



# The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



News Sheet: 28<sup>th</sup> Feb -6<sup>th</sup> March

## Hope in the Air

Week 2

Genesis 17.1-7,15-16; Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8 31-38

The blackbirds have been singing; by day and owls calling strongly at night: they sense Spring approaching. There has been a note of hope in air for us as the government laid out a plan for return to meeting face-to-face.

In the readings today Genesis 17 reminds us that Abraham and Sarah had a call to walk with God and a promise they would become the parents of a great nation that would bring blessing to the world. But Romans 4 strikes a sombre note: Abraham and Sarah waited years in the hope of having just one son to start the family off. All that waiting was a time of great suffering for them.

We all have a calling from God: a general one to see ourselves as followers of Jesus Christ, to be people who come together to love and worship him and to live our lives serving the kingdom of God. That calling is the same for us all.

But we each have a particular calling to do our work in the place where we live using the gifts God has given us. God may have called us to care for a piece of land or a house, to raise a family, to work in a business, to play a part in various social circles. When we recognise these as our calling from God it gives them meaning and value in our lives. We can know that in all the daily routine we are here because this is where God has called us to be. Lockdown has given us plenty of time to think about where we are and what God wants us to be and do.

Jesus was conscious of his calling from God and, as the time for him to go to Jerusalem approaches, he sees great suffering ahead before his story reaches its glorious climax. Lent is a time that invites us to face some of our suffering. We can look honestly at how we feel about the painful things, the disappointing things in our lives. It is easy to cover them up by distraction, being busy, not thinking about them. But if we do that, the danger is that we do not notice how we are feeling about God. Perhaps we are beginning to distrust God. Faith falters, our love for him cools a bit and we make it hard for his love and comfort to get through to us.

So Jesus invites us to trust him and face the things we are suffering with hope that there is joy ahead. He says, 'Deny yourself'. That is, say 'no' to distractions, 'no' to resentments, 'no' to the pride which tells me I can manage on my own. Then he adds, 'Take up your cross'. In other words, pick up whatever burden of suffering, pain, disappointment you are aware of and walk alongside Jesus. He carried a much greater burden of suffering right to the point of death and he overcame it.

O joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee.  
I trace the rainbow through the rain and feel the promise is not vain  
that morn shall tearless be.

'Hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts.'  
(Romans 5v5)

*Rev Vera Sinton*



# Service For Sunday February 28th



**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.



## 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 03 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: T8hte5

Lent Study  
with Rev  
Vera

**The next Zoom** group to study the First Epistle of Peter is on  
**Thursday 04 March from 4.30 to 5.20pm,**  
Ch 1v22-2v17: Images of Christ's Church

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



## Worship on the BBC Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Feb:



**Sunday: Radio 4** Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am Arch Bishop of Wales marks St David's Day on March 1<sup>st</sup> from Brecon Cathedral

**Sunday: Radio 3** Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm from Chapel of Kings College London

**Sunday: BBC2** Songs of praise 1:15-1:50pm Sean Fletcher explores Tintern Abbey in Monmouthshire

**Wed March 03: Radio 3** Choral Evensong 3.30-4.30pm from Christ Church Cathedral Oxford



website [www.upperwensleydalechurch.org](http://www.upperwensleydalechurch.org) FaceBook page: [upperwensleydalechurch-cofe](https://www.facebook.com/upperwensleydalechurch-cofe)

