

# Momentum

The newsletter of the  
Scargill Movement

Issue 21 Christmas 2020



**Scargill Movement**

Lives shared, lives transformed

## Dear Friends,

Welcome to our special bumper edition of Momentum. Plenty to read with thoughtful and heartfelt articles from the wider Scargill Community, a silly caption competition and something for younger Scargillians. I'm very grateful for everyone's contribution which gives a mosaic of the challenges we are facing in this pandemic as well as bringing some hope and light to what will be a challenging winter.

I love the Psalms – they speak of our reality, how we feel, and the majority are voiced to God who is the one who can bring hope and transformation. They are a bold act of faith and they allow us to voice our complaint to God for it is right to bring every part of life under His blessing. This might not change the reality but can bring hope. I think I surprised some of the Community the other day when at midday prayers I voiced my anger to God about how this virus was destroying lives: those suffering and dying in hospital with COVID-19; those unable to have other treatments as hospitals are overwhelmed; people living in isolation where human touch and contact is minimal. We have been separated from family and friends and people are incredibly anxious about their livelihoods and our freedoms have been curtailed. The pandemic is attritional, it is a wearing down and corrosive, and it makes me angry. Afterwards I felt good and somehow I was aware that God's anger about the whole situation was greater than mine. It reminded me that praying for the world is participating in the heart of God.

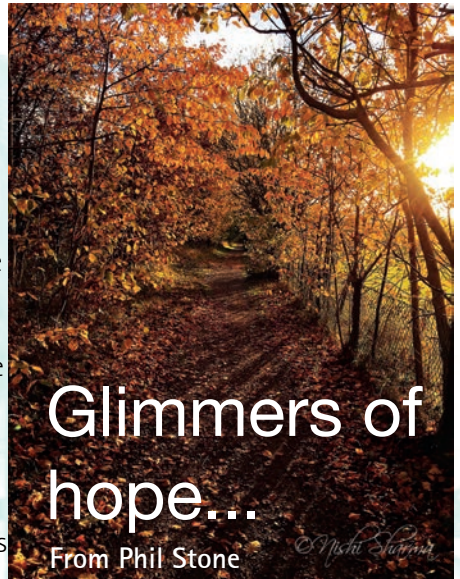
The Advent season reminds us that we live in the 'now and not yet', accepting the world as it is now but grasping hold of God's lifegiving possibilities for the future. Advent is about an active waiting, it's not passive like waiting for the bus to come. God calls us to be active, to bring the future into the present. I'm sure within this terrible pandemic we have all experienced glimmers of God's glory through kindness and people being lovingly attentive to us. God invites us to be people of hope, not to be shallow optimists who say 'It's going to be OK' but a hope that is constant whatever circumstances life throws at us, and this Advent hope is not something we can conjure up but is gifted to us through the Spirit. There's no doubt that this winter is going to be a dark one but let's always remember that the Light has mugged the darkness. "Arise, shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you" – Isaiah 60:1.



*Paul*



As I write this in the middle of November, 'Lockdown' has been declared the word of the year for 2020 by Collins Dictionary after a sharp rise in its usage during the pandemic. Well – I don't think it would be my word of the year; something more guttural and down to earth comes to mind. Yet although there have been some dark, confusing, 'not sure what we are here for' sort of days, without the gift of guests (they help us to behave a little better) we have had to learn to live more lovingly as a Community. There have been tensions and fallings out, forgiveness, saying sorry, tears and laughter, and beautiful moments where we share the privilege of being a Community during this time. One of our pathway promises is 'being open to the ingenious creativity of the Holy Spirit', and I am so grateful to members of Community who have truly responded in ways of making life not just bearable but life-giving. As Anne Frank wrote, 'In the long run the sharpest weapon of all is to be a kind and gentle spirit. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong again.'



Pic: Nishi Sharma LSP Event Media

Going deeper...

Our rhythm of prayer has really held us, a bit like glue, and it has kept me going especially when I have not really wanted to pray. Our prayers in the evening, where we read a Psalm and spend time in silence before God, have been some of our most precious times. I am beginning to agree with St John of the Cross who said, 'Silence is God's first language', and Thomas Keating added, 'Everything else is a poor translation.' I think I get that. One thing we have tried to do is to stay as connected to the wider Scargill family as possible, and to learn how to deepen our prayer for people – it truly has been a privilege to pray for many of you.

Going bravely forward...

It would be so easy to withdraw during these disorientating days. Hiding under the duvet cover eating chocolate seems appealing if not a bit messy but God is calling us to adventure, an invitation to be creative, to leave the familiar behind and to seek new horizons – and it will be risky. The Christmas story is a risky adventure for all involved including God, as Bruce Cockburn sings 'redemption rips through the surface of time in the cry of a tiny babe.' We have been exploring how to connect with you through the wonder of the internet, (unchartered territory for us!) and we warmly invite you join us until the day we can joyfully welcome you once again into our doors.

(See page 20 for more details of Scargill's online programme.)

# Locked down Scargill estate

From Ivan De Visme

In early March, the plants finally stirred after the long winter sleep and, blessed with a full Estate team, we looked forward to gardens blooming, woodland flowers peeking through the carpets of leaf mulch and twigs, and the sounds and fleeting sights of the animals who inhabit the Scargill woods.

As COVID-19 reared its ugly head and our usually full house abruptly emptied, amid the obvious disappointments, some unexpected bonuses appeared. Blessed with some time to appreciate the wonders of Spring, many members of the community were able to wander the woodland paths and garden walkways and enjoy the almost daily changes as Spring arrived in full flow. The normally elusive deer became ever bolder and eventually looked inquisitively at people from just a few metres away. Fawns were spotted regularly, and even red squirrels and surprisingly a very healthy looking fire salamander (not a native of the UK) made their appearance this year. The weather allowed for abundant growth and the lesser spotted John Deere was frequently observed grazing on the Chapel lawn or camping field.



Fire salamander

With the arrival of the coronavirus came the furlough scheme and this resulted in a wholesale change of the Estate team personnel. All the members of the Community recruited via the UK borders scheme were suddenly thrust into gardening, fence and path construction, strimming, glade clearance, house maintenance and so forth and just a few of those tasks in the 'round to it' category were finally got around to! The generous watering of the Scargill grounds via the creaking pipework of the ancient spaghetti-like system we are blessed with came under control and new paths, glades and benches appeared in the woods. Phil and Di's dog Ozzy's repeated interpretations of 'The Great Escape' prompted some new fences around some of the community accommodation too and in the garden, paths were re-laid and plants lovingly tended. Some decoration and less urgent repairs to the main house saw the light of day too as well as the inevitable roof patches, electrical and plumbing fixes.

In short, whilst there have been many frustrations associated with the lockdown, the time for Community to enjoy and follow the progression of the seasons in this beautiful setting has been a great blessing. Our hearts go out to those many, many people who have not enjoyed such a beautiful part of God's creation over these last eight or so months and we do hope and pray that Scargill will, very soon, again be able to share this with many people.



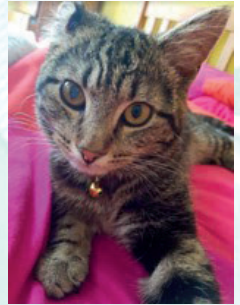
# Welcome!

## Introducing the Leigh family

Almost a year after being interviewed at Scargill, we're delighted that we're here! We've been associated with Scargill for many years, first coming here on a church weekend, then getting to know Scargill better when our older daughter Hattie joined community for a gap year, and now having the opportunity to live here ourselves.



**Mike, Alison, Chloe...  
..and Neville**



Mike has been a parish priest in Scarborough for the last 14 years and through that time has developed many aspects of his ministry, becoming known locally as the 'singing vicar'! His background of singing with Opera North is something which feeds into many areas of his ministry, and most recently his 'Singing for the Soul' groups offered opportunities for people of any age and ability to find their voices. Mike loves getting out and about on his bike, eating fish and chips and walking in the Lake District. He has joined Community as Chaplain.

Alison tested positive for COVID-19 shortly after arriving, so got to experience the kindness and generosity of Community while she recovered. Doorstep gifts of chocolate, honey and lemons, fresh bread and even a wheelbarrow full of logs for the fire, made her recovery faster! Before coming to Scargill she worked part time as a teaching assistant in a primary school, part time as a carer and ran weekly music groups for pre-school children and their families. She likes to garden, bake bread and have big bonfires. Alison will be taking on the role of admin team leader from Michyla in December.

Chloe hadn't really planned on having a gap year at Scargill, but when it became apparent that her Ecology and Conservation degree at Lancaster University wasn't going to bear any relation to what it was before COVID-19, she decided to come along and join community for the year too. She loves to read, sing, play her flute and go for walks. Chloe is joining the kitchen team.

Also part of the Leigh family are Piccolo and Neville the cats (some of you may have met Neville online through our now infamous 'Tea Parties' during lockdown where he rather stole the show!) and Jeremy Cheesecake the hamster. We can't wait to see what adventures are waiting for us as we live life as part of the Scargill Community.

# Every life matters

From Bridget...

Our dog Lucy used to become wildly excited within ten miles of Kettlewell, and I know many of you have felt the same (hopefully not leaping up and down and slobbering over the back window of the car!). We too have missed Scargill incredibly.

What have I missed most? The chapel, the only house of worship where I walk through the door, take a deep breath and know I'm home. The walled garden, sadly blooming unseen by me for months. Meeting another group of guests, many of whom have become friends. Praying in the Marsh Lounge. And, of course, precious time with Community. Mostly, I miss ordinary, everyday things. Cramming into the Sun Lounge before meals, responding like Pavlov's dogs to the bell announcing food! Moaning about pillows. Talking and laughing at breakfast over endless toast and coffee. Telling each other we shouldn't eat cake as we eat cake. Finding quiet corners to hear life-stories that reflect heroism and stoicism I can only gasp at.

In the first lockdown we witnessed the virtual creation of a new-style rich list, celebrated noisily on doorsteps every Thursday: NHS staff, carers, cleaners, refuse collectors, shop assistants, delivery men, all on our hero list. Even those obediently locking down became 'local heroes'. Then the invisible became visible. Bereavement. Abuse. Dementia. Frailty. Vulnerable children. Poverty. Cramped living. Homelessness. We wanted to hear from those with close experience. What made them tick? Top of our list for dinner guests. Later, plunged into the 'Black Lives Matter' campaign, we were rightly made to reflect on extraordinary blindness and selfish treatment now and throughout history.

Jesus was there before us. From the moment he stood in the synagogue after returning from his desert trials, and quoted Isaiah, he was committed to announcing to the privileged that all lives matter. The forgotten, the outsiders, the vulnerable. Ordinary people. Ordinary lives. And he didn't leave it there. Both in the way he lived his life and the stories he told, Jesus rams home an inescapable truth, that the feast of heaven will not offer a top table reserved for those who feel it is their right. So let's celebrate all of it, and us, and them, from the sublime to the ridiculous, now if possible, and definitely when we meet again at Scargill.





## ...and Adrian Plass

Yes, all lives matter. Everything matters. Many are struggling to access a faith that seems even more important, but less easy to grasp. I am one of those, and here is what I did. It is essentially an act of imagination, but it might help to gain a clearer picture of where we are with our faith, as opposed to impositions, however benevolent, by convention or habit or previous teaching. So, please join me in my virtual kitchen. I am filling a giant sieve.



First, in goes the Bible, every word, bits I like, bits I don't like, bits I don't believe, bits that mean the world to me. In it goes, Genesis to Revelation. Next, every church I've known. Churches that do what they should, churches that don't seem to even want to do what they should, and everything in between. No exceptions. In they all go. Now I add my experiences, good and bad, of Christians I have known (including myself), all the books I've read (or written), and a lifetime of yearning and excitement, and ecstasy and despair. Finally, in go the prowling shadows of virus and lockdowns and associated doom-laden scenarios. They try to stick to my hands, but just for now those big boys are going in whether they like it or not.

And then (a pleasure) I clench two easy-to-use handles and give the thing a good shaking. Shake, shake, shake! All the tasteless, ugly lumps of disappointment and confusion and bad experience and anything else that won't go through the holes must stay in the sieve. Now, I pour the stuff that made it through the fine mesh into a blender, switch on, and create a puree. Tip a measure carefully into a wine glass, and take a tiny, experimental sip. This is the surviving essence of my entire Christian experience, especially, categorically my very own.

So, what flavours did I detect? Well, the distillation of my experience of God was not bland, thank goodness. I detected a distinct, strong flavour of kindness, and a fresh, attractive blend of truth and smiling flexibility. Perhaps, amazingly, a tantalising taste of what orthodoxy might actually mean when we understand it as a relationship of love. Finally, I happily record that the dominant flavour of my purée is, and continues to be - Jesus. Just as well perhaps, because there is a slight, undeniable after-taste of fear and uncertainty. Have a try yourself. Good luck. You might be surprised.

# Living with limitations

**From Bishop Chris Edmondson, Chair of the Scargill Movement Council**

As I write this in early November, among the many unknowns we're living with, none of us have any idea of how we're going to be celebrating Christmas this year. It won't be in the 'usual' ways, whatever that means for each of us. This brings with it an enormous sense of sadness, on top of the many other losses we've been living with since the end of March. And yet as I reflect on this, I've been reminded of the many Christmases I've spent in prison.... Yes, I thought that might wake you up!!



When I was Bishop of Bolton, I had oversight of, and gave support to the chaplaincy teams of the three prisons in the Diocese of Manchester. Over Christmas, including sometimes on Christmas Day, I spent time in one of those prisons. Christmas in prison - for the inmates and staff- is a very different experience from the tinsel, trimmings and trappings of what this festival of Christ's birth has become. But what struck me at the time is how the lived experience of the prisoners connected with what we call 'the Christmas story', and relates to how we are having to approach Christmas 2020.

As a reminder, Mary and Joseph were: isolated and separated from loved ones; vulnerable in a number of ways; in an inhospitable environment; limited in their movements. To put it another way, they were 'incarcerated for the incarnation', and Christmas 2020 is likely to feel like that for some, if not all of us. Doesn't this take us to the very heart of what the incarnation is? God, in the person of Jesus, for our sakes accepting the ultimate limitation in becoming human. In these words of St. Paul 'When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity, and took on the status of a slave, became human'. (Philippians 2: 7: The Message).

As I wrap up a Christmas word (!), I want to say a huge thank you to the leadership and members of the community at Scargill, for the way in which they have not let the limitations of these last months stop them fulfilling the vision of 'Lives shared, lives transformed, with Jesus at the centre'. They massively miss having guests around, as we miss not being able to be there. But we're still very much in business, albeit virtually. Pray God, after this current enforced 'incarceration', in the words of the prayer of blessing used before we leave Scargill, it won't be too long before we're able to be 'welcomed once again into their doors'. Meanwhile, may God bless and keep you in his love and care this Christmas time, and once again, a heartfelt thank you for your continuing prayerful and practical support.



# On the Front Line

News from some of our Working Friends in the medical profession

**Helen Rawsthorne works as a GP in the Northwest and as an Academic in Liverpool Medical school.**

I have the privilege of being a GP. The changes I've seen in 30 years seem small in comparison to those since March. Primary care has changed its model to respond to the needs to protect patients and ourselves. This means the majority of GP consultations are either by e-consultation, telephone or video rather than face-to-face or home visits. Surgery consultations and home visits are both in PPE, socially distanced and reserved for situations when no other method will suffice. It's been a struggle for everyone within our practice's teams, practically and emotionally, as we respond to the pandemic challenges and change the way we consult with patients.



A typical pre-pandemic consultation might be the lady who tells me she has 'arthritic knees'. It transpires that she really wants to talk about her loneliness since being widowed. Or the new Mum who wants to have a 'chat about my baby' and get some reassurance that she is being a Good Mum. I miss them both. Difficult conversations, by necessity, are often fielded outside the face-to-face environment and this is hard for the health care professionals and even harder for our patients and loved ones. Mental health is a big issue. Many patients experience the strain of financial difficulties, loss of livelihood, isolation and fear of infection and seek medical help for relief. There is the usual non COVID-19 illness and a number of people whose treatment has been delayed .

The occupational hazard of infection is something we accept and minimize. My unexpected COVID-19 illness in October has reframed my own perspective. There is optimism, as we see improvement in treatment for the seriously ill in hospital, such as dexamethasone and trials of new vaccines, including selected patients being vaccinated from December.

Our faith teaches us that no matter how dire the situation, we must never give up hope. My prayer requests for my colleagues and myself are:

- For stamina as we anticipate working this way for the long haul.
- For compassion towards everyone we work with as well as our patients.
- To keep on trusting God, and to be courageous rather than fearful. He won't leave or forsake us. Joshua 1:5

# On the Front Line (cont.)

**Catherine Smith is a Companion, Working Friend and an intensive care Sister.**

COVID-19 has turned my working world upside down. Our bed base has become four times normal and, during Wave 1, annual leave was cancelled – 21 weeks with no time off is no fun. Nor is full PPE. It's like being wrapped up like a cucumber and left in a hot car. You melt! PPE and social distancing also make talking difficult, especially about emotions. We have to stay strong to support staff who were out of their depth, and have some difficult conversations remotely, acutely aware of the emotions of not being with a relative as they die. But we have to keep going. With Wave 2, we are increasing our capacity again. In some ways, it's worse the second time around: we know what's coming and we haven't recovered from Wave 1. But it's also better: we have more equipment, more knowledge about treatments and are closer to finding a vaccine. The world has changed, but change can be good as well as bad: Scargill had to close to be reborn!

Prayer has taken a back seat - I've just been too tired - but God has never let go of me, of us. Some colleagues have contracted COVID; to date they have all recovered but many in my profession have not. What keeps me going is knowing that I am held in your prayers and that God understands. Receiving an occasional text or letter is a real boost. I've often asked if I was still in the right place but it's always felt right to stay, to be His hands on the inside. Until we meet again in the beautiful hills of Yorkshire, may God give you all you need to keep going. Love Catherine.

**Deb Roberts, a nurse in Liverpool, is now working as a lecturer/tutor on the nursing course at John Moores University. As a Scargill Companion, she was involved with the Resurrected Scargill from the beginning as a kitchen shift worker, guest and Working Friend. She regards Scargill as home and can't wait to be back.**



During the first wave, I was asked to write for our church 'Lockdown Stories' initiative. I finally produced a poem, which appeared raw and dark compared to what others wrote about new hobbies and closer relationships. Still it went in – albeit at the very back.

In Pandemic Part 1, as a Registered Nurse I was awaiting the call to return to practice. As a Lecturer on a large Nursing programme in Liverpool, I had – and still have – the responsibility of supporting student nurses. My friends and relatives remain on the front line of healthcare delivery. My lodger returned home and I was living alone and so faced with myself as my poem recounts. However, over time the struggle and emotional lows gave way to peace, strength and a firmer heart-felt foundation. Scargill's Forums

**Continued next page**



and Quiet Days have been the cleft in the rock as His glory passes by (Exodus 33 v 22); the Thin Place 'Zoomed in'. A trusted reality that centred and equipped me in my inner examination. The last decade with Scargill 'Reborn' has been a never ending process of healing, and bringing me face to face with God's radical and unavoidable love (Scargill certainly does what it says on the tin!).

However, over Lockdown 1, God coaxed me into considering my future, the time for patching up wounds being complete. The Pandemic has created a lifestyle that I would not have chosen but the breathing space in the summer was very welcome. I had times of rejoicing in social re-engagement. I visited Lindisfarne on retreat which confirmed I was no longer on emotional shaky ground. I could once more embrace the Celtic Spirituality I am drawn to and participate in meditation practices.

So Lockdown Part 1 brought unexpected blessings of inner strength, connection and clarity. As we deal with Lockdown Part 2, I suppose many of us feel better equipped but that doesn't stop our feelings of uncertainty and fear. I feel I have some well-established insights and know I am safe and strengthened: Isaiah 41:10. Solitude is my practice now: essential to my relationship with Him which gives me joy, and ensuring the ability to minister to my family, students and church. I would go as far as to say I consider myself a Desert Mother, if reluctantly, as God has brought much transformation. I can hold each past and present difficulty with respect, as in accepting and observing my life events, I allow Him to shape my clay.

### Deb's poem

I haven't known how to pray.  
I've forgotten to pray about  
the desperate suffering in refugee camps,  
the personal tragedies  
and search for a vaccine  
and Stop the Virus.  
I've been exhausted without reason,  
crying without... season.  
Crying for myself,  
for the healthcare workers,  
the social care workers, moving in without a day off  
or hope of going home.  
I've broken my heart over friends' parents dying alone,  
being cared for without support,  
desperate times of complete isolation,  
an irreverent fear of being around others,  
for fathers reveling in disconnection because it means  
they don't have to try.  
I've been faced with myself,  
pleased to learn more,  
desolate at what I've found  
and rejoicing that You are using this time to rebuild me.  
Nothing is wasted.  
No moment without You  
and all to live for.

I know the plans I have for you.



# Scargill Star Challenge

Have you got what it takes  
to be a Scargill Star?

Grab a dice and some  
counters and give it a go!

To earn your next turn,  
complete the challenge that  
matches the colour of star  
you land on.

We know you're a star—now  
is the chance to prove it!



19  
draw your  
favourite animal



20



21



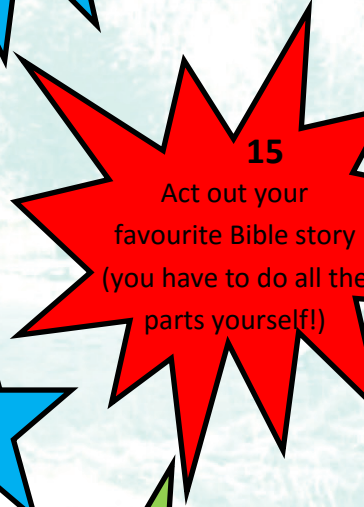
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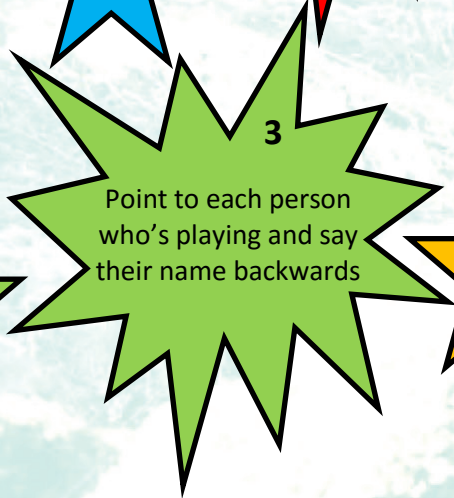
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16



15  
Act out your  
favourite Bible story  
(you have to do all the  
parts yourself!)



3  
Point to each person  
who's playing and say  
their name backwards



Start



1

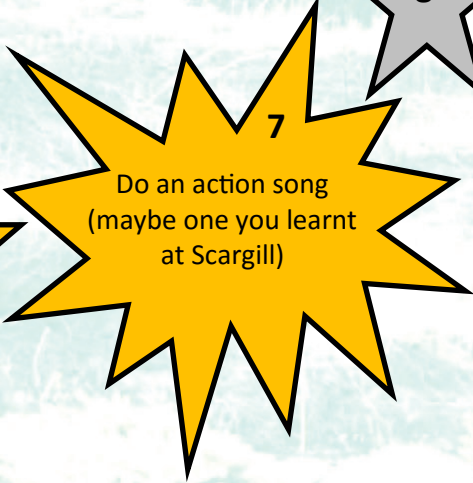
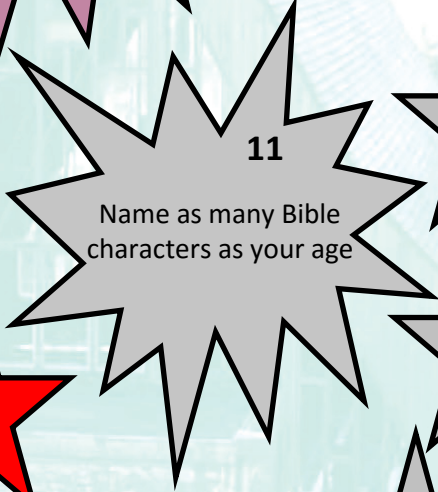


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4





# *Joy to the world!*

## **From Di Stone**

Scargill continues, yet again, to resurrect itself and this time we're going 'High Tech'!! We've had to embrace Zoom, online forums and teaching, invest in new equipment, training, and in new ways of being community, of offering hospitality and a warm welcome with fun and laughter whether in person or on-line. We've learned anew that we are one community whenever and however we meet: community resident, Working Friend, Companion, guest or visitor. Together, we're trying to make sense of the world and navigate its fears and challenges. Yes, I have at times felt anger, doubt, fear and anxiety of the unknown. But I've also looked back over the last few months and found that I am thankful. Thankful that I have visited all my family, that I can write my reflections which give me life, that I can swim, and will again in a few weeks, that I am not alone, that I live within a loving and supportive community, that the colours of autumn lighten my heart and that the dark evenings remind me of walking home from school with the shop, street and home lights hinting of the warmth awaiting. You see, I remain a city girl at heart - but a city girl now with hope, thankfulness and joy in her heart.

I wrote about this joy in one of four Advent talks prepared for 'Refresh Cumbria' on Faith, Joy, Peace and Love linked with the four candles of the Advent Wreath. The second candle reminds us to 'be joyful because of the hope we have in Christ Jesus.' Isaac Watts wrote a well-known hymn 'Joy to the World' not because he lived in easy times, but because he read the Scriptures and had faith in the God of the Bible. This hymn became a Christmas classic because the words are not simply focused on the joy of looking back and celebrating the incarnation: they also encourage us to look forward, to discover the joy we can find by reflecting on our future hope, the second coming of Christ.

This Advent, many of us will not be joining family and friends or going to church. We may be worried about where COVID-19 restrictions will lead and perhaps our joy is evaporating. Isaac Watts' hymn encourages us to always have the praise of God on our hearts and our lips, to sing songs of the Saviour and his rule and reign. Perhaps instead of singing we could read again the song of Mary which magnifies and rejoices in the mercy of God, Zechariah's song of prophecy that Jesus would fulfill God's promise, the angels' song pronouncing the coming of Christ, or Simeon's prayer declaring that he can depart in peace now that his eyes have seen the coming of the Christ. Romans 12 reminds us to 'be joyful' because we have hope. Hope in our God of yesterday, today and forever. So let us rejoice as we look back on what God has done for us through the incarnation, and rejoice as we look forward to what God has promised in the future. God's Joy is for the world and we are called to be joyful individuals and a joyful people. 'Joy to the world! The Lord has come! Let earth receive her King!'



# The Blessings of Lockdown

I am in the fortunate position of living in a lovely place with plenty of room to myself, so in many ways this time of staying at home has been limiting and inconvenient, but bearable. I know there are many people for whom this is not the case and they quite rightly must long for it to end. But for me it has proved to be a time of counting my blessings and thanking God for them. Like many I've taken the opportunity to learn some new skills and tidy cupboards! I've been able to continue working with the Foodbank and taking part in weekly Zoom meetings with family and friends. I've enjoyed many of the new ways of worshipping online and am excited about how the church is reaching out into our community. But first and foremost among the blessings has been having the time to embrace the changes that have taken place in my life over the past year since Dave became ill and then died in October 2019.



**Linda Collingwood**

It would have been extremely easy at the start of this year to have lost myself in busyness, as I was due to become a Churchwarden. But this time spent on my own has enabled me to work through and embrace the journey of bereavement. As time has passed I have found myself thinking about what happened and coming before God in prayer, being as honest as I can about how I'm feeling. Fortunately, God can cope with my anger! It's not been an easy process and has often left me in tears. But as I've wrestled with it and tried to draw close to Him, I have found comfort and peace and love coming back to me through Scripture, music, on my walks and through the love of others.

Every time I've thought that the journey is perhaps coming to a close, some everyday occurrence, object, TV programme or anniversary has suddenly brought me up short and the tears flow again. But I continue to try and count this as a blessing, knowing that God is walking through it with me. I picture it as a river flowing beneath the surface which periodically comes to the surface creating a puddle or sometimes a flood. I pray that, when we all emerge from this time, I will find myself in a better place spiritually and emotionally. Still a work in progress, but further on than when I started.

I am now Churchwarden and would welcome your prayers. I am looking forward eagerly to the time when we can all meet together again in fellowship.  
God bless, Linda

# Farewell from Michyla!

I can hardly believe it's been six years since joining the Scargill Community - yet now I find myself on the verge of a new adventure, preparing to leave Scargill in December. There have been many highs and lows over the last six years but I've always loved calling this place home and it will forever be a place of homecoming for me.



I've served no end of meals, written thousands of emails, made more bookings than I could count and led many a quiz and chat show! I've also been in three pantos and have shared this experience with about 130 community members! At the risk of sounding cliché, my time on community has truly been a journey: challenging and broadening my spirituality, introducing me to new ways of worship and liturgies, as well as the beauty of simplicity and silence. I've also begun to learn something deep and profound about the welcome and hospitality of God. I'm thankful to have had the support and space to grow inwardly...and of course the true mark of growth at Scargill is the outward growth - the acquisition of the Scargill Stone. I have excelled here!

So what next? I will be leaving Scargill on December 8th and moving to Whitby where I will join Jackie and Paul Reily as part of the newly formed St. Oswald's Community. It's probably no surprise to those who know me that I'll be looking after the admin there! St. Oswald's is a small retreat house just three miles from the coast where we hope to be a place of welcome and homecoming. In time we will offer catered hospitality and retreats, as well as self-catering options. Although this isn't an easy time to begin a new retreat/hospitality venture, we are living hopefully and trusting God's provision and faithfulness.

Please do keep in touch with us - we'd love to see some friendly Scargill faces as we start this new adventure. (See contact details bottom of next page) More than anything we'd value your prayers for us and for this amazing new opportunity.

I'm sorry that I've not had the opportunity to say goodbye to so many of you in person. I'm truly thankful for the many wonderful people I've met over these six years and I hope our paths will cross once more. Every blessing to you all.



St Oswald's retreat centre



# St. Oswald's: the next leg of the journey

From Paul & Jackie Reily

Many of you will know that we have embarked on an exciting new adventure at St. Oswald's, Whitby. For 20 years it has been the Pastoral centre of the Order of the Holy Paraclete (OHP - where Jocelyn, one of our Council members is the Prioress).

We are 'taking it on' as a venture, with Scargill Movement and OHP working in partnership. Like Scargill, it will have a residential community, sharing life together.



It's smaller than at Scargill (about 25 beds) so a bit quieter; a great place for individual retreats and times to be quiet with God. Eventually we will have a programme (in fact we had one before COVID-19 interrupted it) but there will be fewer group activities than Scargill. However, we aim to have walking holidays exploring the beautiful Yorkshire moors, art and craft weeks (including rug making), Individually Guided Retreats, bread making courses, and some teaching opportunities. We will also be available for small groups to come and follow their own programme. The community has its own rhythm of prayer, endeavouring to put God at the very centre of all that happens.

'Coming home' to God, self, others and creation is at the core of what we believe. We have found the image of table helpful in understanding home-coming: the 'holy' table where we know God, the 'dining table' where we get to know each other over good food, and the 'work' table where we are active (maybe creating, reading or writing, gardening, walking, listening...). Of course, like everyone, we have been affected by the pandemic. The guests and the IGR we had planned for November have had to be cancelled. But we hope to offer self-catering accommodation during December, Christmas and the New Year. And we're looking to start 'catered for' options as soon we are able. We are delighted that Michyla is joining us on this adventure. She is leaving Scargill just before Christmas, and is starting as our third community member in March. St. Oswald's guests will be blessed with the same friendly efficiency as Scargill. Do come and join us for a cup of tea, or stay longer!

**Contact details:** You can sign up to our email list on our website homepage ([www.stoswalds.community](http://www.stoswalds.community)) and follow us on Facebook (@stoswaldscommunity), or telephone: 01947 810496.

# Christmas Crackers

Can you compose better captions for these pictures?  
Send your entries to: [helen@scargillmovement.org](mailto:helen@scargillmovement.org)

1. 'I said, clear off! They're all mine.'
2. And for my next trick.
3. Well, try the udder one then!
4. 'Me?! A bum note??'
5. Owing to slight language difficulties, Benny misunderstands the advice to 'wind down at the end of a busy day.'
6. 'I keep telling you, it's NOT the naughty step. I just like to sit here, OK?'
7. Dave's prayer walk round the labyrinth in Kettlewell churchyard is interrupted when he spots a stone 2mm out of line.
8. 'Are you quite sure we were supposed to dress up for the Council Meeting, Phil?'



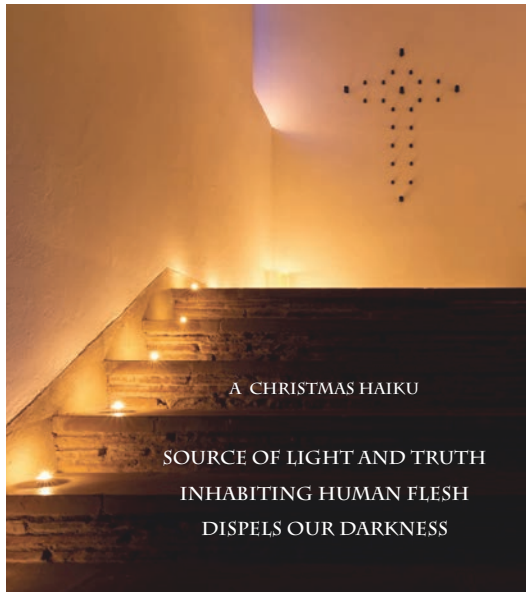
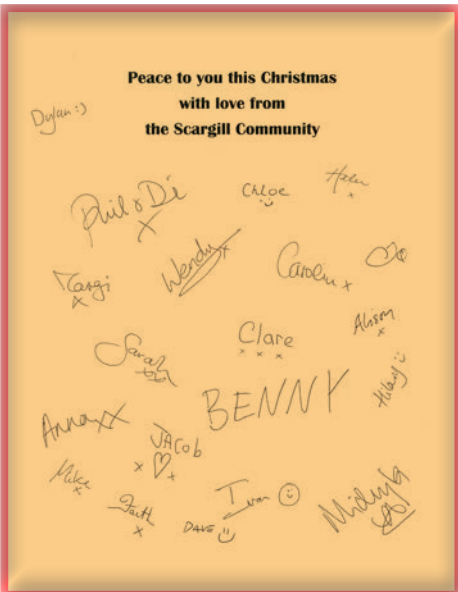




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# Scargill online

## An update from Phil Stone

When, eventually, we are able to welcome you back to Scargill the online programme will continue. I think they now call it a "blended approach". Until that day our online programme is the way that we can connect with you. We are pleased to share with you what we hope to offer in January and February 2021 - this is still a work-in-progress and details of how to book on this will be available on our website as soon as we are able.

"Thank you so much for making this day available to so many. I didn't know whether I'd be able to retreat at home but I'm amazed at how inspired I've been."

- Wed 6 January - Scargill Forum
- Fri 8 & Sat 9 January - Quiet Days (Saturday will be a repeat of Friday)
- Tue 12 to Thu 14 January Epiphany Retreat led by Sam Tredwell. Within this retreat there will be some recorded talks, craft activities, and an opportunity to meet up and pray together over Zoom.
- Fri 15 to Sun 17 January - Companions' Weekend led by the Community
- Tue 19 to Thu 21 January - Redeeming the Present led by Shaun Lambert
- Fri 22 to Sun 24 January - Friends' Weekend led by the Community
- Tue 26 to Fri 29 January - Individually Guided Retreat led by Margi Walker and Team
- Fri 29 to Sun 31 January - Renew Refresh Restore with a Candlemas Theme led by the Community.
- Mon 1 & Sat 6 February - Quiet Days led by Mat Ineson. (Saturday will be a repeat of Monday)
- Tue 2 to Thur 4 February - The Voice and the Silence of God led by Phil Stone and Dave Hopwood
- Wed 10 February - Scargill Forum
- Tue 9 to Fri 12 February - Enneagram 2 led by Margi Walker and Diane Stone

"Thank you so much for today. I have really appreciated the time and space given to me through this quiet day. I eagerly await news of more days like this."

Our morning prayers, Sunday talks and Thursday evening prayers are available on our website. Tuesday teatime parties are livestreamed on Facebook and can also be accessed via the website.

"I just wanted to say thank you for a most enjoyable and worthwhile Quiet Day... It was wonderful to be able to have some Scargill ministry and fellowship, thanks to you and Zoom, and I found the content inspiring and helpful. I'm so glad you are finding such good ways of using the lockdown to reach...."



## Hank's journal by Hilary De Visme



Hank is 20 years old and originally from Canada. He arrived at Scargill on 6th February 2020 from Surrey.



Hank travelled north with Ivan and Hilary. He found the journey very interesting, but it took quite a long time...



Exploring his surroundings was Hank's top priority. He was glad to discover that his new home was so sunny!



Hank spent his first few weeks with the Estate Team. He especially liked coffee time in the Sun Lounge when he got to meet some of the guests. He got lots of hugs!



When lockdown came, the lack of guests encouraged Hank to share his ready supply of hugs with community and he joined the Kitchen Team in a morale-boosting capacity.



Sometimes Hank needs a break, and has discovered a gift for playing Hide and Seek...



In recent weeks, Hank has been spotted hanging around (quite literally) in the Marsh Lounge. He is intrigued by all the Zooming but finds it sad that hugs don't seem to Zoom very well.



Towards the end of October, a mysterious parcel arrived addressed to "Hank, Scargill Movement". It came at a good time because Hank had been feeling a bit low, so thank you to the anonymous sender!



Hank has a new friend to keep him company. His friend is called Honk. Hank and Honk like to sit in the Sun Lounge together, though Honk feels it would be better called the Rain Lounge. In true community spirit, they have agreed to differ!

# How has it been for you?

From Helen Brocklehurst: I asked the community (current and those who left during lockdown), how has the pandemic been for you? Here are our responses:

## I had time to...

...finish a patchwork quilt I started 2½ years earlier  
...catch up on lots of games  
...grow tomatoes and chat to my next door neighbour  
...watch the wonders of spring  
...try new things and experience a different pace of life  
...do an online course – how to teach English as a foreign language  
...watch 'West Wing'  
...slow down, to take stock, to rest and recover myself, to notice things I've never seen before  
...read, walk, pray and reflect

'Hard to say goodbye to so many friends'

'Beautiful to inhabit the Scargill estate more fully'

'I found the opportunity to embrace head - and soul - space very healing. Since leaving, I have benefited from being more intentional in my prayer, work and relaxation.'

'We have almost eaten all the leftovers in the freezer!'

'Head full of stuff'

'The first three months were full of light, but it has gradually gone out'

## I've learned...

...what's important for me in life  
...to stop doubting myself and start believing in myself  
...to live with loss  
...new ways to create, write and be thankful  
...more about myself, good and bad – an opportunity to grow  
...I can do things I never thought I would  
...the present is all that matters and where Jesus is found

'A costly but timely sabbatical for Scargill after a fruitful decade'

'Inside I felt very dark but God gave us the most beautiful Spring.'

'Tiring at all the change'

'Purposeless'  
'Gratitude'  
'Solitude'  
'Loneliness'  
'Struggle'

'The first three months were very dark days but the light has gradually come'

'I've let go of extra stuff weighing me down – physically and spiritually so I am lighter and freer'



**Maggie Halliday, a Companion and Working Friend, writes:**

I was on holiday in Cambodia in February when the COVID-19 outbreak began. We were given one face mask and told to stay two metres away from anyone Chinese! I came back to enter lockdown and, due to confusing advice, thought people over 70 had to stay at home. After nine days, I heard that I could shop - I never thought I would look forward to an early morning shop at Tesco!



When the weather improved, I enjoyed my garden, attending morning prayers and Bridget and Adrian's Safe to Shore, doorstep visits and clapping for the NHS. When the National Trust reopened, I managed visits to many of their locations and a stay at Rydal Hall in the Lake district. On August 31, we went into local lockdown: an end to visiting friends and a planned visit to Scargill cancelled. I spent the whole day crying. On October 21, we went into Tier 3. I am not missing the pub, casino or gym thankfully but some days I see no one and lack the motivation to walk. How will all this end? There seems no answer. I live for the day, try to keep some routine, count my blessings and look forward to Christmas at Rydal, and Oberammagau in 2022. Some days I could write a Psalm of despair that would put David to shame. I have so missed the time I would have spent at Scargill over the summer - friends, views, and most of all, doing the laundry!



(Back rows L to R): Dave, Sarah, Daniel, Mike, Hilary, Helen B, Ivan, Anna, Di, Dylan, Carolin, Margi, Wendy, Chloe, Alison, Helen C, Jacob, Faith, Benny.  
(Front row): Clare, Michyla, Phil, Jo, Ailsa.

# Our Identity and Values

## Identity

- We are a Christian movement with its home in the Yorkshire Dales where an intentional community representing many nationalities and Christian traditions is committed to a common rule of life and service.
- We believe that lives are transformed by the love and joy of God that is found in Jesus Christ. We are willing to be caught up in the ingenious creativity and adventurous life of the Holy Spirit.

## Values

- Being a resident community with Jesus at the heart in which prayer, eating together and chewing over the Bible are integral to our daily rhythm. We offer time and space for individuals and groups to encounter God and each other in a homely, peaceful and cherishing setting where God may be heard.
- Holding a safe and open space through sharing lives based on generous hospitality and welcome to all. Following the example of Jesus, we seek to encourage individuals and groups, including those who feel marginalised within society and the church.
- Helping guests and Community to gain and be enriched by a vision for Community where creativity, vulnerability and laughter are embraced in an individualistic world.
- Being a place of resourcing, training and equipping for guests and Community members alike. We seek to send our guests back with new vision and purpose. For Community members we provide a rich and broad apprenticeship style training for Christian mission and service.
- Entrusted with a beautiful part of the environment, we aspire to be responsible stewards of God's creation. We provide thought provoking programmes and outdoor activities for all ages with scope for creativity and personal development.
- Quality, Simplicity and Beauty are gospel values. They reflect how we aspire to care for our buildings and capture the essence of our life together as a Community.

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**Scargill Movement**

Lives shared, lives transformed



Scargill Movement



@ScargillHouse