



Edwalton Herald

HOLY ROOD | MAY 2026

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COMING UP

Father's Day Service

Holy Rood
21st June
10.15am

Retreat Day

Holy Rood
15th July
10am-12 noon

Scan the QR code
and add your prayer.
Include as much
detail as you wish.

Requests are anonymous,
regularly checked and
prayed for in our weekly
parish prayer on a Monday
morning. They may also
be included with other
prayers at church.



DO YOU HAVE A
PRAYER
REQUEST?



A deeper peace than the headlines

There's a particular kind of tiredness I'm noticing at the moment. It's not just physical — it's the quiet weariness that comes from watching the news, hearing of wars overseas, and feeling the steady pressure of rising costs at home. It can leave us anxious, unsettled, even numb.

Recently, I stood by the River Trent in the mid-afternoon sunshine. The surface of the water looked completely still — like glass. Then a gust of wind came, and ripples spread across the water in every direction. It struck me how quickly peace can be disturbed. And yet, just as striking, how the water slowly settles again.

Many of us feel like that river — our inner peace disrupted by forces beyond our control. But the Christian message is this: peace is not found in calm circumstances, but in a present God.

Jesus once said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you" (John 14:27). Not a fragile peace, dependent on global stability or economic security, but a deeper, rooted peace — grounded in God's unchanging love.

At the heart of the Christian faith is an invitation, not a demand. An invitation to come as you are — bringing your worries, your questions, even your doubts — and to receive hope. Not manufactured optimism, but a living hope that says darkness does not have the final word.

In a world that feels increasingly uncertain, God's offer remains steady: peace for your heart, hope for your future, and love that will not let you go.

You are invited.

Ade

Rev Ade Perham
Priest-in-Charge at Holy Rood, Edwalton
Tel. 07825 092598



How Ade won me over

For a long time Rachel felt angry and bitter. And little wonder.

Five years ago, in the prime of her life as a mother with two teenage children, she suffered a huge stroke.

"It was during Covid", said Rachel, "and my husband, Richard, couldn't even go with me in the ambulance. He thought I might die."

As a clinical psychologist, words and communication were her forte.

"Suddenly I was looking at a TV in the ward, and I couldn't understand a word of what anyone was saying."

20 months later after intense speech therapy, Rachel was finally able to return to work, but still struggles to find the right words.

It was only when she started to accompany her mother to Holy Rood services that she felt her life begin to take a new spiritual dimension.

"It was Ade, our Vicar, who won me over."

"I could really understand what he was saying. I started to believe that God is real.

"I wanted hope and I feel more like I belong again."

Rachel recently completed our six-week Alpha course, for anyone curious to find out more about faith.

She smiles: "Now I look forward to coming to church every Sunday, and I am hoping that God is allowing me a new role to take."

A touch of magic in our churchyard

For Vivienne Joyce, it has been a labour of love.

She has been researching the gravestones in our churchyard and the family histories of those buried there.

And sometimes she makes fascinating discoveries. She believes there's a Belvoir Angel at rest in our cemetery.

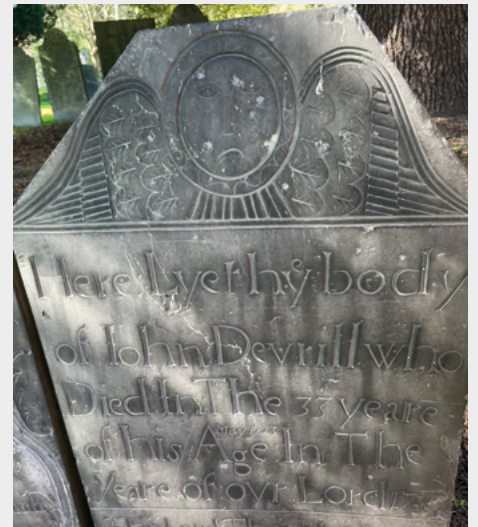
The distinctive and highly decorative gravestones, usually made from Swithland slate, were all produced between 1690 and 1750. And the grave of John Devrill, who died in 1717 at the age of 33, fits both those criteria.

Little is known about the individuals who carved the headstones, but their folk art flourished in the Vale of Belvoir – hence the name.

It is unusual for Belvoir Angels to be found this far from the Vale but not unheard of.

The Belvoir artists expressed themselves in different ways, but John Devrill's gravestone bears the typical central angel imagery and face, with downward-turned wings and what appears to be a ruffled neck.

Please let us know if you can shed more light on it all. Vivienne would also love to hear from anyone related to John Devrill, who can tell us more about him.



Mark's new posting

Mark Fraser, who was Priest-in-Charge at Holy Rood for ten years, is the new Rector of St Leonard's in Wollaton.

He was licensed by Bishop Paul who is pictured with Mark and his wife, Catherine.

Mark was inducted and installed as Rector by Archdeacon Phil Williams.

As well as being our Priest-in-Charge, Mark was Vicar of St Luke's at Gamston for 17 years. We wish him well in his new challenge.



We're open for applications

Our Parochial Church Council is again inviting organisations to apply for grants from its Charitable Fund.

We provide donations of up to £500 to organisations active in and around Edwalton.

Applicants need to show how they will address a social or environmental need in our area.

Grants are awarded to organisations, not individuals. And they're for one-off purposes, not ongoing running costs.

If you have a project in mind, please contact our treasurer, David Batte, pcctreasurer@edwaltonchurch.org

“Definitely come along”

Sophie says Holy Rood's Baby and Toddlers Group is fantastic for making friends.

And she should know. She has been coming to the Tuesday morning sessions for 18 months – initially with her son, Eric and now with Eric and his younger brother, Arthur.

“Eric is 3. He's such a kind and clever little lad”, says Sophie.

“He loves to be outside, and he enjoys baking and any kind of building block toys.

“Arthur is a lovely, happy baby and excited to be on the move to get his hands on all the things his brother leaves out!

“My older one really loves the craft activities at Holy Rood and story time with a snack while the little one likes exploring the baby toys!

“A few of us have formed quite a solid group. It's a nice, easy way to get together each week for a catch-up.”

And to any other parent who might be interested in joining ?

“Definitely come along. It's such a friendly place and the volunteers are so kind and welcoming.

“It's very relaxed. Some other toddler groups can be overwhelming when you have a new baby.”

So how did it end up in Rawilpindi?!

It's a discovery that still mystifies Alex, our administrator. How on earth did her Mum's childhood journal end up in Rawilpindi when she'd never set foot in Asia?

An inscription in the leatherbound journal says it was kept by her Mum, Jean Bellamy, in the early 1940s when she and Alex's grandparents lived in Carnarvon Street, Netherfield. Yet it somehow ended up in a toy shop in Rawilipindi where it was discovered by poet, Ateeq Ahmad. And there the story would have ended had Ateeq not been determined to return it to Jean's family.

Eventually, via BBC Radio Nottingham, and a local genealogist, the trail led to Alex. Not surprisingly, she was taken aback. She believes the journal was in such good condition because it was probably given to her Mum by Alex's grandfather who was a printer.

“It's like an autograph book Mum compiled with contributions from friends and family.”

One entry from Alex's Grandfather in February 1944, says: “The best thing to have up your sleeve is a funny bone”. It certainly made Alex smile! When the Herald went to press, she was still waiting to get her hands on the Journal. Meanwhile, she wants to send a big thankyou to Ateeq.

“I think it's amazing that he thought this book was important enough to return it to my Mum's family. He could so easily have thrown it away. To go to all that trouble was a lovely thing to do.”



Photo credit: Ateeq Ahmad / BBC / bbc.co.uk

A warm welcome guaranteed



Holy Rood stalwart, Melvyn Dougan and his wife, Sue, started it all five years ago when Covid restrictions were still in force.

They were determined not to let the pandemic scupper our mission to give a warm welcome to all our visitors. So they started offering cups of tea and coffee to everyone they spotted in our church garden.

As the restrictions receded they moved into the church meeting room and started our Coffee Morning as we now know it.

Sadly Melvyn became seriously ill soon after they returned from a cruise, and he died a few months later. Brian Stewart has been in charge ever since. The Thursday morning get together now attracts more people than ever.

“The laughter and chatter prove it works”, says Brian. “Our ambition is to provide a service to our general community, not just those who come to our services.”

There are always hot drinks, including Brian's extensive selection of coffees. And you'll often be offered a slice of birthday cake!

So come along. It's open between 10.30 and 12 noon. There's no charge, but if you like, you can put a pound in the kitty.



Raise a glass

Holy Rood supporters generally like to think of themselves as “glass half-full” people.

To prove it, a recent wine tasting event, hosted by Weavers of Nottingham, raised £220 for Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

The charity specialises in debt counselling for people in financial difficulty.

A chilling statistic underlines the widespread need for work like theirs. CAP say 49 per cent of the people they help have considered or attempted suicide before seeking help with their debts.

Contact us

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Visit us



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The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of the
Church of the Holy Rood, Edwalton
office@edwaltonchurch.org

Registered Charity Number:
1133017



Come and join us

Sunday Morning Service

Regular service at 10.15am followed by refreshments. The service will be either Holy Communion or Morning Worship.

Morning Prayer Service

Wednesday mornings. Prayer and fellowship at 10.30am. Time is taken to discuss a bible reading.

Evensong

Third Sunday of every month at 4pm for about an hour, using BCP liturgy.

Afternoon Church

3.30pm on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at Holy Rood. Includes kids' tea and refreshments (term time only).

Small Group

Explore and discuss Christian faith and the Bible with others. Meets during term time on Tuesday evenings, from about 7.45pm until 9.15pm. Contact the Church Office for more details.

Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler group meets every Tuesday during term time from 10am to 11.30am in the Church Meeting Room.

Coffee Morning

Thursdays, 10.30-12 noon at Church. A warm and friendly space.

Book Club

Meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.30pm to read and discuss a book concerning Christianity and Faith. Contact the Church Office for details.

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association

The Brigade offers a range of creative and physical activities as well as the chance to develop as a young person and make new friends. Boys and Girls welcome. Meets in the Church Hall every Wednesday.

Anchors (ages 5-8) 6:15pm-7:15pm

Juniors (ages 8-11) 6:15pm-7:45pm

Company & Seniors (ages 11-18)

7:45pm-9:30pm

Gardening Club

Saturday mornings in the Church Garden, 10.00-12.00 throughout the year except over Christmas and the New Year. No experience is necessary.

Rood Gamers

Meet fortnightly on Tuesdays in the Church Meeting Room from 2pm till 4pm. Join us for card and board games. A weekly donation of 50p helps to cover expenses for refreshments and biscuits.