



# Outlook

## The magazine of St Mark's Church Longwood



*A photo from last year's Lent pilgrimage to York*

## February 2024

## **From Fr Simon: Baggage**

There was a miracle story at the beginning of the year. Somehow all 379 passengers of a passenger jet, including 8 children, plus 12 crew managed to escaped the fiery inferno which engulfed it. Pictures showed an absolute fireball which overwhelmed the plane after it collided with a coastguard plane. It was amazing that even one person escaped alive, let alone every single one. And the reason they all managed to escape, was that the crew managed to keep everyone calm, everyone followed the instructions, and no one stopped to grab their luggage. Not a single person thought, “everyone else should leave their bags, but I’ll just grab mine”. This is quite extraordinary in an age when people don’t like to follow instructions without exception, and when we are so attached to our possessions.

It was by giving something up, that everyone was saved: giving up the instinct to panic, giving up the urge to barge through, giving up the possessions in the lockers and under the seats, giving up the desires of the individual ... in order that everyone on that plane had a better chance.

As I write this letter Storm Isa is building up. The trees are bending over in the wind, and the rain coming down heavily in squalls. We expect a storm every now and again, but this is the 9th named storm in the UK since September. We are seeing the difference in climate before our very eyes, both in this country and around the world. There more extremes of weather: cold and heat, wet and dry. Yet the human race continues to pollute the world at an ever-increasing rate. We know that we have to pull together, to work together to reduce emissions, but it is so difficult to unite the world to do this. Maybe the cost is too high, maybe we have got used to our lifestyles and don’t want to change – don’t want to leave anything behind, maybe we look round

and think that we should be the exception. Maybe if the Japanese Aircrew could get all the world leaders together, they would be able to convince them to work together to protect the environment and save lives. It's not too late to get out of this environmental crisis, but we need to remember we're in it together.

On a more individual level, Lent is fast approaching. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February, Valentine's Day. I wonder if the churches will be as full as the restaurants! Lent can be a good time to step back and look at our lives. Like many others I find it useful to give something up, and to take up a new discipline. There might be a part of my life, to which I've previously clung and travelled with, that may be put to one side during lent. It is so hard to leave some things behind; things seem so useful, so essential, so comforting. But sometimes we can find a greater life away from them, at least for a season. Lent is a good time to step more deliberately into our calling: to leave old, unhelpful things behind and to seek something else, a richer life in God. Jesus said, "Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me." This is not so very different from the instructions from the cabin crew to the passengers in that airliner!

God bless

**From the editor:**

There was no Outlook Magazine in January, sorry if you were looking out for it. Please contact Fr Simon if you have a magazine article, joke, cartoon or are interested in editing.

**This month's joke:**

Q Why were bees were the last to emerge from Noah's ark?  
A He kept them in the Ark Hives

# **What's on – some important dates**

## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

Family Service, with live band, 11am

## **Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Ash Wednesday service 6pm

## **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Bring and share lunch following the 11am service

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

Pilgrimage to Ripon, see page 6 for details, and sign up on the board in church.

## **Mothering Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

Family Service, with live band, 11am

## **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

Day Alpha, 10am – 4pm

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

Pet Blessing Service 3pm

## **Day Alpha, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 10am – 4pm**

Have you got questions about the meaning of life?

Are you looking for something more?

Are you intrigued by Christians and Church?

Then our Day Alpha is for you!

We'll be showing some engaging videos about what Christians believe and Church is all about. With time for questions and discussion.

We'll gather from 9.30am with drinks, and finish at 4pm.  
Lunch will be provided.

Who is this for: For people new to church, for those returning, or simply for people who want to find out more.

Please contact Fr Simon if you'd like to come or want some more information: [revscrook@gmail.com](mailto:revscrook@gmail.com) 01484 654647

## **Weekly events**

**Sunday Services are at 11am**

**Tuesdays 6pm** Midweek communion, it is a shorter and simpler service than our Sunday services

**Mondays and Wednesdays 9am** morning prayer (use the side door, and dress up warm!)

**Wednesdays 2-4pm** friendly gardening group, often with a cup of tea.

**Bible studies** are usually Mondays 2pm at St John's Golcar, Thursdays 7.30pm at the vicarage. See the weekly pewsheets for more details.

# Pilgrimage to Ripon Cathedral and the City of Ripon



Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024



*Ripon Cathedral has been a destination for pilgrims since Medieval times. Today it remains extremely popular with both individuals and groups, who use this remarkable sacred space to explore their own faith.*

## Itinerary

1000 Welcome with Tea

1030 'Faith Walk' around the building

12noon Holy Communion

1245 Lunch – bring your own, or buy some

After lunch, free time:

- Explore the city
- Remain in cathedral and do your own thing or use the provided resources

1630 meet up for coffee and cake

1730 Evening Prayer (said)

**Notes:** You will need to make your own way to Ripon and home again. Sue Starr is organising a minibus (max £30 pp)

**Entry to the cathedral is free.**

**Please sign up on the sheet on the notice board**

**For more information contact Fr Simon: [revscrook@gmail.com](mailto:revscrook@gmail.com)**

## The Puzzle Page

**Find as many of these Saints and their symbols as you can:** Agatha-Shears; Ambrose-Beehive; Andrew-Transverse Cross; Anthony-Bell; Apollonia-Tooth; Augustine-Books; Barbara-Tower; Bartholomew –Knife; Benedict-Raven; Boniface-Tree; Catherine-Wheel; Cecilia-Organ; Christopher-Child on Shoulder; George-Dragon; Hubert-Stag; James the Greater-Shell; James the Less-Club; Jerome-Church in Hand; John-Poisoned Chalice; John the Baptist-Lamb; Joseph-Lily; Jude-Lance; Laurence-Grate; Lucy-Lamp; Luke-Winged Ox; Mark-Winged Lion; Mary Magdalene-Hair; Matthew-Money Bags; Matthias-Axe; Michael-Sword and Scales; Nicholas-Anchor; Patrick-Shamrock; Paul-Sword; Peter-Keys; Simon-Saw; Stephen-Stones; Swithun-Rain; Thomas-Builders Square; Ursula-Arrows; Francis Assisi-Skull

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**For Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals  
To receive this magazine by email  
or for any other enquiry**

contact us: **01484 654647**  
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Sunday services are at 11am