



## The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale

News Sheet: Nov 29<sup>th</sup> - Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

### 'Advent Sunday'



I find the 'Find Friends' app on my smart phone very useful when trying to estimate when Sarah might return from a visit seeing the family. It allows me time to use the vacuum cleaner, tidy up and put the kettle on! The day her phone battery was dead she arrived without warning. It wasn't the surprise I wanted. Today sees the arrival of Advent, a time of preparing our hearts for God as well as our homes for the joy of the Christmas celebration that is to come.

In our gospel reading, Jesus makes it very clear that we need to be prepared for the future. History is going somewhere. There isn't a timetable but there are signs along the way that the end is near, so 'Keep awake' as you do not know when the preparation time will be over. For the Christian, these words of Jesus are words of promise and Hope as spiritually, the Christian is ready to meet their master. Many, however, will not be. So, Advent is traditionally a time of looking back, of reflecting on our journey with God, our relationship with Him as well as looking forward to Jesus' return.

Why not make a decision in these coming weeks, to spend some designated time with God? Cut out a part of your day to sit and enjoy being in His presence amongst the busyness that could so easily overtake us. I remember being told that if I arrive at the 25<sup>th</sup> having had enough of Christmas, then I haven't spent Advent as it was intended. The post communion prayer has it right: 'make us watchful, keep us faithful.' Amen.



## Toy Service

**NEXT Sunday Dec 6<sup>th</sup>**

St Margaret's Hawes. 10:30am

**Thank you** for the gifts that some of you have already donated for our annual opportunity to bless a child in need this Christmas. Please bring your gift to the service or you can deliver them to the Vicarage. Thank you for your generosity at this time.

## A Christmas Memorial

**Sunday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

**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 and observe Covid guidelines, you might like to consider visiting according to your surname. A-E:2-3pm, F-L:3-4pm, M-Z:4-5pm



For the Diary ..... For the Diary ... For the Diary ... For the Diary ... For the Diary ... For the Diary ...



**Askrigg: December 13<sup>th</sup> – Hawes: December 20<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm**

## 'A Candlelight Celebration of Christmas'



Come and enjoy the Christmas story told through readings and music both traditional & contemporary. Let's cheer ourselves with something 'Christmassie'

*Limited numbers available.*