

# Lower Wharfedale Benefice

## Digital Newsletter - Issue 7

North Ripton, Pool in Wharfedale, Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall, Stainburn, Weeton

## Welcome To Our Benefice

If you are joining one of our services for the first time, please introduce yourself to one of the Welcomers at the back of the church. They will be glad to answer any questions you may have or assist you with any mobility assistance you may require.

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### CONTACTS AND WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH

Rev'd Stroma McDermott

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Benefice Office

Administrator - Davina Tyler

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For all Safeguarding queries and concerns, please contact our  
Parish Safeguarding Office - Jeremy Cross - [jem\\_cross@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jem_cross@yahoo.co.uk).

UPCOMING

*Church  
Services*

Sunday 22 March

Pool	Parish Communion	9.30am
North Rigton	Family Service	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Parish Communion	11.00am

Monday 23 March

Pool	Lego Church	
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Sunday 29 March

Kirkby Overblow	Palm Sunday Family Communion Service with Donkey Procession	10.00am
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Monday 30 March

North Rigton	Lent Reflection	7.00pm
Kirkby Overblow	Lent Group	7.00pm

Tuesday March 31

Weeton	Lent Reflection	7.00pm
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Wednesday 1 April

Sicklinghall	Lent Reflection	7.00pm
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Thursday 2 April

Pool	Tenebrae Maundy Thursday Service with Foot Washing	7.00pm
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GOOD FRIDAY 3 April

Kirkby Overblow	Mediations at The Cross with children's activities	10.30am
Pool	Meditations at The Cross	2.00pm

Saturday 4 April

Stainburn	Vigil of Light and Egg Hunt	2.00pm
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EASTER SUNDAY

5 April

Kirkby Overblow	Easter Day Parish Family Communion	8.30am
Sicklinghall	Easter Day Parish Communion	9.30am
Pool	Easter Day Parish Communion	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Easter Day Parish Communion	11.00am
Weeton	Easter Day Parish Communion	11.00am

# Readings and Prayer

## Philippians 2:5-11

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:  
6 Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
7 rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
8 And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!  
9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the precious gift of baptism, that we can publicly  
declare our love and passion for you.

We thank you for the spiritual gifts you have given us through your Holy  
Spirit and we ask for your goodness and blessings to be poured out on  
us.

We pray you would work deeply within our hearts and souls to renew and  
refresh them each day. Guide our footsteps and give us a hope and a  
vision for the future, that as your faithful servants we can accomplish all  
that you have planned for us to do.

May we know that we are free, whole, loved and forgiven. Cover and  
protect us, encircle us with your promises and fill our hearts with joy as  
your Easter people.

Amen

# Reflection

Many regard Philippians 2:5-11 as a hymn of the early church that Paul incorporated into his letter.

Some theologians and commentators even go as far as suggesting stanza and verse arrangement for the hymn. Paul, perhaps like David before him seems to have had the gift of inspired, poetic writing.

The words certainly are beautiful and flow easily and act as a source of encouragement for all Christians to have a mindset like Christ's. In fact it can seem so poetic and lyrical that we might forget the reason it was written. Paul was not simply writing something beautiful, he was addressing real issues in the Philippine church where there was a lack of unity and he is trying to refocus them into laying down their own opinions and sense of entitlement and remember that Jesus came from his heavenly throne and who had all power, dominion, authority and riches gave all of that up to serve. He became a servant for our sakes.

At the Lent course on Monday, Moira led our discussion on service, and that it wasn't just doing things for others, it was an attitude of being willing to serve and that often means graciously and humbly stepping into other people's lives and circumstances to make a difference.

Service lies at the heart of the Christian life. Over 2000 years the way Christians live and serve has shaped communities, countries and continents.

We can all serve in different ways and as we learnt on Monday we all have all been given different gifts with which to serve. So friends a question whilst we still have time in Lent to reflect on it:

Do you know what your spiritual gift from God is?

At our baptisms God promises to give all of us good gifts with which to serve Him and others to build up the church and to build the kingdom. That's amazing when you think about it. God has had a plan for you and your life even before you were born and he has given you the gift(s) you need to accomplish that plan. But so often we don't always know what the gift is and need others to help identify it and then have the opportunity to use them and follow Christ's lead.

So in the time we have left in Lent before we approach the final journey through Holy Week to Easter why don't you pray and ask God to show you the gift that he chose to give you and to ask for wisdom and courage to use it. God called you for a reason, God made you for a purpose and he has equipped you to succeed. **Amen**

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# Prayers and Care

We are always delighted to pray or visit those needing support or help. Should you wish to be remembered in prayer or receive a visit from the Pastoral Team, please contact:

Rev'd Stroma McDermott - Tel: 07791 499036  
[stroma.mcdermott@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:stroma.mcdermott@leeds.anglican.org)

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## We remember in our Prayers

Louise, Hayley, Trevor, Rod, Baby Rosa,  
Susan, John, Kath, Maggie, Doris, Neville, Sam,  
Jo, Jeremy, Mary, Martha, John P, Richard, Don, Colin, John B, Christine,  
John M and John B

For the deceased and the families of the late

Barbara Keddle  
Bernadette McDermott  
Raymond Thornton  
Elizabeth Davies

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# Lent

The 25th of March brings the Solemnity of the Annunciation, the moment when the Angel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would bear the Son of God. Even during the Lenten season, this day stands as a quiet and beautiful reminder of hope, when Mary's faithful "Yes" opened the way for Christ to enter the world.



# Upcoming Services

*All Saint's, Kirkby Overblow*

*Sunday 29 March*

*at 10.00am*

**PALM SUNDAY  
FAMILY COMMUNION  
SERVICE WITH DONKEY  
PROCESSION.**



# Easter Week Services - at a glance



Easter Week Services		
29 March - 10.00am	Palm Sunday Family Communion Service with Donkey Procession	Kirkby Oerblow
30 March - 7pm	Lent Reflection	North Rigton
30 March - 7pm	Lent Reflection	Kirkby Overblow
31 March - 7pm	Lent Reflection	Weeton
2 April - 7pm	Tenebrae Maundy Thursday Service with Foot Washing	Pool
3 April - GOOD FRIDAY 1 0.30am	Mediations at The Cross 10.30am with children's activities	Kirkby Overblow
2.00pm	Meditations at The Cross 2.00pm	Pool
4 April - 2.00pm	Vigil of Light and Egg Hunt	Stainburn
5 April - EASTER SUNDAY		
08.30am	Easter Day Parish Family Communion	Kirkby Overblow
09.30am	Easter Day Parish Communion	Sicklinghall
09.30am	Easter Day Parish Communion	Pool
11.00am	Easter Day Parish Communion	Kirkby Overblow
11.00am	Easter Day Parish Communion	Weeton

# Regular Events for your Diary

roducing our  
**NEW** Family  
**service!**



A short, fun and interactive service for all ages!  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, 9.30am  
St Wilfrid's Church, Pool  
**All welcome!**

**St Barnabas, Weeton, Community Coffee Morning**

Third Wednesday of every month  
-  
Come and join us

10am to 11.30am  
Sleights Meadow, Crag Lane,  
Huby



# Events to look forward to

All Welcome

## PEACE & PRAISE

A new and uplifting worship service

Third Sundays of the month  
6-7pm St John's, North Rigton

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026

An informal and sociable evening of  
uplifting music, peace & prayer.

Coffee, tea & cakes from 5.30pm!

More info: [emma.james@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:emma.james@leeds.anglican.org)

St Mark's Church, Harrogate  
presents

An Easter Evening Praise



## MESSIAH

by

George Frideric Handel

With the augmented voices of St Mark's Church Choir  
Chamber Ensemble and soloists

St Mark's Church Harrogate

Sunday 5 April 2026

6.00pm

# News from the Diocese

The Diocese of Leeds has been awarded over £11 million from the Church of England to support church growth and community transformation.

The funding will invest in children and young people’s ministry, develop lay leaders, and support new and revitalised congregations—especially in Leeds.

Part of the diocese’s “Barnabas” strategy, the programme has already engaged over 60% of parishes and is helping churches grow and become more sustainable.

Acting Bishop Toby Howarth called it a strong vote of confidence in the diocese’s vision to build growing churches that transform communities.



## HOW DO I MAKE MY FAITH COUNT?

*Come along and find out...*

### Events 2026

10 February 2026, 7pm-9pm @Leeds Minster

**Discussion Evening** – Bishop Chris Edmondson will help us think about how we hear God's call

22 April 2026, 6pm-9pm @Wakefield Cathedral

**Vocations Fayre** – connect with people from a broad range of ministries, including lay, ordained and chaplaincy. Pre-event Choral Evensong at 5:30pm

13 June 2026, 10am - 3pm @Bolton Abbey Priory

**Vocations Retreat Day** – Spend time discerning with God and others whilst immersed in the history and beauty of Bolton Abbey

23 September, 7pm-9pm @St Peter's Huddersfield

**Discussion Evening** – Hear about real experiences of starting a new ministry for lay and ordained

18 November, 7pm-9pm @Church House Leeds

**Discussion Evening** – Hear perspectives on ordained ministry from the new and the retiring

**For more details email [vocations@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:vocations@leeds.anglican.org)**

Registration via Eventbrite

#### Contacts

*Exploring Vocation Together*



**Jenice Guild**  
Administrator  
[jenice.guild@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:jenice.guild@leeds.anglican.org)

**Revd Canon Sean Robertshaw**  
Diocesan Director of Vocations  
[sean.robertshaw@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:sean.robertshaw@leeds.anglican.org)

# Essential Early Spring Gardening Tasks:

- **Soil Preparation:** Clear away winter debris, turn over soil, and incorporate compost or well-rotted manure to boost fertility.
- **Weeding & Mulching:** Actively weed borders to prevent them from taking over, and apply mulch to conserve moisture and suppress new weeds
- **Pruning:** Cut back winter-flowering shrubs and prune hydrangeas. Trim back raspberry/blackberry canes.
- **Planting:** Sow hardy vegetables (lettuce, spinach, carrots) and plant summer-flowering bulbs like lilies and gladioli
- **Lawn Care:** Rake away moss/thatch, aerate, and mow if necessary.
- **Tool Maintenance:** Clean, sharpen, and oil tools, and clean greenhouses to prepare for seedlings.
- **Slug Control:** Set up protection (copper tape, organic pellets) early to protect vulnerable new growth.

## Eco Tip



The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Each year, more than 400,000 volunteers clear litter from our streets, parks and beaches.



The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Since 2016, our army of millions of amazing Litter Heroes has shown they love where they live by pledging to pick more than 4.5 million bags of litter.

The Great British Spring Clean and [Great Big School Clean](#) are back for 2026 and will take place from 13 to 29 March 2026.

Pledge as an individual, a group or a Keep Britain Tidy volunteer using the form below from today!

If you are pledging on behalf of a school, please visit our [Great Big School Clean](#) pages.

You can also [join as a local authority](#) to register to receive Great British Spring Clean litter bags, and tell us how you will support local volunteers.



Would you like to stay on our newsletter list? Or know somebody who would like to receive it? Please drop us a note at [lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com)

We're excited to keep in touch and welcome new readers!

# What's happening elsewhere



Join together with local churches on

## GOOD FRIDAY

Local churches are joining together for a 30 minute service with worship, short reflection and prayer.

Friday 3rd April  
11 - 11:30am  
War Memorial  
Prospect Square  
Harrogate



### We are hiring!

### Administrative Lead

We are seeking someone who excels in administration to improve our processes and keep us a safe and effective organisation.

## We're HIRING!



### Chief Executive Officer

Harrogate

Part-time/Permanent

[Apply now](#)

Resurrected Bites is looking for someone ideally with an active Christian faith to take on the role of Chief Exec. Could this be you or someone you know? email Michelle [Michelle](mailto:ceo@resurrectedbites.co.uk) [ceo@resurrectedbites.co.uk](mailto:ceo@resurrectedbites.co.uk) for more information.