

Creator God,
We acknowledge that as your handiwork,
we stand alongside all that you have made.
Trees and rivers, mountains and valleys,
soaring birds and scuttling creatures,
all are held within your care.
May we grow in our love and appreciation
for the fabulous variety around us;
and may our awe and wonder draw us closer
to the natural world, and through it to you,
the God of all things.
We pray in Jesus name,
Amen
**Revd Cate Williams, Mission and Evangelism Officer,
Diocese of Gloucester**

Eternal God,
whose Spirit moved over the face of the deep bringing forth light
and life;
by that same Spirit, renew your creation, and restore your image in
your people.
Turn us from careless tenants to faithful stewards,
that your threefold blessing of clean air, pure water and rich earth
may be the inheritance of everything that has the breath of life
and one generation may proclaim to another the wonder of your
works;
through Jesus Christ, your living Word,
in whom the fullness of your glory is revealed.
Amen.
Rt Revd Libby Lane, Bishop of Stockport

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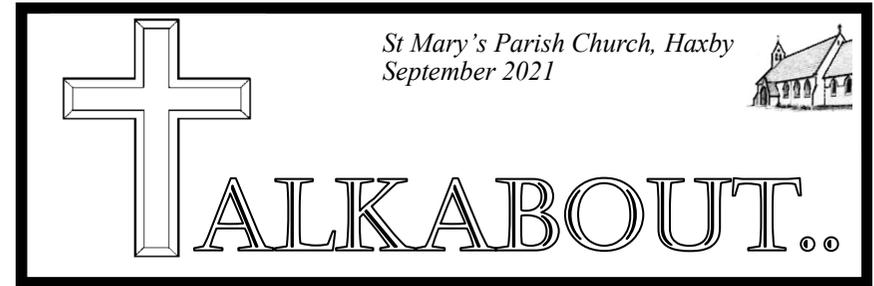
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'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all
who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it
on the waters.' (Psalm 24:1-3)

**Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.**

Verse 4 from the hymn 'Beauty for brokenness' by Graham
Kendrick, copyright 1993 Make Way Music

EDITORIAL

Saving the planet needs faith and science

Halting climate change will require action from everyone and we must put aside our differences in this common pursuit.

The pandemic has been the worst natural disaster of our lifetimes. It is a global catastrophe that has affected every one of us. Leaders have disagreed over how to handle it and what the best solutions are. And owing to its profound impact on the poorest and most marginalised people, it has forced societies around the world to confront deep moral questions.

Crises bring together unusual allies. We both began our careers in the oil industry, but from there took unconventional and very different paths. One of us ran the world's largest renewable energy private equity fund, and was accused by American oil lobbyists of having "left the church": the other is now Archbishop of Canterbury.

We are motivated too by the duty of care - one of us would say God-given responsibility - we all have to safeguard the future of our planet and its citizens.

The key to understanding and addressing these existential threats lies in both the practical and the profound: in science and engineering, but also the idea, found in the Christian faith, that each person is precious, worth caring for and has potential.

For a long time, scientific truths about climate change were treated as opinion, something which you might or might not believe depending on your personal point of view. We have come a long way since then. But resolving the crisis still requires commitment to the truth; we owe that to those who will suffer the most if we fail to act.

It will take broken people to repair a broken world, and we all

During 2012, the PCC decided that it would be good to mark this important milestone and began to plan celebrations settling up a small group to oversee this. There was some fundraising and the Town Council willingly joined in proving to be a generous contributor and fully supporting the ideas for the celebrations. Everything went well with lots of interest and support from the community. The programme extended to a flower festival and exhibition in church, a temporary dedicated website, special concerts including the St Petersburg Choir playing to a very full church, a parish picnic and more.

It had also been suggested that there should be a permanent legacy and agreed that an Incumbent Board would be a great thing to do as this would start after 1863 when the new parish started to operate. Funding from the Town Council included an element for this acknowledging that further funds would need to be sought to provide something suitable for the church.

Of course, it is important to recognise that 2013 was the anniversary of the creation of Haxby Parish and not the church building. That is a different story! The building that was standing on the ground where the present church stands today was declared the parish church as part of the creation of the new parish. However, this 16th century building was apparently quite dilapidated and parishioners soon set about raising funds for a new building. Sadly, in 1876 the church was destroyed by fire and a new building was opened in 1878 - quite an achievement really! This was only part of the building we see today as the nave was extended west and a porch added in 1911. It is easy to see the point where the new section starts.

However, it is clear that the 150th anniversary of the church building will be in 2028. Maybe that should prompt us to plan another celebration?

Ian Strong

The New Incumbents Board

On Sunday 15 August, the new board showing all the incumbents of Haxby was unveiled. It is really wonderful and just right for the church as it fits in so well. Thanks to the generosity of the Wainwright family, the project which has been in the pipeline for some years was able to be completed. It is so appropriate that it is dedicated to Brian Wainwright, remembering his devotion to his family and his tireless service to the church in Haxby.

Looking at the list of names it may seem strange that it starts in 1866, and you would be forgiven for wondering why, as Haxby goes a long way back.

However, unlike Wigginton and many other surrounding communities, Haxby was not an ancient parish but was part of Strensall (although strangely, some of Haxby had been part of Driffild at one time). It is strange to think now that everything was centred on Strensall for both church and civil purposes.

There had been a church building in Haxby for many years (technically a chapel of ease) and over time Haxby had gained some autonomy with a vicar devoted to Haxby and its own church wardens but under the rector of Strensall. There was also a burial ground, granted following a heartfelt plea from the people of Haxby when a body being carried to Strensall for burial fell into a swollen and fast flowing river Foss.

It was not until 1863 that the growing community of Haxby was granted parish status and separated from Strensall. This was recommended by the Archbishop of York and agreed by Parliament before being granted by Queen Victoria through an Order in Council. Ecclesiastical and civil parishes were still one entity at this time so 2013, the 150th anniversary of the creation of the parish, was important for Haxby Town Council as well as the church.



have a responsibility to change our ways and bring others with us. With climate change, it is better to disagree and work together than not to take action at all. Nature is no respecter of personal perfection.

There is no person who cannot change, no bad that cannot be made good. There is nothing that cannot be redeemed in what Christians would describe as "the new creation".

Let us seize that lesson. We can all be - and it is not yet too late - part of that work. Each of us can choose community rather than isolation, creation rather than destruction, and life rather than death.

Extracts from a larger article entitled 'Saving the planet needs faith and science' published in 'The Church Times' by Justin Welby (the Archbishop of Canterbury) and Lord Browne of Madingley (a former CEO at BP).

Switch off all your appliances when not in use.

Fix it or flog it, don't throw it.

Prayers for the Climate

Almighty God, thank you for the gifts of your creation.

As we journey through life help us to take time to appreciate it, from each sunrise to sunset; to celebrate the intricacies of your handiwork, admire the changing of the seasons, recognising that all this is your gift.

Remind us to care deeply that as our climate is changing, future generations may not have the same luxury of enjoyment, as people around the world are already suffering from the effects of climate change.

May our actions reflect a love for your world and justice for those affected. Help us to share the same dream of a world free for all living things - including humankind.

Amen

(Adapted from a prayer written by Christian Aid.)

Creator of our common home,
You fill the earth and sea and sky with life
Forgive us our neglect of your creation
The choking waste of our pollution
The damage done by careless habits
And our indifference to future generations.
Help us to amend our lives
To refuse more plastic if we can't reuse it
To lift our voice for lasting change
And to live well and gently on the earth.
To the glory of your Son, the Living Word
Through whom you made this fragile world.

Amen.

Rt Revd Steven Croft

anniversary, by suggesting various themed fund-raising events "Together in mission". However, whilst we are still emerging cautiously from lockdown, we felt unable to engage with these.

A bucket appeal at St. Mary's had raised £212.30 for USPG's Indian vaccines appeal. This highlighted the difference between our two churches - St. Nicholas continues with a tithing policy [see below], while St. Mary's uses bucket collections for specific appeals - St. Mary's is also a designated Christian Aid emergency church. However, Malcolm Law and Nicola Simpson wish to give up their roles of USPG and Christian Aid reps respectively at St. Mary's. We are looking for people to take on these roles - could it be you? ... Please?

We were meeting on the feast of St Alban, also the 73rd anniversary of the arrival of the MV Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks. The USPG prayer for the day said "Let us give thanks for the life of St. Alban and for the contributions of immigrants to our society. May we recognise their works and offer hospitality to all who migrate to the UK today. Amen".

We reflected on the Review of 2020 from the Mission Aviation Fellowship [MAF], noting that coronavirus had led to the cancellation of many of their flights. However, it was pleasing to note that income, including legacies, had exceeded expenditure.

We no longer corporately support Caring for life, but those looking for a little outing could support them by visiting the Granary Restaurant and farm shop at Crag House Farm, Otley Old Road, Cookridge, LS16 7NH.

We are due to have a visit from James Grieg on behalf of the Leprosy Mission, when circumstances allow. The Children's Society box opening is being arranged. Material from the Mission to Seafarers would be placed in each church. We are not short of good causes to support!

The St Nicholas 2020/2021 Mission Giving is distributed as follows: Rachel Grandey £600; USPG £500; Children's Society £500; CMS (supporting Chris and Anna Hembury) £500; Restore (York) £400; BRF (re. Messy Church) £100.

Ian Evans

As we prepare to participate in the YEW let us all hold the relay team in our prayers. May their willingness to connect with the communities they meet and to selflessly act for climate change awareness meet with God's delight.

For more information on their endeavours the website is: <https://www.yccn.uk/home>.

World Concerns Group.

An iffy long range forecast gave way to a nice sunny afternoon, as the World Concerns Group gathered in Betty's garden on 22 June; our first meeting for 17 months! We reviewed the latest newsletters and prayer requests from the various mission agencies and partners that we support, starting with the latest missive from Rachel Grandey. We admired the photos she included of the countryside where she is now working.

We then moved to Hull - quite a change! We support Chris and Anna Hembury through CMS, noting that Anna had recently successfully taken the City Council to court to revoke a social banning order that went against all national police guidelines. The work at "Orts" continues to prosper. We also support the work of Hull Youth for Christ, now led by Ian and Iona. This includes the long-standing Breakfast Club which has now restarted after lockdown. We intend to invite the Hull team to our harvest services [26 September at St. Nicholas and / or 3 October at St. Mary's], maintaining the personal contact we have with them. We will be asking for the usual donations towards the Breakfast Club.

We are aware that other agencies including Christian Aid and USPG annually offer harvest service material and, as we support both of these agencies, it was felt that we could dip into these resources if necessary. We noted that the "External Church" team are planning to mark York Environment Week [18-26 September] and that we may be invited to participate in campaigning activities in the run up to the COP26 summit in Glasgow. The environment and climate emergency are clearly going to be recurring themes over the next few months.

CMS - the Church Mission Society - is celebrating its 222nd

Join the Conversation

This has been a series of discussions plus individual input over the last couple of months, pulling together questions from Stepping Out (our church group); Living Christ's Story (the Diocesan Vision); and our own concerns about life after Covid and what our Church/Benefice will be like.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in any way, your efforts are much appreciated.

It has produced about 30 pages of notes and comments, which I will try to reduce to a single page here!

The discussions covered four main questions:

A - What do you think our Benefice life will look like beyond Covid? - we need to take account of people who are anxious about returning to church, those who are excited about the things we have done during lockdown, and new future opportunities. We need to balance the deep love we have for our usual patterns of worship, especially weekly communion, with the excitement of doing things in a new way that might attract new people to join us, and to faith (more Taize, Celtic worship, informal worship, café church, "outside church", Messy church and study meetings). Greater emphasis on teaching is wanted by several. Internet-based worship can be good for those who can't get to church - but what about people who don't have access to technology? We are caught between caution over future opportunities and taking too much time so we just "fall back" into our previous ways of doing things.

B - As a Benefice what do we think is important for our Community life? - we thought that simplifying and combining as much as possible between St Mary's and St Nicholas could enliven our community; sharing resources would lead to being able to do more things, but we also care for the independence of the two churches. "Outside church" - the events in St Mary's churchyard have made an impact on the village and reminded people that we are here! This needs to continue and be built upon.

C - Delivering our Benefice and Diocesan Visions - we want to see more lay people involved in all parts of the church's life,

especially worship and to work out how best to support the clergy and relieve them of things that could be done by others. But we know that just a few people do most of the work around church already, so can't be leant on further - we need new blood. We recognise our limited clergy resources and the impact that extra on-line services or other work would have on them. We want to work together but we don't want to see a major reorganisation of the Benefice, nor to join with other Parishes, though that is clearly part of the vision of the Diocese for many Parishes.

D - Resourcing our Benefice and Diocesan Visions - people, time and money! We didn't spend much time on this and the challenge it has for our pockets and priorities. The Diocese clearly needs a major increase in its income, or faces a drastic cut in the services it provides and we are not sure what part we can or should play in this.

Overall, we'd like to change, to attract new people and ensure the future of the church, but we're not sure how to do it, nor how to find the resources, nor quite what we'd leave behind and what we'd take with us! The Stepping Out group will continue to work on our future, seeking to understand and follow God's plans for us as a Benefice.

Derek Swanson

Living Christ's Story is the Diocesan Vision consultation (responded to separately by the PCCs of St Nicholas and St Mary's) looking at developing our Christian life in the next few years, our reaching out and drawing in others, how the local churches are organised, and how to fund all that we want to do. The 'Join The Conversation' discussions were a key part of formulating our responses, which were similar, but not identical in the two churches.

The focus of our church's life and mission in 5 Ts: we thought that **Teaching** should be the main focus, followed by **Telling** others, then **Treasuring** our world, **Tending** our congregation and lastly **Transforming** our society.

Capacity for Ministry: developing Discipleship, Lay Ministry and

Meanwhile, consider your own eco-pledge and join in to make a promise or a prayer and hopefully by November we will have enough to display inside the church to mark the Climate Change Summit (1-12 November 2021 in Glasgow).

Have you made yours?

Bev Crapper



YOUNG CHRISTIANS CLIMATE NETWORK

Back in June, the G7 leaders held a summit in Cornwall with the agenda being Climate Change. A climate action international organisation (Young Christians Climate Network) decided to make a pilgrimage from Cornwall to the UN Climate Conference in Glasgow – known as COP 26.

Young Christians between ages 18-30 decided to take a walk. A walking relay covering the 760 miles in 84 days carrying a 2 metre coffin, adapted into a boat to symbolise their message that “*We are all in the same storm, but not all in the same boat!*”.

The squad are due to arrive in this area on 20 September, stopping at St Mary's, Tadcaster en-route to York for 21 September. This coincides with York Environment Week across the city and lots of events are planned (check the YEW website for more details: <https://yorkenvironmentweek.org.uk/>).



Eco - pledges and prayers

During the past year the world has faced huge challenges. Life has been difficult and strange at times; yet the greatest crisis looms as the world's climate changes. Every living thing will be affected. NOW is the time to act! NOW is the time to put our faith into action! As mentioned already St Mary's Church is hosting an outdoor event on Saturday 25 September as part of York Environment Week to illustrate the damage being done as a result of climate change.

Prayer is one of the most important ways that we can take action. We're commanded to "pray in the Spirit... with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 6:18), and when we pray to our mighty and powerful God we are part of God's transforming work! Our prayers are part of our commitment to signal our willingness to change: change ourselves and our habits to offer a better future for our planet.

We are launching an outside Prayer Wall, from 4 September until the COP26 Summit, and we will be encouraging everyone to commit to change some part of their daily habit to improve the climate.

These pledges and prayers will be collected into recycled plastic bottles and placed into the gaps in the front wall with the hope we 'plug the gaps'! We do need some help in collecting clean plastic bottles in readiness for the 25 September, please hold onto a few in readiness and bring them along on the day.

Community use of our Buildings are things we have the capacity to do, but not Mission and Evangelism, where we need help.

Things we would hope to do with support from the Diocese: Reach 20s/30s/40s; Engage with Environmental concerns; Develop work with children and families and ministry to schools; Reach Seniors and Retireds; Consider possible Online ministry. Simplify parish structures and Collaborate across parishes was an item where the two churches were uncertain.

Lay Ministry: we'd like our Lay people to be more involved in leading worship and taking on responsibilities in day to day running of the parish and freeing clergy to do less routine work, but we are deeply worried about our lay people's capacity to take on any more without more people being involved.

The Diocese does not have enough income to continue as it now is, so we discussed what Re-shaping of Ministry might be of interest: We thought - Simplifying Parochial Structures (St Mary's only, depending on what that actually means!), investigating Online Ministry & Social Media and Reaching Younger Adults were areas where the Diocese might have something to offer us.

Finances: we give the Diocese money that covers the cost of ministry and Diocesan support to the Benefices. Despite the Diocese being in deficit, we only expect our giving to be the same in 2021 and 2022 as it was in 2020. In 2025 we hope that this will have gone up by 1-5%, again despite the Diocese thinking their costs will have gone up by 10-15%

The Cost of resourcing the Diocese: We agreed that the principle of pooling these costs so that they are shared across all parishes is a good one and that the 'pooled supported costs' of £17,000 per Ministry Unit provide services that are essential for the Diocesan family. We recognised that this means giving from us.

Supporting the poorest: so we accepted the implication that the other, wealthier parishes, like us, will have to cover most of their own costs, despite our fear that our income will only go up very slowly over the next 5 years.

The responses from the two churches in the Benefice have been made via an online survey and we then expect to see the Diocesan review and reply sometime later in the year.

Derek Swanson

Caring for our World

I am starting to write this the day the climate change report is published with the confirmation that things are quickly getting worse. It is easy to be depressed about this but:

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters."

(Psalm 24:1-3)

We worship the creator God and confess that we have messed up His world, seek His forgiveness and ask for His help.

We hear of fires, floods, loss of harvests, increased poverty and the injustice of poorer countries suffering more from the action of the rich. We wonder what we can do in Haxby. Our God is a God of justice and longs to bring restoration and peace to the world he loves. We must play our part if there is to be any improvement, perhaps changing to green energy suppliers and considering other renewables.

We are also polluting the world and damaging wildlife. Many had reduced the amount of plastic used, especially in shopping until Covid19 caused us to slip a bit; well, I did anyway. Now is the time to become strict again.

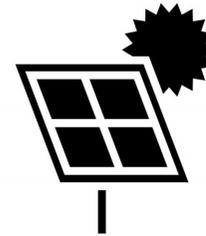
There are things we are thinking about in Pop up prayers on the first Saturday of the month. Is it better to buy a Fairtrade product supporting poor producers but with a high carbon travel footprint or more locally but possibly mass produced? If we buy an electric car what is its carbon footprint from manufacture to disposal including the battery?



Try eco-friendly cleaning products.

York Environment Week is 18-26 September, and we are taking part to encourage sustainable living and reduction in carbon use. A small team are assessing St Mary's carbon footprint and will report to the PCC. We will then look and see what changes we need to make as a church community.

Eco Saturday on 25 September is an opportunity to share what we have learned and are doing and to learn more from solar panel specialists, e-vehicle owners, beekeeper, wildflower enthusiasts



and we will have a prayer station too. We will be outside St Mary's all morning, in the Hall if wet.

Genesis 1:31: 'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good'

Let's work together to restore the world to being very good.

Jean Swanson

Help the bees - leave part of your garden to re-wild itself.

Choose local produce over imported goods.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.