

Lower Wharfedale Benefice

Digital Newsletter - Issue 6

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

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Tel: 01423 733341

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Rev'd Emma James

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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.

Upcoming Church Services

1st March

Kirkby Overblow	BCP Holy Communion.	8:30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion.	9:30am
Pool	Parish Communion	9:30am
Kirkby Overblow	Celtic Service	11am
Weeton	Family Service	11am

8th March

Kirkby Overblow	BCP Holy Communion	8:30am
North Rigton	Parish Communion	9:30am
Kirkby Overblow	Family Service	11am

Tuesday 10th March

Sicklinghall	Community Coffee Morning	10:30am
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Thursday 12th March

Pool	Communion and coffee morning At Wharfedale Court	10:30am
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15th March Mothering Sunday

Kirkby Overblow	BCP Holy Communion	8:30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9:30am
Pool	Family Service	9:30am
Weeton	Parish Communion	11am
Kirkby Overblow	Family Service	11am
North Rigton	Peace and Praise	6pm

16th March

Kirkby Overblow	Lego Church	3:30pm
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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

We remember in our Prayers

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

For the deceased and the families of the late
Barbara Keddle
Bernadette McDermott
Raymond Thornton
Frederick Smith

Matthew 4 1-11

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
as we enter this season of Lent,
quiet our hearts and steady our steps.

When we give something up,
help us to take something up,
more prayer, more kindness, more trust in
You.

When we walk instead of drive,
or turn off our screens,
remind us that You walked the road to
the cross for us.

In moments of hunger,
create in us a deeper hunger for
righteousness.
In moments of silence,
speak gently to our souls.

Draw us closer to You each day,
not in misery, but in meaning;
not in guilt, but in grace.

And when Easter dawns,
may we rise lighter, stronger,
and more in love with You. Amen.

Amen

Reflection

Lent begins not with noise, but with invitation.

For forty days the Church pauses, reflects, and gently asks each of us a question:

Will you walk this road on purpose? Not because you must. But because you choose to.

For many, Lent is about giving something up. Chocolate disappears from cupboards. Biscuits retreat to the back of the tin. Some leave the car on the drive a couple of days a week and walk to work instead. Others step away from social media, rediscovering conversation at the table or silence in the evening. One year I even stupidly agreed to give up cheese!

The choice obviously is yours but Lent is not a self-improvement project; it is a heart-realignment.

I know someone who walks to work during Lent and tells me they begin to treasure it, the rhythm of their steps becoming a kind of prayer. As they walk, they reflect. They breathe. They offer quiet words to God. And somewhere in that steady movement comes the powerful reminder that Jesus Himself was walking too, walking toward Jerusalem, toward betrayal, toward a cross. Walking with the weight of the sins we all carry.

That is not a light thought.

Yes, Lent can feel solemn. But it is not about misery. It is about remembering. It is about drawing closer to God through contemplation, through prayer, through small daily reminders of why this season matters to us as Christians on our journey.

Being a Christian is ultimately about choice, choosing to follow, choosing to trust, choosing to try.

So perhaps this Lent, don't just give something up. Give some time over. Walk. Pray. Step into a church midweek when it's quiet. Sit. Listen. Reflect.

You might just discover that in choosing to walk toward God, you find He has been walking toward you all along.

Events and services to look forward to

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

Mothering Sunday Services

Kirkby Overblow - BCP Holy Communion 8:30am

Sicklinghall - Parish Communion 9:30am

Pool - Family Service 9:30am

Weeton - Parish Communion 11am

Kirkby Overblow - Family Service 11am

North Rigton - Peace and Praise 6pm

PEACE & PRAISE

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



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.jamesleeds.anglican.org

Introducing a
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!

Please note on 8th March there is no Family Service in Pool

News from the Benefice

We are delighted to share some exciting news with you — we have a new benefice logo!

Over the past months, we have been reflecting on how best to express who we are as a Benefice: our shared faith, our unity across Parishes, and our commitment to serving our communities.

The new logo is a visual expression of that identity and will begin appearing on our website, newsletters, noticeboards, and other communications.

We hope you'll receive it as a fresh sign of our shared mission and continuing journey together.

Thank you, as always, for all that you do in the life of our churches.



News from the Diocese

Three generations baptised at once at St Mary's Beeston

In a "living proof" of faith, three generations stood together to be baptised during a single, powerful service at St Mary the Virgin Beeston recently.

Five-year-old twins Dawson and Dalton, their mother Mia, and their grandmother Julie all transitioned into their new life in Christ, surrounded by a supportive congregation.

The Revd June Cockburn, Vicar at St Mary's, said: "This is a first for me, four baptisms at the same time, all in the same family across three generations. "God is at work in people's hearts, and this is living proof!"

The family began attending St Mary's just after Christmas 2024. What started as a curious step into a pew soon became a moment of sensing Jesus at work in their lives, leading to a formal commitment to the Christian faith. The impact of their decision has reached far beyond the church doors.

Both Mia's and Julie's partners have noticed a tangible shift at home; the atmosphere in the house has changed for the better, echoing the New Testament promise that salvation is for "you and your household."

As the community celebrated this 'triple-generation' homecoming, the congregation continues to pray that God will grow their church.

For Dawson, Dalton, Mia, and Julie, Sunday, February 1 wasn't just a date on the calendar, but also the beginning of their shared family legacy in faith.



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 for this Issue

Plan this year's holidays, with creation in mind. At this time of year, our thoughts can often turn to the hope of warmer weather and planning a summer holiday. Visiting new places and seeing God's creation is a great way to be refreshed and rested. Yet how we travel and where we stay, can either be positive or negative for the very environment we care about. Use the prompts from Friends of the Earth to help you plan.

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/sustainable-living/ethical-travel-nofly-holiday-ideas>



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!

