



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale

News Sheet: 21st – 27th March

Love & Grace



Week 5

Edition Number 51

Jer.31:31-34, Ps.51:1-12, Heb.5:5-10, Jn.12:20-33

‘By the Grace of God Go I’

How often, I wonder, have we used this term without really thinking about it?

I’ve recently been listening to a song written through the pandemic literally called ‘By the Grace of God’. This song has drawn me in. It has helped to reveal new insights and brought me to reflect once again on the magnitude, the depth and the wonder of God’s grace. Often music, art or poetry nudges a part of our life or soul that we recognise as needing comfort, revelation or healing. It touches in fact our heart.

I love that in the Old Testament reading today God’s longing is that His words are ‘written on our hearts’ and that we should really ‘know’ Him through a relationship, not just intellectually. Maybe sometimes we need the creativity of music, art, the written word and even creation itself to help us understand this.

Iniquity has always been a barrier to that knowledge and still is ... we have a constant struggle in the human race to perform, to improve ourselves, to strive, to achieve better than we are. Why is that? Our psalmist pours out this need to be clean and right and better as inadequacy prevails by the conviction of sin and this natural tormented state of being in the wrong.

Over thousands of generations, mankind through various religious practices has created and implemented complicated systems of sacrifice and atonement in a desire to be ‘right’ with God, only to fail repeatedly and to have to return.

Once and for all, Jesus Christ out of love gave *himself* as a sacrifice, taking on the punishment that was ours so that we no longer need to keep admonishing ourselves.

If we turn to face him, accept what he has done and bow the knee at the cross and allow him to take our internal struggle and guilt then *all* the things that torment us, He takes on himself. That’s the amazing Grace of God. Our freedom and the fruit we bear in our lives comes from this Grace. ‘*Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies*’, here Jesus was speaking of the sacrifice that He was about to make, the gift that would be for us our saving grace. It’s a picture of death producing new, fruit filled life in the future.

A line in the song strikes me greatly:

‘His arms are strong enough to carry me through it all, by the grace of God’.

Listen to the complete song here:

https://youtu.be/OAzKrZEy_Rq

Sarah Clark



Sunday March 21st



We closed our buildings to worship in January to help our communities in the quest to contain the spread of the virus but with the situation gently improving, the PCC's have decided that the time feels right to begin to return once more.

This Sunday, our lovely buildings will be open for a few hours creating the opportunity to visit for private prayer before we return for full services on **Palm Sunday**. I am most grateful to our wardens and their team of willing volunteers who have given their time and energy to ensure that this can take place.

If you're able to visit I encourage you to spend some time giving thanks to God for all that He has blessed you with and to pray for the life and the mission of the Church in the Dale as our lives begin to cautiously open up once more.

St Mary & St John's, Hardraw **9.00 -11.00am**

St Margaret's, Hawes and St Oswald's, Askrigg will open **10-12**

St Matthews, Stalling Busk will continue to be open all week for Private Prayer



Palm Sunday
March 28th



Palm Sunday will see the **return** of services in all four buildings across the Benefice. As the Church across the world remembers and celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem heralding events that would change the world forever, it's a fitting day for us to begin the next step of our journey as we physically gather once again for worship.

After such a prolonged time away from one another it's understandable that some may be nervous and cautious about gathering again. Many of us will have received at least our first vaccination and for this we can be thankful, but as yet, the virus hasn't disappeared so it's right for us all to continue to remain vigilant. We would like to assure you that all of the measures that were in place last year to create a safe environment are still in place and with us continuing to be sensible by observing the use of face coverings, sanitising our hands and respecting our physical distancing we should be able to gather for worship again in the confidence that we are doing all that we can to ensure safety.

Communion Services: Hardraw: 9am, Hawes & Askrigg: 10:30am, Stalling Busk: 2:30pm



Our Service of **Evening Prayer** via our telephone meeting room continues this Sunday March 21st as usual at 4pm

It's easy to join in and many have been drawing comfort and strength by doing so. The service will last for approx. 25 mins.

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#**



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. **Next zoom meeting is Wednesday 24th March at 11:00am**

To join in, simply click the link below or copy and paste it into your browser
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74534391814?pwd=K2FLQ0ZWVldtWSt1TDAyYmRpciAvUT09>
 Meeting ID: 745 3439 1814 Passcode: T8hteS

Lent Study with Rev Vera

The next **Zoom** group to study the First Epistle of Peter is on **Thursday 25th March 4.30 - 5.20pm,**

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 **666948**

Services for Holy Week

Holy Week 	St Mary & St John's Hardraw 9.00am	St Margaret's Hawes 10.30am	St Oswald's Askrigg 10.30am	St Matthews Stalling Busk 2.30pm
28 March Palm Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
01 April Maundy Thurs	A service of Communion and reflection – St Oswald's, Askrigg – 6pm			
02 April Good Friday	A service of Reflection – St Margaret's, Hawes – 11am An Hour at the Cross – St Oswald's, Askrigg – 2pm			
04 April Easter Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion