

# 'Keep In Touch'



## **AUTUMN 2023**

***CHURCH & VILLAGE  
BIRSTALL & WANLIP***

## THE PARISH OF BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

<b>Rector</b>	The Revd Amanda Digman 251 Birstall Road, LE4 4DJ revamandadigman@me.com	07803-625049
<b>Hon Asst. Priests</b>	Revd Kerry Emmett, 1 Chamberlains Field Canon Anne Horton, 8b Copeland Road Revd Robin Martin, 22 Sycamore Road Revd Michael Webb, 31 Bramley Road	3194736 2677942 07971632268 07813144645
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Debbie Shephard, 41 Roman Road Mr Matthew Harvey, 56 Lambourne Road Mrs Corinne Aldis, 15, The Oaks, Acorn Close Mrs Julie Ward, 28 Walker Road	2673262 07957 170920 3482984 2677600
<b>Licensed Reader</b>	<b>PTO</b> Mrs Lesley Walton, 16 The Crossways	2674995
<b>Pastoral</b>	Mrs Doreen Wilson, 13 Poplar Avenue	2674680
<b>Assistants</b>	<b>PTO</b> Mrs Gill Pope, 26 Blenheim Road	2675086
<b>Safeguarding Coordinator</b>	Mrs Annette Marshall annette.marshall8@gmail.com	
<b>Sunday School</b>	Mrs Rose Parrott rose.parrott@btinternet.com	07811662235
<b>Church Office</b>	Mrs Sheryl Jupp, Church Office, Church Hill email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com; SherylJupp@hotmail.co.uk	2671797
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Owen, Church Office, Church Hill email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com	2671797
<b>Bell Tower</b>	Practice times: Sunday afternoons	
<b>Wanlip Church Hall Bookings</b>	Mrs Liz Davison	2671252
<b>Editor of Keep in Touch</b>	Canon Anne Horton, 8b Copeland Road rahorton@outlook.com	2677942
<b>Editorial Team</b>	Mrs Lesley Walton lp.walton@ntlworld.com	

*The views and opinions of those who have submitted articles to 'Keep in Touch' belong to them alone and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the wider church.*

## WHERE AM I GOING?

I've just been re-reading a book that a friend of mine wrote way back in 2015 entitled 'Where am I Going?' Sr. Pamela's book is subtitled 'A Spiritual Journey of Discovery from Stone Circles to Labyrinths'. I enjoyed reading it again, but it left me asking the same question of myself! 'Where am I going?' Which is a good question to ask ourselves at whatever stage in life in which we are! But it's not an easy question to answer. Especially in one's latter years when it can be tempting to look back rather than to look forward!

But is 'Where am I going?' the right question? No, it's not. As Thoreau famously said, 'You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, and find your eternity in each moment.'

'Live in the present'! That can be quite a challenge. A prayer I currently find helpful is this one, and I don't know where I found it! But I cut it out and it's now near my computer screen!

Bless us, O Lord, with pleasure, joy and delight when we recall the days in the past when we were happy and fulfilled, confident and secure.

Please bless us now, especially on our difficult days when we are disoriented by events, and when plans for the future suddenly seem vain. Give us renewed hope, fresh courage and the gift of faith.

Do not let the uncertainties of life make us anxious, but allow them to open our hearts to your guidance, your grace, and to the future that your providence has prepared for us.

*Canon Anne*

## RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



I believe, as it says in 2 Timothy 3:16, that all scripture is God-Breathed. The difficulty is in the translation and interpretation – and sometimes the transcription. There was the infamous “Wicked Bible” that omitted the word ‘not’ in the 7th commandment, for example. (I’m leaving you to look it up!) In 1716 another copy of a Bible read ‘sin on more’ instead of ‘sin no more’ in Jeremiah 31:34.

For anyone who speaks another language, you will know that it sometimes difficult to do a direct translation from one language to another. Think of the Hebrew word ‘shalom’ which we usually translate as ‘peace’. It actually means a lot more – peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare, and tranquility. But we couldn’t put that in the Bible every time, along with all the other words with deeper meaning – the Bible would be huge!

The word ‘hesed’ is another good example. It’s usually translated in the Bible as faithfulness and refers to the way God treats us. But it would be better described as ‘God’s continuing, loving kindness, goodness, faithfulness and his unconditional love.’ We just don’t have a word for that!

So, one problem is copying errors, another is lack of equivalent words in the target language (the language we are translating into) and another problem is changing language. Take the time I made a chocolate cake when Sam's friend came for tea. They were still in primary school. The friend took a bite of the cake and declared it 'sick'. I was a bit taken aback, I have to admit, until they explained that 'sick' had had a meaning change to 'absolutely excellent'! Phew!

Another example of changing language, is the word 'man'. It comes from the Germanic languages meaning 'person', but over the years, other words have been used more commonly: 'people, humans, human beings, etc.' There's no need to use 'man' when we talk about people – we can make it sound less like women are excluded. Yes – I know you know that 'man' means everyone, but it is less obvious to the younger generations who wouldn't use it in that way. And why not use a more all-encompassing sounding word, if we have one and it doesn't hurt us to do so?

Similarly, the word 'brothers' has been used throughout the New Testament, when a closer English word would do better: siblings. The original Greek word could mean just 'brothers' or 'brothers and sisters'. So why, I wonder, was it translated as 'brothers' and not 'siblings'? I suppose siblings is not a word we use often.

In English, we wouldn't say "Do you have any siblings?" we would usually say 'Do you have any brothers or sisters?' In German, I would ask 'Hast du Geschwister?' ('Geschwister' being siblings.)

As you may know, in other languages, nouns are given genders – in German, a Bible is feminine – die Bibel; in French, it's also feminine – la Bible. In Hebrew, the Holy Spirit is feminine! And in Greek, neutral.

I wonder why the Holy Spirit is always masculine in English, French and German, but neutral in Greek, and feminine in Hebrew, the original Bible languages?!

So, forgive me if you hear me to talk about the Holy Spirit as she or her in the future – I think God is far bigger than gender – we get our feminine / masculine qualities from God but we have made those up over 1000s of years –

What is a man?

What is a woman?

Hopefully we are just people, men and women, being who we were made to be, and doing what we are called to do, as we seek to love and serve God and neighbour.

But it is good to notice that it's not all about the men, and that women are definitely included too!

*Amanda*

## BRENDA'S 90th BIRTHDAY



Recently Brenda Todd celebrated her 90th Birthday. She has worked very hard to raise money for the Mesothelioma UK Charity and St. James Church Roof Fund.

*Raymond Folland*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made donations in celebrating my 90th birthday. My 'birthday luncheon' raised £600.00 for Mesothelioma UK (asbestos cancer), and my open bungalow day raised £600.00 for St. James Church Roof Repairs. Thank you all for such a magnificent tribute.

*Brenda Todd*

## NOTES FROM BIRSTALL ON SEA (a.k.a. Skegness)

In July, Jo and I stayed three days in a guest house in Skegness. Jo's daughter Jade and her family were already in a caravan park for the week and Jo and I resided in 'Stoneleigh,' an excellent B&B some ten minutes' walk from the town centre. A possibly original ceiling rose with chandelier hung in the ceiling. There was also an acrylic ornament reminiscent of the famous Derby artist Joseph Wright, who has been acclaimed as the first professional painter to express the spirit of the Industrial Revolution.

With a probably original ceiling rose the ceiling was papered with a heavily embossed paper all painted white. Do you remember the similar paper called Anaglypta and the Lincrusta wood effect heavy paper used from floor to dado rail?

Walking to the Clock Tower, I could not see the pier I remembered from visits with my parents and school friends. Reading some local history books in Stoneleigh's residents' lounge, I discovered its fate. First in the 19th century the schooner Europa had anchored just north of the pier, against the advice of the Skegness lifeboat skipper. With the tide and winds, she dragged her anchor and smashed stern first into the pier, creating a gap between the land side and the pavilion end. A wooden walkway was constructed as a makeshift repair, until twenty years later a proper repair was made. In January 1978 high tides and storms again breached the pier at the same point. The pier-head shelters were in the process of removal in 1984,

but workmen left a spark that set alight the woodwork, leaving a iron skeleton akin to a pre-historic sea monster.

After an excellent breakfast on the Tuesday, we drove to get a copy of The Times, and noted the names of other B&B guest houses, some normal, some less so! The Lakeside, Sea View, The Singleton, The Poodle and the Kildare. We then drove 2½ miles to Gibraltar Point. Following one of the walks mapped on our guide leaflet, we took a walk to the sea, and we noticed various birds, including hawks. On Wednesday we visited what we used to called 'Newark on Sea', Anderby Creek, and went for a coffee in the village.

On Thursday we set off for Lincoln, but instead of taking the shortest route we made another visit to see 'Just Jane', a WW2 Lancaster bomber at the former RAF base in East Kirkby. Also there is a restored De Haviland Mosquito and numerous other aircraft for restoration, also engines, parts and bombs such as Barnes Wallis 'bouncing bomb'. Amongst the other exhibits slowly taking shape was a Handley Page Hampden. It was for fighting a fire in an airborne Hampden that John Hannah of Birstall connection was awarded a VC.

After breakfast at my cousin's, we had lunch together at a delightful restaurant just off the A46 called the Peewit (after the bird). After lunch we had a very rainy run. We did not go into or around Newark but turned off on the A1 to Long Bennington to call on an old friend, Jean Wheatcroft. Jean had been one of my mother's protégées as a Young Wife when she was the Mothers' Union Enrolling Member. Jo and I finally got home c. 17.30 hours having travelled 249 miles after leaving home on the Monday.

*Fr. Robin Martin*

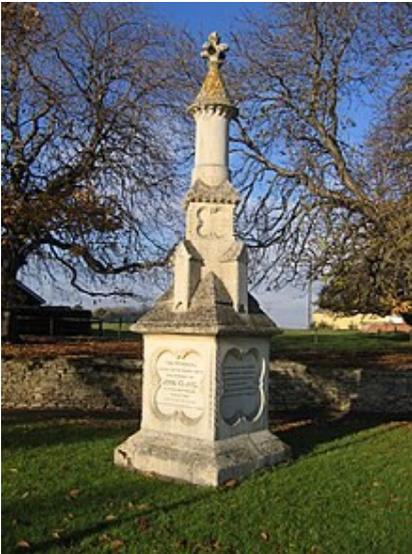
## AUTUMN

The thistledown's flying, though the winds are all still,  
On the green grass now lying, now mounting the hill,  
The spring from the fountain now boils like a pot;  
Through stones past the counting it bubbles red-hot.

The ground parched and cracked is like overbaked bread,  
The greensward all wracked is bent, dried up and dead.  
The fallow fields glitter like water indeed,  
And gossamers twitter, flung from weed unto weed.

Hill-tops like hot iron glitter bright in the sun,  
And the rivers we're eyeing burn to gold as they run;  
Burning hot is the ground, liquid gold is the air;  
Whoever looks round sees Eternity there.

*John Clare*



### John Clare (1793 – 1864)

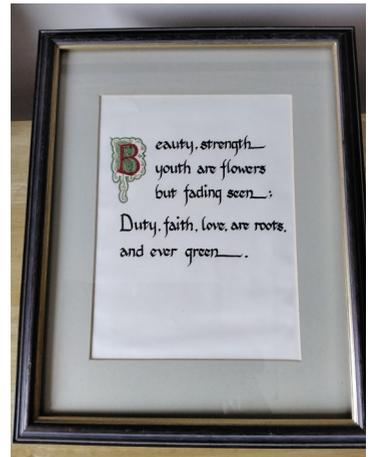
John Clare was a 'local' poet. Known as the Northamptonshire peasant poet, Clare was born and died in Helpston, Northants. He was the son of a farm labourer, and became known for his celebrations of the English countryside and his sorrows at its disruption. At one point he was a gardener at Burghley House. He enlisted in the militia, tried camp life with gypsies, and once worked as a lime burner. In 1818 he was obliged to accept parish relief. The thatched cottage at 12 Woodgate, Helpston,

where Clare was born, was bought by the John Clare Trust in 2005. Now restored, the cottage is open to the public. There is a visitor centre and café. The photo is of Clare's memorial stone.

## GOD, ME AND ART

The theme of our July *'God, Me and Art'* meeting was 'Discipline'. We are a group from Church who meet bi-monthly, chez Noreen Talbot. We choose a theme for each meeting and we each interpret it in different ways, relating it to our faith. Anyone who would like to come is invited to join us. Meetings are advertised on the weekly Information Sheet. But, how does one deal with 'Discipline'? Well, I suppose you have to be disciplined to make a decision for starters! I chose some calligraphy that I had done several years ago to complement a flower arrangement as part of the Flower Festival in my parish church in the Vale of Glamorgan. I can't now remember what the arrangement looked like, but I chose the frame because the flowers and foliage picked up its colours. It takes discipline to space out the lettering on the page - and flower arranging requires discipline to ensure the rules relating to shape, colours, size and balance are followed.

Take 'in' out of discipline, and you get disciple, 'one who follows the teaching or doctrine of a teacher/ leader'. As Christians we are disciples following Christ's teaching - who followed His Father, our God. God gives us our gifts to help us through life. Whether they be gifts to paint, knit, sew, write poems, arrange flowers in order to express ourselves and participate in 'God, Me & Art'. We can also use our gifts and be good disciples by reading the lessons in church, leading prayers, helping with Sunday School, giving someone a lift, making cups of tea, serving refreshments or washing up. We just need to discipline ourselves to be useful and to follow Jesus's commandment to 'Love one another' -- which can be done in a variety of ways, the same way that participants in 'God, Me and Art' express ourselves in different ways. Next meetings: Sept 19, theme: Fruitfulness. Nov 21, theme: Light & Dark. Why not join us?



*Rita Richards*

## BEE INFESTATION AT WANLIP

You will have read elsewhere about the renewed enthusiasm for bell ringing since the coronation of the new King, when there was an initiative to get as many people ringing for the event as possible. Since then both churches have had well supported bell practices, St. James on a Sunday afternoon and Our Lady & St. Nicholas on a Monday evening. Sadly things came to an abrupt halt in early June when we discovered that the tower had been taken over by honey bees!

Some may remember that we have long had masonry bees in the tower which don't cause a lot of problems. This time, however, it was the real thing and lots of them. Paul Wilcox tracked down a bee keeper, Jay Anderson, who tried to lure the bees into one of his hives which he had to place, strategically, on the first floor of the tower. Unfortunately the bees preferred their current habitat and ignored the invitation, so in mid July, Jay returned and heroically removed them and all their remnants!

The two photos do not do justice to the work involved in achieving this. It took Jay and his wife (sadly whose name I never got) many hours to remove the majority of the bees, getting absolutely drenched in sticky honey, and before anyone asks the question, no it wasn't possible to gather the honey as this was just a by-product of the removal process. Mixed in with the stone dust and mortar from the tower it would have been very gritty! I'm told that Jay had to throw some of his clothes away!

We are extremely grateful to Jay and his wife, who not only dealt with the problem very quickly so that the couple getting married in church on the 22 July could have the bells for their wedding, but they have not charged us.

I just hope they are able to reap some benefit from anything the bees can now produce.



**Hero of the day beekeeper is Jay Anderson - a job not for the faint hearted**

*Debbie Shephard*

# LET JUSTICE AND PEACE FLOW

## Season of Creation



*Photo of John Merrick's Lake taken by Peter Watson*

The Season of Creation runs from September 1 through October 4 and unites the global Christian family around one shared purpose. It provides flexibility in prayer services and a variety of actions to care for creation. The world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation during this time.

September 1st was proclaimed as a Day of Prayer for Creation for the Eastern Orthodox Church by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. It was embraced by other major Christian European churches in 2001 and in 2015 by Pope Francis, for the Roman Catholic Church. In recent years, many Christian churches have begun celebrating the 'Season of Creation' (also known as Creation Time) between September 1 and October 4, which is the Feast of St. Francis. St. Francis is the author of the Canticum of the Creatures, and the patron saint of all who promote ecology.

**Canon Anne**

## HARVEST FESTIVAL SPECIAL WEEKEND AT WANLIP

**30TH SEPTEMBER - 1ST OCTOBER**

Join us for a special weekend of flowers and photos  
Photographs of Wanlip Village and Wanlip Church over  
several decades, all complemented by beautiful flower  
arrangements and much more.

Afternoon Teas served in the Hall and a Raffle with unique  
prizes.

Keep an eye on our website and information sheets for  
more details.

*Debbie Shephard*

## INTERNATIONAL BAT NIGHT



Did you know there are eighteen species of bats in the UK? I didn't! But I've seen them sometimes flying over Wanlip Church, as I'm sure you have some of you. Apparently all these bats make up almost a quarter of all our mammal species. So our UK bats are worth looking up for! International Bat Night this year was celebrated on 26th-27th August.

*Canon Anne*

## CISTERCIAN SPIRITUALITY: OUR HABIT

Our Cistercian clothing is an outward symbol of our spirituality, so I will explain its meaning next.

First of all I need to let you know I didn't write most of this article. It was written by Brother Bernard, and it is with his kind permission I have reproduced it here. The added explanations I have written are printed in italics.

Our habit is a powerful way of communicating the professed brother's values. Our **tunic** is white or grey. -

Our order originally wore white but it soon became apparent that white may be OK in a nice clean monastery, but isn't so good when living in the world with mucky streets. So the change was made to grey.

The **black hooded scapular** rests on the brother's shoulders (scapulae in Latin) and over the tunic. Jesus said, *'shoulder my yoke and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart... my yoke is easy and my burden light.'* It is not difficult to see this piece of material as deeply symbolic of Christ's command. The brother makes a vow of obedience to his Prior, to imitate Christ who came to us, not to do his own, but his Father's will, and so redeem us from our sins. By his obedience, the brother shares in this redemption in a real way, as part of the Body of Christ. - *Our scapular is black, the same as the Benedictines, to show that we are part of the Benedictine family. Our founders came from the Benedictine monastery at Molesme.*

The **hood** is used most effectively in prayer as a way of focusing on Christ and repelling distractions. Symbolically, it makes you look straight ahead on the path to the kingdom of God, not looking to the left or the right for paths that

lead him away from the goal. - *The hood is also put up to show the Brother does not want to be disturbed. Usually because he is praying.* Novices wear a black scapular without a hood before their profession.

The **leather belt** circles the waist and is a sign of the conversion of life the brother vows to follow. The belt stops the scapular from flowing about the body in an unruly way. In the same way, conversion of life is allowing the daily life in our community and its interactions with God and the brethren to encircle us and slowly, over a lifetime, change him into a saint.

Novices wear a leather belt underneath their scapular before their profession. So, the monastic habit eloquently reminds the brother every moment of the way he should be living to fulfill his vows.

When the solemnly professed brother attends chapter meetings or during the Eucharist and our *Opus Dei*, when we are worshipping God, the brother wears a cowl over his habit. This is a square-shaped white garment, reaching to the feet, with very long wide sleeves. It is a powerful reminder of the brother's total dedication to the worship of God and of God enfolding him in love. The brother receives the cowl at his solemn profession, when the Prior clothes him symbolically in Christ. – *hence the title of 'White Monks'. The Benedictines wear a black cowl and so came to be called the 'Black Monks'.* This graphically and visually makes present the brother's Baptism, now to be lived very publicly as a consecrated religious, witnessing to the coming Kingdom of God.

**Br. Aidan / Michael**

## **NEWS FROM SAINT THERESA'S CHURCH BIRSTALL & THE SACRED HEART, ROTHLEY**

Some of you might be aware we have not had a resident Priest for a few months now and have been relying on visiting priests who have done a magnificent job in supporting our ministry. At last, however, we are able to report that we have been appointed a new Priest, Fr Jenson Paul, who is just settling in and learning about our ways and shortcomings. We as a parish, are supporting him 100% in what must look like quite a daunting task.

In May we had fourteen children take their first Holy Communion. It was a marvellously prayerful, spiritual and moving service and the church was packed to the rafters with their families and friends. The new programme will start in September/October, as will the Confirmation classes.

Despite the fact that we have been without a priest for some time, everything seems to have ticked along just fine thanks to the efforts of so many willing volunteers. And we have been very busy also doing a lot of fundraising both for our Parish Funds as well as for local charities.

The St Theresa's choir was joined with choirs from English Martyrs School and Bishop Ellis School and a 'scratch orchestra,' as Chris Lowe calls it, and some other local talent. And after many months of practice we put on a magnificent concert with over 100 performers performing some songs from Hairspray and Joseph musicals among others. Just under £900 was raised from a 'bucket collection' at the end; a donation went to the Air Ambulance and the remainder to Parish Funds. And it all happened because of the tremendous dedication of Chris Lowe who organised and trained everybody. He was presented with a Golf voucher which is his other passion and I believe he has had a great time using it over the summer. Thanks to everyone who took part and also to a certain Anglican Rector called Amanda who did a cracking job on a double bass!

We had a Fashion Show in June with volunteers who strutted our catwalk to show off the wonderful range of high street discounted summer attire and it was so successful that we are doing it again with Autumn attire on the 11th October. If you want to come please contact the church office for a ticket.

Our Quiz nights are still popular and a different charity is supported at each one. The next one is on 22nd September. Just pay at the door £3.00.

We are holding a 'Bits and Bobs' night on 27th October. Strange objects will appear and it is up to each team to decide what it is and what it was used for. Tickets are available from the Church Office.

The Parish of St Theresa's Birstall and Sacred Heart Rothley are truly a thriving local Parish Community, and although it looks like we are having a wonderful time with events etc. we are also a very spiritual, prayerful parish and a warm welcome awaits everyone who comes along. We have a church website too where you will find some more information about the things I have mentioned and some pictures.

**Dates for your diary Please support these fundraising events**

Saturday 9th September- Parish Summer Fete at Sacred Heart 10.30am to 2.30 pm; Friday 22nd September - Fun Quiz night at St. Theresa's, £3.00 on the door, 7pm start; Wednesday 27th September - Turlough Unplugged, an evening of folk music with a chance to sing along. Tickets £5.00 to include a glass of wine. On Wednesday 11th October there's a Fashion Show at St Theresa's, 6.30 pm for 7pm start. Tickets £5.00 will be available in September. On Friday 27th October there's a Bits & Bobs night at St. Theresa's to name the historic artefacts which were once essential gadgets in the home. Tickets - £5. On Friday 17th November there's a Murder Mystery Evening with fish & chip supper £12.00 7pm for 7.30pm start. And at St. Theresa's on Saturday 9th December there's our Christmas Bazaar 10 am - 2pm at St Theresa's. Donations will be required nearer the time.

**Brenda Bentham**

## MUSIC LOVERS

### An offer too good to miss

Do you enjoy classical music?

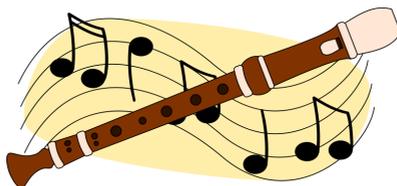
There are good classical concerts in Leicester, but you can enjoy some world-class orchestras, including the Halle at Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall, without the hassle of driving yourself there. You just need to get to the Tesco car park at Shelthorpe where a coach will take you to just outside the Hall and pick you up at the end to take you back to Loughborough.

We have good seats towards the front of the balcony, and transport and tickets cost £30. This may cost a little more this coming season. We haven't yet got the details of which concerts have been chosen this season, but they will be available soon.

There is a copy of the coming season's concerts leaflet at the back of both churches and we'll let you know which have been chosen as soon as they are available. Speak to one of us at church or phone us if you would like more details. We hope you will join us.

**Gill Pope 0116 2675086**

**Lesley Walton 0116 2674995/ 07913379591**



## **BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2023**

It's never too early to start preparing for our Christmas Festival; in fact, for many, it's an all-year commitment. Purchases are made as early as the January sales: toiletries, luxury food items, Christmas wrapping paper, and candles, Seville Oranges, soft fruits, onions, etc. Throughout the year jigsaws & toys, raffle/tombola prizes are collected. For those that are practical, crafts are on-going and preserves made.

This year the theme of the Festival will be "Christmas Songs & Carols" and our church will be filled with decorated trees and displays, supported by stalls, raffles and tombolas. Once again the Festival will be supported by a Craft Fair in the Coffee Shop.

Refreshments will be served throughout the weekend including Morning 'Coffee & Cakes,' Lunchtime 'Soup'n'Puds', and Late Afternoon 'Burgers & Hot Dogs'. Admission is free but donations to 'Motor Neurone Disease' will be most welcome.

Churches Together In Birstall & Wanlip and the whole village of Birstall have always supported us so well in the past & we look forward to welcoming you all yet again in 2023.

**Friday 24th November 2023 10.00am - 6.00pm**  
**Saturday 25th November 2023 10.00am - 2.00pm**

*Mary Downs*

## WITHIN THE CHURCHYARD



*Peter Watson*

Within the churchyard, side by side, are many long low graves; and some have stones set over them, on some the green grass waves. Full many a little Christian child, woman and man, lies there; and we pass near them every time when we go in to prayer.

But we believe a day shall come when all the dead will rise, when they who sleep down in the grass, will open again their eyes. For Christ our Lord was buried once, he died and rose again, he conquered death, he left the grave; and so will Christian men.

So when the friends we love the best lie in their churchyard bed, we must not cry too bitterly over the happy dead. Because, for our dear Saviour's sake, our sins are all forgiven. And Christians only fall asleep to wake again in heaven.

*Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848*

## We Never Lose Those We Give to God

When through one person a little more love and goodness, a little more light and truth come into the world, that person's life has meaning.

We give thanks to the Lord for every remembrance of them, for the friendship and peace they brought, and for the love they hold in their hearts.

Lord, with affectionate remembrance, pour out your blessings, and give strength and comfort to those who loved them, and have been parted from them. **Amen.**

## The Light That Can Never Be Put Out

O Lord our Father, You are the light that can never be put out; and you now give us light that shall drive away all darkness.

You are love without coldness, and you have given us such warmth in our hearts that we can love all whom we meet. You are the life that defies death, and you have opened for us the way that leads to eternal life.

None of us is a great Christian; we are all humble and ordinary. But your grace is enough for us.

Arouse in us that small degree of joy and thankfulness of which we are capable, to the timid faith which we muster, to the cautious obedience which we cannot refuse. And thus to receive the wholeness of life which you have prepared for us all.

And may the light of our risen Lord reach every corner of our dull hearts.

**Amen.**

# KIDS COURGETTE CAKE

## Ingredients

vegetable oil, for greasing  
50g/2oz soft brown sugar  
50g/2oz soft butter  
1 egg  
60g/2oz courgette  
90g/3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>oz self-raising flour  
1 tsp mixed spice  
half a lime, juice only

## Method

Before cooking, wash your hands and put on an apron. Weigh and measure all the ingredients. Ask a grown-up to preheat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Grease a small (500g) loaf tin with a little vegetable oil using a pastry brush.

Place the sugar and butter into a mixing bowl. Using the back of a fork, mash the ingredients together until completely combined.

Break the egg into a cup, and whisk with a fork.

Add the egg to the sugar and butter and stir.

Grate the courgette and add this to the mixture with the flour, mixed spice and lime juice and stir using a wooden spoon.

Put the mixture into the prepared loaf tin.

Ask a grown-up to put it in the oven for 20–25 minutes until golden-brown on the top. Serve in slices with some fresh fruit.

*Julie Ward*

## ROBIN REDBREAST



Good-bye, Good-bye to Summer  
For Summer's nearly done:  
The garden smiling faintly,  
Cool breezes in the sun.

Our thrushes now are silent,  
Our swallows flown away,  
But robin's here, in coat of brown  
With ruddy breast-knot gay!

Robin, robin redbreast  
Oh robin so dear  
Robin singing sweetly  
In the falling of the year.

*Part of a poem by William Allingham*

*William Allingham (1824 – 1889) was an Irish poet, diarist and editor. He wrote several volumes of lyric verse, but is better known for his Diary, in which he records his lively encounters with Tennyson, Carlyle and other writers and artists.*

*Submitted by Chris Greaves*

## MONDEGREENS

A mondegreen is a mis-hearing or mis-interpretation of a phrase which gives it a new meaning.

The American writer Sylvia Wright coined the term when she misheard her mother reading her the Scottish ballad *The Bonnie Earl Of Murray* and mis-heard the words *layd him on the green* as 'Lady Mondegreen.'

My own mondegreen was from childhood too. I was taught to say the prayer 'Gentle Jesus meek and mild'.

Until I actually saw the prayer in print I thought it was.....

*Gentle Jesus, meek and mild  
look upon this little child.  
pity mice in Italy  
suffer me to come to thee.*

Have you any of your own mondegreens?

*Charlotte Stephenson*

## FIND TIME

Find time to think; it's the source of strength.

Find time to play; it's the secret of youth.

Find time to read; it's the basis of knowledge.

Find time to be kind; it's the road to happiness.

Find time to dream; it's the way to the stars.

Find time to love; it's the true joy of life.

Find time to be happy; it's music for your soul.

*Ancient Irish Ballad*

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Hi. I hope you are all keeping well. I am in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9am and 1pm. If you have a notice you would like putting in our weekly Information Sheet please email it to [stjames.birstall@btconnect.com](mailto:stjames.birstall@btconnect.com), or [sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk).

If you don't have access to the internet, please could you leave your notice on my desk or post it through the church letterbox which is at the bottom of the glass doors. If you are unable to get to church please contact Amanda or one of the Churchwardens. (Contact details on page 2.)

Should you like to receive this magazine or our weekly information sheets digitally, please let me know. Thank you.

Love, Sheryl

## WEDDINGS

22.07.23	Joseph Derry & Lauren Godfrey	Wanlip
19.08.23	Luke Broughton & Jessica Jeffery	St James the Great

## FUNERALS

Died	Funeral		
12.07.23	03.08.23	Violet (Vi) Rawlins	Wanlip/Gilroes
26.07.23	18.08.23	Harry Powley	St James the Great
26.07.23	25.08.23	John Denoon	Gilroes
07.08.23	30.08.23	Barbara Duddle	St James/L Crem.

**Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.  
And let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.**

**‘KEEP IN TOUCH’, Winter 2023**

**Copy by, but, if possible, before 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

All contributions welcome. **Maximum** length: 500 words!



*King Lear’s Lake*

*Peter Watson*

**KEEPING YOU ‘IN TOUCH’ IS**

Name .....

Address .....

Tel.No. ....