



### A Change of Season...

*'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.'* (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Dear Friends

There is a definite nip in the air! My thermal vest is on, the woolly hats and scarfs are being regularly aired, the electric blanket is a nightly friend and when out and about I have noticed I walk quicker and have developed a 'huddled' pose.

Everyone told me that it would be colder 'up north' and they were not wrong, this soft-bellied southerner is feeling the cold. However, the warmth of the wonderful Yorkshire folk has been amazing and more than makes up for the weather, so 'thank you' for accepting this Cornish lass, along with her hubby and dog into your midst.

Change is never easy, most of us face it all the time, but adjusting to new people, new places, new situations, new ways of doing things, still takes time, and your gracious welcome is hugely appreciated.

Together we now march full steam into the season of Advent and Christmas, the darkest time of the year when the smallest of lights can raise our spirits and put a bounce back in our step. Coming from an area of the country where streetlights were in abundance and there was no need to carry a torch, I have re-discovered that feeling of wonder when out and about on foot in the dark that having a torch at the ready elicits. Suddenly, by the act of turning on the torch and seeing the light shine out ahead of me, I feel safer, warmer and happier – strange but true.

I can't help wondering how those first shepherds on the hillside felt when they saw the glorious light of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus, the light of the world? Surely their lives were never the same again? Darkness can come in many forms, and we can find ourselves in darkness suddenly or when we least expect it, but light can and does bring hope.

So, as we step into the darkest and coldest time of our year, may the light of Christ transform us.

God Bless You all. *Rev Melanie*

### News from Scorton

The children from Monday Club took part in this year's Harvest Service at Scorton Chapel. The All Age Worship was led by Rev Phil Clarke with Ethan, Theo and Harry performing a very funny sketch about their shopping choices. Poppy and Ruby sang songs as gifts were brought to the harvest table. Afterwards everyone enjoyed lunch together in the hall.

All the gifts were donated to Richmond food bank and a donation was made to All We Can.



### News from Leyburn

The Co-op is well known for its support of local causes and this year Middleham and Spennithorne Primary Schools also received grants to update their library facilities. On 23 November we were given the opportunity to thank the customers for their support. We were also able to publicise some of the forthcoming events at the church and hall as well as introducing Melanie to more

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Do you enjoy the newsletter ? Have a story or any photographs that you would like to include in the next newsletter?

Please contact: Julie Greenslade on 01969 663878 or email: [julie@cornerhousewb.co.uk](mailto:julie@cornerhousewb.co.uk)

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### Looking for a Speaker for a Church Fellowship Meeting?

Brian Davis is an official speaker for Open Doors. Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and Churches worldwide. Brian is happy to give talks or visual presentations. If you would like to know more or book Brian, you can contact him on tel: 01969 666876.

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### Chasing the wind across Britain – Kevin Pellatt

It is September 2018 watching my son cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats on the annual 'Deloitte Ride Across Britain' and I was thinking; I could do this next year. How difficult can it be to ride 980 miles in nine days on a pedal cycle? 120 miles at most in a day and 12 hours in which to finish. Time also for photo and food stops and experience the scenery Britain has to offer; it could even be fun.

A few days later I was reading a commentary on Ecclesiastes that suggested life was not "all meaningless and chasing after wind", we have our God given 'lot'.

"This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labour under the sun during the few days of life God has given them – for this is their lot. Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil – this is a gift of God" Ecclesiastes 4:18-19

We have "few days of our life" and soon I would be too old for such a venture and a gift I've been given is one where I could laboriously pedal a bike. My friend Trevor has been denied that choice; he lives with Motor Neurone Disease, which affects the nerves that control movement so muscles gradually die. It strikes about one person in 300 and demands every minute of the day support from family and friends. There is no cure and it kills a third of people within a year and the majority within two years of diagnosis.

I decided then I would sign up for the Ride Across Britain in 2019 have fun and try and raise £2019 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA).

The ride would be nine days, the journey there a lot longer; the official training routine began in November; and after ten months of riding around the Dales into, rather than chasing, the wind, rain and sometimes sun, together with 999 riders in groups of 20, I set off from Land's End.

The 'scenic', meaning 'hilly', route took us past St Michael's Mount, up Cheddar Gorge, along the Wye valley, through the busy roads between Liverpool and Manchester, it criss-crossed the M6 arriving at the midway point in Milnthorpe for lunch on the fifth day. We continued our undulating route through Crook O'Lune, up and over Shap, Carlisle, Edinburgh, across the Forth road bridge, through Perth before the long climb to Glenshee ski centre and the exhilarating drop down into Braemar. The left turn near Balmoral took us up some right royal climbs onto the Cairngorms. The penultimate day was the most challenging, nearly 120 miles it saw us climb up 'The Lecht' a combination of gradual ascents interspersed with 20% climbs over two and a half miles, to a height of 2105 feet; we dropped down into Grantown on Spey the heart of whisky country. I don't recall when the rain started nor when it became apparent that the tail end of

hurricane Dorian had been unleashed, suffice to say our substantial travelling toilet blocks were rocking that night. The organisers claimed this day to be one of the most "epic, epic, days in the ten year history of the ride." The wind continued from the North West on the final day, making grim the miles over the exposed moorland road past Crask Inn to Altnaharra. The only shelter was the cyclist in front and to stop pedalling would be to stop. We longed to turn East at Bettyhill and run along the 60 miles of undulating coast road to the finish at John O'Groats.

When we arrived the sun was out, and the sky was blue, and the wind was freezing; I wasn't the only one longing to be away from there as quickly as possible. This 'Deloitte Ride Across Britain' will go down in the annals as 'The windy one'. We didn't ride in vain though. Through the generosity of friends, family, church groups and neighbours over £4000 without gift aid has been raised. This should help people to partake in research studies to better understand and find a cure for Motor Neurone Disease; let's hope they find satisfaction in their toilsome labour.

If you want to donate the please visit [www.virginmoneygiving/kevinpellatt](http://www.virginmoneygiving/kevinpellatt) or contact Kevin at [kevpellatt@hotmail.com](mailto:kevpellatt@hotmail.com)

