

# LEDHAM with FAIRBURN PARISH MAGAZINE



**JUNE 2020**

**Rev. Andy Robinson's  
farewell issue**

## **Prayer of St Richard**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
We thank you for all the benefits  
which you have given us.  
We thank you for all the pains  
and insults which you have borne for us.  
Most merciful Redeemer,  
Friend and Brother,  
may we see you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day. Amen.

Richard de Wych, 1197-1253,  
Bishop of Chichester

## Bible Reading Matthew 14:22-34 Jesus and Peter Walk on Water

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.' Then they crossed over, and came to land at Gennesaret.



Dear Parishioners!

After ten and a half years my time as your vicar is coming to an end on 30th June. Coronavirus has prevented us sending a printed magazine in the normal way, but this will be freely available by email from [ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk) and can also be download from the parish website [ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk](http://ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk)



Parish confirmations 2019

(with Rt Rev Jon Thomson,  
Bishop of Selby)

The departure of the vicar is a time of uncertainty in any parish's life, and particularly so in this case, for several reasons:

Firstly, uncertainty over the future of the parish in terms of who (besides the churchwardens and PCC) will take responsibility for the parish, and how long it will take to reorganise this parish into being part of a larger benefice.

Secondly, uncertainty caused by a lack of clarity over how long different groups of people (eg over 70s) will be prevented from attending churches when they re-open, including those volunteers who normally keep the church buildings ready for use and also some of the retired vicars who would normally be available to help with taking services.

Thirdly, even prior to lockdown the buildings, land, finances and administration of the parish were a challenge that will not be made any easier by having to absorb and follow new guidelines on risk assessments and additional requirements for hygiene and cleaning.

At this stage therefore, the parish is unlikely to be in a position to re-open its places of worship quite as soon as national guidelines will allow. So there remains a level of uncertainty with regard to church life in the parish at the moment.

With all that in mind I have been reflecting just lately on the life of faith, and the difference between hope and faith. The front cover is an illustration of the scene in Matthew 14:22-34, where Jesus walks on the water of the Sea of Galilee. However, what distinguishes Matthew's version of the story from that of John and Mark, is that that in Matthew not only does Jesus walk on the water but he even calls Peter out of the boat to walk with him.

The difference between faith and hope is that hope is like someone who goes to church and says they believe this story; faith is being like Peter and being prepared to act on it. How much of our spiritual life is based mainly on hope rather than faith? Listening to the song Oceans by Hillsong United can be a good way to meditate on this life of faith.

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy9nwe9\\_xzw\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy9nwe9_xzw)

As the parish moves forward into a time of uncertainty, you will all need to exercise faith the way Peter did, but even a little faith achieved a miracle! I trust that with a little faith the church in this parish can go on from here to thrive.



#### **Prayer of St Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is despair, hope  
Where there is darkness, light  
And where there is sadness, joy

O Divine Master, grant that I may  
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console  
To be understood, as to understand  
To be loved, as to love  
For it is in giving that we receive  
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned  
And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.

### **PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER NEEDED**

A vacancy has arisen in the parish for a Parish Safeguarding Officer. This is the key link between the diocese and the parish concerning safeguarding matters. She/he will have an overview of all church activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults and will seek to ensure the implementation of safeguarding policy. The role can be taken by one person or the role shared, for example with one person covering children the other vulnerable adults.

For further information go to [ledshamwithfairburn.org](http://ledshamwithfairburn.org) or email [ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk)

## Some questions answered

### Why is the vicar leaving?

I received my redundancy notice in January. My last day in the parish is 30th June 2020, and for all the reasons stated in my 'dear parishioners' letter, it feels like a bad time to be going, but I have no personal choice in the matter.

This parish is one of a relatively small number of parishes in the Church of England where the vicar's position is dependent on private sponsorship (in this case the Wheler Foundation, set up by Granville Wheler the late owner of Ledston Hall), and the private sponsorship is now being withdrawn. The reason for this has not been explained to me, but I would imagine it is financial.

### Where is he going?

Initially I will stay put in the vicarage. York Diocese have kindly given me an extension on my time in the vicarage. I have been applying for various jobs: different parishes, chaplaincy posts, and secular employment. I am both pleased and relieved to say that I was interviewed for a chaplaincy position at Full Sutton Prison near York earlier this month, and was offered the job the same day. My employment will not commence straight away because the Ministry of Justice has stringent checks that take time to carry out once a job offer is made. I may take temporary employment in the mean time if I can find it.

### If the vicar is staying on in the vicarage, does this mean he can carry on working in the parish for a bit longer?

Sadly, no. This is a very strict rule that the Church of England puts in place for all former vicars of parishes. So I will no longer be able to take services or do pastoral work or any public ministry in the parish.

### So who will take services in the parish in the future?

No direct replacement for me is being made. The likelihood is that this parish will eventually take part in a reorganisation process involving neighbouring parishes, following which one of the existing local clergy from neighbouring parishes will take over the legal responsibility for the parish. In the mean time this parish is being treated as if there is a normal vacancy, where the responsibility for the parish lies chiefly with the churchwardens and the PCC, with support from the Area Dean.

A rota of services has been produced for July to September, but this is in abeyance at the moment for the reasons I spoke of earlier. After my departure from the parish the Area Dean will liaise with the PCC and churchwardens to work out plans for the immediate future after lockdown.

### Who is the Area Dean?

Parishes are grouped together in geographical areas called deaneries, headed up by an Area Dean, who is the senior clergy person for the deanery. Our deanery, Selby, is headed by Chris Wilton, the vicar of Sherburn in Elmet, (pictured with me and Archbishop Sentamu). The vice chair of the deanery is Janys Cliff.

### Did you say that the churchwardens and PCC will have extra responsibility?

Yes. Certainly until reorganisation takes place and a member of clergy is licensed as the person in charge of the parish.



### Who are the churchwardens and the PCC?

PCC stands for Parochial Church Council, and it is the local body that is legally responsible for everything connected with church in the parish. This is not the same as the Parish Council, which is part of local government. Churchwardens are members of the PCC and have additional responsibility and powers over and above other PCC members. For instance, they have the power of arrest if anyone is causing a disturbance in church! It is a very historic office to hold. More relevant is that churchwardens have permission to lead worship in the absence of clergy and licensed ministers. In small parishes like ours they usually carry out verger's duties as well: organising things before services and clearing up afterwards, welcoming people into church and so on. See 'meet the PCC' for further information. They also generally take a much greater role in caring for the church building, cleaning, maintenance and the like — but ideally that work would be shared much more widely

### How will the vicar's responsibilities be carried forward by others?

I would say my main responsibility is to spread the good news of the Christian faith: as much as any other way of communicating this good news, the chief way of doing this is to try and foster a community of faith that reflects the faith, hope and love of Jesus. I have often described this as a missionary spiritual community.

### Can you describe the things you do?

Here are a few aspects of my general work: pastoral care, leading worship and preaching, groups for faith building (eg prayer group), outreach (eg via the magazine and St. James Little angels toddler group, visiting), evangelism (spreading the good news of Jesus Christ), administration and finance, weddings, baptisms and funerals, confirmations, school work including governors and assemblies, care of churchyards and buildings, safeguarding. Much of this work can be administratively demanding.

### Who will be responsible for those things now you are leaving?

While there are certain things can only be done by clergy or licensed lay ministers, funerals, weddings and baptisms for instance, there is nothing to prevent lay people from doing most things. There are no baptisms planned at the moment, and funeral requests will be arranged between undertakers, churchwardens and PCC and local clergy. There are several weddings planned, and the administration of these has been handed over to Rev Chris Wilton with the couples having been informed.



### When will church buildings re-open?

With regard to the two buildings the PCC is responsible for, All Saints Ledsham and St James Fairburn, it is unclear at the moment when it will be possible to re-open. All anyone can really say is that it will be as soon as is reasonably possible.

### What about Ledston Hall?

Ledsham Hall Chapel will not re-open until building work there is complete. It is owned privately and we have just learned there will be no access to the chapel until November 2021 when the work is scheduled to be completed.

### What about Fairburn Church Hall?

The church hall at Fairburn is owned by a charitable trust, and it exists largely to serve the purposes of the church in the community. Its trustees will decide when it is safe to re-open, having made sure all relevant guidelines are strictly followed.

### What about St James Little Angels toddler group?

We hope it can restart, but it may depend on volunteers coming forward to fill the gap I am leaving. I am so thankful to Melanie and others for getting this going. It would be a pity if it were not to be able to continue. For news and to stay in touch please check it out on facebook (St James little angels toddler group Fairburn) or email [ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk).

### How can I take part in church life?

The church buildings may be closed, but the church community is still here for you. We wish to share the love of Jesus with everyone. We are meeting online for zoom services on Sunday mornings at the moment, and this is continuing after I leave. This is also a good time to talk to people and catch up with news about the parish. Zoom invitations will be sent to all who request them by emailing [ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Churchyard maintenance day 2019**

### How can I help with the parish?

I cannot speak highly enough of the dedication shown by a small number of people to the tasks required to keep the church running. We want to make people feel that the church is their community, no strings attached, so we don't want to demand anyone's help, but the more help that people can offer, the better, and there can be quite a variety of roles. Helping to clean the church before re-opening might be one.

One area for possible helpers is St James Little Angels, our toddler group. It would be great to get that going again. There are many others—parish safeguarding officer is another — see notice p.3. Please stay in touch by emailing [ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ledshamwithfairburn@yahoo.co.uk) or contacting one of the PCC.



## **Prayer for a time of uncertainty**

Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. **Amen.**

## Meet the PCC



### **Audrey Taylor**

I live in Ledsham and have been a churchwarden at All Saints Ledsham for 9 years.

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tel. 01977 683996 Email: [audrey1172@outlook.com](mailto:audrey1172@outlook.com)



### **Marjorie Swales**

I have lived in Fairburn and attended St James Church for 57 years since getting married and have been PCC treasurer for 18 years.

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No photo

### **Julie Fenwick:**

I live locally, having lived in Ledston for 21 years. I have been a churchwarden for 9 years. I am PCC vice chair.

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### **Carole Holmes**

I live locally, having lived in Fairburn for 8 years.

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### **Andrew Jackson:**

I grew up in Ledsham and live locally

Also **Julia Sanchez, Amanda Peacock, Jenny Whimster**

All parish churchgoers who live locally

### Other contacts

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Local clergy: Rev. Canon Chris Wilton email: [frwilton@aol.com](mailto:frwilton@aol.com) or tel. 01977 682112

Keep in touch with Rev. Andy (but no longer as your vicar): [andrewrobinson9@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewrobinson9@hotmail.com)