



# The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale

News Sheet: Feb – 21<sup>st</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> Feb



Week 1



## From the Vicarage

Gen.9:8-17, Ps.25:1-10, 1Ptr.3:18-, Mk.1:9-15

I wonder if you've noticed the lovely Rainbows we have had over the last few months? Some have created quite a dramatic scene against the backdrop of snow. Sarah and I both remember a wonderfully bright Rainbow the day we came to look over the parish before interview. It was for us a time of great uncertainty; a time of leaving friends and family, of not knowing where God was taking us, where we would live or what the immediate future would hold, and then we saw the most vivid Rainbow straddling the Dale and reminded ourselves of God's words of **promise**, of love and protection. No matter what we were facing, we were not facing it alone.

God spoke words of promise to Noah and his family, King David knew he could trust God's promise, and we see the culmination of God's promise to us all in the life and ministry of Jesus.

The events recalled in the story of Noah come as the culmination of increasing human selfishness, greed and the dishonouring of God. We're told that the actions of mankind 'grieved' God's heart. <sup>Gen.6:6</sup> The flood didn't lead to total destruction but it did create the way to a fresh start, a new beginning and a new opportunity to start again with God. There was **hope** at the end of a wilderness experience. God makes a covenant promise. A promise that is binding. There are several such promises in scripture but this is one of the unconditional ones. Here is God making a promise to all creation that is not dependent upon our behaviour. It should be very re-assuring to us, especially considering the amount of rainfall we get in Wensleydale!

Mark's gospel account of Jesus' experience in the wilderness is fleeting indeed. If we are looking for further detail then we need to turn to Matthew and Luke. We do learn however, that Jesus spent 40 testing days in the wilderness but that he was not alone. God's promise over his life strengthened him and his heavenly Father ensured that he was attended by angels.

Noah and his family had a wilderness experience. There were trials and there was distress but they were **not alone**. God was with them and they came through to the other side

Jesus had a wilderness experience. There were trials and there was testing but he was **not alone**. God was with him and he came through to the other side

We have all had a wilderness experience over the last twelve months, some more than others, but thanks to God's promise to us, we are **never alone** and we will come through to the other side.

King David in his psalm reminds us that those who place their hope in God will never be put to shame. In these coming weeks of Lent I hope that we will return to our buildings to gather as church once more, but in the meantime, let's use these days to be kind to ourselves, enjoy God, enjoy living life *with* God and give thanks for his promises to us, for as Jesus tells us:

'The Kingdom of God is near'.

Rev. Dave.



# Services For Sunday February 21st



## 10:30am: A service of **Morning Prayer**

Streamed on our FaceBook page and website.

The service was recorded in **St Mary and St John's Church, Hardraw.**



Upper Wensleydale Church – CofE Website: [www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services](http://www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services)

## 4:00pm: A service of **Evening Prayer**

Held in our telephone meeting room.

It's easy to join in and many have been drawing comfort and strength by doing so.

It's been good to hear one another's voices as we use the humble telephone to connect us together in worship. It works with both landline and mobile phones.

As 4pm approaches call this number: **03330 164757**

you will then be asked to enter the Room Number: **893 277 00#** and the PIN: **2772#**

The service will last for approx. 25 mins

Calls to 03 numbers should be free as they are included in most UK landline or mobile minute packages.

We hope that many of you will engage with these different opportunities to share in worship together whilst staying in the safety of your own homes.



**LOOK**  
Up in Lent



**ZOOM!** in

and share a cup of Coffee or Tea with friends during the weeks of Lent.

We will be sharing things that make us smile or bring us joy.

**Wednesday at 11:00am starting on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

To join in, simply click the link below or copy and paste it into your browser

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74534391814?pwd=K2FLQ0ZWVldtWSt1TDAYmRpciAvUT09>

Meeting ID: 745 3439 1814 Passcode: T8hteS

## Reminder

Lent Study with  
Rev Vera



The Zoom group to study the First Epistle of Peter starts on Thursday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> from 4.30 to 5.20pm,

Session 1: 'The joy and treasure of the Christian Life

If you are interested please contact Vera and she will provide you with the details you need to join the Zoom group. [vera@vsinton.co.uk](mailto:vera@vsinton.co.uk) 666948

There are lots of different ways of connecting with Lent this year  
How about this 5 minute daily study?



**From Ash Wednesday (17 February) to Easter Sunday (4 April),**  
there will six reflections for each week.

Each reflection will include a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Additionally, each week will have a unifying theme, an action to be taken during the week and a Family Activity.

You can access your daily reflections in lots of different ways.



A **Booklet** available to buy from [Church House Publishing](#), a **Free App**,

**emails, smart speakers, audio** and through the Church of England's social media accounts.

[www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-gods-story-our-story-our-lent](http://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-gods-story-our-story-our-lent)

If you have a '**Smart Speaker**' you can access a number of different resources from the Church of England's website. Ask it to do the following:

**"Alexa, open the Church of England"** or **"Hey Google, talk to the Church of England"**