

Lower Wharfedale Benefice Newsletter

Issue 13

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.

UPCOMING

Church Services

Sunday 9 August

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
North Rigton	Parish Communion Service	9.30am
Pool	Family Pet Service	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow.	Family Pet Service	11.00am

Tuesday 11 August

Sicklinghall Community Service	10.30am
Cricket Club	

Thursday 13 August

Pool	Wharfedale Court	10.30am
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Sunday 16 August

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9.30am
Weeton	Parish Communion	11.00am

23 August

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

NB - Please note there is no Peace and Praise in August - although the poster says there is!!

Readings and Prayer

I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

1 The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
O God, our sovereign and shepherd,
who brought again your Son Jesus Christ
from the valley of death,
comfort us with your protecting presence
and your angels of goodness and love,
that we also may come home
and dwell with him in your house for ever.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of life and for walking with me on this path.

I do not know what tomorrow brings,
But I know you are holding my hand.

When the road is steep, give me strength.

When the path is dark, be my light.

When I am lost or tired, lead me back to your peace.

Help me to learn as I go, to love others well,
and to trust your good plan.

Walk closely beside me today and always.

Amen

Reflection

The Journey Matters

One of the things we are trying to do in the next few days is to go and see the new Christopher Nolan film 'The Odyssey'.

By all accounts it is an incredible piece of theatre and one that engages all your senses, especially if you can see it in Imax.

The Odyssey is the epic tale by Homer of the return journey from Troy by Odysseus one of the leading lights of the Trojan War and the King of Ithaca.

One of the strap lines of the social media posts about it is this- 'what happens when the person who comes home is not the one who left'

The Odyssey tells the tale of the 10 year journey for Odysseus to return to his home and his family and kingdom.

It's about the journey but its about what the journey does to us.

Often when we set out on a journey we concentrate on looking towards the destination.

We count the miles, watch the clock and wonder how much longer it will take.

We convince ourselves that everything will feel better once we arrive, once the problem is solved, once the next chapter begins.

Yet life is rarely a straight road.

There are long stretches when very little seems to change, sudden bends that hide what lies ahead, and unexpected detours that take us far from the route we had planned. Some journeys are easy and beautiful; others leave us tired, frustrated and longing for home.

But perhaps the journey itself is not simply something to endure.

Along the way, landscapes change. Familiar views disappear and new ones open before us. We meet people who offer kindness without knowing how much we need it.

We learn patience in the delays, courage on the difficult roads and gratitude in those moments when we pause long enough to notice the beauty around us.

Not every detour is wasted. Not every delay is a failure. Sometimes the road we did not choose teaches us more than the road we had carefully planned.

Perhaps today we should worry a little less about arriving and pay more attention to where we are now: the people travelling beside us, the lessons hidden in the difficult places and the unexpected moments of joy found along the way.

For Christians, faith is not simply about reaching heaven at the end of life. It is about recognising that Christ walks with us now, on the straight roads, through every detour and even when we feel completely lost.

The destination matters, of course.

But so does the journey.

Amen

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

For those who need God's healing and love, thinking of:
[John, Susan, Louise, Ruby, Trevor, Kath, Christine and Mike](#)

For the deceased and the families of the late
[Alan Douthwaite, Graham Shaw](#)

For the couples who are to be married
[Georgia Booth and Michael Cocker](#)



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.

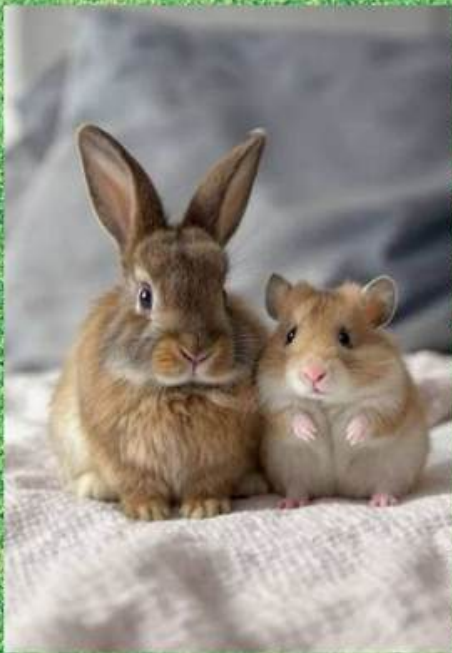
Coffee, teas and cakes for sale

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





**Come and join us at
one of our Pet Services -
well behaved owners
welcome**



Sunday 9 August - Pool - 9.30am

Sunday 9 August - Kirkby Overblow - 11am

Sunday 23 August - North Rigton - 9.30am

Sunday 13 September - Sicklinghall - 3pm



New Venues



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

Loving. Living. Learning.

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

Further details: <https://leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/training-for-ministry/training-programmes/introduction-to-theology-course/>

Rural Gathering

Tuesday 29th September
9.30am - 11.30am



Come and be part of the conversation
A warm welcome to all clergy and lay people of our rural benefices.

Join us for our second gathering, a wonderful opportunity to share ideas and resources, and to learn from one another. We will explore how we can encourage and resource pastoral care and family-focused ministry, with plenty of opportunity for conversation, sharing, and reflection. We're delighted that Caroline Pinchbeck, Rural Change Enabler, will be with us to share her experience and insight. We hope you will be able to join us.

@ All Saints' Church
Kirkby Overblow

Diocese Training Learning Opportunities

Children & Youth Ministry

The Diocese offers a range of practical courses to encourage and equip everyone involved in ministry with children, young people and families.

- Ministry with Children and Young People
- Safe Practice Workshop
- Children's Ministry Essentials
- Youth Ministry Essentials

Please check out the options at [Core Training - Diocese of Leeds](#)



TEND A day of celebration, connection and inspiring workshops.
Saturday 5 September at St Andrew's, Purlwell, Batley
To book your place visit [TEND - Diocese of Leeds](#)

Bubble Church

Bubble Church is partnering with the Diocese of Leeds to host a training day at Wakefield Cathedral on Thursday 24 September, helping churches explore worship for young children and their families, with practical guidance and resources to get started.

To find out more, visit the [Diocese of Leeds website](#) and check out the [Bubble Church website](#)



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 !

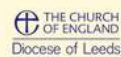
PEACE & PRAISE

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

6-7pm
St John's,
North Ripton

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

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



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

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



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!



POOL IN WHARFEDALE 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

New clergy and lay members are being elected to General Synod this year – and regular churchgoers are being invited to consider standing as a candidate. General Synod, the national assembly of the Church of England, shapes and approves laws that affect the whole of the Church of England. In Autumn 2026, elections are happening for new General Synod members and those elected will serve for five years. Nominations for candidates open next week on Friday 14 August and close on 7 September 2026.

Almost anyone who attends church regularly is likely to be eligible to stand as a lay member. You don't need any special skills. You don't need any previous experience in making speeches. You don't need to be a member of a PCC, Deanery Synod or Diocesan Synod. In fact, it doesn't matter if you don't know everything about how the Church operates or how General Synod works – people will help you with this if you do get elected. However, the role can be tremendously rewarding and so anyone interested is encouraged to get in touch to find out more.

STAND
for
SYNOD

The new Bishop of Leeds will be the Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth, it was announced by the Prime Minister's office today, after the King approved his nomination for election.

Bishop Toby will be the second Bishop of Leeds, following the retirement of the Rt Revd Nick Baines in November 2025. He has served as Area Bishop of Bradford in the Diocese since 2014 and has been Acting Bishop of Leeds since Bishop Nick's retirement.

Bishop Toby said: "I have a deep sense of joy and longing. Joy to have been called to serve as Bishop of Leeds in this glorious Diocese that I've grown to love over the last twelve years. Joy to be working with such a rich diversity of churches and cathedrals, schools and chaplaincies, faith and community partners, businesses, institutions and statutory services filled with faithful and creative people working in often challenging contexts. Joy to be part of such a committed and talented diocesan staff team. But also longing. Longing for us all to experience more and more of God's abundant love in Jesus transforming our lives, our homes and our communities."



Commenting on the appointment, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, said: "Leeds is a remarkable Diocese, shaped by a rich history, extraordinary diversity and a deep commitment to sharing the hope of Jesus Christ in every community. Bishop Toby knows and loves this Diocese so well. I am delighted that he will lead the next chapter of the life and witness of the church in this place.

"Bishop Toby's passion for sharing the good news of the Gospel alongside his profound commitment to interfaith dialogue equip him to serve all those who call these communities home."

Bishop Toby will lead on the next stage of the Diocese of Leeds vision of becoming confident Christians, growing churches and transforming communities.

From the Diocese cont'd

"I am looking forward to working across the Diocese as we take forward that vision together," he said. "Over the next weeks and months, I will be listening to partners and communities both inside and outside the Church to hear how we can best support churches and leaders to be confident in our mission and purpose, to ensure we are efficient, effective and sustainable as a diocese and to be relevantly living and telling the good news of Jesus in our rapidly changing world." During the autumn, Bishop Toby will be elected to the role of Diocesan Bishop of Leeds following a joint meeting of the Cathedral Colleges of Canons in Ripon and his election will be confirmed by the Archbishop of York at York Minster.

Three services of welcome and installation will follow at Bradford Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral and Wakefield Cathedral. From September onwards, Bishop Toby will be undertaking a programme of visits to meet and listen to people from churches, organisations and communities around the Diocese. To mark the announcement today, Bishop Toby climbed Great Whernside, one of the highest points in the diocese, from where there is a view right across this vast, varied and wonderful region. Hear from him on the mountain!

The Great Yorkshire Show

Sharing Church on Show with the Archbishop of York



The church was truly on show at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate with Christians across the diocese providing a special 'Churches on Show' tent. The show is a highlight annual event in the agricultural calendar which sees communities coming together with visitors from across the county to celebrate farming and rural life. Located directly behind the main ring, Yorkshire Churches on Show is an ecumenical project with, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, URC and Free Church represented. It is an excellent witness to the Christian faith right at the heart of one of the biggest agricultural shows in the country with 140,000 people attending each year. Among them this year was the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, who presented several championship rosettes in the cattle and pig rings, tried a tractor for size and met the makers of award-winning handcrafted shepherds' staffs, as well as visiting the Church on Show.

From the Diocese cont'd

The Archbishop also met with Dean of Ripon Cathedral the Very Rev John Dobson and heard about the cathedral's presence at the show. Archbishop Stephen was hosted by Rev Jen Bradley, Interim Rector of the Walkingham Hill Benefice in the diocese and one of the team behind Church on Show. "The theme this year was journeying with Jesus and pilgrimage. Resurrection Bikes fun bikes measured people's distance on a pilgrimage route and we got the Archbishop of York peddling fast when he had a go," Jen said.

The journeying theme incorporated Bible stories including the Road to Emmaus, the Good Samaritan, the journey to Bethlehem and Jesus calming the storm, as well as the miraculous catch of fish. Other activities included baking bread, boat-themed Messy Church, St Aidan's CofE school, a prayer pool and journey to Bethlehem dress up, amongst other things.

"Churches on Show offers a unique space in a busy environment for people to just come and be, to pray, to chat, to do games and craft. We always come away with stories of special encounters and conversations," Jen added.



Gardening Tips- August

Don't panic

We've passed the period of peak plant water demand. As nights become longer and dewier, the sun sits lower in the sky and plants gradually need less water. By mid-September, much of the summer heat has gone and water demand is generally much lower.

Don't splash water on plants

Apply enough water to thoroughly wet the root zone, aiming directly at the base of the plant. If necessary, create a shallow earthen 'pond' or basin around the stem to trap the moisture. Always water in the evening or early morning; watering onto foliage or during the heat of the day leads to high evaporation losses.

Avoid excess lawn wear

Try to spread foot traffic and activities over your entire brown lawn to avoid destroying the ground-level grass. Feeding lawns during a heatwave or drought won't help, however an autumn feed is well worth contemplating once the weather breaks. September or October is also the ideal time for spiking or slitting to help rain soak into hard, compacted turf. Pierce the lawn with a garden fork or lawn tool when the soil is softened but not soggy. This improves root conditions and helps the grass recover from drought and for best results, brush some lawn top-dressing into the holes. Leave no-mow areas until autumn.

Go easy on sowing autumn salads

Chicories, endives, and salad onions are incredibly useful from mid-September onwards, but they can be tricky to establish in baked soil. Grow them in pots in light shade instead; harvesting them as mini leaves is far more water efficient. Lettuces are particularly difficult to get started during a drought.

Beware planting at peak drought

Pause your planting plans for as long as possible until drought stress has eased. Some winter crops, such as purple sprouting broccoli, must be planted now to ensure a good harvest next year. However, other ornamental purchases such as plants bought at late-summer flower shows can be kept moist and lightly shaded in their pots until planting conditions improve.

Don't delay summer pruning and deadheading.

Deadheading is the removal of flowers from plants when they have faded or died. It is done to keep plants looking attractive and encourage re-flowering. Removing spent flowers and lightly reducing excess growth can slightly reduce the amount of water plants need. Avoid heavy structural pruning during extreme heat, as this can severely stress the plant.

Let go of lost causes

Do not waste precious water on spare plants or plants that are unlikely to come to anything this summer. They consume water and effort and unless there is a good reason to keep them, they are much better off in the

Don't let weeds take over

Sneaky weeds have a marvellous ability to find soil moisture. They will quickly move into your beds, competing with your plants for water and getting ready to set seed. While some weed flowers benefit wildlife, a danger is present once they begin to scatter unwanted seeds. If they haven't formed physical seeds yet, you can lay the pulled weeds out in a quiet corner for birds to forage through for insects but be careful, as some pulled weeds can still ripen and drop seeds after being uprooted.

How to use up all the Summer Harvested Fruit

Summer Pudding is an all-time favourite . It's so simple to make and relatively inexpensive; it's literally bread, fruit and sugar

You will need

- 800g total mixed berries – something like the following:
- 700g frozen mixed berries
- 100g extra blackcurrants (just cos I love them so much!)
- 2 tablespoons Campari (optional)
- 8-10 medium slices white bread from a large loaf, crusts removed.
- 150g golden caster sugar
-

TIP: You can use frozen mixed berries – treat them exactly the same as fresh. No need to defrost.

You will need a 1 litre pudding basin, lightly brushed with vegetable oil.

Ensure all the fruit is clean, then place in a large pan together with the sugar and the Campari. Cook over a medium heat for 3–5 minutes until the sugar has dissolved and the juices begin to run, then remove the pan from the heat.

Trim one slice of bread to fit the base of the pudding basin, and cut 4 slices in half to line the side of the basin, overlapping them at the straight edge with the rounded side down, and sealing well by pressing the edges together. Fill any gaps with small pieces of bread, so that no juice can get through when you add the fruit.

Pour the fruit and juice in – except for about a cupful – then cover the pudding with the remaining bread and place a small plate or saucer (one that will fit exactly inside the rim of the bowl) on top. Place a weight on top (an old scale weight would work, or a bag of rice.) Leave in the fridge overnight.

Just before serving, loosen the pudding all round using a palette knife, and turn it out onto a large serving dish, then spoon the reserved fruit and juice all over, to soak any bits of bread that still look white (a pastry brush is useful here). Serve cut into wedges, with some cream.

If you try it - please send in your photos and we will put them in the next Newsletter!!



Eco Tip

Clothes

Mending is trending this summer! Before you head to the shops for your next summer look, think about the planet.

Try these eco-friendly fashion tips:

Patch and embellish old clothes to give a new lease of life. Donate unloved and buy preloved – one person's trash is another's treasure! Buy clothes made with healthy people and healthy planet in mind – Fairtrade, organic cotton, natural dyes...

Food

With summer comes barbecues and garden parties full of mouth-watering food! But do you know how, when, and where your food was produced? Reduce your impact with these top tips:

Eat less meat and dairy, and more fresh fruit and veg. Give meat and dairy substitutes a go, but be aware of their impact.

Currently, most soybean farming contributes to deforestation, and the crop also has to travel many miles and be processed before it reaches our shelves. Buy local and in season to reduce emissions from field to fork.

Learn where your food comes from. Is it grown with nature in mind?

Travel

Whether you're popping to the shops or going on holiday, every journey adds up. It can be tempting to hop on a plane in search of sun and white beaches but why not look closer to home?

Here's some more ideas to get you started:

Go electric if you can – do your research on grants and incentives that could help. Reduce the number of trips you take by car, and share rides with others when you can. Switch to walking, cycling, or public transport for shorter journeys.

Fly less – use alternatives like trains, and choose staycations. Be more fuel efficient – keep tyres inflated, go easy on the accelerator.

Climate

Climate change isn't just a summer problem - but with heatwaves and droughts on the rise what better time to take a stand? Use your voice and your vote to push for change. Support organisations working to make a positive difference.

Buy wisely. Learn about products and where they come from. Care for your community. Work together on issues that count.



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