

# Lower Wharfedale Benefice Newsletter

Issue 8

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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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

12 April

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	08.30am
North Rigton	Parish Communion	9.30am
Pool	Family Service	09.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Family Service	11.00am

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Sicklinghall	Community Service	10.30am
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Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Pool	Midweek Communion Wharfedale Court is at	10:30am
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19<sup>th</sup> April

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	08.30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	09.30am
Weeton	Parish Communion	11.00am
North Rigton	Peace and Praise	6.00pm

Monday 20 April

Kirkby Overblow	Lego Church	3.30pm
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26 April

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

27 April

Pool	Lego Church	3.30pm
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# Readings and Prayer

## Reading: Luke 24:1-6

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them,  
“Why do you seek the living among the dead?  
He is not here, but has risen.

# Reflection



Bank Holiday Monday always carries a slightly gentler rhythm, doesn't it? The rush of Easter Day has softened into something warm and familiar, foil wrappers scattered about, half-eaten chocolate eggs on the table, and the comforting presence of family close by.

There is something quietly holy in these ordinary moments.

We gather not in grand cathedrals today, but around kitchen tables, in gardens (if the British weather allows!), or on sofas with cups of tea and far too much chocolate. Children delight in their Easter eggs, adults pretend not to, and laughter finds its way into the room. These are not small things, they are glimpses of the life we are called to live.

Because Easter was never meant to stay only in church.

The joy of the Resurrection spills into everyday life, into shared meals, into kindness, into simply being together. In a world that often feels heavy with conflict, division, and noise, these quiet acts of togetherness become acts of peace.

And peace is something we must choose.

Not just the absence of violence, but the presence of love.  
Not just avoiding conflict, but actively seeking understanding.  
Not just hoping for a better world, but living in a way that reflects it.

Even today, perhaps especially today, as we unwrap chocolate eggs and share time with those we love, we are reminded that life is a gift. That joy is still possible. That peace begins in small places... like our homes, our conversations, our hearts.

And carry with you this simple truth: even in a troubled world, we can still choose peace, and in doing so, reflect the light of Easter.

Because two thousand years ago,  
light refused to be extinguished.  
Life refused to stay buried.  
Love refused to let go.

The Word is still speaking.  
The light is still shining.  
And the darkness, well, it never stood a chance.

So enjoy the chocolate.  
Laugh loudly.  
Rest well.  
breathe  
and let joy have the final word.

## PRAYER

Lord of new life,  
bless our homes this day with laughter and peace.  
In a world that longs for healing,  
help us to be gentle, kind, and forgiving.  
May the joy of Easter remain not just in our words,  
but in the way we live.  
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, Kath, Doris, Sam, Jo, Jeremy, Mary, Martha, Richard, Don, Colin, John, Christine, Pam, Trevor, John M and John B and John P, Susan, James and Louise

For the deceased and the families of the late

Bernadette McDermott

Raymond Thornton

Elizabeth Davies

Paul Metcalfe

Maggie Raeburn

Freda Lishman

The funeral of Elizabeth Davies St Wilfrid's Pool at 10:30am on Weds 15th April

The funeral of Paul Metcalfe All Saints, KO at 10:30am on Thurs 16th April

The funeral of Maggie Raeburn. At St Wilfrid's, Pool on Weds 22nd April at 1pm

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# Let's take a look back at Easter in the Diocese

## PALM SUNDAY

It was wild and windy outside - but Rev'd Stroma still managed to receive a 'kiss' from our guest of honour

The palm branches are not just decorations; they are symbols of victory in battle, urging us to walk with Christ through the struggle of passion to the victory of resurrection.



## GOOD FRIDAY

A moving and meaningful reflective service took place at All saints on Good Friday as adults and children from all churches across the Benefice came together to remember the last hours of Jesus life. With poems, music, readings and art, Revd Emma and team led us gently to the cross with a final, personal act of tying red ribbons onto the cross.



## ST WILFRID'S - POOL

A big thank you from St Wilfrid's to Paul and Steph Steel for decorating the Easter cross with daffodils, to Jean Radley for the flower displays and to June Adamson for creating our Easter garden. A lot of work went into all of these. The 3 crosses in the Easter garden are still the originals made by Tommy Lodge about 50 years ago!!



JESUS PAID IT ALL	
SIN	PAID
SHAME	PAID
PAIN	PAID
PAST MISTAKES	PAID
REJECTION & LONELINESS	PAID
SLAVERY TO SIN	PAID
SPIRITUAL DEATH	PAID
*****	
AMOUNT DUE	0.00
CHANGE	0.00
*****	
Subtotal	0.00
GRAND TOTAL	0.00
***** 0000 XX/XX *****	
FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. ROMANS 6.23	

## SATURDAY - Service at St Mary's Stainburn

Thanks so much to everyone who supported today by coming along. Special mention for delicious baking Liz and Jessica, for reading - Lily, Grace, Wilf and Rupert. Georgia for the egg hunt and teas.

Lovely to see so many young and teenagers getting together.



We raised £175 to be split between the CCT and churchyard fund. We took £28.90 plus QR code donations for refreshments.



# Regular Events for your Diary

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 Barnabas, Weeton, Community Coffee Morning

Third Wednesday of every month  
-  
Come and join us

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



## Sicklinghall Community Service

*Together in Faith, Growing in Community*

✦ We meet on the Tuesday following the second Sunday of the month (now that will have confused you!), we enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake or biscuits and have a good natter before turning to a time of reflection. The reflections take many forms, pictures, poems etc., and are a prompt for what they are saying to us. We end with some simple prayers and have a prayer tree for anyone who wishes to add their own prayers which are included in our Sunday worship. ✦

All this takes place at Sicklinghall Cricket Club where we can enjoy God's creation in the warmth through the huge windows.

Our next services are at 1030am on Tuesday 14th April and Tuesday 12th May,  
EVERYONE is welcome.

# 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)

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds

Loving.  
Living.  
Learning.

### 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*



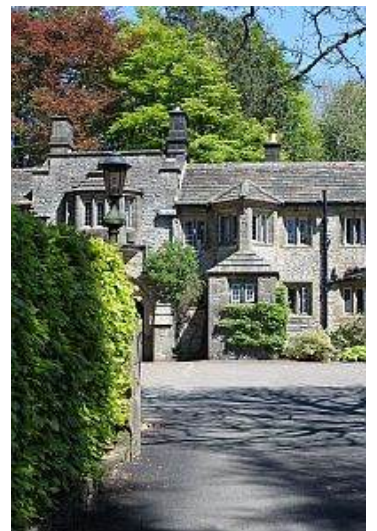
Jenice Guild  
Administrator  
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Revd Canon Sean Robertshaw  
Diocesan Director of Vocations  
[sean.robertshaw@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:sean.robertshaw@leeds.anglican.org)

## Parcevall Hall

Parcevall Hall is the only Retreat House and Conference Centre of the Diocese of Leeds. Set in 24 acres in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the oldest part of the Hall dates from the 16th Century. Complete restoration and extension was undertaken from 1927 by Sir William Milner, Baronet of Nun Appleton Hall, the godson of Queen Mary and a keen horticulturalist, who also landscaped the grounds and was instrumental in the establishment of Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate. On Sir William's death in 1960, he bequeathed Parcevall to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, who now lease the Hall to the diocese. With 17 bedrooms and beautiful, traditionally-furnished public rooms, the Hall is equally at home hosting silent retreats, study groups, holiday guests and conferences for small professional or commercial groups and houseguests can enjoy the stunning gardens as well as the surrounding countryside.

There is also a full schedule of open events which are particularly appropriate for those who prefer to be in company and follow a relaxed, themed programme. For full details contact the Hall on 01756 720213 or go to [www.parcevallhall.org.uk](http://www.parcevallhall.org.uk).



# Gardening Tips

## How to sow a wildflower patch

Annual wildflower seeds are easy to sow in mid-spring or early autumn. There are many mixes available, with different blends of wildflowers, some of which include grasses for a meadow effect.

Make sure you buy enough seeds for the area you want to sow – check the seed packet for the sowing rate (usually in grammes per square metre) and measure up your site.

For a natural effect, it's best to scatter (broadcast) the seeds rather than sowing in straight lines. The easiest way to get an even distribution is to mix the seeds with a small quantity of dry sand – you can then see where and how densely you've sown.

Tools you need to sow a wildflower patch

Annual wildflower or meadow seed mix

Fork

Rake

Small amount of dry sand

Bamboo canes

Garden hose or watering can

Bird-proof netting, biodegradable fleece or bird scarer, such as a string line of CDs, decoy bird of prey or wind chimes (optional)

Top tip

For the widest choice of wildflower seed mixes, go to a specialist supplier. They offer options for various growing conditions, as well as supplying larger quantities if needed.

## Eco Tip

The Environmental Impact of Fast Fashion  
The fashion industry has a devastating impact on the planet.

It produces 2 - 8% of the global carbon emissions.

It is the 2nd biggest consumer of water.

It produces 20% of industrial wastewater worldwide.

85% of all textiles are burnt or dumped in landfill.

It can have a huge social cost with low wages, long hours & a disregard for human rights so try to buy from an ethical fashion brand if you can.

(Information from [www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org](http://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org))

So - slow down and buy less, invest in better quality, buy 2nd hand, mend & repair and recycle.



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!