



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale

News Sheet: Nov 15th – 21st

How are we using our time?

For Dave



As we enter week two of our 2nd National Lockdown the question is a good one to ask of ourselves. Some of us will be experiencing more of it whilst others in particular industries may have less as they are asked to do more.

In one way or another our readings this Sunday have us examine what we do with our **time**.

The prophet Zephaniah speaks of the dangers of using time in a wasteful way; of complacency and apathy towards God and rejection of him. Psalm 90 reminds us that if we truly value our time then we would be spending it wisely in getting to know God. Paul's letter tells us we should be using our time in living lives that make a difference; shining out for God and building one another up in our faith, whilst Jesus tells a powerful parable loaded with stark imagery. It's a reminder that we are all called to be about God's business i.e. to increase his yield using the gifts & time we have been given.

One gift we have all been given is the opportunity to **pray**; that awesome privilege of being able to approach the throne of God, to share our hearts, our concerns and our hopes, knowing that he is there and listening as we approach him in faith. ^{Psalm 145:18} And this is what our **Archbishops** are calling us to through the month of November. To commit ourselves to pray at 6pm every day for our Nation. If you're able, why not place a lamp in your window as a sign of God's light shining out into the world as we bring its needs before him? There is a different focus every day: Sunday to Saturday: Family and friends, schools and education, the elderly and lonely, the economy, the NHS, govt & leadership & the sick and grieving. John Wesley stated that '**Prayer is where the action is**'. I encourage us all to commit ourselves to join together in this call to prayer at a time of great need.



On behalf of all the PCC's across the Benefice, a big thank you to all of you who have managed to maintain your **financial giving** towards the work of the church in these challenging days. Giving a regular amount directly through your bank enables us to plan our finances much more carefully and for those who are able to do this, we are most grateful.

Many of you have been faithful in your giving by cash or through the envelope scheme. As long as we remain unable to open the buildings for services, this form of giving cannot be received and so we ask if you might consider placing your financial gift to one side in order that when we *do* meet again, this may be given and received in full. We might currently be out of our buildings but the life and mission of the church continues and our outgoings remain constant as we seek to serve the communities in which we are living. Thank you for your heart in sowing into God's mission in this way.

Christmas Memorial Service – St Oswald's, Askrigg

This year we are unable to hold our memorial service in the usual way but we will be opening the church on **Sunday 6th Dec from 2-4pm**, where you are invited 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 be hung on our memorial tree. More details will follow.

Toy Service – Sunday Decemeber 6th 10:30am. **St Margaret's, Hawes**. An opportunity to bless a child in need this Christmas by bringing your gift of a new, unwrapped toy to the service.

Please start planning for this now so that we might have plenty to give away.



Remembrance Sunday pictures can be viewed on our website:

www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/st-oswalds or www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/st-margarets