

Lower Wharfedale Benefice Newsletter

Issue 11

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 any 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.

UPCOMING

Church Services

Sunday 12 July		
Kirkby Overblow	BCP with presentation to Margaret Harcourt and refreshments afterwards	08.30am
North Rigton	Parish Communion	09.30am
Pool	Family Service	09.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Family Service	11.00am
Tuesday 14 th July		
Sicklinghall	Community Service	10.30am
Thursday 16 July		
Pool	Pool C of E School End of Term Service - St Wilfrid's	10.30am
Pool	Reflective Communion Service- St Wilfrid's	11.15am
Sunday 19 th July		
Kirkby Overblow	BCP	08.30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	09.30am
North Rigton	Peace and Praise	6.00pm
26 July		
North Rigton	Family Service	09.30am
Pool	Parish Communion	09.30am
Kirby Overblow	Parish Communion with Sunday Club	11.00am

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

Prayer: (taken from the Archdeacon Visitation Service)

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for the ministry of our church wardens and our congregations. Grant them the gift of hope and joy in the outworking of their ministry and transform us all with the spirit of thanksgiving that all our work, prayer and witness with a nd for one another , in service of your kingdom, might lift and inspire those we care for, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Amen.

Reflection:1066 and all that



I love this piece of scripture. It so aptly speaks about life and our experiences of it. Sadly, it is often only read at funerals but it fits nicely with one of my experience this week.

When I was at primary school, I loved history. One thing I vividly remember doing is a drawing of the Battle of Hastings. Everyone did an A4 page of something we imagined happened and they were all pinned together to line along the walls of the classroom. I love art but I'm not good at it but thankfully the very basic drawing I did was perfectly adequate.

So, I was thrilled that the Bayeux Tapestry is coming for a special exhibition at the British Museum this Autumn and myself and a friend were determined to get tickets. On Wednesday my friend went online as soon as the ticket hotline opened. She found that she was 87,647 in the queue. I didn't rate our chances, but she valiantly stayed on as the queue placement counted down until 8 hours later she nabbed the tickets. I'm not even sure the Battle of Hastings lasted that long, but I'm delighted, a bucket list thing for me and clearly for many others as the tickets are already sold out.

It tells the story of the events leading to the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and the Norman conquest of England under William the Conqueror. It shows kings and bishops, soldiers and horses, ships crossing the Channel, battles fought, lives lost and a nation changed forever. It is history told not with ink but with needle and thread.

Although we call it a tapestry, it is actually an embroidered linen cloth, probably created in England during the eleventh century before finding its home in France for almost a millennium. Many historians believe it was commissioned by Bishop Odo, William's half-brother, and stitched by skilled English embroiderers. It is both a historical record and a work of extraordinary craftsmanship, though like every historical source it reflects the viewpoint of those who commissioned it.

One of the most remarkable things isn't the pictures of Kings, bishops, soldiers fighting or the pivotal arrow striking Harold but that it was created by women, who patiently stitched each thread but whose names history has forgotten. But I wonder, as they made it, did they laugh, share stories, stop for prayers when the church bell rang? Did they worry about their children, wonder what tomorrow would bring, or realise that their careful work would still be admired a thousand years later?

Their names have disappeared, but their handiwork remains. There is something deeply Christian about that for me.

So much of our faith has always been built by ordinary, faithful people whose names rarely appear in history books. The person who quietly arranges flowers in church. The volunteer who makes tea after the service. The one who visits a lonely neighbour. The parent who teaches a child to pray. None may become famous, yet each is adding another thread to God's great tapestry.

Saint Paul reminds us that we are "God's fellow workers." Most of us will never make headlines, but every act of kindness, every prayer whispered in silence, every word of encouragement becomes part of a far greater picture than we can ever see.

On Thursday at Ripon Cathedral, we had the Archdeacon's visitation where all the Church Wardens for the Ripon Episcopal Area were sworn in. The whole service and the Archdeacon's charge was about recognising and being thankful for the commitment and work of our churchwardens whose responsibilities include care of our buildings, graveyards and many other areas of church life and where most of the work goes unseen. The purpose of having the visitation at the cathedral though was to bring everyone together and to celebrate and be thankful of the work the wardens do and to remember that it is a holy act of worship, rather like the stitchers of the tapestry.

Perhaps that is why the Bayeux Tapestry continues to speak so powerfully today. It reminds us that history is not only shaped by those whose faces appear in the scene, but also by those whose hands quietly stitched it together. Perhaps the lesson we can learn from the tapestry but also from the service of our wardens and everyone who volunteers for the church is that It's about faithfulness. Patient stitch after patient stitch. Act of care and service after act of care and service, Day after day. Year after year. These acts unify and unite us, and they stand as a witness to the communities around us. That, after all, is often how God works in our lives, not in spectacular moments, but through countless quiet threads of grace that, in time, reveal a masterpiece only He could have imagined.



Prayers and Care

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

contact:

Rev'd Stroma McDermott - Tel: 07791 499036

stroma.mcdermott@leeds.anglican.org

We remember in our Prayers

Jo, Carol, Mary, Susan, John, Trevor, Richard, Louise, Ruby, Colin and
Graham, Angus and Ruby

For the deceased and the families of the late

Diane Patricia Stead

For the couples who are to be married

Jennifer Barrett and Peter Sharp

Claire Lenighan and Justin King

Dear Friends,

On Saturday 27th June we gathered at Ripon Cathedral to witness and celebrate the ordination of Rev'd Emma James. It was an uplifting service led by The Bishop of Ripon, The Rt Revd Anna Eltringham Anna, the choir and organ helped to raise our voices in praise and Rev'd Canon Jude Smith, Diocesan Director of Mission and Revitalisation as the preacher left us with plenty of food for thought as she reflected on the reading (Isaiah 6.1-4) and the Gospel (Matthew 9.35-10.1;5-16).

Both these readings are calls to mirror the acts of the Lord and of course served as a reminder to the 5 ordinands who were ordained in the service but that call was also to each and everyone of us. We were encouraged to go beyond the crowd and serve the least by seeing, noticing and acting. 'Now hang on a minute' I hear you say, 'I'm not a Priest, what do you mean it relates to me too?'

Here are a few tips to help all of us follow that call.

See and Notice

Throughout the gospels we hear of Jesus recognising and approaching those in need even when they are lost in large crowds. We all live busy lives and it is very easy not to see the marginalised in all that busyness. We need to slow down and take the opportunity to look around and perhaps see those who are struggling alongside us.

Noticing also means listening with intent when chatting to someone rather than thinking ahead to what you want to say or how you will respond.

Compassion and Empathy

We all hold some preconceived ideas about people simply by their appearance, how they speak or act. Acting judgementally is an easy trap to fall in to. I once attended a safeguarding course, at the beginning of which the tutor put up a screen with pictures of men ranging from the well groomed to the unkempt and slovenly. We were asked to rate them by risk – I'm sure you have guessed that many trusted the well groomed smiling gents and yes they were the convicted criminals.

Try using empathy when meeting new people by learning and understanding more about them rather than making snap judgements.

Respond with Love

When we are in difficult situations we have two options, react in a similar angry or aggressive manner or try to stay calm. If like me you have a quick temper then this is a real challenge but with practice it does become easier.

Just as Jesus freely offers us the spiritual gifts of peace and grace, we should also look for opportunities to offer help and encouragement to those in need, especially those who cannot repay us for our acts of generosity.

All the above is a huge task and one that will trip us up at times but remember with prayer, faith and hope as support we can do our very best to be a disciple of the Lord. Here is a simple prayer you might like to use to help you along the way:

In your time, Lord, in your time
Take the imperfect that is me
and create
the person that I could be
In your time, Lord, in your time

May God bless you and guide you.

Jan Ali LLM

.....and a message from Rev'd Emma

Thanks so much to everyone for the cards, flowers and wonderful cakes on Sunday at the benefice service. It was fabulous celebrating with you and I was bowled over by your kindness and generosity. You're a lovely, lovely lot and I feel incredibly blessed to be your curate.

Lots of love and prayers, Emma x



NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS

neighbourhood policing teams
npt



Adel and Wharfedale

Police and Community Together (PACT) Meetings

The Police and Communities Together Meetings for residents in the Adel and Wharfedale area, will be held at the following venue:

**Pool Village Memorial Hall
Arthington Lane , Otley LS21 1LG**

29th June 2026

18:30-19:30

Officers look forward to meeting and speaking with residents in person about local priorities, issues and concerns.

Join us and have a say in how the area is policed.



**WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE**



Village Community Event

at St John's Church

TABLE-TOP SALE!

Saturday 12th September - 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

.....
Have fun disposing of all those things you no longer
require

**Bricabrac, children's toys, plants, tools,
china, crockery, books, picture**

No electrical items please

.....
£10.00 per table

You keep your sales income!

Gazebos and tables available or bring your own.

Coffee, teas and cakes for sale

To book a table contact us at: stjohnnorthrigton@gmail.com





Weeton Show: Sunday 19 July

Every year the Weeton Show celebrates our local community with a traditional village country show. There's something for everyone from falconry flying, to tractors and terrier racing. Or you could enter one of our many classes from horses to horticulture.

And if you don't fancy competing, we would really appreciate any help you may be able to give on the Saturday or Sunday. The show relies on volunteers who make it the success it is. Drop us an email at showvolunteers@weetonshow.co.uk- many hands make light work!

And that's not all, every year there is a hog roast on the Friday evening before show day – a great opportunity for the local community to get together and enjoy delicious food and the odd glass of wine with each other.

Please come and support your local village country show and the Hog Roast – you won't be disappointed!

Full details on the website: www.weetonshow.co.uk



**New
Venues**



Contact us at
layministry@leeds.anglican.org

Introduction to Theology



- Want to deepen your discipleship?
- Feel called to a particular ministry?
- Just want to know more?
- This course is for you!

Running in
a local
venue to
suit you!

Leyburn

Ripon



Gargrave

Course runs over 4 Study Days:

Saturday 19 September, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Saturday 17 October, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Saturday 14 November, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Saturday 5 December, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Regular Events for your Diary

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!

All Saints' Kirkby Overblow
VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

9.30am - 11.30am

**FIRST WEDNESDAY
OF EVERY
MONTH**



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 at 1030am 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.

EVERYONE is welcome.

Events to look forward to

Everyone Welcome !

PEACE & PRAISE

Sunday 19th July 2026
Sunday 16th Aug 2026
Sunday 20th Sept 2026

6-7pm
St John's,
North Rigton

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

More info: emma.james@leeds.anglican.org

WORSHIP | FAITH | FOOD | FRIENDSHIP

1ST SUNDAY
OF THE MONTH

Youth WORSHIP NIGHT

6 - 7.30pm
WESLEY CHAPEL
28 Oxford St, Harrogate

Register
online

netmakers.org.uk/harrogate-youth

In partnership with
NETMAKERS
YOUTH

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
Registration via Eventbrite

Exploring Vocation Together

Contacts
Revd Canon Sean Robertshaw
Diocesan Director of Vocations
sean.robertshaw@leeds.anglican.org
Jenice Guild
Administrator
jenice.guild@leeds.anglican.org

Pet Service

We are hoping to hold a pet service at
St Peters Sicklinghall on
Sunday 13th September,
please keep an eye on our notice board for
further news.



Come along
and help us
make a
difference



How can we embrace a
more sustainable
lifestyle in our Homes
and Churches?



Join us for a day of
eco-conscious
living!



LOWER WHARFEDALE BENEFICE GREEN FAIR

Saturday 10 October, 10am-3pm
Pool Village Hall

Offers of help and ideas for stalls gratefully
received!

moirakeith2@gmail.com

From the Diocese



The Diocese of Leeds' Rural Ministry Forum met at Ripon Cathedral for its biannual meeting recently, looking at how churches can engage with those in rural areas on a variety of topics.

The Forum, held on Wednesday, June 3, heard from Dr Vincent Walsh, a leading UK regenerative design expert, farmer, and entrepreneur, as their keynote speaker.

Vincent is recognised for his pioneering work in agroforestry, the circular economy, and sustainable food systems. His work looks beyond sustainability alone to the health and complexity of whole ecosystems. Over the past four years, he has been developing a whole-farm system across 92 acres at Ings Farm, integrating sheep, forestry, and wildflower meadows. Vincent traced the development of his interest in design, explored the complexity of natural systems, and reflected on his work encouraging organisations to invest in biological intelligence.

At Ings Farm, this approach is creating a biodiverse system that produces food while integrating sheep, trees, wildflowers, and water management. The farm also generates income through biodiversity credits and by selling wool to a local merchant, who has observed that the wool is cleaner and shows signs of lower stress.

The Forum then divided into three case study groups. Jo Chamberlain, National Environment Officer for the Church of England, led a workshop on the Church's role in advocacy, about how we engage with people who dismiss climate change as well as with those who feel fatigued by the subject. The discussion emphasised that the Church's response is missional as well as practical.

Members of St Mary's Embsay shared their experience of becoming an Eco Church, offering practical insights and encouragement for other churches considering similar action.

Members of Holy Trinity Skipton also shared about their recent project to become greener, as part of the National Church Demonstrator Project. The church has replaced a failed gas boiler and corroded heating pipework with air source heat pumps, an electric boiler, high-efficiency radiators, and insulation. With funding from Benefact and the national Church of England, the church has moved from being one of the five highest carbon-emitting churches in the diocese to achieving carbon zero.

The Rt Revd Anna Eltrigham, Bishop of Ripon, led the closing reflections, highlighting the environmental impact of food production, transport, and waste. She reflected that God must weep over what we are doing to our world, and that He calls us to restore, renew, and revive it, caring for all creation and drawing people into his new life with hope.

The next Ripon Cathedral Rural Ministry Forum will take place on Wednesday, November 4.

The Forum is open to anyone interested in the Church's mission and ministry in rural areas, and in learning from those who live and work there in new and inspirational ways.

To find out more, please get in touch with the Revd Caroline Pinchbeck, Diocesan Rural Change Enabler, at caroline.pinchbeck@leeds.anglican.org.

Gardening Tips- July

While we have our fingers crossed for no extreme heat, the hotter weather can cause your flowers to struggle, so it's important to take care of the plants you've worked hard on growing this far.

- During hot spells, check your beds, borders, pots, and baskets to see if the soil has dried out. If so, give your plants a good drink of water – some smaller plants might need watered twice a day.
- Regularly deadhead your bedding, container, and basket plants, and any other repeat-flowering perennials to enjoy a longer display of blooms in your garden. This is also a great way to keep your garden looking great during the summer months, as it gets rid of any wilted or dying flower heads to make way for new ones.
- Your flowers may benefit from a liquid feed, particularly your container plants, roses, and our outdoor Plant of the Month, dahlias.
- When the weather gets warmer, cut back on your water usage and keep your grass looking green instead by raising the cutting height of your lawn mower blades when trimming your grass. Don't worry if your grass browns in the heat, once it rains again it should return to its usual state quite quickly.
- After cutting your lawn, don't forget to finish it off by trimming the edges with a grass trimmer or edging shears to keep it looking neat and orderly.
- Prune any fast-growing hedges in your garden, like Leyland cypress. Make sure to tie-in any ramblers too as they continue to grow.
- Weeds thrive in dry, warm weather, so continue hoeing any weeds around your beds or vegetable patches in dry weather, as this gives you the best chance of not allowing them to re-root.

Eco Tip

Never put warm or hot food into the fridge or freezer as this will make the fridge work extra hard to try and keep it cold; always allow food to cool down first

Eat less meat, particularly red meat; producing 1kg of beef produces the equivalent CO₂ to you driving a 300mile round trip while leaving all your lights on at home.

Stop using aluminium foil for cooking wherever possible; use a container with a lid that can be reused. Aluminium is a rare metal and its extraction and purification uses a lot of energy.

When you need to buy a large item research it carefully. Think about how long it could last, how much it costs to run, what it is made of, where it is made, can it be recycled at the end of its life. Better quality items often last longer and so cost you less over time.

Switch to eco cleaning products which biodegrade in the sewerage system and don't damage aquatic life in our rivers and seas. They also contain less harmful chemicals for us too.

Cut up old clothes or sheets that you were going to throw out, to use as clothes for cleaning jobs rather than buying new cleaning clothes.



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!

.....and finally,

We are so grateful that you have signed up to receive our newsletter.

We would also like to occasionally send you one-off emails with items of interest, updates, and information that we feel may be relevant to you. If you are happy to receive these occasional emails, there is no need to do anything. We promise not to bombard you with messages and will only send information when we feel it is worthwhile.

If you would prefer not to receive these additional emails, please simply reply to let us know and we will make sure you are removed from this list.

Thank you again for your support.

Lower Wharfedale Benefice Team