

# *The Helmsley Herald*



**St Mary the Virgin, Rievaulx**



**St Chad, Sproxton**



**All Saints, Helmsley**

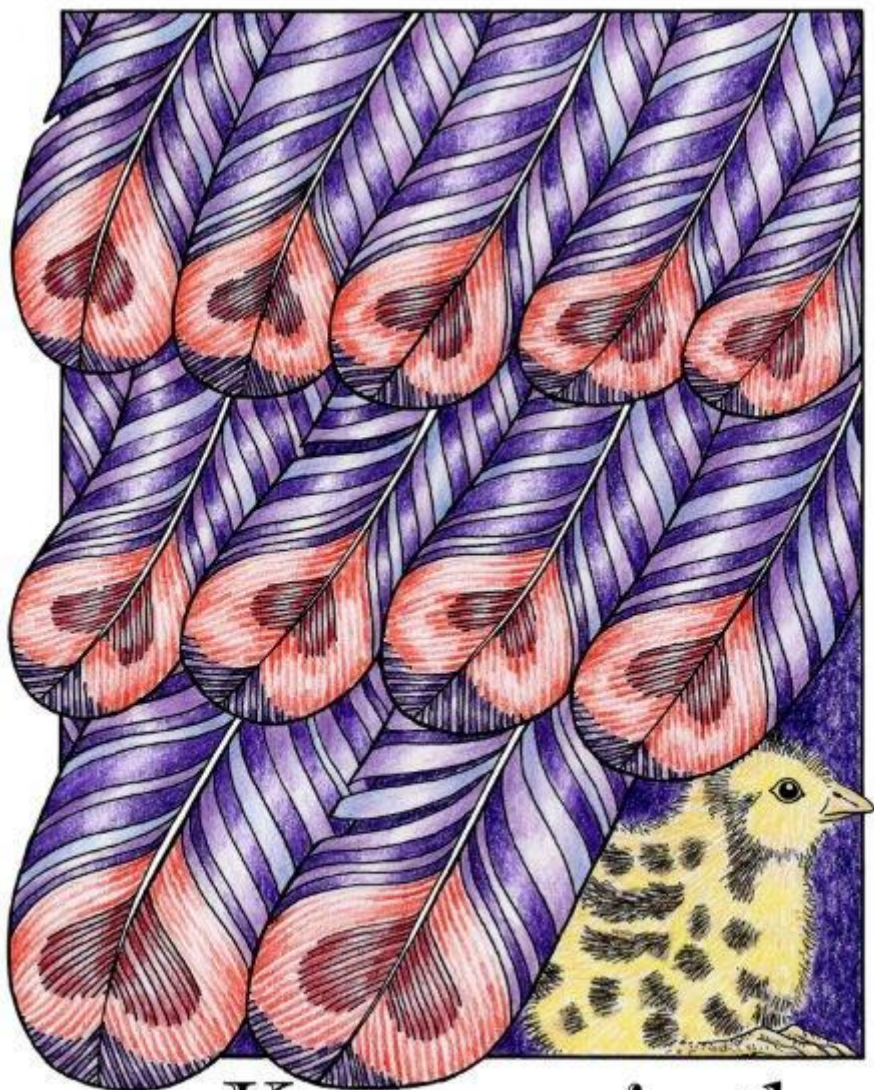


**St Mary Magdalene, East Moors**



**February  
2021**

**50p**



shelter of your wings Ps 17:8

Keep me in the

Dear friends,

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 8.38-39*

I don't know about you but this post-Christmas third lockdown seems harder than anything we have previously encountered. Over 100,000 deaths, and the prospect of no real change until 8<sup>th</sup> March at the earliest is a gloomy prospect.

The weather this morning was bright with a freshness in the air. This afternoon is overcast. I felt cheerful this morning, not so cheerful this afternoon! I often say that it is important for Christian people to be hopeful but perhaps we don't always have to be cheerful. In fact a false cheerfulness would in the end be irritating to ourselves and others!

But we can have hope in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. This is what Paul is saying in chapter eight of his letter to the Romans. He gives God's perspective – however awful life is, even if, perhaps especially if, we die, nothing can separate us from the love of God.

We may feel down in the dumps, anxious, ill at ease, fed up, but ultimately we can live and die in the knowledge of God's love for us always and everywhere.

With very best wishes,

**Tim**



### ***From the Registers***

#### Funerals

18th December Paul Maley, aged 69 years

29th January Ann Boyes, aged 77 years

# How do I love thee?

*by Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.



*chosen by Mary Stewart*

## WORSHIP ONLINE

During this third lockdown there are, sadly, no services in church.

10am Monday - Friday    Morning Prayer

9pm Tuesdays              Compline

10am Sundays              Eucharistic Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY - 17th February

7pm            Eucharistic worship online

Helmsley Church is open for private prayer;

Wednesdays and Sundays    10am – Noon.

During this time gifts for the foodbank can be accepted.

Thank you to those who are stewarding when the church is open.

**Tim Robinson's retirement date is now postponed until 5th September.**





## Eyesight

A man went to his doctor to say that his eyesight was getting worse. The doctor asked the man to look out the window and to tell him what he saw. "I see the sun," the man replied.

The doctor replied: "Just how much farther do you want to see?"



## Fox



I called the RSPCA today to report I had just found a suitcase in the woods containing a fox and four cubs. "That's terrible," she said. "Are they moving?"

"I'm not sure, to be honest," I replied, "But that would explain the suitcase."

***If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.***



*If I wanted to hear the pitter-patter of little feet, I'd put shoes on my cat.*



Nathaniel would like to say ✨ Thank you ✨ to everyone who has supported his Lollipop fundraising this December. He now has £110 waiting to make its way over to the food bank.



I ask Nathaniel how he feels about what he's done. He says "I feel great, and happy to help the Foodbank, I feel really sad that people can't buy their own food and I want to be helpful."

Me as his Mum, I'm extremely proud! His little heart is so generous to other people's feelings— and Thank You to all for supporting him.

*Annika Dowson*



## **Pray with grannie**

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands.

But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. "Who are we hiding from, grannie?"

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## **Collection**

The church newsletter announced details of the church creche: 'Children are normally collected during the Offertory Hymn.'



## **Hymns for seasoned citizens**

**The Old Rugged Face**

**Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up**

**It is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt**

**Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing**

**Amazing Grace, Considering My Age**

**Just a Slower Walk With Thee**

**Count Your Many Birthdays, Name Them One by One**


**Go Tell It On The Mountain, But Speak Up**

**Give Me That Old Timers' Religion**

**Blessed Insurance**

**Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I Parked**



A photograph of a blue tit perched on a tree trunk next to a nestbox. The bird is facing left, and its wings are slightly spread. The nestbox is a small, rectangular opening in the tree trunk. The background is a blurred green, suggesting foliage.

## **National Nestbox Week - time to help your garden birds**

**Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.**

**National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14<sup>th</sup> February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nestboxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.**

**The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes.**

**Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>**

### **Leave them be**

The National Trust has urged the public to stay away from certain areas during breeding season this Spring. It hopes to mimic the effects of lockdown last year, which helped more vulnerable species.

The call follows the discovery last year that lockdown did our peregrine falcons, grey partridges and other species a real favour.

The tern colony at Blakeney Point in Norfolk had a bumper season, with more than 200 little tern chicks fledged, the most in 25 years. The Peak District saw more curlew, and the Llyn Peninsula saw more stoats, weasels and rabbits emerging from the woodlands of Plas yn Rhiw. Meanwhile, the ruins of Corfe Castle in Dorset became home to peregrine falcons, and a cuckoo arrived in Osterley, West London. Even Dartford warblers were on the move, some to as far as Shropshire.

**One of the joys of celebrating Morning Prayer daily is the discovery of saints who have gone before us.** Not all of them are Saints with a capital S! George Herbert was never made a Saint but he was reportedly saintly. In any case non of the saints peculiar to the Anglican Communion have been made Saints as this is a singularly Catholic thing to do! Lesser festival Saints (or saints) have their own special collect, which sums up why a person is remembered, whilst those who are merely commemorated just get a mention. Unless there is a local connection we tend just to observe the lesser festivals. Major festivals are reserved for the apostles, and evangelists (Gospel writers).

Here are those Saints and saints in February we will be celebrating:

3rd February      **Anskar**, Archbishop of Bremen,  
Missionary in Denmark and Sweden,  
died 865AD



14th                **Valentine**, Martyr at Rome, died c.269  
As we all know, the Patron Saint of Love! Why?  
According to Wikipedia: There are many other legends behind Saint Valentine. One is that in the 3rd century AD it is said that Valentine, who was a priest, defied the order of the emperor Claudius and secretly performed Christian weddings for couples, allowing the husbands involved to escape conscription into the pagan army.

23rd                **Polycarp**, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, died c.155

Here is his Collect which will be prayed on his day:

Almighty God, who gave to your servant Polycarp boldness to confess the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world and courage to die for his faith:

grant that we also may be ready  
to give an answer for the faith that is in us  
and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

27th

**George Herbert**, Priest, Poet, died 1633

Love (III)

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back  
    Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
    From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,  
    If I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:  
    Love said, You shall be he.  
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,  
    I cannot look on thee.  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
    Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame  
    Go where it doth deserve.  
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?  
    My dear, then I will serve.  
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:  
    So I did sit and eat.

This is a tender conversation between Love (God?) and everyman.  
I find it helpful to think that 'I' is me the reader.



*Tim Robinson*



## A February Rose

My love, she likes a red, red rose  
Of deep magenta hue,  
A gift for Valentine that shows  
That someone's love is true.

But think on this, my bonnie lass,  
As you admire the bloom –  
That flower's been forced on under glass  
You ought to wait till June!

*By Nigel Beeton*



### **It was:**

200 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1821 that John Keats, the poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 25.

125 years ago, on 1st Feb 1896 that the premiere of Giacomo Puccini's opera *La bohème*, took place in Turin, Italy.

75 years ago, on 11th Feb 1946 that The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

65 years ago, on 11th Feb 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

50 years ago, on 15th Feb 1971 that the UK's currency was decimalised.

# Sir Keir Starmer praises churches

Christianity has provided a blueprint for social improvement, according to the Labour Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer.

Writing in a recent issue of Church Times, he said, "For all the loss and difficulty, we should not let this year be defined by pain. Throughout the pandemic, we have also seen the best of humanity."

Sir Keir said that during this past year "religious institutions and local communities have banded together for the common good, showing us the very best of Britain." And he went on to say that "the best of British values" that have surfaced during the pandemic "are also the best of Christian values."

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## It's all in the spelling...

**G – God**

**R – Ran**

**A – Alongside**

**C – Carrying**

**E – Everything**



*A parcel for Justin! Now lockdown at home would be more bearable.*

## **Fairtrade Fortnight: 22nd February – 7th March**

It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south.

In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.

Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them.

So this month, why not visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) and see how you can send some support.

## **The Birds and Bees**

**Here is some good news: all new major roads will have wildflower-friendly verges that could boost our numbers of birds and bees.**

**Highway England has said that vibrant road verges will be created as standard on new roads over 300 miles in England, using low nutrient soils which will be seeded with wildflowers or left to grow naturally.**

**A staggering 97 per cent of our meadows have been destroyed since the Thirties, due to modern agriculture. This means that the 238,000 hectares of road verges across the UK could become a vital habitat for pollinators.**

**The Government has pledged to build 4,000 miles of new road by 2025.**



# From Our Family to Yours

**We are back!**  
**ready to deliver treats direct to your door**

Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays

## **Breads**

*White/Wholemeal/Granary*

Small **£1.35** Medium **£1.70** Large **£2.20**

Pizza Bread - Cheese, Tomato and herb **£2.50**

## **Scones**

*Cheese, Cherry, Sultana, Chocolate, Date & Walnut,*

*Plain* **65p each**

## **Brownies**

*Smarties, Chocolate Orange, Mint Aero, Double  
Chocolate & Our Choice*

**£2.00 Each**

**6 for £10**

Sausage Rolls **£1.40**

Sausage roll Share Box **£7.50**

Individual Steak Pie **£2.50**

Individual Chicken and Leek Pie **£2.50**

Sticky Toffee Pudding with Sauce **£2.25**

Rocky Road **£2.00**

Chocolate or Vanilla Butterfly Buns

**4 for £2.50 or 12 for £7.00**

**Baileys Truffles Box**

**6 for £4.50**

**12 for £7.50**

**18 for £10.00**



## Contact Us

07904 127493

## Find Us

From Our Family  
to Yours

Helmsley based



Please place orders by 10am day before expected delivery orders placed after this time may not be fulfilled. Do send us a message with any questions, we are very friendly!

## God In The Arts :

### Stanley Spencer's 'Christ in the Wilderness - Scorpions'



#### Forty days and forty nights

On the 17th of this month, we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this month's painting from 1939: 'Christ in the Wilderness - Scorpions.' It is currently held in a private collection.

Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village's inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. 'Angels and dirt' he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with his head, his hands and his feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about him, apart from his tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to

embrace that ministry during His time in the desert? During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God.

He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.



## **Remembering John Keats**

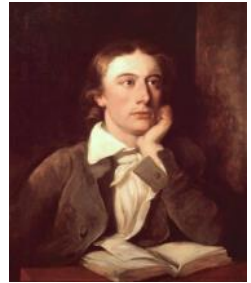
It was 200 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1821, that John Keats, the Romantic poet, died in Rome of tuberculosis, aged 25.

Keats was a generous, likeable and hard-working man who had much experience of suffering in his short life. He also had a love of civil and religious liberty. Most of his best work was done during the year 1819, when he was already sickening after an exhausting walking tour of the Lakes and Scotland the previous summer.

In that same year he had also been nursing his brother Tom through tuberculosis – the disease that killed their mother. But in 1819, after Tom’s death, he moved to Hampstead and fell in love with a neighbour, Fanny Brawne, who was 18.

By this time Keats was devoting himself to poetry, having originally trained as a surgeon following his mother’s early death. He is most famous for his Odes, all of which (except the one to Autumn) were composed between March and June 1819. All of them ponder the clash between eternal ideals and the transience of the physical world.

His most famous lines: “Beauty is truth, truth beauty, – that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.”



## Gift Aid

As many of you will be aware, Gift Aid is a Government scheme which allows charities to reclaim tax on donations from UK tax payers. This increases eligible donations the Church receives by 25%. Over the year, these Gift Aided donations add up and really do make a big difference to the Church.

If you are a UK tax payer who is considering donating to the Church this year, please include a Gift Aid declaration. A copy of our Gift Aid Form is included here, in case this is useful:

### **Helmsley Parish**

### **GIFT AID DECLARATION**

Full name.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....

I want Helmsley Parish Churches to treat all donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I declare otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

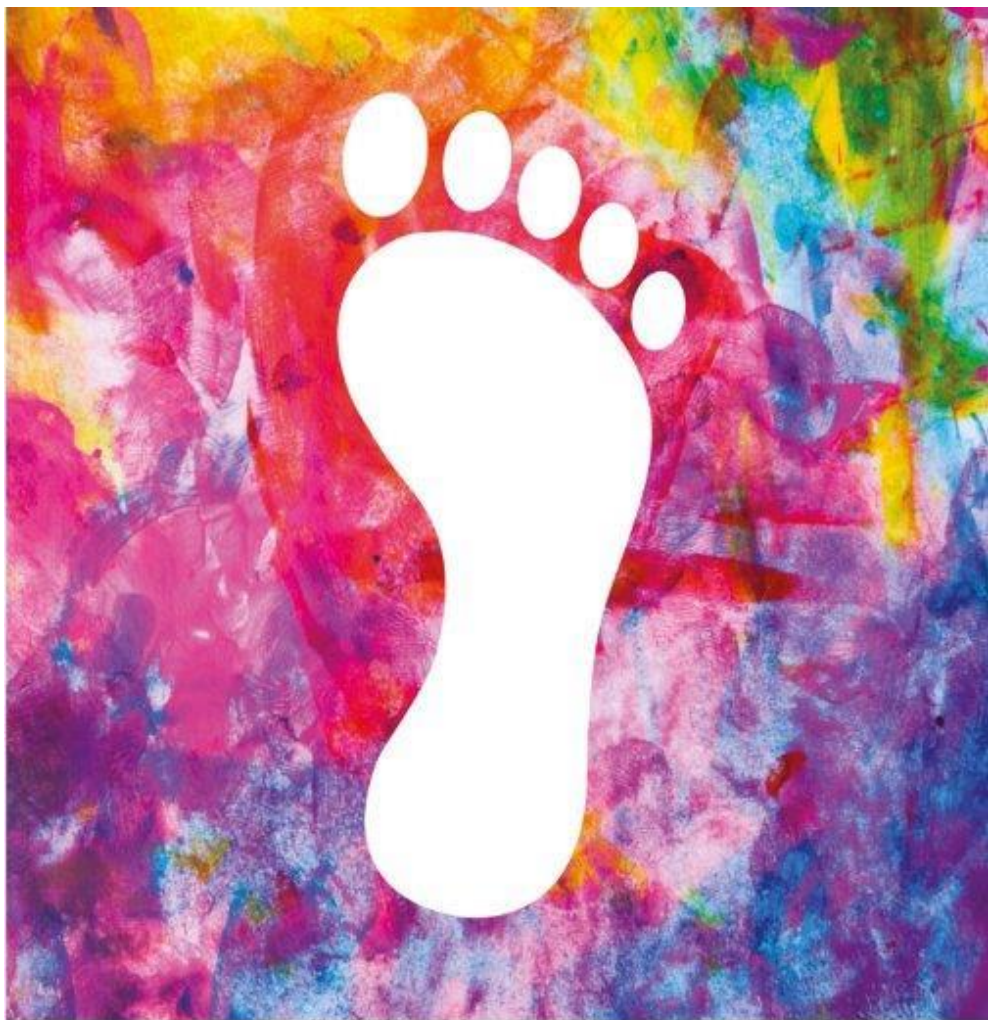
I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and have or will pay income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year that is at least equal to the tax that will be reclaimed on all my donations to charities and community amateur sports clubs (CASCs).

I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

I understand that charities will claim 25p for every £1 that I donate. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed..... Date.....

*We need to hold this data to process your gift. Your data will be updated / added to our database and may be used for the purposes outlined in our privacy notice, which can be found on our website.*



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

**Romans 10:15**



# February in Helmsley Parish

Helmsley Church is now open for Private Prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays 10am – 12 noon.

Sadly, there are no services in church at the moment. Public worship will continue once it is safe to do so.

Services online :

## Sundays

10.00am Eucharistic Worship

## Monday – Friday

10.00am Morning Prayer

## Tuesdays

9.00pm Compline



**ASH WEDNESDAY - 17th February**  
**7.00pm - Eucharistic worship online**

