

St John's



Cragg Vale

**MAGAZINE November 2014**

**Welcome** to our November issue.

We, quite rightly, concentrate on remembrance this month with an eyewitness account of life on the front line at the end of WW1. I hope you can come and take part in the remembrance march and service in Mytholmroyd on the Sunday 9th at 2.15pm.

*Alan*

**Wilfred Gibson (1878-1962) "Back"**

They ask me where I've been,  
And what I've done and seen.

But what can I reply  
Who know it wasn't I,  
But someone just like me,  
Who went across the sea  
And with my head and hands  
Killed men in foreign lands...  
Though I must bear the blame,  
Because he bore my name.

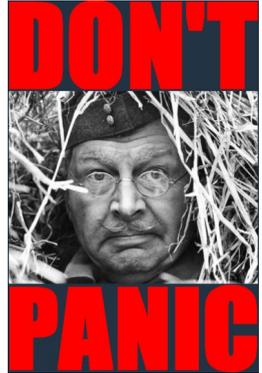


**British Legion  
Coffee Morning**

St Michael's Church  
10am 8th November  
All welcome

## Don't Panic, Don't Panic

Events are beginning to build up. Last month we had our Harvest at St. John's. We now find the following rapidly approaching: All Souls Day together with our annual remembering of those we know and love who have died, All Saint's Day. Then there will be, Guy Fawkes; Remembrance Sunday which this year is particularly important; Advent Sunday, Christmas Fairs, Christingle, Crib services; various annual Christmas Lunches; a Carol Service, Christmas Day, And New Year. What am I meant to write about?



I suppose that's it really, we have started an action packed three months. I've just listed the things organised by St. Michael's and St. John's churches. I've not mentioned other things such as work Christmas celebrations; school nativities and family gatherings. Then there is the shopping frenzy which has already started in the stores.

I can only offer these bits of advice collected over many years.

Firstly, DON'T PANIC! I've spent most of my working life as a sales assistant and believe me when I say, you would be amazed at the state some people get themselves in.

That leads to the second bit of wisdom. It doesn't matter if you forget the Cranberry Sauce. It doesn't matter if you even forget the turkey, the important thing is that you are surrounded by people you love and who love you.

Thirdly, prioritise what's really important not what the world or the adverts say is important.

Finally, give God a chance. In amidst the tinsel and Christmas lights is an eternal truth. Seek it out and your life will be enriched, ignore it and you will get the same old anti-climax that Christmas can be.

God Bless

Cathy

# Armistice - The End of World War I

**The final Allied push** towards the German border began on October 17, 1918. As the British, French and American armies advanced, the alliance between the Central Powers began to collapse. Turkey signed an armistice at the end of October, Austria-Hungary followed on November 3.



Germany began to crumble from within. Faced with the prospect of returning to sea, the sailors of the High Seas Fleet stationed at Kiel mutinied on October 29. Within a few days, the entire city was in their control and the revolution spread throughout the country. On November 9 the Kaiser abdicated;

slipping across the border into the Netherlands and exile. A German Republic was declared and peace feelers extended to the Allies. At 5 AM on the morning of November 11 an armistice was signed in a railroad car parked in a French forest near the front lines.



The terms of the agreement called for the cessation of fighting along the entire Western Front to begin at precisely 11 AM that morning. After over four years of bloody conflict, the Great War was at an end.

**"...at the front there was no celebration."**

Colonel Thomas Gowenlock served as an intelligence officer in the American 1st Division. He was on the front line that November morning and wrote of his experience a few years later:

"On the morning of November 11 I sat in my dugout in Le Gros Faux, which was again our division headquarters, talking to our Chief of Staff, Colonel John Greely, and Lieutenant Colonel Paul Peabody, our G-1 A signal corps officer entered and handed us the following message:

Official Radio from Paris - 6:01 A.M., Nov. 11, 1918. Marshal Foch to the Commander-in-Chief.

1. Hostilities will be stopped on the entire front beginning at 11 o'clock, November 11th (French hour).
2. The Allied troops will not go beyond the line reached at that hour on that date until further orders.

[signed]

MARSHAL FOCH

5:45 A.M.

'Well - *fini la guerre!*' said Colonel Greely.

'It sure looks like it,' I agreed.

'Do you know what I want to do now?' he said. 'I'd like to get on one of those little horse-drawn canal boats in southern France and lie in the sun the rest of my life.'

My watch said nine o'clock. With only two hours to go, I drove over to the bank of the Meuse River to see the finish. The shelling was heavy and, as I walked down the road, it grew steadily worse. It seemed to me that every battery in the world was trying to burn up its guns. At last eleven o'clock came - but the firing continued. The men on both sides had decided to give each other all they had-their farewell to arms. It was a very natural impulse after their years of war, but unfortunately many fell after eleven o'clock that day.

All over the world on November 11, 1918, people were celebrating, dancing in the streets, drinking champagne, hailing the armistice that meant the end of the war. But at the front there was no celebration.

Many soldiers believed the Armistice only a temporary measure and that the war would soon go on. As night came, the quietness, unearthly in its penetration, began to eat into their souls. The men sat around log fires, the first they had ever had at the front. They were trying to reassure themselves that there were



no enemy batteries spying on them from the next hill and no German bombing planes approaching to blast them out of existence. They talked in low tones. They were nervous.

After the long months of intense strain, of keying themselves up to the daily mortal danger, of thinking always in terms of war and the enemy, the abrupt release from it all was physical and psychological agony. Some suffered a total nervous collapse. Some, of a steadier temperament, began to hope they would someday return to home and the embrace of loved ones. Some could think only of the crude little crosses that marked the graves of their comrades. Some fell into an exhausted sleep. All were bewildered by the sudden meaninglessness of their existence as soldiers - and through their teeming memories paraded that swiftly moving cavalcade of Cantigny, Soissons, St. Mihiel, the Meuse-Argonne and Sedan.

What was to come next? They did not know - and hardly cared. Their minds were numbed by the shock of peace. The past consumed their whole consciousness. The present did not exist-and the future was inconceivable."

#### **References:**

Colonel Gowenlock's account appears in Gowenlock, Thomas R., *Soldiers of Darkness* (1936), reprinted in Angle, Paul, M., *The American Reader* (1958); Simkins, Peter, *World War I, the Western Front* (1991).

"Armistice - The End of World War I, 1918," *EyeWitness to History*, [www.eyewitnesstohistory.com](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com) (2004).

## **YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

The Speaker for the October Meeting was Mr. Trevor Moody from the National Trust to talk about Gibson Mill at Hardcastle Craggs. Originally there were cottage industries at Greenwood Lee and Gibson Mill. In 1861 steam power was installed, the Water Board contained the water running down to Hebden Bridge and a new road was built to enable coal to be brought to the mill but sadly in 1897 the mill was closed.

1902 to 1950 was an entertainment phase for the mill. The cottages were rented out as holiday cottages and cafes and restaurants. Chalets were built along the valley which served teas etc.

Next came the entertainment phase —Abraham Gibson built up an Entertainment Emporium with a pavilion for dancing. There were swing boats and the mill pond was used for boating. There was also roller skating in the weaving shed. This attracted 500,000 people each year and according to records 8,000 arrived by train from Lancashire. Sadly the Emporium closed in 1952.

The Trust could not afford to keep the cottages and Greenwood Lee. In 1956 the Mill was leased to the Scouts for activities but closed in 1973 for 11 years. In 2002 ITV made a short film for Dotheboys Hall inside the mill when making the film *Nicolas Nickleby*.

2003 to 2005 £1.4 Million pounds was raised for the refurbishment. Solar Panels were put on the mill roof. The weaving shed was made into 'The Muddy Boots Cafe' and the furniture was made from oak and beech trees used from woodland management of the area. Muriel Morgan thanked Mr. Moody for a fascinating talk on local history.

A Macmillan Coffee Morning held at Jane and Richard Redmond's house raised £550 thank you very much to all who supported the event. June Mowbray won the competition and supper was a Jacob's Join.

The November Meeting will be the AGM.

*Muriel Morgan*

# What did Jesus mean by a camel going through the needle's eye?

PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO WATER DOWN JESUS' STATEMENT in the Bible about it being harder for a rich man to enter Heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.

Some wrongly interpret the eye of the needle to be a small gate entering the city of Jerusalem. Others wrongly interpret *camel* as meaning *rope*. But Jesus used a wonderfully clever illustration and meant what He said: *The eye of a needle means the eye of a needle*. How brilliant is that!

**Jesus said**, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:24. Similar verses are in Mark 10:25 and Luke 18:25). What is the *eye of a needle*, or a *needle's eye*?

We believe the phrase means exactly what it says, and does not need watering down to make it easier for a rich man to enter Heaven. We will show you why.

## **Small gate?**

Some say the needle's eye, or the eye of the needle, was a small gate at the entrance of Jerusalem and other cities. When the city-keepers had locked the main gates, camels and their owners who arrived after the lock-out could squeeze through this gate.

But scholars have searched in vain to find ancient evidence that people referred to any of these gates as “the eye of a needle”.

## **Camel means rope?**

Others have said the Aramaic word for *camel* was the same as the word for *rope*, and that Jesus meant it was hard for rope to go through the eye of a needle. Well, Jesus did speak Aramaic, but again, reliable evidence is weak that this is what He meant.

Such explanations downplay the wonderfully memorable and clever illustration that Jesus came up with to teach the difficulty of getting into Heaven if you are loaded with loot. He was talking to the rich young ruler at the time, and the man was sad at hearing this because he was very rich.

He would hardly have been sad knowing that camels always got through the city gate. And he would hardly be sad knowing that anyone could untwist a piece of rope to thread it through the eye of a sewing needle.

Impossible means impossible

What the rich young ruler was sad about was that Jesus said it would be impossible for him to enter the kingdom of God because of his riches.

The bystanders recognized this is what he meant, because they said, "Who then can be saved?" (Luke 18:26). And Jesus replied, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27).

This kills the "little gate" theory, because that was not impossible. And it kills the "camel rope" theory, because that was not impossible either.

What these verses say are that:

1. The rich man had to be willing to put God before his possessions.
2. Only God could save him.

[http://www.creationtips.com/eye\\_of\\_needle.html](http://www.creationtips.com/eye_of_needle.html)



## HALLOWEEN HOOT

T S E I T R A P U M P K I N S  
R R S Y T F M G K B X O R O W  
E Y I P V C O S T U M E Y T Z  
A R I C G F R I G H T D M E W  
T A U H K C T M K N N A E L M  
S C O T A C K C A L B R A E A  
E S N N A N V L H S O E A K Q  
T F D M A E - A H Q K U J S K  
W Y A R Q O R A P P T Q M Z N  
Y U P S - V M C J U V S R J I  
K T K K E K W X M S J A A K C  
L L C S E B D N E V F M P Q T  
R A T X R X G B B J G H S M M  
J T Z U I H O Y T A X N E M O  
W P Q Z E B O F E C B H P K N



### WORD SEARCH



AUTUMN  
MASK  
BLACK CAT  
CANDY  
SCARY  
COSTUME  
CREATURE  
TREATS  
FRIGHT  
HARVEST

JACK-O-LANTERN  
BE SAFE  
MASQUERADE  
PARTIES  
PRANK  
PUMPKINS  
SKELETON  
EERIE  
TRICK  
GHOST

## Rotas for November

Date	Sidespeople	Reader	Server	Coffee
2nd Nov	Pam & Ed T	1 John 4.1-3 Sylvia M	Gordon Nelson	Doris
9th Nov	Betty D & Beryl H	1 Thessalonians 4.13-end Hugh	Terry Wilkinson	Carol
16th Nov	Barry & Dorothy S.	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 Geraint	Margaret Greenwood	Anne & Beryl
23rd Nov	Sue C. & Margaret G.	Ephesians 1.15-end Ann K	Mary Hey	Dorothy & Barry
30th Nov	Sylvia M & Doris W	1 Corinthians 1. 3-9 T.B.A	5th Sunday	Jean
7th Dec	Pam & Ed T	2 Peter 3. 8-15 T.B.A	Gordon Nelson	Doris

## PARISH CONTACTS

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## Forthcoming Events in November

### November

- 3rd 7:30pm Churches Together Committee meet at The Albert HB.
- 7th 9am Morning Prayers in the Erringden Room at St Michael's  
6pm Bonfire & Fireworks at 'Springfield', Cragg Road  
7:30pm Quiz Night at St Michael's
- 8th 10am British Legion Coffee Morning at St Michael's
- 9th 2.15pm Remembrance parade and British Legion Service St Michael's
- 10th YCA Annual General Meeting
- 14th 9am Morning Prayers in the Erringden Room at St Michael's
- 15th 1pm Christmas Market in Mytholmroyd
- 17th 6.30pm St John's PCC meet
- 18th- 7.15pm Book Club meet at St Michael's
- 21st 9am Morning Prayers in the Erringden Room at St Michael's
- 28th 9am Morning Prayers in the Erringden Room at St Michael's

### December

- 5th 9am Morning Prayers in the Erringden Room at St Michael's  
6.30pm Christingle at St John's  
7:30pm Quiz Night at St Michael's

A **full list** of both Churches events/pictures and lots more can be found on the website :

***<http://www.erringdenbenefice.org.uk/>***

**Deadline for December/January magazine is 20th November**