

Lower Wharfedale Benefice

Digital Newsletter - Issue 5

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.

CONTACTS AND WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH

Rev'd Stroma McDermott

Tel: 07791 499036

Tel: 01423 733341

email - stroma.mcdermott@leeds.anglican.org

Rev'd Emma James

Tel: 07856 198293

email - emma.james@leeds.anglican.org

Benefice Office

Administrator - Davina Tyler

email - lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

For all Safeguarding queries and concerns, please contact our
Parish Safeguarding Office - Jeremy Cross - 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
Sicklinghall
Pool
Weeton
North Rigton

BCP Holy Communion
Parish Communion
Family Service
Parish communion
Peace and Praise

8:30am
9:30am
9:30am
11am
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
North Rigton
Kirkby Overblow

Parish Communion
Family Service
Parish Communion

9:30am
9:30am
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

We remember in our Prayers

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

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

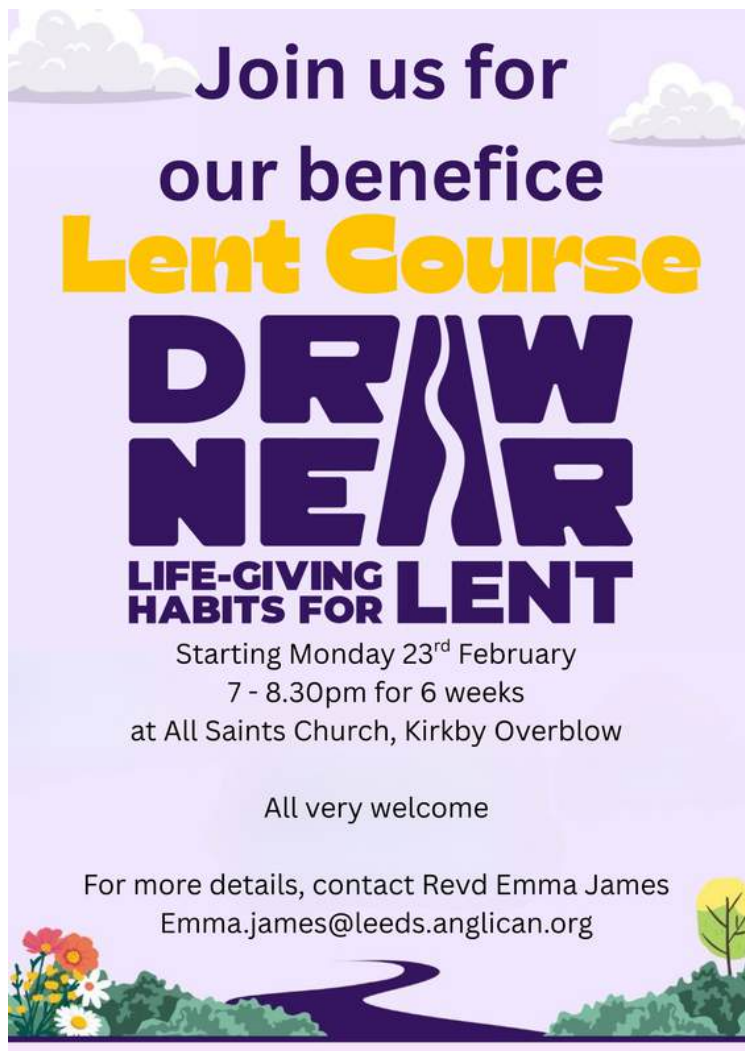
This year we're running a 6 week Lent course based on developing patterns and rhythms of life which help us to grow as disciples. We'll be exploring aspects such as praying, reading the bible, worshipping and sharing our faith with others. Each week will have some input and then plenty of discussion 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 23rd 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

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

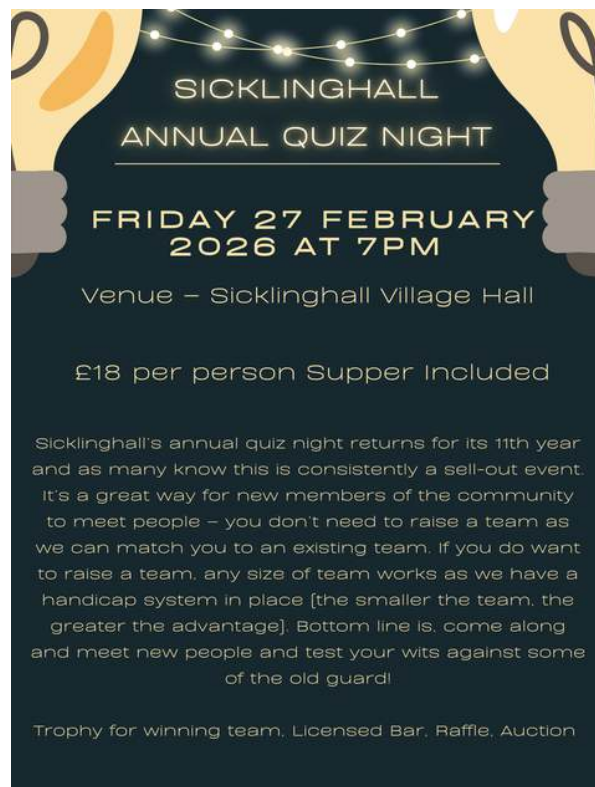
Sicklinghall will be having their community coffee and chat at Sicklinghall Cricket Club on Tuesday 10th February at 10.30am.

Start your day off right with a coffee, conversation and great company.

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

We have a short reflection/poem or simile 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!


2nd 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

18th January | 15th February | 15th March

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

More Info: emma.james@leeds.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

Registration via Eventbrite

Contacts

Exploring Vocation Together



Jenice Guild
Administrator
jenice.guild@leeds.anglican.org

Revd Canon Sean Robertshaw
Diocesan Director of Vocations
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

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

