

Issue 62



April 2023

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Faith in the Moor



News, Views and Information



April 2023

'Lost and Found'

Lost and Found

We start with a thoughtful and challenging letter from a new contributor, Deacon Charlie from the Roman Catholic church, then a light-hearted look at lost property. But we soon get deeper into stories of life journeys, loss



and legacy, with local writer and storyteller Cath, Three Dads and their visit to AMF, and a dip into Brontë country and fun at Fairhill. The lent groups have celebrated our journeying together towards Easter,

when lost hope was joyfully rediscovered. We look at Newton's biographical song about finding grace, at much-loved toys lost and found, the Patron Saint of Lost Items, St Anthony, and items found when we didn't even know they were lost! Thank you to David Pepin for the cover, and more puzzles on p29. We have a reminder of the famous 'lost and found' parables in Luke 15. As we give thanks for this year's new lambs, our lost sheep



Dolly is prancing through FitM pages again – can you find the other 7 of her?

A headdress like the one to which the lost coin belonged



“Quid est Veritas?” (Jn 18:38)

Easter is nearly upon us. It is a time when we as Christians call to mind the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. A key moment in the drama that unfolds is when Jesus is asked “quid est veritas?” (Jn 18:38) This is the question put to Jesus by Pontius Pilate, who represents in every age the face of power, tyranny and oppression. His question about the meaning of truth, which in a sense he asks on our behalf, is one that is important for us all to consider; particularly in our day where truth can be difficult to recognise let alone fathom. It is, of course, a question that cuts across political divide, nations, class and even culture. Truth is something that is fundamental to human relationships because, as I say to our children, without the truth there is nothing but lies. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the famous Russian dissident who died in 2008, once mused that; perhaps that ancient trinity of Truth, Goodness and Beauty is not simply an empty, faded formula as we thought in the days of our self-confident, materialistic youth.



Some years ago, whilst listening to an interview on the radio I was interested to hear that the Google search algorithm works on the basis of a majority view rather than an objective reality. What is more, by means of artificial intelligence and machine learning, the Google search engine will serve up what it thinks you are searching for or at least what it thinks you should be searching for! There have, of course, been attempts to arbitrate content in the media but more often than not these efforts fall foul of the bias of the very people who set themselves up as guardians of the truth!

For a Christian, the truth is right at the heart of what we believe. We believe that there is such a thing as objective truth. We believe that there are things that are universally true whether you believe it or not. Recent popes have spoken beautifully about its meaning and importance. Pope John II, for example, said that following Christ, the Church seeks the truth, which is not always the same as the majority opinion. In the words of his successor, Pope Benedict, life is not just a succession of experiences. It is a search for the true, the good and the beautiful. It is to this end that we make our choices; it

is for this that we exercise our freedom; it is in this that we find happiness and joy.

It shouldn't come as a surprise to hear that lies lead to a loss of our freedom, and ultimately misery and sorrow. One doesn't have to think too hard to recall moments in our own lives when we have said or done things that we know were contrary to the truth. We experience a pang of guilt or even shame! That's because we humans have been created with a wonderful ability to know the truth in any given situation. Our innate capacity to know the difference, for instance, between good and evil is to be found with our conscience. This is a gift that we all have, formed to a lesser or greater degree, and found right at the core of who we are as humans; it's the place where we are "alone with God whose voice echoes in our depths" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 16).

When Pontius Pilate asked that question, "what is truth?" it was because he was trying to make sense of the person who stood before him. The rest of the story is recorded in the scriptures. In short, it entailed the appalling treatment and subsequent crucifixion of the innocent Jesus, who said of himself, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (Jn 14:16). Truth therefore has a face and a name - it is the person of Jesus, not just a good man or a prophet but nothing less than the only begotten son of God. And what happens to truth on Good Friday? - it is, He is crucified. The authorities masterminded a complete inversion of truth, goodness and beauty which they then crucified. Truth is indeed inconvenient. It invites a response from each of us that is often contrary to the way we think or what we want to do. In our day truth is manipulated to suit a particular purpose, it is crucified and presented as misinformation whilst misinformation is presented as the truth. This why it is important for you and I to permit our conscience to be formed by objective, universal truths rather than us shaping these same truths to suit our own taste or want. I'd like to finish with a great quotation from Solzhenitsyn, who said, "the simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie."

God bless, *Charlie*

Deacon Charlie Conner +44(0)7711 345 176

I moved recently with my family from Wetherby. I was ordained in 2008 and am now serving as a permanent deacon At St Catherine's.

Lost Property

Probably one of the most likely times to lose an item is during travel. Most of us will have completed a journey by bus, train or plane and then realised that we have lost something like a book, a glove, a scarf or an umbrella en route but then very few of us will make the effort to trace the item, assuming – as I usually do – that the item will never be handed in. Transport authorities run some of the world’s largest Lost Property Offices and, contrary to what I said above, they handle a staggering amount of items every day, from the expected to the bizarre, but only around 20% of those items are ever claimed or reunited with their owners.



The Lost Property Division at Transport for London (TfL) receives over 300,000 items every year, the majority being mundane – the top 5 comprise tens of thousands each of mobile phones, travel wallets (containing reduced fare tickets), personal wallets, umbrellas and keys.

One could imagine that these also make up the majority of items which are then “found” by being claimed or traced to the rightful owner but TfL’s successes of reuniting lost treasures with their owners also include a brown envelope containing £15,000 and a funerary urn complete with ashes, which was claimed by the owner after it had languished on a shelf in lost property for seven years!

Unclaimed items at TfL include a life-size model of spiderman, a judges’s wig, a full drum kit and, oddest of all, a prosthetic leg complete with a fitted sports shoe. That must have been some night out!



The Bureau of Found Objects located in the south of Paris is a massive repository of items lost on the City’s metro and buses but also in restaurants, museums and other locations. The centralized collection was begun in the 1800s during the time of Napoleon and now receives over 700 items a day. It has its own museum of the strange - musée de l’insolite – containing some of Paris' most fascinating lost items. There's a hoverboard, a replica of a Paris street lamp, and a sabre from

the late 1890s. Most perplexing is a wedding dress and matching shoes, all of which are new, clean and in a garment bag as if it were the day they were to be worn.

In America, travel by plane is more common than in other countries. Baggage handling technology has reached an amazing 99.5% success rate in immediately reuniting owners with their baggage at airport arrivals and the airlines themselves trace the owners of 94% of the remainder but that still leaves a staggering 1.5 million bags per year which are defined as unclaimed.



All these bags are sold to a single operator called the “Unclaimed Baggage Center”, located in Scottsboro, Alabama. The bags are opened, the items therein are sorted and then offered for sale in a massive store located at the centre (as well as on-line). Over 7000 items are added to the inventory every day and over a million customers visit the store each year, so “getting lost” is big business in America! Part of the money raised by sale of the items is distributed to charitable causes, bringing a positive slant to the saying “one person’s loss is another person’s gain”.

The individual items cover everything you might expect to find in travel baggage (clothes, electrical goods etc) but, not surprisingly, some more interesting objects have come to light over the years. A camera from the space shuttle was recovered, identified and promptly sent back to NASA. Also a Gucci travel case was revealed to contain a rare Egyptian burial mask from the time of Moses (1500 BC), which was subsequently auctioned by Christie’s in New York. Most amazing of all, a functional missile guidance system for a fighter jet was found in its transport container. The system was fitted with a plaque that read, "Handle with extreme caution. I am worth my weight in gold." This was returned to the US Air Force but it would have been interesting to hear the explanation given for its apparently unreported loss!

Dave Smith

‘I lost my wife while we waited for a flight at Helsinki Airport. She disappeared into Fin-air.’

The Moor and Me

A conundrum; do we find Alston Moor or does Alston Moor find us? I'm sure many of us have a story to tell about 'finding' here. Catherine Blackfeather, author and poet, was drawn to our moor two years ago; to Dick Phillips' house on the back road at Nenthead, having encountered the 'authenticity' of our landscape through a friend at Slaggyford: "I came here from Oxfordshire which just wasn't me. Here I love the wildness, the bleakness, I feel it in my bones. Here earth sings its beauty back to us."



Her subject at Oxford was Theology - "curious as to how religion became connected to everyday living." This course included philosophy. Then some years later, after the death of her husband, she went to Wales and started a degree in Celtic studies, in Aberystwyth. "Writing in Welsh did my head in!" However writing was always enticing to her: "I love Sci Fi and fantasy with its allegory, and as a young adult influenced by Raymond Briggs I used a cartoon format for my storytelling, uncertain about my true potential as an author." Cath made this observation: "I think we should receive life as children – subliminally." Saying: "I love the magical. Art itself asks me to write a narrative around it. However, in Wales I developed a mental 'writer's' block." "My love of art and dance though took me into self-expressive work with disabled people in Aberystwyth." It was the sad death of another partner that provided the impetus that brought Cath to Nenthead, a place she'd hoped to share.

Here on the Moor she has found both a home and a voice. After conversations with herself she dismissed her writing uncertainties saying: "I am guided by the words of Gail Bradshaw, a person of quiet dignity, engaged in non-violent climate action who 'asks us to be a worthy ancestor' and 'what do we want to be remembered for?'"





To conclude Cath told us: “Here I feel more and more myself; I feel younger now than at 30 as in the lyric of Bob Dylan:

‘I was so much older then,
I’m younger than that now.’”

You will find Cath’s books for sale at various outlets including Amazon and the Hive in Nenthead. Highly imaginative tales which include negative human experience in need of mending. “I think my stories are about finding the way through the dark things in life because I’ve had to do that myself.” See ‘The Darkling Child and Other Stories’ and ‘The Dream Factory’ which Bar and I have enjoyed reading. Like Cath’s life they cope with love and loss, searching and finding, always with another chapter to write.

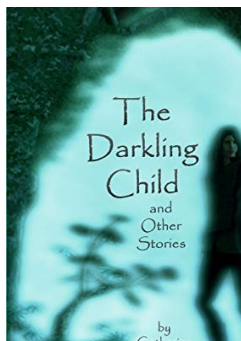
MH

The Bee-Trail

my whole life has been a coming home,
each brand-new landmark
a familiar bee-path
already known.

we are all born from God,
our fresh new minds already imprinted.
each painful step on the path
sings the land back from the dream.

pray that next time you won’t get lost.
all the aching, striving, wanting souls
who are eating the earth, are
only wandering in search of their lost trail.



Cath Blackfeather



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Three Dads

Andy Airey (Penrith), Mike Palmer (Manchester) and Tim Owen (Kings Lynn) are the 'Three Dads Walking'. Three companions in grief at the death of their

daughters Sophie, Beth and Emily - a profound loss described by Mike: "The place you end up in is so dark, it's likened to being hit by a wrecking ball you're basically smashed into pieces . . . you end up in a dark surreal world." Mike also described their releasing companionship, "We resonated totally with each other; we felt each other's grief, our complex grief and pain. Only someone in the same situation will understand that."

Their first walk [2021 – 300 miles] took in each other's towns, demonstrating the breadth of the problem. Here they were met by the encouragement of many, and fellow companions in grief including the families of an 8 year old and two 11 year olds. The raising of awareness and conversation had begun.

The second Walk [2022 – 600 miles] took them to the Parliaments of the four nations of the UK to promote Suicide Prevention as a compulsory and essential subject within the National Curriculum. This second walk had a significant stopping place – Samuel King's School in Alston where the charity 'Every Life Matters Cumbria' were holding a workshop discussion day with groups of 11-12 and 15-16 year olds.



The voice of the Dads in the workshop: Dad Ian:

"We can see that there is a chunk of training that is missing for young people – it's easy for us to talk about it but then to see it being delivered is fantastic!"

Dad Mike speaks to a group: "If Beth had known how to reach out, and this is the important bit, I think she'd be here now." And Dad Tim's advice? "If you're feeling sad you need to tell someone about it because we all wish our daughters had told someone about it."

Pupils at SKS take up the conversation:

Bethany: "Now I know people how pretend they're okay when they're not." Maddie: "It's a help being able to learn the tell-tale signs if someone else is struggling as well." Chloe: "It's important to be able to spot it in people so you can help them cos' you know you wouldn't want to see your friends in a hard place; you'd never want to be without them basically." Jodie: "It's kind of been a game changer really, you kind of like to know how to respect other." Callum: "After the sessions I realised how many people can be affected by it afterwards – like the ripple effect." Deputy Head Teacher Kate Bainbridge writes 'AMF children had a series of workshops over many sessions and this was a summing up session. It is part of a pilot for schools in Cumbria from Every Life Matters.'

Each Three Dads walk is allied to The PAPYRUS charity which exposes a startling truth: 'Suicide is the biggest killer of under 35's in the UK'.



The three Dads have gained widespread recognition; they have become 'the collective voice for grieving parents'. The Teesside folk trio 'The Young 'Uns' gave a rendition of their single 'Three Dads Walking' alongside the Dads and their followers. The money raised - in excess of a million pounds - will go to PAPYRUS and their prevention work. Their petition presented to Parliament has gained 1,600 signatures – they are appealing for more at www.3dadswalking.uk

There has been an emotional debate in The House at Westminster and the three dads have been invited to meet the Prime Minister. They were acknowledged with a 'Pride of Britain Special Recognition' award where their walks were screened, but their resounding words are these:

"Help us save lives!"

MH, with thanks to Richard Glover who drew our attention to this.

Easter can be a difficult time for those who are grieving. Our faith can't fix the pain of unfulfilled potential and tragic loss in early years. Resurrection faith is not that our lost loved ones will come back to us from the dead – who would want to leave Heaven? But that the barrier between the living and the dead is broken by Christ, and that we remain united in his love on both sides of the grave. Those we have 'lost' WILL be found, healed, treasured and ultimately re-united with us. Talk to other Christians; you are not alone. BNW

Three Daughters

Those three Dads lost their daughters to a modern plague, the dis-ease of mental crisis. Back in the mid 1800s Patrick Brontë lost his wife and six children to the diseases of their day, tuberculosis, addiction, and problems with pregnancy. But in their vibrant short lives the three most famous daughters echo life here on the moor. Fearlessly creative, passionate about their moorland home, and dedicated to one another's wellbeing. Mark and I visited Haworth Vicarage where they grew up and wrote their famous works, but the Anglican church can't lay sole claim to them! Patrick was protestant, like his father; their mother was Catholic, and Aunt Elizabeth Branwell who looked after them after their mother's death was a Methodist. Patrick was 'open, intelligent, generous and dedicated to educating his children personally. He also accorded them great freedom and unconditional love.' They were inspired by great names of their day, from Wellington to Thackeray, Byron to Gaskell, and went to the same school as daughters of William Wilberforce, (see p26) an acquaintance of their Dad. But in their writing the Moor itself was their muse, walking together every afternoon across its rocky outcrops and windswept heathers. From the museum display: 'Patrick saw the natural world as the manifestation of God. The wild elemental beauty of the moorlands cast its spell and became central to the creative lives of his children.'



Portrait by brother Branwell



Charlotte is known mostly for *Jane Eyre*, Emily for *Wuthering Heights*, and Anne for *Agnes Grey*, and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.

A portrait of Anne by her sister Charlotte

Anne wrote to their friend Ellen 'I long to do some good in the world before I leave it.'

The ages of the 6 children at their death were:

Maria 11, Elizabeth 10, Charlotte 38, Branwell 31, Emily 30, Anne 29.

In her 1883 biography of Emily Brontë, Mary F. Robinson wrote of a shopping trip to Bradford taken by Emily, Charlotte and a close friend. During the trip Emily purchased a dress fabric '...patterned with lilac thunder and lightning, to the scarcely concealed horror of her more sober companions. And she looked well in it; a tall, lithe creature, with a grace half-queenly, half-untamed in her sudden, supple movements, wearing with picturesque negligence her ample purple-splashed skirts...'

Emily was apparently the most attuned to the untamed moor, ruffling society's feathers by her unconventional free spirit.

Kate Bush (originally Catherine, like the 'heroine' of *Wuthering Heights*) and Emily Brontë share the same birthday, 30 July, but 140 years apart. In her Debut single '*Wuthering Heights*' Bush became the first female artist in the United Kingdom to achieve a number-one single with a self-penned song. The Brontës had to publish their first hits under male pseudonyms. Bush was invited to write an epitaph to Emily Brontë, which would be inscribed on one of four stones erected near the Brontë's home in Haworth. Commenting on the unveiling of her poem, entitled Emily, Bush said "to be asked to write a piece for Emily's stone is an honour and, in a way, a chance to say thank you to her".

The song is getting a new lease of life 45 years after its release, as 'flash mobs' gather all over the world to dance along to the track. Last month a few hardy souls gathered with Damien Morris on



Fairhill tennis courts to try out for a bigger, all age event in May when it won't be snowing – we hope! For this group there was either a joyful re-discovery of lost youth, or just a delight in playfulness, with the wisdom of older age that doesn't give a fig if others think we look daft.

The Brontë sisters' writing highlighted issues of social ills and women's rights. I wonder what 19th century clergyman Patrick would think of women – and men – dressing up as a 1970's pop star dancing to her song inspired by his daughter's novel?

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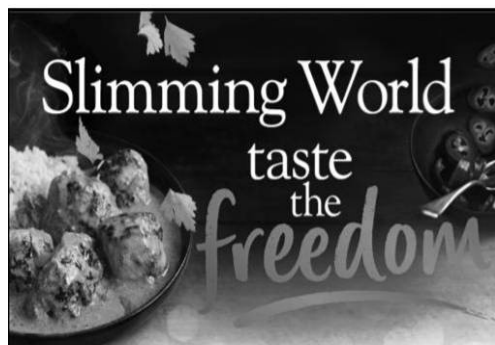


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☎ 01768 863209 ✉ dave@revmilner.plus.com



Circuit Pastor (part time): Rev Keith Speck *(day free of duties: Saturday)*

The Manse, Kirkoswald, Penrith, CA10 1EW

☎ 01768 898257 ✉ keithspck1@gmail.com

Church Steward: Mr John de la Mare ☎ 01434 382338

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Garrigill Vacant – contact one of the other Wardens

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Knaresdale Irene Boyles 381388 Carol Grieves 382472

Nenthead Madeleine Harris 382144 James Caspian 381055

Lambley Kathryn Pell 07799 503674 Chris Knox 07999 484060

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Methodist Services



Our Sunday Services are usually held at 11am at St Wulstan's.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 2 Palm Sunday | Rev Dave Milner |
| | 5pm Pennine Praise at The Hive, Nenthead. |
| | (People from different backgrounds gathering for a |
| | Bring and Share Meal followed by Worship at 6 pm) |
| 7 Good Friday | 11am Joining in the witness outside the town hall |
| 9 Easter Day | Rev Mary Elliot Holy Communion |
| 16 | Kathleen Williamson from Penrith |
| 23 | Rev Keith Speck |
| 30 | David Pepin |



See our Facebook Page - Alston Moor Methodist Church - for news.
Meeting for vital prayer every Tuesday at 9 am Old Meadow Barns.
Ecumenical House Group meets fortnightly on a Wednesday evening.

Contacts for information: John and Pauline de la Mare 01434 382338

Quaker Meeting for Worship



Quaker Meeting for Worship continues to take place
every FOURTH SUNDAY of the month at 10.30am, throughout the year.

We would warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us for an hour of
silent, reflective worship at these times.

Roman Catholic Mass

St Wulstan's, Kings Arms Lane, Alston, CA9 3JF

Every Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil Mass,
Confessions available from 5.30 pm



Maundy Thursday (April 6th) Stations of the Cross 4.00pm

Good Friday (April 7th) 3.00 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion led by
members of the Congregation

Easter Vigil Mass Saturday (April 8th) 6.00pm



Church of England services & events

Sunday, 2nd April – Palm Sunday

9.30 am Procession & Communion (BCP) Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh
11.00am Prayer & Praise St Augustine, Alston (*also livestream*)

Maundy Thursday, 6th April

7.30 pm Last Supper, Stripping of Altars & Vigil St John, Garrigill

Good Friday, 7th April

11.00 am Prayer Cross Outside Alston Town Hall
Hymns, Prayers & Passion reading

Easter Eve, 8th April

8.30pm Easter Vigil & Service of Light St John, Nenthead

Sunday, 9th April – Easter Sunday

9.30am Easter Communion St Jude, Knaresdale
11.00am Easter Communion St Augustine, Alston (*also livestream*)
3.00pm Easter Communion Ss Mary & Patrick, Lambley
6.00pm Easter Communion (BCP) Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh

Sunday, 16th April (3rd Sunday in the month)

9.30am Holy Communion St John, Nenthead
11.00am Prayer & Praise Livestream & St Augustine, Alston

Sunday, 23rd April (4th Sunday in the month)

9.30am Morning Prayer St John, Nenthead
11.00am Sung Communion St Augustine, Alston (*also livestream*)
3.00pm Family Communion Ss Mary & Patrick, Lambley

Sunday, 30th April (5th Sunday in the month)

9.30am Said Communion St Augustine, Alston
11.00am Online All Age service Livestream (*also St Augustine, Alston*)

Sunday services online

- Join us at 11am weekly on **Zoom** using the app – or, with an ordinary phone, dial 0203 051 2874. The **Meeting ID code** is **357 123 751**.
- Or find us on **YouTube** – youtube.com/@AlstonMoorParishChurches
- Download the orders of service from alstonmoorcofe.org.uk/worship and the notice sheet from alstonmoorcofe.org.uk/whatson

Regular Weekday services

Morning, Evening & Night Prayer

Morning and Evening Prayer are said Wed-Sat in church and on Zoom;
Night Prayer is said Fridays, 9pm on Zoom – see website for details

Informal Holy Communion

Every Thursday, 12 noon

Chat Room, Alston

Parish Prayer Group

Our prayer group meets Mondays, 6.30-7.30pm at the Chat Room, praying particularly for the parish's mission and ministry, but for other needs too. All welcome – details from Richard Pattison.



April Dates for your Diary (subject to change)

Sat 22 nd 3pm	New Bishop's Installation	<i>Newcastle Cathedral & online</i>
Sun 23 rd 12pm	St Augustine's Annual Meeting	<i>St Augustine, Alston</i>
Thu 27 th 7.30pm	Holy Paraclete Annual Meeting	<i>Brookfield, Alston</i>
Sat 29 th 10am	St Jude's Coffee Stop	<i>Knaresdale w Kirkhaugh VH</i>



with Joan's legacy

You may be aware that Joan Walton, who played such an important part in the life of the church and the wider community, has left St Augustine's Church a very generous bequest. The exact amount isn't yet clear as much of it is tied up in property, but over the next few years it will allow us to improve the building immeasurably.

Our first priority will be to get the building watertight – sort out the issues with the tower and the roof – then look at decent heating and lighting, toilet and kitchen facilities, improved access, restoring the organ... look out for more information in the coming months!

All this work will be of huge benefit to the community, and a fitting legacy for Joan. But we will continue to need regular giving and fundraising for ongoing expenses – and Joan's will specifies that the bequest is for St Augustine's Church only, so all the other churches will continue to need your generous support!

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Who are we in God's Vision?

The fully ecumenical range of our lent get-togethers this year has been a joy to be part of. Lovely lunches provided by a different team each week from the three main denominations here, then the lunches, discussions and Thursday Holy Communion blessed with participants from members of five different denominations, and those with no particular allegiance to any official faith.

David Milner's tour of the Tate Modern's take on what it is to be human contrasted with Charlie Macksey's film of kindness and wisdom. Music and art featured strongly, though a bible-led delve into whether God sees us as servants or friends led to the deepest discussion. Thanks to John and Pauline for the Tuesday venue, to leaders from all the churches, and to whoever is the patron saint of technology, for making all the laptops, powerpoints and screen connections work!



One thing which has stood out so far is the idea that we are not primarily individuals, but parts of a group, a community. We find our true nature and purpose in the tasks and journeys we share together, the 'home' we make by our mutual care, calling and companionship.

As I write we're still going; the final sessions on Fri 31st March (parsonage 7.30pm, and zoom) and Tues 4th April (at the Chat room 12 noon lunch, talk at 12.45) should lead us directly into Jesus' last journey through Holy Week.

BNW



The Two Davids at Pennine Praise last Month – thank you Helena for the photo.

Pennine Praise is becoming a vital centre for Christians of regular denominations as well as those from new independent church communities, gathering to pray, worship, share food, and support one another. See p 18.

Lost Forever?

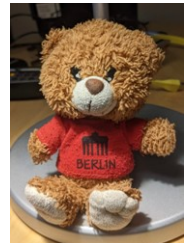
Travelling by train from Peckham to Penrith with Reuben, Max and Naomi, Then a gasp: “Oh NO!” Deep intake of breath, “I’ve left ‘Kika’ on the train!” Would Max ever forgive me? ‘Kika’ was Max’s treasured toy and bedtime companion, gifted to him when he was a new born by his great aunt Edith, a lovely diminutive lady who came to England in 1939 as a refugee from Austria. This compounded my consternation – a tormented mind thinking ‘How could I let Max down like that? – Will Max even sleep without him.’

The next morning post haste to Penrith Station with dread in my heart – unfounded. There was ‘Kika’ waiting for us with my backpack in the “Lost and Found’! “Why is he called ‘Kika’?” I asked his Mum. “Because being so young Max couldn’t say ‘Kitty Kat’ hence ‘Kika’!



I asked Max - now in his advanced GCSE year - “Would you have missed Kika?” who still resides in Max’s bedroom. His reply “Absolutely! Absolutely!!” He was forgiving about my misdemeanour saying: “Trains take things away.”

Another Grandma error: while strolling in London I was entrusted with Melissa’s irreplaceable pocket-sized ‘Berlin Teddy’ gifted to her by her Aunty Gill. Berlin Teddy went everywhere with her, and he had escaped from my pocket! And, Berlin is too far away to buy another! We retraced our steps fearfully only to be rewarded: ‘Berlin Teddy’ was



perched on a wall waiting for us... and was he smiling?

As before

Loss = Anguish!

Found = Joy!

And such gratitude

to the person who perched him there.



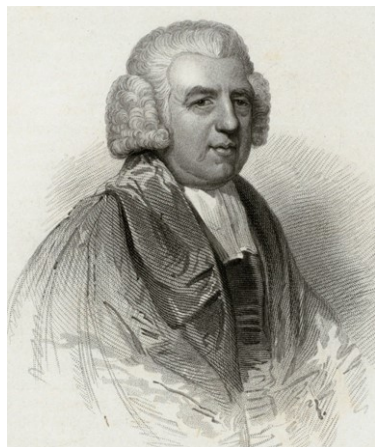
Grandma MH

God's Amazing Grace

The hymnody of the Western Christian tradition contains numerous hymns with a 'lost and found' theme: *Lead, kindly Light, And can it be, I heard the voice of Jesus say*, and various metrical versions of the 23rd Psalm, to name only a few.

One of our best-known such hymns, loved by Christians across the Western world's major denominations, is *Amazing Grace*; perhaps less well-known is the story of its author and the hymn's personal significance for him.

John Newton was born in London in 1725, into a family that was not especially a Christian one, although his mother, Elizabeth, had been brought up as a Nonconformist. His father, John the elder, was a merchant sea-captain, and at the age of eleven Newton began to join him on his voyages. In 1743, while visiting friends, he was press-ganged into service



in the Royal Navy. He was subsequently transferred to the slave-ship *Pegasus*, where he got on so badly with the rest of the crew that they left him behind in West Africa. Newton was taken into slavery himself, from which he was rescued in 1748. Returning to England aboard the merchant-ship *Greyhound*, Newton had a spiritual conversion experience. Awaking during a severe storm, with the ship about to sink, he began to pray for God's mercy. The ship made it into port shortly afterwards.

Newton began to read the Bible and to study Christian doctrine, and he also avoided alcohol and gambling. Ironically, he continued to work in the slave-trade until 1754, when a serious stroke forced him to retire from seafaring. Ten years later, on June 17th 1764, he was ordained as an Anglican priest and appointed to the living of Olney, Buckinghamshire, where he became such a popular preacher that an extra gallery had to be

installed in his parish church to accommodate everyone who wanted to hear him!

In 1767 William Cowper, the poet, moved to Olney. He worshipped in Newton's church, and collaborated with him on a volume of hymns, published as *Olney Hymns* in 1779. The volume included Newton's well-known hymns: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*, *How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds*, and *Faith's Review and Expectation*, known to us by its opening words, "Amazing Grace".

This hymn became particularly popular in America, where it was used regularly at Baptist and Methodist revival meetings. According to the *American Dictionary of Hymnology*, it is 'Newton's spiritual autobiography in verse'; American historian Gilbert Chase writes that it is 'without doubt the most famous of all folk hymns' and Jonathan Aitken, a Newton biographer, estimates that the song is sung in churches and at rallies and concerts around 10 million times a year!

In 1779, Newton became rector of the parish of St. Mary Woolnoth, London, where he remained until his death in 1807. In 1788, by now ashamed of his part in the African slave-trade, he joined the great reformer William Wilberforce in calling for its abolition. He lived to see the passing of the Slave Trade Act of 1807 which brought Britain's involvement in international slavery to an end. He would undoubtedly be deeply saddened to know that in the 21st Century, the call to end modern-day slavery remains as strong as ever. We would honour His memory by praying that the political will may be found by the international community to bring about the abolition of slavery once and for all.

RP

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.



from The King of Love - Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

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Some of the words in an article entitled **Lost and Found** were missing – the gremlins had been around – but I managed to find them and have added them in a list at the end. I wandered off as a ??????? and found myself in a big hole down some ????? – when much ????? I was told I was ????? in our air raid ?????? next to our house. I felt very ????????? at the time and I’ve never forgotten the ????????? of being lost. You probably know the Bible stories or ?????? about the lost ?????, coin and son – or should it be sons? – I’m never sure whether I was like the reckless ?????? son or the self-righteous older one – probably the latter now. I also like to think I’m like the welcoming, ???????? father, though. A famous painting by the Dutch artist ???????? depicting the ?????? of the *Prodigal* includes the ?????? (probably?) looking on consolingly from behind a curtain or door. What a lovely thought!

experience, forgiving, found, frightened, mother, older, parables, Rembrandt, Return, sheep, shelter, steps, toddler, younger.

HERE ARE SOME ‘LOST’ TITLES AND A SAYING – without the vowels

1 *sl*nd *f th* L*st 2 L*st *n Tr*ns!t**n 3 L*st f*r w* rds
4 Th* L*st W*rlld 5 L*v**s L*b***rs L*st
6 R**d*rs *f th* L*st **rk 7 P*r*d*s* L*st.

A PUZZLE GRID with SPLIT WORDS. We may have lost (or found), or sometimes may lose or find, several things: e,g, our VOICE or our GRIP. It’s easy to lose TIME and TOUCH. These four appear in this puzzle, each as a split word. See if you can find five others, too.

VO	SL	Y	ME	FA	UCH
TI	MI	ICE	ART	ND	IP
HE	WA	TO	EEP	GR	ITH

I trust you didn’t lose IECEPTAN or OPEH doing it!

HERE’S a message in another grid. Transfer the numbered columns in the first grid in the correct order 1 to 11 in the second

4	2	7	5	10	1	8	11	3	9	6
O	O	T	N	N	C	I	*	R	O	A
E	E	A	B	O	C	T	N	L	I	R

DON’T LOSE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE FOR THE...

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Visit the Churches Together in England site for prayers and ideas.

St Anthony of Padua

Imagine you have lost or misplaced something. What do you do? Many of us stop and think about where we last had the object and then move on to a swift prayer and appeal to St Anthony. But who was St Anthony and how did he gain the reputation of helping us to find lost things?

The man who we know as St Anthony was born in 1195 to a prominent family of the city of Lisbon and was named Fernando at Baptism. When he was 15 years old, he entered the religious order of St Augustine. After two years he was sent to Coimbra, a city in central Portugal, to commence 9 years of intensive study of Augustinian theology and was probably ordained a priest during this time.

It was a time of great religious turmoil, five Franciscan martyrs were returned to Fernando's monastery from Morocco where they had been tortured and beheaded for teaching about Christ. As a result, he decided that he wanted to be sent "as soon as possible to the land of the Saracens, that I may gain the crown of the holy martyrs." He joined the Franciscan order and took the name Anthony. When arriving in Morocco he became seriously ill and therefore had to return home. On the journey his ship ran into storms and he landed on the east coast of Sicily never to become a missionary, but destined for a different role in the Franciscan order. In 1222 he was at an ordination of Dominicans and Franciscans. After a meal the provincial suggested that one of the friars give a short sermon. Everyone declined except Anthony who began to speak in a simple way, with his knowledge and holiness impressing everyone. As a result, his destiny was set as that of a public preacher in northern Italy. At that time many preachers had a life-style very different to that of the poor people to whom they preached. But, Anthony believed that the words he spoke were not enough, he also wanted to lead a life of poverty. Anthony continued to travel widely in both northern Italy and southern France, especially where the heretics were strongest. He taught them of



the wonder of reconciliation with a loving Father. When back in Padua he became well known for preaching what became his famous Lenten sermons, for which people waited all night to hear him. His fame was such that people came prepared with scissors to cut tiny pieces off his habit as a relic!

But with time his health deteriorated and he asked to be relieved of his duties. After Lent in 1231 he was exhausted and wished to return to Padua. However, he only managed to travel as far as Arcella where he received the last sacraments. He died at the age of 36 years after blessing Padua from a distance. After many miracles occurred at his tomb, Pope Gregory IX declared him a saint.

So why do we pray to him when we lose things? We are told that Anthony had a book of psalms that he valued and was very important to him. This was because he had made notes in the book that he used when teaching students in his Franciscan order. He prayed that it would be found or returned if it had been taken. The latter was shown to be the case as a novice had taken the book and left the community. After Anthony prayed for the book's return the novice returned, bringing back the book and was received back into the order. The legend has been further embroidered over time, but the story would seem to be true and the book is said to reside in the Franciscan friary in Bologna. After his death, the story became known and praying through Anthony to find or recover lost and stolen articles became common.

St Anthony is also the patron saint of fishermen in Portugal, Italy, France and Spain, but that is another story.

JH

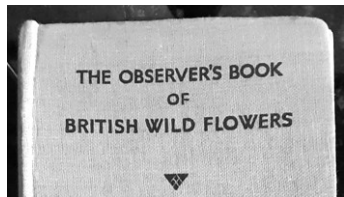
When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost. *Billy Graham*

I have not lost faith in God. I have moments of anger and protest. Sometimes I've been closer to him for that reason. *Elie Wiesel*

The wise man says "I am looking for truth"; and the fool, "I have found truth." *Russian Proverb*

Not Lost But Found!

Lizzie and I collect all sorts of things and are always on the look out for additions to our collections, especially old books. One day, whilst waiting to pay for some items in a Penrith charity shop, I noticed that there was a small table placed close to the cash desk which contained a number of old editions from the "Observer's Book" series for sale. I picked up a copy of



"British Wild Flowers" and turned to the last page to check the release date, which was August 1946. Turning to the front of the book, at first I registered only that someone had written their name and address on the first page, the flowing style of the handwriting (and

use of a fountain pen) suggesting that it was added when the book was new. On closer inspection I saw that the address was in Scunthorpe, my home town. Then, as I looked closer I saw that the house number and street were in fact the place where my mum grew up in the 1930s and

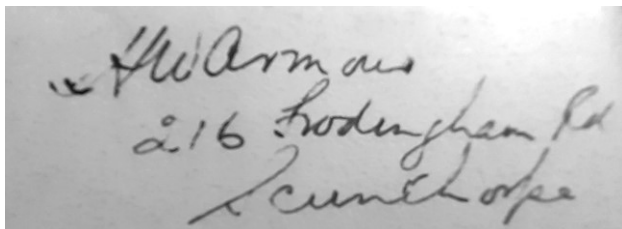
1940s, after her family had moved down to England from Scotland.

The owner's name was that of my mum's maternal uncle Hugh

Armour (my great-

uncle) who had lodged with them whilst working at the steelworks in the town! Our family has no earlier connection with Cumbria and so how the book turned up in a Penrith charity shop remains a mystery. My mum

(then in her 90s) was delighted to see the book and the handwriting of her uncle again after a gap of 70 years or more – she may well have handled the book when it was first new. A family treasure which we never knew to be lost, at least not until it was found!



Dave Smith

Physicist's joke:

Two atoms are walking down the street and they run in to each other. One says to the other, "Are you all right?" "No, I lost an electron!" "Are you sure?" "Yeah, I'm positive!"

Rejoice with Me!

George Mullard shares the famous Lost and Found parables in Luke 15: 'Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So He spoke this parable to them, saying: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbours together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'"



Dowry headdress, without which a bride could not marry, once more complete. The parable says God's joy is not complete until he has found every one of us.

George's life experience also made me think of that strange phrase 'Have you FOUND Jesus?' It's too easy to respond 'why; have you lost him?' or 'I didn't know He was lost.' We talk of finding faith, but I suggest it puts too much emphasis on our side, when in truth it is always God finding us, faith being there at the right time when we need it. Has faith found us, or does all the difficulty and clutter accrued through life create a barrier? How much do we want to be found?



Whyatt's famous cartoon

BNW

About 'Faith in the Moor'

This Magazine is a 'Churches Together' publication. It aims to share information useful to regular and occasional churchgoers, to the wider community, and to tourists and visitors. It reflects the life of the faith community in our corner of the North Pennines. Here people encourage, celebrate and debate their faith.

The different Christian churches who create this magazine get along very well, and work together in a spirit of openness and mutual regard. Faith in the Moor welcomes input in harmony with this open Christian Faith. Also from those whose spirituality is not focussed on a particular religion, and those whose faith is in the Moor itself; its people, its uniqueness, its future. We support whatever enriches our community here.



Current team: BNW = Bar Nash-Williams, LS = Lizzie Smith, ME = Mary Elliot, JH = Jeanette Haslam, MH = Madeleine Harris, RP = Richard Pattison

May Theme: **'Falling into Place'**

Deadline: **Tues 18th April**

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'I Can Hold Their Hands Again'

'Saving lives in Leeds' told the story of Jamie, age 38, who needed a double hand transplant. A single parent with twin girls who were five months old when he lost his hands and feet. After the accident he was told they expected him to last a week, but his children inspired him: 'I'm a fighter – for their futures.' He even has a tattoo saying 'my children empower me.'



Surgeon Simon Kay took him on because 'he's a coper; he gets on with it.' 'Everything could go wrong, it's a big responsibility.' Two teams, 40 people, 14 hours. 'The human body and its anatomy is... wonderful,' 'I absolutely love surgery; I think I've got the best job in the world.' 'I'm on leave but I've come in; I really need to know that he's ok.'



Jamie's Mum: 'it's just so remarkable that they would give that gift, of a hand.'

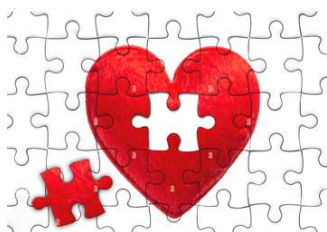
Surgeon: 'hands are what make us human.'

Jamie: 'I really do feel blessed, and lucky.' 'I've started to feel whole again.'

His daughter: 'Daddy's got real fingers!'

MH, JH, and BNW Catch the whole show on iPlayer.

I don't know if Jamie and his daughters will use those new hands to do jigsaws, but here's a version of Luke 15 familiar to jigsaw addicts: 'rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I had lost!'



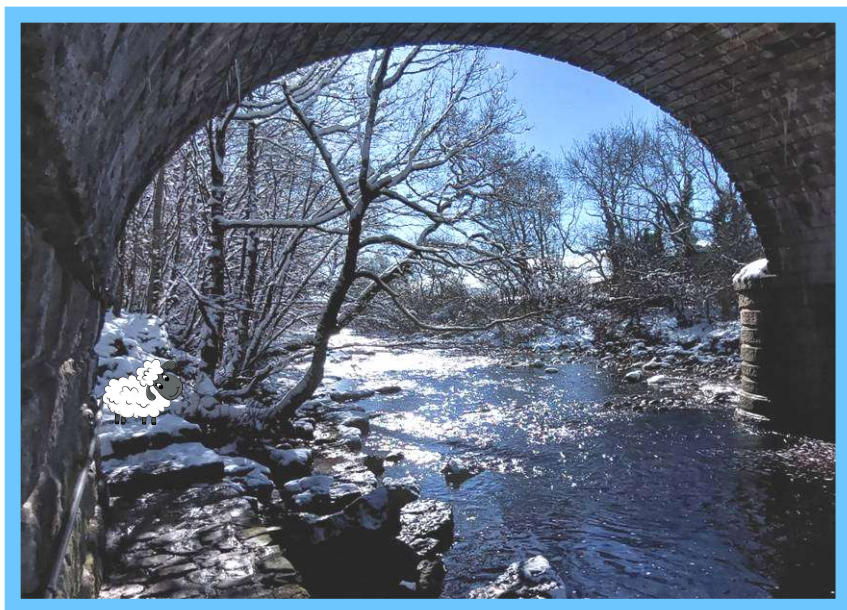
And when it comes to finding the PEACE we have lost: 'God is good at mending broken hearts; but you have to give him all the pieces.'



Iconic Images of Life on the Moor



If you have a favourite photo of life on our patch, do please send it to the eds – see over for address – and we'll use where it fits. Big or small, landmark or fleeting moment, animal, vegetable or mineral – it's up to you.



Bridge over bubbled water

I am always entranced by the play of light on water, bouncing up onto the underneath of a bridge, dancing on the foam and whirlpools. Every time I walk over the bridge I am conscious of the mood of the river, so much a part of our life here. Thank you to Dave Smith for this month's photo.