

DRC News



DERBYSHIRE RURAL CHAPLAINCY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021



The **Methodist Church** 



Source: Pinterest.com

In this issue:

- Hello from Rev'd Alan Griggs, Lead Rural Chaplain
- Independence and Interdependence by Alison Ball
- Derbyshire Farmers' Carol Service 2021
- Our Life & Times: Richard Hotchkiss of Foston Mill Farm
- 100 Years of Farming - William Bunting of Alsop en le Dale
- Succession Planning: What will happen when I die? by Jackie Fee
- Is Bigger always Better? by Sarah Helliwell
- An Honoured Guest meets Farmers in Derbyshire
- COP26 and Farming by Andrew Critchlow
- DRC Team Updates: Alison Fletcher and Rev'd Carolyn McDonald
- 'Dad' by John Hall
- 'Helping my mother make butter' by Philip Holland
- Derbyshire Home from Hospital Support Service
- Are you a Carer?
- Young'ish' Farmers let their hair down!
- An Interview with Rev'd Jane Legh by Stella Mills
- Helpful Contact Numbers for Advice & Support
- Rural Safety & Crime Prevention

Contact DRC on 07710 088972

Reduce waste and recycle this copy or pass on to someone else!

Hello from Alan Griggs the Lead Rural Chaplain

I have been busy this year taking weddings for younger farmers, baptisms for even younger farmers! And sadly, funerals for farmers who have finally hung up their overalls. It has been a year that has captured all the seasons of life.



At the Farmers' Harvest Festival in the ABC in October I was struck again by the words of 'The Offertory' by John Ness Beck sung so beautifully by Bel Canto and St Anne's Church Choir from Baslow. 'The Offertory' is based on words spoken by the ancient Hebrew prophet Micah who continues to call us to reflect on our life and think about how we use the time given to us here on earth. You can hear the song by going to the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy YouTube Channel. The prophet Micah says this: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God".

This Christmas season reminds us to walk with Jesus Christ and join Jesus in bringing peace here on earth as it is in heaven. The Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy team are praying for peace this Christmas for you, the farm, and your family, and we hope to see many of you at the Carol Service on Sunday 5th December at 2.30pm in the ABC.

Independence and Interdependence by Alison Ball, Associate Rural Chaplain

Dear Friends,

As Christmas approaches may I be one of the first to offer you an early Christmas greeting and God's blessing on you and your families for 2022 on behalf of the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy.



I am writing this in October and two words are on my mind: *independence* and *interdependence*. The vote for Brexit was a vote for independence – from Europe and some of the perceived 'red tape' involved in our membership. Then came Covid-19 and we learnt all about interdependence – how we needed our neighbour, our NHS, our carers, our HGV drivers, our supermarket workers and teachers.

The concept of the 'key worker' was defined afresh; not so much the moneymakers and power brokers but the invisible, hard workers that provide food for the table, care for our elders, health for the sick and education for the young. There has been a repositioning of what we value that has been very healthy.



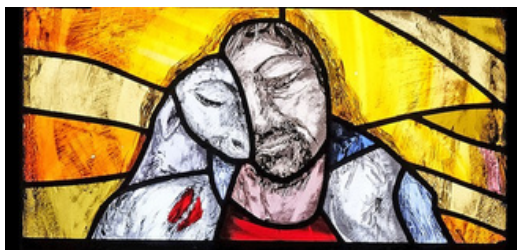
Source: 'Interdependence' <https://www.patientkeeper.com>

On the other hand, our practical interdependence is an issue in the news right now as I write. Will there be food on the Christmas table without sufficient HGV drivers? Will farmers have sufficient butchers to receive the animals they have carefully reared for the market? Will the decisions made at COP26 help us sustain our interdependent yet fragile ecosystem?

The rural experience can also be one of independence. Geographically remote from services and community, life can require the skills of 'just getting on with it', finding the solution, solving the problem. But when the problem can't be easily resolved, life can feel isolating.

At this time of year, my thoughts go to one of my favourite names used of Jesus in the Bible – 'Emmanuel'. Literally, it means 'God is with us'. In fact, I knew someone who used to describe Jesus as 'God with skin on' (the theologians might not like that, but I do!) and sometimes we need to know God's presence, not as an idea or a concept, but in practice through other people who show us something of who God is in their kindness, their love, their care. So that picture of interdependence has expanded beyond human interdependence or interdependence with our world to a picture that includes God, with us, Emmanuel.

May you know God with you in 2022.



Source: <https://emmanuelthousandaks.org>



Derbyshire Farmers' Carol Service

2.30 pm Sunday 5th December 2021

**at Bakewell Livestock Market
Agricultural Way, Bakewell, DE45 1AH
(free parking)**

**Derbyshire Poet Philip Holland
Youlgrave Silver Band
& Revd Alan Griggs (Lead Rural Chaplain)
will be sharing a reflection**



In support of the Derbyshire
Rural Chaplaincy and
Air Ambulance



Parts of the service will also be recorded and can
be viewed after the event on the Derbyshire Rural
Chaplaincy YouTube Channel or via the
DRC's new website:

www.derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk



Contact Rev'd Alan Griggs on 07710 088972 for more details
or email a.griggs@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk (Covid safe measures)



Contact DRC on 07710 088972

‘Our Life & Times’: Richard Hotchkiss of Foston Mill Farm in conversation with Chris Morris

Richard Hotchkiss was born in Tideswell in a cottage on the market square. He was one of six – four lads and two girls. It was later said that the rest of them had proper jobs!!



Richard & Grace Hotchkiss

Aged nine, he went to work for Ben & Dorothy Gill at Foolow and moved in, often staying for several nights in a row particularly when there was no school. They had two horses and a Standard Fordson and around 25 Ayrshire cows. He just loved the farming and rural way of life.

Richard left school at 15, working for Jim Hadfield on Tideswell Moor for a year or so, and then worked for Harry Harrison at Foolow until Harry had a heart attack. Richard started shearing sheep at 16 and by the time he was 21, he was shearing about 6,500 annually. This income enabled him to build up some funds but money was always tight in the early years.

It was all change at 21 when he managed to buy Forest Lane Farm, Tideswell Moor; a farm of 28 acres, and he rented another 25 acres at Foolow. The farm was 1300 ft above sea level and often got snowed up. There were several bad winters in the 1980s and it was often a lot of hassle with days spent digging out drifts.



Forest Lane Farm, Tideswell Moor, October 1973

Richard started milking in 1969. He was in Hope Valley Young Farmers' Club and met Grace who was secretary of Ashover Young Farmers' Club and they ultimately married. On their wedding day, there were nine cows to milk in a cow shed with tyngs for 12. He remembers a July milk cheque of £8 10s 6d about that time!

They were long days with little money about, but Richard is keen to pay tribute to the hard work of Grace. She stripped out the crumbling stone walls on the farm and together they re-built them, collecting 7s 6d per yard subsidy from the Ministry of Agriculture's small farm improvement scheme. Then they built a cubicle shed for 30 cows.

Richard is keen to point out that one of the key things of that era was the willingness of vendors to wait for payment. A seller would say something like "pay me when you sell your lambs". This was a great help and allowed them the leeway to develop when money was 'hand to mouth'. Bank loans were not easy for early entrants into farming. "There was a real sense that people helped you out in those days". The two blocks of land were 3.5 miles apart. They could not afford a stock trailer and walked the dry cows one way and the freshly calved cows back, for about five years. Throughout my conversation, it is obvious that hard graft, commitment, trust and honesty were pivotal in their progress.

As the family grew up, Richard and Grace realised that they wanted a better farm for their son, Richard, who was keen to farm as a career and so they bought the 150 acre ring fenced, Foston Mill farm in south Derbyshire. This has now increased to 285 acres with another 110 rented.

Their eldest son, Thomas, runs a bespoke furniture business from the farm, 'Hotchkiss Oak Furniture' and their daughter, Kate Marriott, who lives at Ashby de la Zouch, has around 70 ewes and spins wool, making blankets and cushions etc. She trades as 'Flock & Hare'.



Richard winning at the Hope Show
in the mid 1980s

A New Website for Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy

**The DRC now has its own
website!**

www.derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk

TAKE A LOOK!



Contact DRC on 07710 088972

100 Years of Farming in Derbyshire - William Bunting

With kind permission from the family, we have included the Tribute to William Bunting Senior of Alsop en le Dale written and read by Chris Morris in the funeral service on Friday 27th August 2021 led by the Rev'd Alan Griggs in Alsop en le Dale Church. William Bunting lived and worked the land in Derbyshire for over 100 years and we want to continue to pay tribute to his long service to farming and rural life and his service to Alsop en le Dale church as well as receiving life membership of the Derbyshire Holstein Club, and so much more.

It is a privilege and an honour to be standing here today, having been asked to produce a tribute to Mr Bunting, also known as William or Willy.

The family is fortunate enough to have some notes in their possession, hand written by William, about his early life so I have gleaned some information from these and also listened to the family members' stories just recently.

William was known and loved by many across the region and well beyond, and has lead a life that has seen some extraordinary changes over that time.



When he went to Biggin School, about 1927, there was a staggering 135 children in the two classrooms and if the boys did anything wrong they received the 'stick' or cane on a Wednesday morning and once a month they had to go to church and learn the Ten Commandments. He walked to school and back every day. Most villages had a policeman but crime was never heard of and you could leave anything anywhere and it would still be there days later.

He was soon getting involved with the farm and one of his first duties, aged 10, was to shut up the hens which were spread across five fields.

Early in the thirties, his father set an example to William by going off to Reading to buy four black and white cows and a milking machine – there were hardly any of those in the Peak District. He also built a double cowshed to house 44 cows so that they could clean out with a horse & cart and shovels.

We hear about the hard times of the thirties, how milk could be rejected or you only got paid 4 old pence per gallon if you were over quota and the start of the Milk Marketing Board as a saviour for dairy farms. There were plenty of vacant farms in this era and his father took one of 100 acres for about 10 shillings an acre. There were also hard winters and heavy snowfall to contend with which were eventually

cleared by a snowplough drawn by three horses. I think that you will agree with me that these hardships and ordeals would have helped William develop the resilience that he was to carry with him for the rest of his life.

He was also learning from the example of his father in being forward thinking and not standing still. They had moved to Church Farm in 1936 and started a Tuberculin tested herd and began three milking three times a day at 6.30 am, 2 pm and 9 pm (so that was not such a new idea in the 21st Century after all!).

William seemed to have joined the Home Guard when war broke out and had rifle practice one week and then went on duty one night a week.

In the thirties and forties, it was common to move cattle long distances by foot and along drover's lanes and public roads. William would have taken dry cows as far as Snitterton near Matlock or back. Barren cows were walked to Ashbourne cattle market on a Thursday. Milk churns had to be taken down to Alsop station to catch the 5.30 pm night train to London.

He was also sent to Scotland to buy some yearling heifers and came back with four. The most expensive of these was a Jeanette costing £19 and there are still Jeanette family members in the herd at Crosslow Bank to this day!

William was active in the Young Farmer's Club and once went to Blackpool for the day with them. There he met Alice from the farm next to the nearby Alsop moor quarry and that leads on to one of the family's favourite stories.....

William usually went on his bicycle for his courting excursions with Alice but once he borrowed his father's car and, as one of only a few young drivers in the area, was going to take Alice out in it. His brother, and particularly his sisters, must have been a little jealous and hid the key! Unperturbed, he quietly went into the workshop and made a new key! It worked and he drove off with Alice – the others looking on aghast! It was just one of William's many practical skills: building, roofing, painting, carpentry, inventive ideas, electrics, although more than one of these could have brought his downfall as they say that he had nine lives!

William married Alice in September 1949 and they started a family. Soon afterwards, he started farming on his own at Crosslow Bank with 26 cows. The farm also moved with the times and was one of the first in the area to get a bulk milk tank in 1966 with a pipeline from the cowshed to the tank. In 1969, they put in a milking parlour and started cubicle housing.

William also gave a life of service and was on many committees although he never thought it was his gift to be an officer or to speak from the front. He served on the

Derbyshire Friesian Club and West Derbyshire Holstein Club for many years but left the committee when the East and West Derbyshire Clubs merged around 2001. He was made a Life member of the current Derbyshire Holstein Club.

He served an incredible forty six years as churchwarden at this church here and received a long service award from the Bishop of Derby during his tenure in this role.

William drove himself to his favourite market, Leek, until he was in his nineties. He then continued to be fiercely independent using the local bus service to get to Bakewell market until he was about ninety five!

My personal memories of him revolve around the annual Holstein Club coach trips when we visited top dairy herds around the country. On one occasion, we arrived at the Feizor herd in West Yorkshire. The cows were a fair way away up a steep field and senior members were offered a ride in a small trailer towed by a quad bike. Four men and five sticks were loaded on the trailer but William set off walking up the field and was heard to mutter "I'm older than all of them!"

I found out that it was his 90th birthday on one of these trips and just before the coach left a service station, I dashed into WHSmith's to buy a card. I grabbed a funny one with Mrs Brown (of Mrs Brown's boys) on it and the card was duly signed and presented. When I next saw him, I asked "Did you like your birthday card?" He replied "It was alright but it would have been nicer to have had someone younger and more attractive on it!"

I found William a mild and quietly spoken man but I gather he could be sharp when he needed to be. He had strong opinions about dairy cows and confronted me one day about the rear udder height and teat placement on some animals in modern breeding. I put up a defence but retreated when it was obvious that I was not going to win!

We all watched him move towards his 100th birthday which he reached on 19th June this year. He wanted a big party but Covid rules dictated otherwise, so a lovely family gathering took place at the bungalow. A few days later I had the privilege of presenting him with a gold certificate from Holstein UK at Hartington Village Hall. He treasured this and it was shown to visitors to the bungalow. It stood comfortably with the card from her majesty, The Queen, on the sideboard.

William's life has been an example of resilience, determination and humility.



Succession Planning: What will happen when I die? by Jackie Fee, NFU Bakewell



There are two things that are certainties in life – death and taxes.

When I was little and my grandpa was getting on a bit he assumed that one of his 7 children would want to take over the small dairy farm he had. It was the swinging 60s and 6 out of the 7 had left rural Ireland as soon as they could and came to England to find jobs. A small dairy could not support a large family and jobs were scarce in Ireland. The call to Birmingham as labourers, bus drivers, nurses etc was too tempting, so off went my dad at the age of 18, following his siblings.

Many years later, dad had a family and had settled, but grandpa was getting old and the twice a day milking by hand was getting too much so somebody had to go 'Home' back to Ireland and take on the farm. To this day, we do not know the order grandpa asked each one to come home but when the call came to my dad my mother refused. She had a career as a nurse, all her family were here and she hadn't seen Ireland since she was 12. Her heart was planted in England now.

Grandpa said who ever took over the farm could have it when he dies - lock, stock and barrel. It wasn't enough to lure my mum so my uncle Eugene stepped up to the plate and with agreement from his wife, he left for Leitrim with 5 children in tow. Eugene loved it – farming was in his blood. The kids thrived and grandpa loved having one of his sons at the farm.

Ten years later, grandpa went into town and never came back. He had gone into McGuire's bar (which also doubled as an undertaker, coincidentally) for a quick pint, took his last sip and dropped down there and then. Must have been some pint! He was 93 and had died of a heart attack, probably in his second favourite place, the farm being his first. What a way to go.

Probate was requested and many solicitors' letters sent across the water (not everybody had a phone then and certainly not my grandpa's farm). The will was read and there it was in black and white: the farm was to be divided into 7 with each getting a share. The canny fox! Poor Eugene gave up his life in England for a seventh of a very small dairy farm. There was much discussion, nay even arguing, amongst the siblings. Some wanted 'their' share, others didn't. In the end it was settled amicably that everyone would sign their share over to Eugene- it was only fair.

And that is what you have to think about. How do you leave things that are 'fair'? You cannot avoid death but you can avoid paying less death tax if you get your house in order.

At the NFU, we have a financial advisor who is an expert on inheritance tax and succession planning who is always available to help. If you need advice please call me on 01629 812481 or 01298 813055 or call into the NFU kiosk at Bakewell Market and ask for Jackie.

The farm was sold later as a holiday home to a German couple – but that's another story



*Source: NFU Mutual Voice of the Farmer research with 1,652 UK farmers, published June 2021



FREE - The Farmart Magazine

As well as picking up a copy from the dispenser at Bakewell Market, did you know you can get a copy of The Farmart magazine posted direct to your farm?

It's a handy directory of agricultural suppliers & services, as well as being a source of information about what's occurring in the rural community.

Just contact The Farmart office on 01625 529900 or email the@thefarmart.co.uk with your name & address and you'll be added to the free postal mailing list.



Contact DRC on 07710 088972

Is Bigger always Better?

by Sarah Helliwell



The number of farms and direct farm labour continues to fall, yet still we are regularly hearing of a need to encourage more workers into the industry and the difficulties of attracting and retaining staff. At the same time, land based colleges have increased in size and invested millions in state-of-the-art facilities. Recent editions of Farmers Guardian have reported a continuing increase in college student numbers.

Over the years there have been numerous initiatives by government and industry to ensure a skilled workforce for the future. Let's hope the current one - The Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture (www.tiah.org), has more success than its predecessors - I'm not holding my breath. This suggests that either young people are not retained in the industry and/or the provision offered by FE establishments is not meeting the needs of the industry.

In the past couple of years, Newton Rigg College and DART training have been closed by large land based colleges stating that the smaller establishments are not financially viable. These examples reflect the dominance of large, regional, corporate business models of most land based colleges these days. Relatively small, high quality, respected facilities, that have a significant role in the community appear to have been 'discarded' in the pursuit of business. Even independent consultants bought in by one of the colleges, described a small local provider as being a "responsive and agile" training provider. I would consider being called responsive and agile a compliment!

The achievements of smaller providers in retaining young people in the industry is equally as good, if not better, than many larger organisations. The relationships that smaller providers have with the local community and the range of farming systems they have access to, is exceptional and is clearly underestimated. There is evidence that local training, with minimal overheads (farm/offices) working with local communities can be viable.

Sadly now it seems, to get a land based qualification, you have to be registered with a large regional college, quite possibly two hours drive from home. Work based apprenticeships are on offer as well as college based courses but apprentices have to attend college on a fairly regular basis or work online.

Some people thrive in a college environment and have a great time and make friends for life. However, there are also a significant number of youngsters who, for a considerable range of reasons, won't or can't access this college based provision. Many of these individuals, if given appropriate support, can develop to excel in their chosen career and build lifelong friendships. How many are being 'lost' through the current system?

Innovation and adaptation to ensure equality, inclusion and opportunities to suit different needs and situations is occurring in many areas of society. In relation to the education of the next generation, this can be demonstrated by business models on paper but I have severe reservations as to whether it actually works 'on the ground'. Surely, government and the industry should be pushing for an inclusive and engaging system not 'one size fits all'.



NSA Young Shepherd day at Chatsworth
September 2021

There are however, some excellent initiatives working with schools and the community, including 'FaceTime a Farmer', LEAF Education (www.leaf.eco), and FarmEd (www.farmed.co.uk), which embrace a significant range of opportunities. It would be great to see the promotion of, and greater recognition of learning post-school by embracing a variety of delivery methods, mentoring, support and guidance.

Some helpful online resources:

www.natsheep.org.uk

The National Sheep Association is a specialist organisation dedicated to safeguarding the interests and future of sheep farmers throughout the UK

www.nadis.org.uk

NADIS is a unique online based animal health resource for farmers, vets and SQPs

www.nptc.org.uk

City & Guilds Land Based Services: providing a wide range of land based qualifications

www.lantra.co.uk

Short courses such as ATV (All terrain Vehicle) and Teleporter

The local provider of most of these courses is:

www.derbyshirelandskills.org.uk/contactus

Jackie Twilley Centre Manager: Tel 01623 812641

Email: jackie.twilley@btinternet.com

An Honoured Guest meets Farmers in Derbyshire

In September, the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy (DRC) had the pleasure of welcoming Rev'd Canon Thomas Woodhouse from the Queens Chapel of the Savoy and Chaplain to HM the Queen in ordinary time. Rev'd Thomas was out and about in September visiting some of the Duchy's rural surveys and was keen to see the work of the rural chaplaincy and meet farmers in Derbyshire to better understand the current issues and challenges facing the farming community.

Rev'd Thomas spent two days in Derbyshire and during his time here he led a church service with the Lead Rural Chaplain, Rev'd Alan Griggs in Youlgave Parish Church, he toured the Agricultural Business Centre with DRC volunteer John Eley, and then gathered at the Frosts' farm in Youlgave for lunch and to meet a variety of farming representatives.



We are extremely grateful to Simon & Suzanne Frost, Marion (mum), Alex, Dominic & Adam for hosting the gathering and making Rev'd Thomas and so many others very welcome.



The weather, conversation, and food were all wonderful and this was a great opportunity to celebrate the contribution of our farming community and share it with Rev'd Thomas as he supports the staff working within the Duchy of Lancaster.

Rev'd Thomas also had the pleasure of meeting the Daltons from Aston Hall Farm in the Hope Valley given their connection with the Duchy of Lancaster. Rev'd Thomas said afterwards "I told a Duchy colleague that it was hard to call my visit with you work! It was for me one long stream to pleasure and delight".

Simon Frost added that the whole event was truly wonderful. He praised the DRC and especially Alan Griggs for all his support given to him in the past and that this had made such difference to him, his family and his farm. "Farming can be hard; things can go wrong and we get into difficulties. As Christians, we are called to help each other and not be judgemental or criticise those who are struggling. We need to understand why these difficulties and problems have occurred and realise that our lives can change so quickly and so we need to support, help and respect each other. We need to live as true Christians every day of our lives".

COP26 and Farming by Andrew Critchlow Derbyshire NFU County Adviser



COP? Conference of the Parties organised via the United Nations Climate Change Convention which brings together 190 countries (if they all turn up) each year, to negotiate new climate change treaties and report on the progress of past ones. 26? Because this is the 26th conference.

Farming is uniquely placed to be part of the solution, not only by reducing its emissions, but also as a carbon sink. Farmers can protect and enhance the carbon reserves already in our soils and vegetation. Some practices will need to be modified such as more min-till and less inversion of soil to reduce the release of carbon. By allowing hedgerows to expand and planting the right trees in the right places, this will increase storage, as will increasing soil organic matter and reducing compaction by good soil management and deeper rooting varieties in herbage and grass leys.

As well as nature based solutions, we can capture more carbon by growing the raw materials for bioenergy, such as miscanthus and willow; and bio-based building materials such as hemp. Although the growing of biomass captures carbon from the atmosphere via photosynthesis, burning releases CO₂. The big prize is capturing the released greenhouse gas by developing the technology to deliver BECCS – Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage. Pioneering work at Drax power station is aiming to deliver the largest carbon capture power project in the world.

The NFU has its Net Zero ambition by 2040 for English and Welsh agriculture. Only achievable if, as well as the above measures, there is improved resource-use efficiency across all farm sectors coupled with the use of new techniques. These measures could include:

- Reduced use of fertilizers and improved soil management to reduce the quantity of CO₂ released in the manufacture of fertilizer and the emissions of nitrous oxides from soils
- Feed additives to reduce methane emissions from ruminant livestock
- Improving animal health to increase productivity will reduce emissions
- Precision farming to reduce inputs and energy usage
- Green energy such as solar, wind and anaerobic digestion

At COP23 in Fiji in 2017, there was a landmark decision to work together globally to increase food security and reduce emissions. That roadmap has run its course and COP26 needs to agree the next steps.

We have to make sure that we do not reduce our capacity to feed UK consumers; our self-sufficiency of food we can produce has dropped from around 80% in the 1980s to nearly 60% today. We must not off-shore our food production and neither our emissions. To be part of the solution will require support from government, industry and other key groups. Together it can be achieved.

DRC Team Updates

Alison Fletcher is Commissioned

The Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy is a Christian ministry that celebrates the contribution of our agricultural and rural communities. The DRC team exists to provide visible and proactive spiritual and pastoral care, and to make an authentic Christian presence in the lives of those working in the land based sector in Derbyshire. We are entirely ecumenical, drawing our chaplains from both the Anglican and Methodist churches and from a variety of backgrounds.

Our new rural chaplain, Alison Fletcher, was commissioned on Sunday 7th November in All Saints Church Ecclesall, where Alison's calling to serve and support the agricultural community was affirmed and prayers offered to ask for God's blessing upon Alison, her work, and the work of the chaplaincy.



'Thank You' to Rev'd Carollyn McDonald



The Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy would like to thank the Rev'd Carollyn McDonald for her support as a member of the DRC Steering Group. Rev'd Carollyn retires as priest-in-charge of the Peak Five Benefice which includes the rural parishes of Tissington, Fenny Bentley, Alsop en le Dale, Thorpe and Parwich, and in turn will be stepping down as a member of our steering group in December.

Rev'd Carollyn has been a steadfast and greatly valued support to the work of the Rural Chaplaincy and has helped the DRC to grow and flourish, thus enabling the team to get on with the job! Please join us in offering our prayers and thanks to her as she prepares to move into this new chapter.

'Dad' by John Hall

I was a little surprised when I followed Dad's coffin into the church; it was packed. I was nineteen, away at Uni, so not directly connected with the farm, but had worked weekends, holidays and since passing my driving test, I had been a bit of a gofer - delivering potatoes and Christmas poultry, fetching an odd part or bag(s) of feed.



As we walked out of the church, there was a sea of faces: uncles, aunts, cousins. Faces that I had delivered to and picked up from. In fact, just about every agriculture business around Uttoxeter. Afterwards over ham sandwiches and cups of tea, words such as 'straight', 'big', 'trust', 'strong' threaded their way through the conversation. To me, he was just Dad; a man who, after his first stroke, had more strength in one arm than in my whole body.

The two things in Dad's life were his farm and his family which he could hold; one in each hand, supporting, protecting, caring, loving. But a transgression could bring a flick of the wrist which would send us skipping across the floor going "Ooooooh!". Occasionally a summer's evening would find the kids playing cricket on the yard and Dad having just finished work, would join in. This would bring Mum out, admonishing the youngsters for keeping him from his tea. He would leave, a sly wink hanging in the night.

There is a tale about a cow which was objecting to being milked for the first time. Dad, with his shoulder firmly into her flank, was having his knuckles rapped and his forearm scratched. Suddenly, he stood up and his fist thumped down on the cow's back. The cow gasped and then stood still as Dad gently slipped the cups onto her teats.

The farm was dairy with diversifications (they weren't called that in those days). Potatoes for direct sale, Christmas poultry; one third direct, the rest to a wholesale butcher and just about all of them sold before they arrived as chicks, eggs - both deep litter and free range.

One of the kid's jobs was to collect the eggs and as dusk dropped, to go round the pens in the front field checking that the hens were not roosting outside and then, undoing the chain, drop the heavy wooden slide over the bolt hole keeping them safe for the night.

In the daytime, Dad would go round and feed them, checking everything was right. One time, he noticed that the numbers were down in one pen. The loss had been gradual until one morning there were a couple of corpses and a broken slide - he had a suspect! That night, with the slide repaired, he returned with his shotgun and a bag to sit on; he perched in with the hens. Just after midnight the slide rattled. It then rose and a black button nose appeared followed by a black and white face. Dad pulled the trigger. Somewhere that night, a family would go hungry. It was not going to be his!



'Helping my mother make butter' by F. Philip Holland

Op.0423, 24L, 14.09. 2021

Round and round went the barreling churn,
hypnotic in slumping with each revolution.
The precious cream in each swilkering turn
was coaxed to rich butter's golden conclusion.

When the spinning was over, she opened the lid,
where soft magic swam in a watery cloud.
The buttermilk off to the pancheon she slid,
now the alchemy over and both of us proud.

She scooped the softness to pine draining board,
and blended some salt; like a pinch of new snow.
Reaching for 'scotch hands' in larder stored,
then cut a fresh lump from the sun-yellow glow.

Using the skills of dairymaid's treasure,
she formed the new oblongs, each one the same.
Weighed and added to, just for good measure,
the Leek Market buyers trust her good name.

In rhythms passed down from centuries old;
her wooden pats beat 'dee, dum, dum, dee.'
The butter was cast to an ingot of gold,
then crowned with tucks and whorls by me.

On old sandstone thralls in the cellar's dark
the cool, gilded blocks were left to set.
No humming of bees or sweet rising lark
was better than bread and butter well met!

Author's note:

In the early 1950s, when I was around four and five years old, I used to watch and 'help' my mother make butter.

My father kept pedigree Ayrshire dairy cattle on the family farm at "Glutton Grange", Earl Sterndale. Most Wednesday mornings it was my small job to wrap the blocks of butter in grease-proof paper, then put them, together with eggs packed in newspaper (in 'threes') and jars of home-made lemon curd, into huge brown leather bags ready to go to the weekly butter market at Leek, Staffordshire.

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Derbyshire Home from Hospital Support Service



The Derbyshire Home from Hospital Service provides practical support for vulnerable people leaving hospital, or those living at home but at risk of being admitted. The service is provided by a combination of staff and volunteers and is free of charge.

Who can use the service?

Anyone who lives in Derbyshire (outside Derby City) or is registered with a GP in Derbyshire and has limited support from family or friends.

What sort of help does the service offer?

- Undertaking simple shopping
- Making sure the home environment is warm and comfortable
- Arranging for key safes to be fitted and community alarm or telecare systems to be provided if needed
- Supporting people to pay bills and make appointments
- Collecting medication prescriptions
- Helping people to find out about and access community activities to keep them connected to their communities

- Helping people to understand care options and plan what they need for the future
- Signposting people to other statutory, voluntary sector and community organisations as appropriate.

Who can make referrals?

Anyone can make a referral including self-referrals.

How to make a referral:

Please call **01283 817417** Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 4.30pm (an answerphone is available outside these hours) or email home@dhfh.org.uk.



Are you a Carer?

Do you look after someone over 17 who could not manage without your help?

You are a Carer if you are looking after someone who:

Has a long term illness, is disabled, is frail, has a learning disability or autism.

They might be a partner, relative, neighbour or a friend.

If so Derbyshire Carers Association is here to help you.

How can we help?

Anyone who provides care on a regular basis has a legal right to a Carer's assessment.

This is an opportunity to discuss what help and support you need to maintain your own health needs and balance caring with other aspects of your life, such as, work and family.

What else do we offer?

- Information, advice and guidance on a range of Carer issues, including practical and emotional support
 - Financial and legal advice and support
- Specialist advice for any health conditions e.g. Dementia, Parkinson's disease and Mental Health with links to specialist service provision
 - Befriending and Social Connection
- Connecting Carers with other support services across health and social care
 - Advocating for Carers across the health and social care services
 - Signposting to sources of replacement care
 - Help to register as a Carer and create an Emergency Plan
 - Peer support with other Carers to help with wellbeing and resilience
- Access to online and face-to-face groups, training and social activities
 - Carers assessment and support planning
- Social, practical and emotional support for Young Carers and their families

To make a referral to our services please call **01773 833833** or Email: info@derbyshirecarers.co.uk

All of our services are **free** and confidential for Carers supporting a loved one in Derbyshire.

We aim to contact all Carers within three days of receiving a referral.

You can also access our services through our website: www.derbyshirecarers.co.uk

Registered Charity No: 1062777

Contact DRC on 07710 088972

Young'ish' Farmers let their hair down!

Charity night raises £3800 for farming community

Young'ish' farmers from across the Peak District and surrounding area were given the chance to relive their youth at a charity event back in August.

Organisers Nick and Felicity Gilman of Warslow (Staffordshire) hosted the party night at The Winking Man pub in Upper Hulme on Friday 20th August in support of The Farming Community Network and The Farming Life Centre. It was intended to emulate the popular Young Farmers Club (YFC) parties which often take place at the same venue, but aimed at older farmers who still enjoy a good night out despite no longer being members of the YFC.

Nick, who comes into contact with lots of farming and rural families through his business N Gilman Livestock Fencing, explained: "When we were in lockdown and I went onto a farm or to suppliers, people would comment about wanting a good night out like when they were in YFC. I just thought, why not do something and give back to the farming community? "All the people I spoke to were between 25 and 40; it seemed to be an age group that didn't have any outlets or social events. "It's also apparent that this age group is under a lot of stress - stepping up taking family farms and businesses on, as well as providing for their family and trying to get everything just right."

Due to Covid-19 restrictions being in place until the end of July, Nick and his wife Felicity, whose family farm in Longnor, only had a few short weeks to organise the event. Felicity added: "The farming community really came together, so thank you to everyone for your support and thank you to everyone that purchased tickets, donated prizes and sold tickets for us. People gave very generously." An impressive £3800 was raised in total, through advance ticket sales as well as a raffle and auction on the night. The money has been split equally and donated to two local charities which work to offer support to farming and rural families in the area.

"The two charities, The Farming Life Centre and The Farming Community Network, seemed the perfect charities to donate the money to. Not only are they charities we can all use at some point, it was about raising awareness so people know that they could turn to them for help and advice.

"Hopefully we can build on this and keep giving back to the community and help others out," said Nick.

Responding to the donation, Alison Rickett of The FCN commented: "We would like to say a huge thank you to Nick and Felicity for planning this event and all the hard work they and their team have put into it, and to all those who supported it magnificently on the night. The money raised will really make a significant difference to the amount of support we can deliver through FCN within the local area, benefitting many more farming families."

Rachel Metcalfe, charity manager for the Bakewell based Farming Life Centre, added: "After a challenging year for all, the Young'ish' Farmers night was a great success and much needed for people to reconnect with their friends and let their hair down.

"The Farming Life Centre is so grateful to have received a very generous donation from proceeds of the event. This will be invaluable in helping us to keep providing our services to support the farming and rural communities across the Peak District."



(left to right): Joseph Critchlow, Felicity Gilman and Nick Gilman presenting the proceeds to Peter Hardy (FCN), Lorna Critchlow (FLC) and Graham Ashford (FCN).

An interview with Rev'd Jane Legh by Rev'd Stella Mills (Rural Chaplain)



1. How has farming been a part of your life?

After graduating with a degree in botany with a particular interest in crop diseases, I took a job in the Soil Science department of ADAS (Agriculture Development and Advisory Service) then part of the Ministry of Agriculture in Reading. In addition to taking soil samples, we made regular visits to Bridget's Experimental Husbandry Farm in Hampshire to monitor trial plots, for example, to determine optimum applications of fertiliser for particular crops and soil types. As a child I wanted to be a farmer, but I did not expect this ambition to be realised until I married a land agent and landowner. We came to Derbyshire in 1979 having set up a dairy herd and I became actively involved in the farm business when we added a sheep flock a few years later, and I enjoyed taking my turn at lambing.

2. What drew you to becoming a priest?

I became a lay reader in 2005. Others then encouraged me to consider ordination and having been accepted I trained at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham alongside Methodists and members of other Christian denominations.

3. How does farming relate to your being a rural minister of the Anglican Church?

Whereas farming families no longer predominate in our parishes they are still at the heart of our rural communities. We consciously remember our farmers at Harvest Festival, but Plough Sunday and Lammas are further opportunities to connect farming with our worship. Jesus often used agricultural examples in his parables: seedtime and harvest, shepherds and vineyard workers were among the images he employed. These themes are perhaps more readily understood in rural communities than in urban ones, because they are visible. Pastoral work is about trying to be a shepherd and listening to the needs of the flock. When I became a priest, I had increasingly to exchange my pastoral duties from a sheep flock to a human one.

4. Has it been helpful in your ministry to have a farming background?

I believe I am able to understand some of the challenges facing our farming communities and therefore can listen and talk to farmers with understanding and trust.

5. How has farming changed during your lifetime?

My earliest recollection of farming was during summer holidays spent with my aunt and uncle in Ireland in the 1950s and watching a small herd of Ayrshires being milked by hand. Up to the 1980s farmers were still chasing maximum yields and generous grants were given for drainage schemes to disperse excess water into streams and rivers as quickly as possible. Perversely, with increasingly extreme weather events due to global warming, I read that drains and ditches are now being intentionally blocked and beavers are even being

reintroduced to alleviate flooding by slowing flows of water. During and following WW2 maximising home production was essential. Now, home-produced food accounts for an ever-decreasing share of what we eat. We have come to depend on produce from across the world enabling us to eat many fruits, vegetables and meat throughout the year and our fields are now given over to energy crops and solar parks to produce electricity.

6. What are the main issues you have encountered amongst farmers in the last five years or so?

For dairy farmers TB is still the major threat. The prevention of moving stock from the holding except for slaughter and the interruption to breeding programmes has cash flow consequences as well as bringing on mental health anxieties. Sadly, there is an increasing divide between farmers and some visitors to the countryside. Not all realise that fields, lanes, and gateways are a farmer's place of work, and some people can be threatening when asked to move. The year 1989 was designated national 'Food and Farming Year'; the intention was that every schoolchild would be encouraged to visit a farm, often through school visits, enabling them to understand better the origin of the food they ate and took for granted. It is surely time for another such initiative!

7. How do you see the countryside changing in the future?

Global warming can no longer be denied and is affecting our seasonal weather. In this country relatively warm winters, dry cold springs and extreme downpours of summer rain is affecting harvests and the choice of crops we can grow. With the focus turning to water storage, wildlife habitats and a reduction in carbon emissions, I can foresee greater areas devoted to woodland and uncultivated areas. For some this may mean devoting smaller areas to intensive food production, for others it may mean 'extensifying' with lower stocking rates or reduced yields, but of higher quality. I think lower levels of animal feedstuffs should be imported from abroad, such as soya to feed cattle, or timber to fuel boilers. I find the prospect of producing protein from bacteria, or animal protein synthesised in a factory, hard to imagine but the technology is not far from being developed.

8. Do you have a message for farmers today?

They could perhaps think how to make agricultural jobs more fulfilling in order to encourage new entrants to join the industry, and it is no longer appropriate for farmers necessarily to assume that their own sons or daughters will leave school early and return to the family farm. I see that more and more farm work is conducted by contractors in a hurry using ever larger machinery: is this wise? Farmers are used to managing change, more so than they are given credit for, and I have no doubt they will rise to the challenges we face today.



Helpful Contact Numbers for Advice & Support



Struggling and not sure where to turn?



- We understand the pressures you face
- Don't face them alone
- **Freephone Helpline:**
- **0808 281 9490**



Through just one phone call, farmers in need can access free, impartial and confidential support from all four charities:

**RABI, Addington Fund, FCN, and Forage Aid.
Call 03000 111 999**

Helpline (operated by FCN) open 7am-11pm every day of the year



Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. We're here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**Call FREE from any phone on 116 123
or email jo@samaritans.org**

Rural Safety & Crime Prevention

Derbyshire Constabulary takes the approach that a rural crime is a crime that takes place in a rural location and includes:

- Farm and agricultural related crime: theft of, or damage to plant vehicles, equipment or livestock
- Wildlife and environmental related crime: animal cruelty, poaching, badger baiting, killing or taking of wild birds or damage of protected habitats
- Heritage related crime: theft, damage or removal of articles from historic sites.

The direct contact for the Rural Crime Team is:

DRCT@Derbyshire.Police.UK or

**via the Derbyshire Rural Crime Team Facebook page or
Messenger**

www.derbyshire.police.uk/ContactUs

*Please note the email address and Facebook page are not monitored 24/7
and therefore should not be used for crime reporting*

You can download a copy of the Derbyshire Rural Safety and Crime Prevention Guide from the following locations:

- Derbyshire Constabulary website: <https://bit.ly/3ildka7>
- Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service website: <https://bit.ly/3t0knjx>

Emergency: 999 Non-emergency: 101

Contact DRC on 07710 088972

A cut-out-and-keep tractor prayer



A Boundary Prayer by Rev'd Stephen F Caddy

Loving God,

In the Bible it tells how at creation you set the limits
or boundaries of the sea so that the earth would be safe
and marked out for new life on the land.
You set out the places and paths of the stars.

At this time I have been reflecting on your work by setting out
and repairing the boundaries of farm and field.
Thank you for the sense of familiarity the walls, hedgerows,
fences or ditches give, shaping my view and my life.
Thank you that there is finally time to get around to these
tasks after the busyness of other seasons.

Thank you for your gift of the co-ordination of hand and eye.
Give me the sense of a worthwhile task well done.
Grant me patience when the work seems irksome and
serenity when I can happily get on with the task in hand.

Where the barrier is to keep livestock in, keep them safe
from harm. Where these lines enable wildlife of all kinds to
flourish help me to value the conservation of nature and the
stewardship of life in which I'm engaged.

Amen.



Contact DRC on 07710 088972

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