



Easter 4 & 5

# The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

News Sheet: April 25<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>

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## Moving forward with God

It's been wonderful to see our businesses begin to open up once more in the Dale welcoming locals and visitors back with a smile. New window displays, new paint, new shops, new stock ... new Hope. The lovely bright spring weather has no doubt helped in creating this sense of anticipation which it does every year at this time, but perhaps because of the collective experience of the last 13 months our hope for something better has been increased as we look to the future. But I wonder what it is that we are looking for or looking *to* in these uncertain times?

The Gospel readings for the next two weeks provide us with some direction. Amongst all the uncertainty of our lives, Jesus is telling us that the only thing that we can truly rely upon is the love of God. It is when we stay close to Him that we feel secure, guided, supported and nurtured. Jesus speaks of himself as the 'good shepherd' and the 'true vine'. In both images, he is stressing the importance of us staying close and following him.

Elizabeth Fawcett in her Morning Prayer reflection last week spoke of how she had been reminded of this powerful image of Jesus as shepherd when she realised one of their new lambs was missing. It needed bringing into safety and so the search began. Once sighted, the lamb realised where help was to come from and received it. Jesus speaks of his 'own' *knowing* his voice and responding to him. Learning how we might listen to God and recognise his voice speaking to us is the theme of our '**Praise in the Pen**' event on the 25<sup>th</sup> as families gather together once again for fun, friendship and faith. Helping our children discover this life changing reality for themselves is a gift that will change their lives and be a treasure they will never forget.

The closing verse of the much loved **Psalm 23** speaks of God's love following us. The word used in the original text refers to God's love *pursuing* us ... chasing us. It struck me recently that the only way a pursuer can catch us is if we slow down or stop. The invitation from God is that we might do precisely that; slow down, listen to his voice and follow Him. This last year has created the opportunity for many to live life at a slower pace and to consider with fresh eyes what is truly important for them. Jesus reminds us that the most important thing that any of us can ever experience and know in our lives is the love of God: knowing His voice and responding to it. May our lives be blessed afresh as we take time to do precisely that.

Rev Dave.



# Annual Parish Meetings



The Annual Parish Meeting is an important occasion for the church family as it is the primary opportunity for members of the congregation to hear what the PCC have been engaged in on their behalf regarding the mission and management of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social, ecumenical and financial and to ask any questions that they may have.

Because of the problems encountered in gathering together due to the virus, the 'APM's' for the year 2019 were held very late in the autumn of 2020 when we were able to enter our buildings again, *or* they were held on line. The virus is still with us but the situation is getting better and consequently we have been asked to hold our APM for the year 2020 before the end of May, either as a physical gathering or on line. As we are now worshipping together regularly once again it has been decided to hold the meeting physically in the appropriate church building to ensure there is plenty of space for us to meet safely. It may feel rather strange holding one so soon after the previous one but the dates for the respective churches are given below.

All Meetings will be held in the church building

**Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>**

St Oswald's, Askrigg - **11:30am** after the Morning Service.

St Matthew's, Stalling Busk - **3:00pm** after the afternoon service

**Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>**

St Margaret's, Hawes - **11:30am** after the morning service

**Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm**

St Mary & St John, Hardraw

## Electoral Roll

For centuries the parish churches of Wensleydale have stood at the heart of the communities they serve as places of worship, places to celebrate and commemorate significant life events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as being a centre that is able to host public occasions where residents wish to gather together.

The electoral roll is essentially a list of names of residents and visitors who might be regularly attending the many different types of service in the church building throughout the year and who recognise the significance of a living and flourishing church within the community. They may attend worship there or simply wish to support its work and be associated with it. The roll is updated regularly and the APM provides another opportunity for it to be so. Being on the roll is a sign of your support for the mission of the church. It also enables you to have a say and a vote in the business of the church at its annual meeting.

If you have not already done so, we would be delighted if you would like to become a member of the electoral roll in Askrigg, Hardraw, Hawes or Stalling Busk. If you are a regular visitor and a member of your home church's roll you can be a member of a second roll but you can only hold voting rights for one of them. If you would like to support the church in Upper Wensleydale in this way then please contact Karen in the office and she will ensure that the very simple form is sent to you straight away.



# Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup>

## Service Details



St Mary and St John's, Hardraw 9am - Morning Prayer  
St Margaret's, Hawes 10:30am - Communion  
St Oswald's, Askrigg 08:30am - Communion  
St Oswald's Askrigg 10:30am 'Praise in the Pen' Family Event  
St Matthew's, Stalling Busk 2:30pm - Evening Prayer

Telephone Service of Evening Prayer: 4:00pm



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#**

And then you're in ... say 'Hello' or sit quietly and enter into  
a short service of prayer and reflection

# Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Service Details

St Mary and St John's, Hardraw 9am – Communion  
St Margaret's, Hawes 10:30am - Communion  
St Oswald's, Askrigg 10:30am - Morning Prayer  
Telephone Service of Evening Prayer: 4:00pm *Details above*



*Please remember to continue to wear a  
face covering and to sanitise your hands  
on entering the church buildings*



# For our Families



**'PRAISE IN THE PEN'**  
is back!  
This Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> April 10.30  
St Oswald's Askrigg

**Fun, Friendship and Faith**  
This Week: 'Listening to God'  
How do we hear the voice of God? Why is this important?  
How might we learn how?

**We're looking forward to welcoming you back**

Fun activities for all the family. Space is limited so remember to book your 'Pen' as soon as possible by contacting Stephanie Durrant on 667944 or the Vicarage: 667553 - giving the names of adults and children in your bubble.

## Looking ahead

Sunday	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	Phone Church 4pm
May 09 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Communion	Evening Prayer	Evening Prayer
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Communion	Communion	Morning Prayer Communion BCP 2pm		Evening Prayer

**Rev Dave Clark:** The Vicarage, Burtsett Road, Hawes. DL8 3NP



Upper Wensleydale Church - CofE

