

# Lower Wharfedale Benefice

## Digital Newsletter - Issue 5

North Rigton, 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 any 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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Rev'd Emma James

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Benefice Office

Administrator - Davina Tyler

email - [lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com)

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).

# Church Services

Tuesday 10th February		
Sicklinghall	Community Coffee Morning	10:30am
Wednesday 11 February		
Sicklinghall	Holy Mass - with RC Church	7pm
Thursday 12th February		
Pool	Communion and coffee morning at Wharfedale Court	10:30am
15th February		
Kirkby Overblow	BCP Holy Communion	8:30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9:30am
Pool	Family Service	9:30am
Weeton	Parish communion	11am
North Rигton	Peace and Praise	6pm
18th February		
Pool	Ash Wednesday service with Imposition of Ashes	11am
Kirkby Overblow	Ash Wednesday service with Imposition of Ashes	7pm
22nd February		
Pool	Parish Communion	9:30am
North Rигton	Family Service	9:30am
Kirkby Overblow	Parish Communion	11am
Monday 23rd February		
Pool School	Lego Church	3:30pm

# 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)

## We remember in our Prayers

Louise, Hayley, Trevor, Rod, Baby Rosa,  
Susan, John, Kath, Maggie, Doris, Neville, Sam,  
Jo and Mary

# Readings and Prayer

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
    who proclaim peace,  
    who bring good tidings,  
    who proclaim salvation,  
    who say to Zion,  
        'Your God reigns!'

Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;  
    together they shout for joy.  
When the Lord returns to Zion,  
they will see it with their own eyes.

Burst into songs of joy together,  
    you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
    he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord will lay bare his holy arm  
    in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see  
    the salvation of our God.

## PRAYER

May Almighty God enfold you with his powerful arms and  
may his love and mercy shower you today and each day. May  
you trust that He is with you, that He is for you and He will  
    never forsake you.

Amen

# Reflection

These are such beautiful, hopeful and exciting words and it seems appropriate that this is one of the suggested readings for Feb 14th being St Valentine's feast day. It has become synonymous with love and romantic gestures but actually allows us all I hope to appreciate the enduring, transformative power of love in all forms—romantic, platonic, and self-love.

In the busyness of life, it serves as a reminder to nurture connections, offer gratitude, and cultivate kindness, recognising that love, in its truest form, is patient, enduring, and brings light to daily life.

So as you go through these weeks

- Reflect on Gratitude: Use each day to appreciate the people who are a grace and gift to you, focusing on the quality of connections rather than just gifts.
- Embrace Self-Love: Remember that loving yourself is essential for mental health and well-being. In the words of Moira 'You are enough'
- Go Beyond Romance: While often focused on couples, it's a day to celebrate friendship, family, and the unconditional love that brings people together.
- Remember it's A Daily Choice: True love is a consistent action, not just a once-a-year event, encouraging us to act with compassion and care every day.

So I'm ending with one of my favourite and I think most powerful passages the Bible has to offer us:

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,  
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# Lent

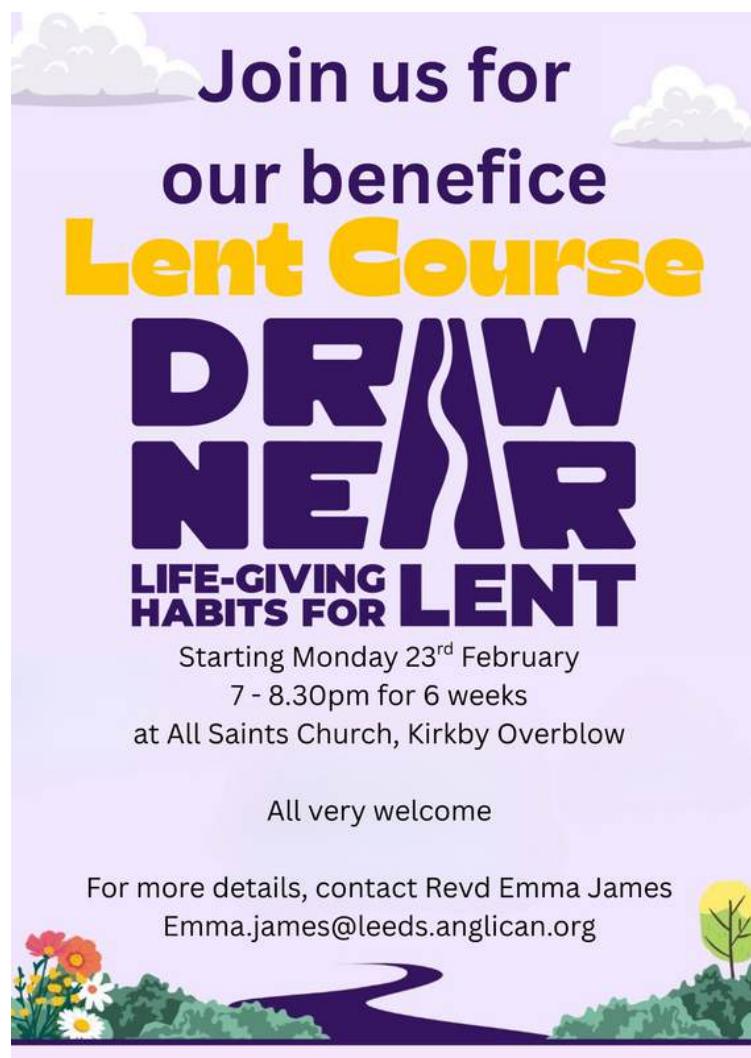
This year we're running a 6 week Lent course based on developing patterns and rhythms of life which help us to grow as disciples. We'll be exploring aspects such as praying, reading the bible, worshipping and sharing our faith with others. Each week will have some input and then plenty of discussion time in groups. You'll also be given a book to accompany the course, which has helpful ideas and input on how to put discussions into action at home.

We would really LOVE it if you could join us!

We are holding the meetings at All Saints, Kirkby Overblow (because we need AV) on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 7-8.30pm. Everyone is welcome and we'll always start with drinks and refreshments! It might also be a chance to get to know people from a different church in our benefice.

So, come and explore how we can grow closer to God as we journey through Lent together. For more info, please email Emma: [Emma.james@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:Emma.james@leeds.anglican.org)

‘Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.’ James 4: 8



# Upcoming Services



Wednesday, 18 Feb 2026

Communion Services with The  
Imposition of Ashes.

11am - St Wilfrid's - Pool

7pm - All Saints - Kirkby Overblow

More events  
to look forward  
to

**SICKLINGHALL COFFEE MORNING**

# COFFEE MORNING



Sicklinghall will be having their community coffee and chat at Sicklinghall Cricket Club on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30am.

This is a chance to meet others from the local community and enjoy coffee and a natter.

We have a short reflection/poem or similar on the table for people to read and discuss if they wish and there is the opportunity to pray or write a prayer request.

Most of all it is a chance to get to know people and we welcome everyone to join us.

**SICKLINGHALL ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT**

**FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7PM**

Venue – Sicklinghall Village Hall

£18 per person Supper Included

Sicklinghall's annual quiz night returns for its 11th year and as many know this is consistently a sell-out event. It's a great way for new members of the community to meet people – you don't need to raise a team as we can match you to an existing team. If you do want to raise a team, any size of team works as we have a handicap system in place [the smaller the team, the greater the advantage]. Bottom line is, come along and meet new people and test your wits against some of the old guard!

Trophy for winning team, Licensed Bar, Raffle, Auction

Introducing 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 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

**PEACE & PRAISE**

Third Sundays of the month  
6pm-7pm at St. John's, North Rington



18<sup>th</sup> January | 15<sup>th</sup> February | 15<sup>th</sup> March

An informal and sociable evening of worship, uplifting music, peace & prayers. Coffee, tea & cakes from 5.30pm!

More Info: [emma.jamesleeds.anglican.org](http://emma.jamesleeds.anglican.org)

## Racial Justice Learning Enabler

The Diocese of Leeds is seeking a committed and inspiring Racial Justice Learning Enabler to advance racial justice across our churches, schools and communities, this is a three years fixed term appointment.

They will lead the learning and training dimension of this programme. This is a rare opportunity to shape culture, equip leaders and help embed anti-racist practice across the Diocese of Leeds.

Full details of the role can be found on the Church of England Pathways job site via the following link:

<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/en/jobs/racial-justice-learning-enabler-part-time-17-5-hours-per-week-3-years-fixed-term/3390>

## 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)

## Eco Tip of the Month

### 'Turn it Down'

If you already have a full set of heating controls, turning down your room thermostat by just one degree can save around £80 a year.

*Jumpers are in this year!*



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!

