



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale

News Sheet: Nov 22nd- 28th

Christ the King / 'Stir up Sunday'



The Sunday before Advent is a day in the churches calendar when we remind ourselves that Christ is our King and that the created world is his Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is a spiritual reality *and* a personal realm. It is established in our lives when our hearts are set on fire by God's love as we accept Christ for who he is and place our trust in Him for forgiveness of sins and a right standing before God. In a time of political and social turmoil here and overseas, it is good to remember and assert the truth that God is still in control.

I love the song by Godfrey Birtle (link given below) that states *'You're still God; when the government has no answers, when the media lowers the standard ... you're still God.'*

Jesus' parable is a vivid one that calls us to action. If we have made Christ King in our lives and secured all that means for us in this life and the next, then our wills should be loyal to his with a desire to serve him in every way we can. Fans of 'The Archers' will know that this Sunday is also known as 'Stir up Sunday', but it's so much more than a date for preparing the Christmas Pudding. The phrase comes from the Book of Common Prayer whose collect prayer for this day begins: 'Stir up O Lord the wills of your faithful people ...' It's a call to Arms; a call of Victory and a call of challenge. Jesus *is* King: how much do we allow him to reign in our lives?

<https://youtu.be/th601d6s66o>



Prayer for the Nation November 2020

Many of you I know, have responded to the Archbishops call to make November a month of prayer for the Nation and have been setting aside 5-10mins every day at 6pm to join with others throughout the land.

If you have not joined in yet, I encourage you to do so. Many are placing a light in a window to remind themselves of the light of Christ shining into the world as we pray together. Each day has a particular focus Sun-Sat: Family & friends, education and the young, the elderly & vulnerable, the economy, NHS and key workers, leaders and government, the grieving and the ill. Start or finish with the Lord's Prayer.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>



Toy Service Sunday Dec 6th: St Margaret's Hawes. 10:30am

Please mark this date in your diary. It's our annual opportunity to bless a child in need this Christmas. Please start planning for this now by purchasing a new gift so that we might have plenty to give away. Thank you for your generosity.

A Christmas Memorial

**Sunday Dec. 6th
2 – 5pm**

St Oswald's Askrigg

An invitation to come and spend some time in quiet reflection, light a candle for a loved one and write their name on a wooden star that can then be hung on our memorial tree. In order to help us safely manage numbers within church you might like to consider visiting according to surname:
A-E: 2-3pm, F-L: 3-4pm, M-Z: 4-5pm

