



this
month
includes...

February 2023

Fred's lesson...?

Nature Notes
from Margaret

Wardens wanted!

plus

Peace point
Candlemas and
Ash Wednesday

A lesson from Fred...?

Last month, Penny and Joy's letter suggested that if making a resolution for a whole year was a bit daunting, then try taking it a day at a time. Perhaps that idea is something to keep in mind as we approach Lent at the end of February. We may decide on something to take up, or to give up, for those 40 days, but that's as a way of reminding us to turn our thoughts back to God's love for us, not a stick to beat ourselves with. If we slip out of the habit of remembering on day 5, then begin again with God's help on day 6 – in the words of Fred Astaire, "pick yourself up, dust yourself off and **start all over again**". And why wait for Lent? Maybe treat each day as infinitely special, a chance to start afresh with transformative opportunities to come near to God or to do something in his name. Here are lines from a poem (ascribed to various authors):

*"...yesterday is but a memory
And tomorrow is only a vision.
But today well lived makes
every yesterday a memory of happiness
and every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well, therefore, to **this day.**"*

2nd February : Candlemas - the presentation of Christ in the temple

including words from Malcolm Guite

February 2nd is when we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It is known as **Candlemas** because on this day the old man Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and recognised him as 'a **Light** to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.' It became the custom of the church to light a central **candle** and bring it to the altar **to represent this Christ-light**, and also on this occasion to bless all the 'lights' or candles in the church, praying that all who saw these outward and visible lights would remember also - and be blessed by - the **inner light of Christ**, 'who lightens everyone who comes into the world.'

It had always been prophesied that God would one day come into the Temple that human beings had built for him (though Solomon, who built the first temple, had said 'even the Heavens are too small to hold you, much less this temple I have built'). Candlemas is the day we realise that **eternity can come into time and touch us** in the form of a tiny child, that God appears at last in His Temple not as a transcendent overlord but as a vulnerable pilgrim, **coming in His Love to walk the road of life alongside us**.

Simeon recognised that Jesus was sent by God to bring light into our lives, and having seen this wonderful thing he declared that his life was now **complete and fulfilled**. This is what knowing Jesus can do for us, too.

Pancake day (Shrove Tuesday) is 21st Feb

This Lent, flip your...



*anger to patience;
worries to trust in God;
selfishness to compassion;
stress to prayer;
grudges to reconciliation;
complaints to gratitude;
pessimism to hope;
speech to listening.*

Did you know that snowdrops are also known as Candlemas Bells?

Wardens Wanted!

Penny and Joy are due to retire as Churchwardens in April - they are irreplaceable, of course, but somehow we need to find two more Super-heroes to take on the job!



If you have someone in mind who might make a good Warden, or if you think that could be you and want to know more about what is involved, then please have a word with the Rector or with Penny and Joy right away.

Nature Notes for February

Margaret Spencer

Walked down the lane one bright but cold day. A friend had seen a Little Owl in one of the fields, so I was hopeful of a sighting. Lo and behold there it was catching a little of the sunshine, preening itself in the hedge! Just lovely - and how lucky I was!



A great many birds are using the new feeders in the garden, which is nice - I am so pleased.

As I write, snow is falling along the valley, quite a covering - and now 10 minutes later, sunshine and blue skies with little sighting of snow!! What a surprise!

It is a joy to see snowdrops in the churchyard and in our garden too - the days seem to be lengthening a little!

I was reading about the National Centre for Birds of Prey at Duncombe Park, Helmsley, North Yorkshire. It sounded a good place to visit.

One bright sunny day a huge skein of geese came flying up the valley all in a line - calling as they flew right over our house - there must have been 20 of them at least. I was out in the garden so I called to them saying how wonderful they were!! Nature is always such a joy. Best wishes.



From the Registers

Funerals

January 5th Norman Hustler
January 12th Sheila Stapleton
January 26th Eleanor Houston

"FOR GOD
SO LOVED THE
WORLD THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON, SO
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE ETERNAL
LIFE."
♥ JOHN 3:16

Peace point

Seeking peace in the present age must be a global effort

The latest podcast is about **Baptism**. You can watch it, and all previous podcasts, by looking on the website stpetersaddingham.org.uk On the menu at the top, click 'online', then under the Podcasts heading click 'watch on vimeo' - it's as easy as that!

It's official! She's "grande dame of the Dales"! Did you see the article in January's edition of 'The Dalesman'? Phyllis Robinson



shares some of her memories of Dales' life in the '30's, '40's and '50's. Do read it for yourself. 'The Dalesman' gives her this title of 'Great Lady' - and we agree!

Wulfherans report

On 18th Jan we gathered at the Craven Heifer for the Annual Dinner; Wendy welcomed us and the Rector said Grace. The meal was enjoyed by all and Anne Preston thanked all involved, including the staff at the Craven Heifer, for making the evening so enjoyable.

The AGM is on 7th Feb; there will be a light supper at 7pm and the AGM will start about 7.30pm, followed by a talk from Peter Settle entitled "A Nation of Shopkeepers".

Just a reminder to pay your membership fee at the meeting, which will be £10 for the year 2023/24.

There is a
place for
you at
our table...



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For up-to-date details of all services and activities, please look at our website or follow us on  Facebook.

Everyone is welcome and you can also join with St. Peter's online; we livestream many of our services to our  Facebook page, so take a look.

You can also follow  **C.a.f.e** – **children and family events** at St. Peter's Addingham



Ash Wednesday : the start of Lent



Come along to the service on Wed 22nd Feb at 7.30pm to find out why Ash Wednesday is a good time to make a fresh start in life and with God

Blessing the Dust : a poem by Jan Richardson

All those days you felt like dust, like dirt, as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind and be scattered to the four corners or swept away by the smallest breath as insubstantial— did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?

This is the day we freely say we are scorched.

This is the hour we are marked by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing that lives within the ancient ashes, that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow. And let us be marked not for shame.

Let us be marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are but for claiming what God can do within the dust, within the dirt, within the stuff of which the world is made and the stars that blaze in our bones and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear.

janrichardson.com