and also the scents which will surround you - but do take time to admire the House adorned in all its finery.

Gillian Smith,



QE CORNER

Here it is again..... QE (Quite Enlightening) Corner. You all know that I like trivial information, so for your enlightenment I am presenting you this month with another miscellany of “facts(?)”

In the late 19th century, two men made over £19,000 in today's money by making and selling fake 'medieval' objects. Today, their fakes have become collectors' items selling for hundreds of pounds.

The French satirist François Rabelais wrote a will that consisted of one line. It reportedly said: 'I have no available property, I owe a great deal; the rest I give to the poor'.

The Philippines is the only country with a flag whose orientation indicates either a state of peace or war. If the blue area is at the top, it's peace; if the red area is at the top, it's war.

Some art historians think that Van Gogh's 'The Starry Night', painted in June 1889, was inspired by the fireworks and illuminations at the unveiling of the Eiffel Tower the month before.

Some bumblebee queens can live underwater for at least a week without drowning.

In the 1980s, if you wanted to print a document in landscape rather than portrait mode, you had to buy a separate computer programme costing up to \$100.

Octopuses see with their skin.

At a 14th century church in Hertfordshire, graffiti from a medieval architect says: 'The corners are not jointed correctly. I spit on them.'

Towards the end of WWII, Japan used oil distilled from pine tree roots to fuel their planes.

Kusunda, an endangered Nepalese language, has no words for yes or no.

In 1600, one of Shakespeare's acting troupe, Will Kemp, quit the company to Morris-dance from London to Norwich. It took him 23 days.

'Clue' comes from 'clew', the Old English word for a ball of wool. It's a rare example of a modern meaning deriving from a story: the clew of thread that Ariadne gave to Theseus to guide him out of the labyrinth.

Please note these “Facts(?)” are all from the internet, so don't blame me if they are not correct!

Trevor Cole

A TEMPTING QUIZ

The answers to the following questions are all jobs. Do read them carefully as several of them are quite cryptic.

1. Robin's friend Marion was usually called this.
2. She was the one to cast the runes.
3. Does she act the goat with her charges?
4. It sounds as if you have to be a junior to get down to this job.
5. Will he be the leader in his field? You bet he will!
6. If she becomes a cheater she is in the wrong job.
7. When naming her daughter she could only think of Rose, Ivy or Violet.
8. It is not really his job to look after the pub's spirit dispenser.
9. She knew she was in trouble when her sari got mixed up with the stew.
10. Instruct the fish to come in.
11. Sounds like someone who makes your coffee, but he's more likely to take you to a court than a café.
12. His leg might be long, short, fine or even square.
13. Dress waste differently to produce this one.
14. He has a part to play in the 'Save the Whale' campaign.
15. Apply the brake and he will appear.

Answers are on page 34

IN YOUR GARDEN

“Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of
May,
And summer’s lease hath all too short a
date..”

Sonnet 18 – William Shakespeare

I always reckon that May in the garden is in many ways like a huge childhood sugar-rush when tucking into a Christmas selection box after seemingly ages of endless waiting and anticipation. The enormous gratification supplied by the carpets of tulips, late daffodils and all manner of flowering shrubs and plants, all set off by the bright, still fresh green leaves on the trees and abundance of blossoms in the canopy make the long wait worthwhile. The long daylight hours offer plenty of opportunity to appreciate it all, and there is generally plenty of warmth in the sunshine to further encourage you out into the garden. Birdsong will peak then mysteriously end when all the territorial disputes are resolved and the private and silent business of raising nestlings takes over. Then towards the end of the month the high-pitched screams of returning swifts will be heard as they barrel around the skies hunting insects on the wing. Only then will summer have truly arrived.

You should be able to mow your lawn regularly now, if you so wish.

Ideally clippings will go into a compost bin if you have one, mixed with other suitable waste. Keep the lawn edges trimmed to deter the grass from creeping into the border. You might like to consider leaving a patch of lawn uncut for the benefit of the many insects that require long grass to reproduce – especially a good many butterfly species. I have tried this and whilst the first year looked a little scruffy the second year was better as an array of wild flowers had joined the party!

May is the time to be planting out your summer bedding, either straight into prepared beds in the garden, or else into your pots or containers. It is a good idea to add slow-release fertilisers to the soil, or some other soil enrichment, to give plants nutrients throughout the summer. Regular but not excessive watering is essential. Very few plants will thrive or survive prolonged water-logging. If you have anything tender to plant out, be cautious with the weather. Frosts are always possible in the first half of the month, a consequence of our raised elevation here in Adel.

George Turnbull

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

HISTORY



At Abbey House Museum

Tuesday 5 May

Friends of Farsley Rehoboth Burial
Ground talk about their work, to tie in with a new display at Abbey House Museum.

Tuesday 2 June

Reelise: A talk about a community exhibition exploring Leeds and film at Leeds Industrial Museum (*Armley Mills*), with Assistant Community Curator Aleks Fagelman.

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

Contact Pat Bourne. Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds LS5 3EH
Kirkstall.abbey@leeds.gov.uk
or 0113 378 4079

or contact Val Crompton
0113 225 9142

This is a free, friendly local history group for adults aged 55+

WELCOME IN WELLBEING WALKS

Every **Thursday at 10 am**, meet at OPAL, LS16 6DJ for a one & a half hour Wellbeing Walk.

Contact Ellen Stoker at OPAL, email ellen@opal-project.org.uk

GUIDED WALKS IN LEEDS

Civic Trust Guided Walks book now.

These walks are led by experienced volunteers.

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Professor Joyce Hill

Friday 22 May. 14:00 – 15:30 /
Tuesday 7 July. 18:00 – 19:30

Meeting Point: City Square
entrance to Leeds train
station, next to the Queen's Hotel.

Approx. walk distance:
1 mile There are no steps.

The ground is not level,
though gradients between the
squares are slight.

Please take care to make sure you
book tickets for the
correct date.

Val Crompton



**Walk 2, round the former
grounds of the Zoological and
Botanical Gardens, with the
restored Bear Pit.**

What remains today? Find out as we
explore the site, Victorian villas,
stone walls, and a tiny castle where a
bear once lived.

Thursday 11 June 18:30-20:00
Sunday 12 July 14:00-15:30

Meeting point: The Golden Beam
(Wetherspoon's), Headingley Ln.,
LS6 1BL. Distance: 1.2 miles

£6 for Leeds Civic Trust
members, £9 for non-members.

To Book

See website for details -
www.leedscivictrust.org.uk/guided-walks-season-2026

Val Crompton

OPAL ACTIVITIES

Well, the sun has finally decided to return on a regular basis and here at OPAL our new garden is getting plenty of use. It is attracting lots of insects and we seem to have plenty of butterflies visiting us every day. Please come along and have a look at our little seed library while you are in the garden (take some seeds and if you can please leave some for others). Our members have decorated pebbles and these now border the path in the garden. Decorating these was a fun activity enjoyed by many of the groups that we run, such as the craft group and the Friday social group.

Outdoor based trips are always popular

The better weather also means that our trips out can be more outdoor based, so we are going to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. These are sure to be popular, so if you would like to join us on a trip, please call in or contact us on 01132619103 to book your place.

Here at OPAL we are hosting a Dementia roadshow on **8th June**, which will have information from lots of different sources to provide help and support for those living with

dementia as well as their families and friends. If you think this may be useful to you or to someone you know, please call us and speak to Sally-Anne.

If you would like any more information about OPAL or any of the activities we offer please contact us on 01132619103, email us on admin@opal-project.org.uk or call in to see us at the Welcome In Community Centre 55 Bedford Drive, Leeds LS16 6DJ.

Shelley Clark (she/her)
Project Worker

OPAL provides support, activities, and resources that promote independence, well-being, and a sense of belonging.

Join us at OPAL and discover a supportive, friendly network where everyone thrives.

How to Join OPAL
OPAL members are aged 60yrs and over and live within LS16 postcode. Affiliate members are aged under 60 and/or live outside LS16.

I CAN'T SEE GOD

“Vision is the Art of seeing Things invisible.”

Jonathan Swift, *Thoughts on Various Subjects* (1745)

I was taking a group photograph of some church folk. When we were ready for the picture, I realised some folk weren't as visible as others. So I shouted, “So that you'll all be in the photograph, make sure you're visible. As a rule of thumb, if you can see me, then I see you.”

One of the group took me aside afterwards and said, “I liked your theology.” “Theology?” I queried. “When was that?” “Oh, your bit about ‘if you can see me, then I can see you.’ Good theology! You should write that up in a ‘Thought for the Day’.

Well, Colin, if it's theology you want, then your comment has got me thinking – but perhaps not in the way you expected. I suspect you were hinting at “if God can see me then I can see God.” Good theology, as you suggest. But I want to go further. You see, “seeing” isn't enough to be good theology. It's a human construct, using what we know of our senses and amplifying that into a divine, all-knowing, omnipresence. But it isn't about “seeing” at all.

The Living Bible translation of part of 1 Corinthians 13 says this:

We can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face-to-face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now. “Seeing” is too limited.

“Understanding” is getting there, but it's still not sufficient. If “vision is the art of seeing things invisible”, then Jonathan Swift's “vision” may be a little better. But it's still “hazy and blurred” right now. One day it will be clearer, crystal clear, as clear as God's knowledge of me, as “clearly as God sees into my heart right now.”

I can't see God. Similarly, I don't believe God can “see” me. I can know God, and God can know me. And when that is fully true – from both sides – then the picture will be clearer. And you never know, when that realisation dawns, we might *all* be able to say, “Ah, yes, I see now!”

An original reflection

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WHAT'S ON

Bramhope Wednesday 6th May 'My Favourite Things'

Demo by Hilary Gilmore
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



Adel War Memorial Association Sunday 10th May 8am onwards

In honour of the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon we are holding a Breakfast Street Party, followed by bbq in the afternoon.
Music, hot bacon sandwiches, croissants, pop-up bar with hot drinks and soft drinks.
Cheer the runners. They need as much support as possible



Adel Gardeners' Club Monday 11th May

'The Root Zone - the original Dark Web'
Peter Williams
7.30pm in the Methodist Church

Peter, a regular speaker for us, will talk about the nature and properties of soils and the complex interactions that occur in the root zones of our gardens. The suitability of different soil types for demanding plant groups will be covered, as well as composts and composting.
<https://adelhort.chessck.co.uk/>



Leeds & District Association of the National Trust Tuesday 12th May

'Champagne breakfasts and flying pigs'
Neil Hanson, a popular speaker who once ran the Tan Hill Inn.
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)



PUZZLES

General Knowledge Clues



Across

1. People admired for their bravery
3. Small sea creature with black shell
4. Attic room

Down

1. Sweet; nonsense
2. Support for broken bone

Cryptic Clues

Across

1. Theist arranged donations to the church
3. Fellow starts to exclaim loudly in place of worship
4. Recline under mountain pass for sheepdog

Down

1. Understanding one initially cunning strategy
2. Start to strum a stringed instrument in greeting



Puzzles compiled by Marjorie Cole
Solutions on p. 34

BILLY FLYNN

Hi everyone. Here we are in April already and we have actually had some sun, not to mention the 20 degrees or thereabouts we had one day in March. It almost felt like Summer that week!

Trees, trees and more trees

Talking about Summer, Woodland Creation the council department tasked with overseeing the planting of around 6 million trees over the next twenty years as part of the White Rose Forest project, are planning for the next tree planting season from November 2026 - February 2027. Council officers want to identify suitable planting locations across Leeds and are keen that the public plays an active role in locating sites. Local knowledge is an important factor in helping officers identify the best planting locations to maximise their impact on the community and the environment, so please let officers know if you have any sites in mind.

A survey will be shared with the public to invite suggestions for potential tree planting sites and this will be advertised to the public on social media, as well as on the monthly Woodland Creation newsletter. If you would like me to send you the link to the newsletter,

please let me know. Similarly, if you would like to complete the survey online please let me know and I will provide the link.

More roadworks, more cones, more traffic jams

If, like me, you go into town using the A660 through Headingley you will be well aware of the traffic snarl-ups near the Arndale Centre over what seems like years. Well, brace yourselves because more roadworks are planned on Woodhouse Lane right through towards the city centre. They will involve major roadworks that are likely to cause significant traffic congestion. The work will include cycle lanes, bus lanes, wider pavements to contribute towards improving connectivity and reducing accidents. The decision to proceed with the changes followed a public consultation with was heavily in favour of the proposals, with around 77% positive about the plans against 15% that were negative, although concerns were expressed about poor public transport. If the changes lead to a safer journey into town I have no problem with them but at the moment the whole city seems to be one large set of roadworks and they take so long to come to fruition. If you would like to see the results of the consultation

and action taken to address the public concerns raised, please contact me.

Lawnswood roundabout

While we are talking about roadworks, several people have queried why there is a temporary 40mph speed limit from the Moortown section of the ring road. Although it does not seem logical to have this speed limit on a long section of road well short of the roadworks it is to provide a “crash cushion” between different work areas. It is a legal limit enforced by a temporary traffic regulation order. Having used the ring road regularly I find that many drivers are ignoring the speed limit and I have asked police and Highways officers to carry out speed checks. There is a weekly update available on the roundabout and surrounding work if you are interested.

Crime - be aware

Now the lighter nights are here,

PCC NEWS

We shall miss Barry Anderson's comments now that he has retired. We would like to wish him and Caroline a happy and meaningful retirement.

However, as editor I have a gap to fill. My plan is to alternate between details of PCC decisions and a recipe page. Since there was a PCC meeting in March, I am starting with

there have been a number of burglaries and attempted break-ins in Adel and elsewhere in the ward, Although **it is very unlikely that you will be targeted** it is sensible to take simple precautions, like keeping your doors and windows locked even when in the house and obviously overnight. On a slightly lighter note, after I had warned my neighbours on our local WhatsApp group, one reported CCTV images of a figure jumping off their garage during the night. When the CCTV engineer checked the images, it turned about to a spider very close to the lens. Panic very quickly over.

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

Telephone 07810 640282
or email
billy.flynn@leeds.gov.uk

that and next month will introduce the idea of a recipe page. However, if anyone has other ideas about content for the magazine, please let me know. The email address is on page 5.
Editor

The PCC meets every two months in the Old Stables to take important decisions

about the work of the church. Here are a few of the items discussed in March.

Paul's renewal of license to act as a lay minister was approved unanimously by the PCC.

The Beat the Bounds walk needed approval for a risk assessment as prepared by Carole Smithies. It was agreed upon. Thank you to Carole for organising this event every year. A tea is provided for the walkers every year and thanks were paid to Edith Cheesbrough for her many years service, but she has now had to step down from this role. Beryl Thompson and Margaret Whittaker are happy to carry on.

Our treasurer Bob Holloway presented us with the accounts for 2025 which would be published as part of the APCM report. All agreed to accept them and Bob was thanked for the huge effort he puts into the job, a job that he does extremely well.

Our fabric committee, led by Bruce Buchan, had received comments from some members of the congregation that they were struggling to hear during

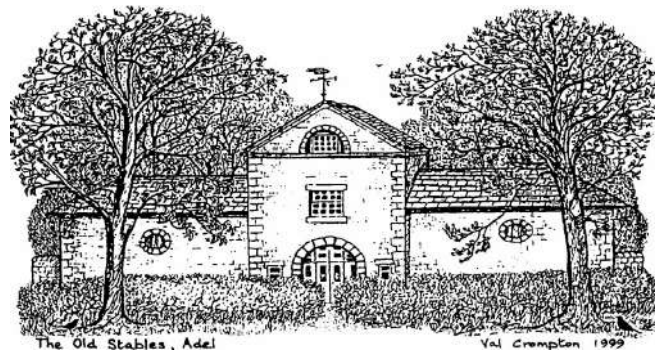
services. Some improvement was made recently and we are investigating purchasing a new amplifier, which is not an easy task.

Progress has been made on a possible new kitchen for the Old Stables. We agreed that a maximum of £35,000 from our legacy fund could be spent on this and the work, which will take 3-4 weeks, will be scheduled for August. There is some more information about this on page 10.

We were told that a loose gravestone discovered by Andy McGeorge is a possible hazard. He has contained the area. Both Andy and Andrew Briggs were thanked for the work they put into maintaining the churchyard.

Mark Seaward reported the disappointment felt recently when a visiting choir had come to sing at Choral Evensong and the congregation was extremely small. We decided that more effort is needed to advertise and promote such events.

The next meeting will be in May.
Marjorie Cole



Quiz on jobs

1. Maid
2. Nurse
3. Nanny
4. Miner
5. Jockey
6. Teacher
7. Florist
8. Optician
9. Waitress
10. Carpenter
11. Barrister
12. Cricketer
13. Stewardess
14. Vet
15. Baker



Only 5 Clues General Knowledge

Across

1. HEROES
3. MUSSEL
4. GARRET

Down

1. HUMBUG
2. SPLINT

Only 5 Clues Cryptic Clues

Across

1. TITHES
3. CHAPEL
4. COLLIE

Down

1. TACTIC
2. SALUTE

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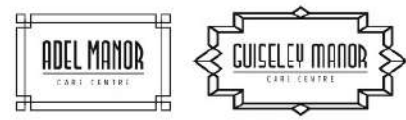
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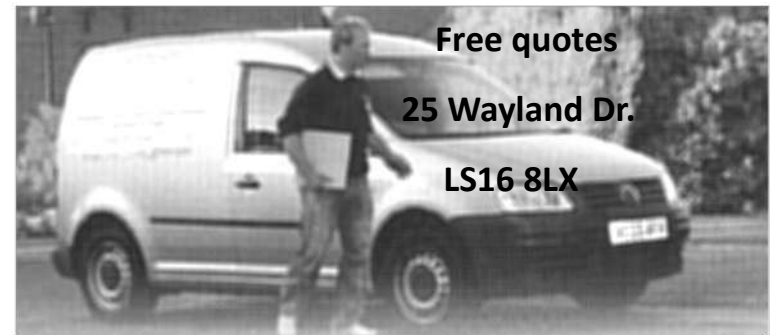
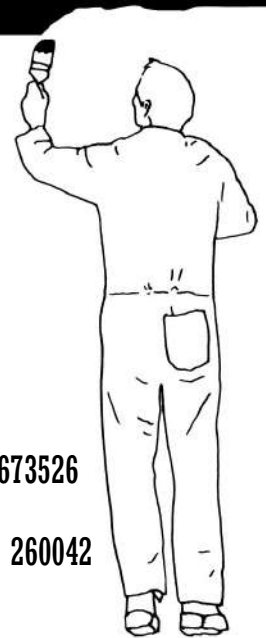
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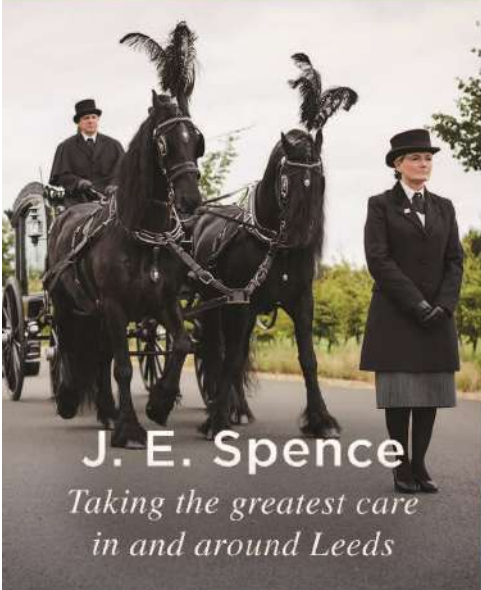
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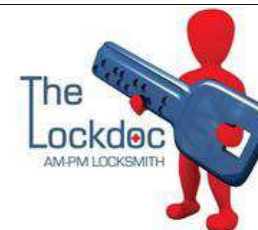
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Church Services in May

Fri 1st	1.30pm JJs (for the under sixes)
Sunday 3rd	Fifth Sunday of Easter 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion 6.30pm Evensong
Wed 6th	11am Holy Communion followed by coffee & biscuits
Sunday 10th	Sixth Sunday of Easter 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) NO 10AM SERVICE BECAUSE OF THE Leeds marathon
Wed 13th	11am Holy Communion
Thurs 14th	7.30pm Ascension Day Service
Sunday 17th	Seventh Sunday of Easter 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am All Age Service with Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong with refreshments
Wed 20th	11am Holy Communion
Thurs 21st	3.15pm Holy Communion in the Stables, with tea & coffee
Sunday 24th	Pentecost 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion
Wed 27th	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 31st	Trinity Sunday 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish 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.