



Kirkleatham Parish
St Cuthbert's & St Hilda's

Parish News

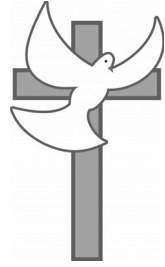
March 2024



Daffodils at Mount Grace Priory

Vicar's letter

Abundance Mindset



Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all... But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill-offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. (1 Chronicles 29: 11, 14)

At the end of February we celebrated Generous Giving Sunday in which we were encouraged to consider how we might respond to God's generosity to us. We were all challenged to consider what we are giving back to God through our church and our community, and whether we can afford to give more in time, effort or even money.

Many of us cannot give more. We are tired or ill, or perhaps we have given all in the past and it is our time to receive. Perhaps we would love to help financially but we just can't make ends meet – the cost of living is too much. Perhaps our home life or workload is just too busy for us to give up another minute to serving. In which case, may I thank you for all that you are doing, or have done in the past and pray God's blessing on you.

But some of us could perhaps could do more, or give more, but we are afraid. Afraid of scarcity or loss. Afraid that if we give too much, we won't have enough for ourselves. Fear can cause us to focus on self-preservation and not see the needs of others. It can make us reluctant to give or share resources, time or assistance, and may even cause us to withhold help when it is within our capacity to provide it.

But Jesus calls us to have an abundance mindset. This has been described as a perspective that focuses on the limitless possibilities and opportunities available in life, rather than dwelling on scarcity or limitations. Individuals with an abundance mindset view the world as abundant in resources, opportunities, and potential for growth. They believe that there is enough to go around for everyone and that success and fulfillment are not zero-sum games.



And this is the mindset Jesus wants to give us. He reminds us that Father God has been extravagantly merciful and generous to us and calls us to do the same. We are called to give generously – and when we do we will receive “a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over” (Luke 6:38). And because we can trust that God will provide, he tells us not to worry about food or clothing or any of our human needs, but to trust that ‘your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things’ (Matthew 6:32). God has abundant resources for all of us. And he longs to lavish them on us.

If we concentrate on our lack, our cup being half-empty, then we will seek to hold on to the little we have and won't feel able to share what we have been given with others. But let's remember that we really started out with an empty cup! The fact that it is even half full is proof of God's love and abundant provision, ‘for all things come from you’ (1 Chronicles 29:14). If we can live as if this is really true then we might just be less afraid to share. And our gratitude to God's provision will lead to trust that he is able to continue to fill our cup up until it runs over.

So whether you can afford to respond to give, or whether we need to support you, I pray that you will be able to trust that you will experience the abundant generosity of our generous God. And find in him security and relief from fear.

Rev Jane

January PCC in brief

Revitalise

We talked about the upcoming Festival Teesside event. We will be letting you know about various things which are happening in May and June later. But do let us know if you have any ideas for a one off 'social action' event which we can do as a church in May to show our parish that Jesus loves them.

We also talked about how our numbers on Sunday morning haven't changed much since Covid – but are much lower than they used to be. We do have new some people in church. But how can you encourage those who don't come any more to come back? And when was the last time you invited a friend to come to church?



We are hoping to start a more informal service on a Sunday afternoon. If you would like to be involved in our prayers and discussions for this please let Jane know.

Finance

Finances are doing OK but we still need a little more to break even. The charity shop, café and bookings have brought in lots, but our regular giving has not increased in line with inflation.

We have had our Generous Giving Sunday at the end of February. Please do consider whether you can increase your regular giving, or perhaps can afford a one off gift. We don't just want to maintain our buildings, but to grow in our ability to bless our community.

Safeguarding

Sue N and Ruth have been to York to take part in the National Safeguarding Team video on the parish dashboard. The film crew have also been to St. Hilda's to see them 'in action'. This was a result of the fantastic work they have done in the parish and in the Deanery to raise the profile of good safeguarding practices, making our church a safer place. We will be having a Safeguarding Sunday in March.

Please do ask any member of the PCC if you would like to know more, have anything that you would like us to discuss, or if you would like to join the PCC yourself!

Revd Jane

Journeys: Community Minister

I had spent a large part of my working life in education, but since retiring I had felt that something was missing from my life. Although I loved the freedom of having no ties, and had started volunteering in a small way at St. Hilda's, I felt God was calling me to do more. When Matt first approached me with the idea of embarking on the Stepping Up journey, run by Mustard Seed, I was very apprehensive. It was many years since I had been an academic and the thought of it filled me with dread. However, I took up the challenge and I was totally wrong. I gained so much by going on the Stepping Up journey - my understanding of my faith and



growing confidence in knowing when to listen to what God had to say to me and what he had in store for me was invaluable. I also got to meet some wonderful people who all thought, like me, that we weren't worthy to be there, and had no idea where it would lead us.

I had already started helping to run the Little Seeds Community Toddler Group on a Wednesday morning between 9 and 12 o'clock. This was because after Covid we recognised that many of our young mums were feeling very isolated having not had any contact with each other because of the enforced lockdowns. We felt it was important for the children, as well as their parents/carers, to play and talk with others in the same boat.

After I had finished Stepping Up and became a Community Minister I recognised the need to extend our provision for these families. We started with an initial 15 children which has now grown to nearly 60 children registered with us. Our usual numbers are between 25 and 35 which is amazing and shows we are fulfilling a huge need in this community.

We provide warm and welcoming space with lots of toys and activities, and a singing music session just before a healthy snack

time. We celebrate each child's birthday with a rendition of happy birthday and a cake with a candle which they love. The photos go on our notice board with each child excited for their turn.

We charge £1 a session, which we felt was usually affordable, although obviously not compulsory. This means we are completely self-supporting, also helping to replace any resources we need and providing treats for Easter and Christmas.



Our Christmas party this year was a great success with the conclusion to the Christmas Story, games of pass the parcel and musical bumps, and finishing with a visit from Santa with a present for every child.

I believe that as a Community Minister my role is to support the community in whatever way God is calling me to. To aid me in this I agreed to receive a salary from Mustard Seed. This meant I could begin to be involved with youth work by joining Workspace as part of the Blank Canvas team.

Our aim is to provide a safe and well resourced space for 11 - 16 year olds to complete homework tasks and have fun. Initially my role was to cook a hot meal every week for the young people, who can then enjoy good food, good company and good conversation. We try, where we can, to support them with their homework, but they all help each other and any lack of knowledge on our part means they don't feel they are alone in 'not knowing'.

My role has now developed into providing advocacy support. This involves meeting with the parents/carers and liaising with schools and outside agencies, anything that is needed to support the young people who are carrying some very heavy burdens. Part of this role

means meeting one-to-one on a regular basis, any young person who feels the need to talk over any worries or concerns they may have, or maybe just to have a laugh and a burger at McDonalds to lighten their load.

In some cases we also try to support the whole family as they struggle along together for which many are so grateful for the listening ear we provide.

Our aim is to provide an arms open wide service for all the families, young children and teenagers. We are growing fast as a community based venture, and my long term goal is to sow the seeds of faith which will bring the light and love of Jesus into their lives.

Carol Petit

Mothering Sunday

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*



Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Diary March 2024



Readings

3rd March Lent 3

Exodus 20 vs. 1-17;
1 Corinthians 1 vs. 18-25;
John 2 vs. 13-22

10th March Mothering Sunday

1 Samuel 1: 20-28;
Colossians 3: 12-17;
Luke 2 vs. 33-35

17th March Lent 5/ Safeguarding

Micah 6 vs. 6-8;
Ephesians 5 vs. 8-13;
Mark 12 vs. 28-34

24th March Palm Sunday

Mark 11 vs. 1-11;
Isaiah 50 vs. 4-9a;
Philippians 2 vs. 5-11;
Mark Ch. 14 & 15

31st March Easter Sunday

Acts 10 vs. 34-43;
1 Corinthians 15 vs. 1-11;
Mark 16 vs. 1-8

From the Registers

13th February

Ronald Binns, St. Cuthberts then Kirkleatham
Crematorium

21st February

Craig Brunskill, interment of ashes



This month we pray for those who live and work in:

Fulmerton Crescent; Gillercomb; Overdale Close; Eggleston Road;
Kininvie Close.

Crestwood; Martindale Way; Woodside; Langley Close; Foxrush
Close.

Oxgang Close; The Parklands; Wrentree Close; Wheatear Drive;
Fernwood.

Jamison Avenue; Waverton Gardens; Campbell Grove; Millers Row;
Harrington Road.

Greystoke Walk; Mardale Walk; Langthwaite Walk; Eden Hall Grove.

MARCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, 05 March 2024 Shop/Café & Ecohop	10.00am - 1.00pm St. Hilda's
Tuesday, 05 March 2024 Revitalise Prayer Meeting	7.00pm - 8.00pm St. Hilda's
Thursday, 07 March 2024 Lent Course	7.00pm - 8.30pm 16 Yew Tree Avenue
Sunday, 10 March 2024 Baptisms	1.30pm / 3.00pm St. Cuthbert's
Monday, 11 March 2024 Standing Committee	7.00pm - 7.45pm Vicarage/Meeting Room
Monday, 11 March 2024 Finance Committee	7.45pm - 9.00pm Vicarage/Meeting Room
Tuesday, 12 March 2024 Shop/Café & Ecohop	10.00am - 1.00pm St. Hilda's
Wednesday, 13 March 2024 Revitalise Day	10.00am - 3.30pm Wydale Hall
Thursday, 14 March 2024 Lent Course	7.00pm - 8.30 pm 16 Yew Tree Avenue
Monday, 18 March 2024 PCC	7.00pm - 8.30pm St. Hilda's
Tuesday, 19 March 2024 Shop/Café & Ecohop	10.00am - 1.00pm St. Hilda's
Thursday, 21 March 2024 Lent Course	7.00pm - 8.30 pm 16 Yew Tree Avenue
Saturday, 23 March 2024 Table-Top	10.00am - 2.00pm St. Hilda's
Sunday, 24 March 2024 Baptisms	1.30pm / 3.00pm St. Hilda's
Monday, 25 March 2024 Monday in Holy Week	7.00pm - 7.30pm St. Hilda's
Tuesday, 26 March 2024 Tuesday in Holy Week	7.00pm - 7.30pm St. Hilda's
Wednesday, 27 March 2024 Wednesday in Holy Week	7.00pm - 7.30pm St. Cuthbert's
Thursday, 28 March 2024 Maundy Thursday Service	7.00pm - 8.45pm (compline at 8.30pm) St. Cuthbert's
Friday, 29 March 2024 Easter Crafts and Easter Message	10.00am - 11.00am St. Hilda's
Friday, 29 March 2024 Good Friday Liturgy	1.30pm - 3.00pm St Cuthbert's



After the fall of Ceausescu in 1990, a Gospel Singer (Nia) and her manager (Kevin) visited Romania on a number of occasions. Nia's Gospel Concerts brought information of the poverty in the country and people who attended the concerts tried to support the limited work possible at that time.

From those small beginnings, The Smiles Foundation came into existence in 2001 when a gypsy boy, Victor was found begging on the street in the City of Oradea, North West Romania. A small group of people from the UK were visiting the area to bring aid and Victor was taken for a meal then returned to his family in a Gypsy Village within Tileagd. The Gypsy leader was very sceptical about the intentions of the visitors from the UK. Eventually, through a few visits, trust was established and a strong relationship was built gradually. Over the years, projects have been established in and around that village and the surrounding area within Bihor County.

This Parish has had strong links with Smiles since the 1990's, having concerts in St. Hilda's and Rye Hills School, giving accommodation to Nia, Kevin and the Gypsy School Choir which was formed in 2005. Support in supplying goods resulted in many van trips by John Chrystal, Ed Evans and me – a 1,500 miles journey across Europe to take goods donated by this Parish, other churches and schools.

In Romania, we now have a Pastor who provides services in two churches which we have built, one in Tileagd and one in a small village called Rapa.

We run 3 Care Facilities and a new Care Home (Sunset House) is due to open later this year. We support a number of poor families, through visits and provision of food etc. and have a Homeless

Container Village. We have a Pre-school Nursery and facilities for after school 'Homework club'. We have a Community Centre and a Holiday Activities Centre. We have a Mission Centre which has accommodation for about 40 people so that, for about 20 weeks of the year, supporters from the UK and USA can visit and help in the various projects. In the Summer, with the help of the Mission Trippers, various villages are visited and Bible Stories are portrayed through puppetry and acting.

Much has happened in the last 20 years or so and Margaret and I have been privileged to have been part of the life of this charity. The Smiles Foundation is known as a '100% charity', because all donations go to the project requested by the donor. We pray for Kevin (unpaid CEO), Dawn (Administrator), Maria, Adi and Simona (the Leadership Team) and for all the Romanian staff who work so hard to make this small charity do big things.

You may not be able to change the world, but you can change the world for somebody – we have seen Romanian people 'blossom' through the work of Smiles and thank God for this.

We also thank Kirkleatham Parish for the continued support of the charity and its work in Romania, especially the latest £600 from the Parish Charitable Giving for 2024.

We are always trying to find new ways of raising funds, spreading awareness of the charity and supporting initiatives such as the Container Challenge and encouraging people to go on a Mission Trip.

For more details about Smiles and all it does, please speak with us or visit www.thesmilesfoundation.org

Margaret & Rob Nightingale

Signs of Spring!



Mary Ovens has been busy in the churchyard. We have primroses and hellebore as well as the daffodils and snowdrops.



She turned to the sunlight,
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
'Winter is dead'.

Excerpt from *When We Were Very Young* – A A Milne (1882 -1856)

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10-1



Contributions to the magazine

If you would like to contribute to the magazine in the future, please talk to Rob or Louise on a Sunday or email us at kirkleathammag@gmail.com .

We welcome articles on many subjects. If you have an interest in gardening or cooking, please share your tips and recipes. If you're interested in local history, it would be lovely to hear about Redcar, Kirkleatham and the area. Maybe you've read a book or seen a film that's inspired you? Please share your experiences and knowledge with the parish family.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Louise

Little Seeds Community Toddler Group



Every Wednesday
(Term Time Only)

*Open from 9.15 am
to 11.15 am*

**Stay and Play Drop-in
Toddler Group**

£1 per child per session

St. Hilda's Church, Roseberry Road



Tear drops drop in

Mondays 11am till 1pm

*Our drop in is open for anyone
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*Come together for a social gathering,
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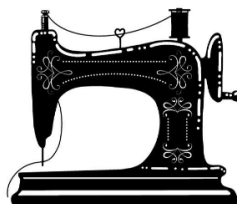


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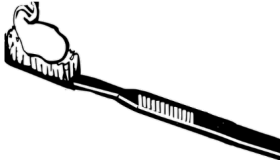
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Worship in the Parish of Kirkleatham

Sundays

09:30 St Hilda's Family Communion with Sunday School*

11:15 St Cuthbert's Eucharist

**First Sunday of the month: Café Church with breakfast*

Thursdays

10:00 St Hilda's Communion

Details of other services can be found on the calendar pages

Parish Contacts

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