


The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale

'Church in the Home'

News Sheet: Feb 13th – Feb 26th

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 www.upperwensleydalechurch.org



Edition Number 73

3rd and 2nd
week before
Lent

Walking with God in uncertainty

This week we have heard of the government's plans to bring forward the proposed ending to all Covid restrictions that we have faced over the last two years. The response has been, as perhaps anticipated, mixed. Some, understandably, remain rather wary of the suggestion whilst others will embrace the offered freedom very gratefully. We all respond to change in different ways as we measure what that change might mean to our own personal circumstances. It was spring 2020 when I wrote about the inevitable embracing of a 'new normal' that the pandemic would bring to us all, and it looks like spring 2022 might begin to reveal what that might actually look like.

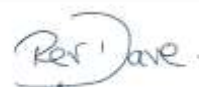
In our gospel readings for the next few weeks Jesus speaks of a 'new normal' that is available to those who embrace the kingdom of God. What has become known as the Sermon on the Mount sets out a new reality as Jesus takes the accepted cultural standards and turns them upside down. Our accepted way of doing things, the familiar way of living life has undergone a radical change since 2020 and this will continue to create challenges in the months that lie ahead but the message in Luke 8 on Feb 20th reminds us that no matter what 'storms' we may have to face and deal with in our own lives, we need not face them alone. As I write I am aware that many of you are dealing with great distress, grief and uncertainty as a result of the lasting effects and impact of the virus but also as you manage and navigate the uncertainties of health, finances and relationships that everyday life creates for you.

Jesus understands that we will face all manner of upset and challenge in our lives but he always makes it clear that we need never be alone as we do so. He *always* speaks of life being different when we place our trust in him for today and that when we do so, we are then able to look with hope to the future.

Psalm 1 declares that when we place our trust in God we are like a tree that is planted or 'transplanted' in a refreshing and wholesome place. The place where we are receiving our nourishment has changed from the world, to God. Jesus sees the world differently and he calls us to partner with him and be blessed by doing the same.

You will read in this newsletter of the opportunity and invitation to become a member of a Home Group. It's a new venture and one which we believe will be transformational in helping us all to live our lives in the fullness of what God has intended by becoming a member of a small group that will meet regularly to pray and to study the Bible together. Please pray over this and consider your response as to how 2022 might be the start of a 'new normal' in your relationship with Jesus.

With the Lord's blessing





Starting in March

As we marked the 70th anniversary of our Queen's accession to the throne last Sunday, I was reminded of the powerful words spoken by the Archbishop of Canterbury at her coronation as he passed her a copy of the Bible. '*.. we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords*'

The Bible speaks consistently of the value and importance in knowing God's word for our lives and 2022 has seen some of you begin to study the Bible in a new and more focussed way. It's lovely to hear of how you are already enjoying and reaping the benefits from doing so.

I am excited and delighted to be able to offer to you all a new way of engaging with God's word and the means by which you can grow in your understanding of God's love for you and enjoy fellowship and friendship at the same time.

We are to begin four **Home Groups** within the benefice this March. They will meet on different days and at different times to provide as wide an opportunity for as many of you as possible to engage with one of them. In the past we have used **Lent** as a time to gather together for a number of weeks to study a theme together: The Lord's Prayer, God's Grace, God's Freedom, God's Blessing & God's Love. A frequent response at the end of such a course has been a desire that the group might stay together in some way and so we now offer you that possibility.

Each Home Group would meet on a regular basis to enjoy each other's company but with the primary purpose of drawing closer to God and enjoying *His* company together. The leaders will be: Vera Sinton in Gayle, Mike and Pauline Hirst in Hawes, Julian and Barbara Spykerman in Burtersett and Stephanie Durrant in Askrigg. Each group will begin by looking at the subject of prayer; why pray, different ways of praying, how do we respond when we feel our prayers are not being answered, how to listen to God etc. Each session would last about an hour and involve a time of prayer and worship, watching a short video presentation and then discussion.

This is an **exciting** development in the life of the Church and details of the exact days and times will be mailed out shortly so; if you're interested, watch out for an email from the office and prayerfully consider if you would like to be a part of this new venture as we seek to grow in our relationship with God and walk in his strength and freedom together.

Together in Prayer

This is an opportunity to gather together to pray for our community, our nation and the needs of the world. We meet every other Tuesday at 11.00am in St Oswald's, Askrigg.

next meeting 22 February



Shrove Tuesday 01st March - 11.30am onwards
St Matthew's, Stalling Busk

Come and enjoy food and conversation at the hands of the acclaimed reputation of St Matthew's pancake chefs!

Ash Wednesday - March 2nd- 7pm
St Oswald's Church, Askrigg

Communion Service incorporating the ancient tradition of the imposition of ashes. This is where we are invited to receive the mark of the cross in ash on our foreheads as a sign of penitence hearing the words: 'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ' - It's a moving service of preparation for the season of Lent.



Wensleydale Filling Station

March 11th Speaker -Ashley Peatfield *Morley Leeds*
Thornborough Hall, Moor Road, Leyburn DL8 5AB
7.00 – 9.00pm



The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. All the packaging is plastic free and the chocolate is palm oil free. Why not order yours today from the Meaningful Chocolate Company <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg>



Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

Feb 2022



	St Mary & St John's, Hardraw 9.00am	St Margaret's, Hawes 10.30am	St Oswald's, Askrigg 10.30am	St Matthew's, Stalling Busk- 2.30pm	Evening Prayer
13 Feb	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	4pm Evening prayer by telephone
20 Feb	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer		4pm Evening prayer by telephone
27 Feb	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	8.30 Holy Communion 10.30 PIP	Evening Prayer	4pm Evening prayer by telephone

Help Needed

We are trying to locate the origin of a recent donation made to the Askrigg PCC bank account from CARDALE ASSET MA ELM HOUSE. We would like to write, as we do for all donations received, to thank the donor for their kindness and consideration but are having challenges to discover the information we need. If you might be able to shed some light on the origin of this donation we would be most grateful to hear from you.



Face Coverings Latest - 'S.U.M.O.'

We encourage the wearing of a face covering as we enter a building or move around within it but to appreciate the freedom of being able to remove it once we are sat down and our act of worship begins. When we stand to sing it might be wise to retain the use of the face covering for the next few weeks as we observe what is happening with the virus in our communities. We wouldn't need to wear them if we stand for the Creed or the Gospel etc but the acronym S.U.M.O. (Stand up – Mask on) seems to fit for most other purposes for the time being. We hope that this explanation is helpful for the next few weeks at least. *Dave*

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Upper Wensleydale Church - CofE

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