



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'



December 2022 and January 2023

Tel: 01969 667553 Email: office@upperwenben.org

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 www.upperwensleydalechurch.org

Wishing you a Blessed Advent, a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year

The Clark family Christmas celebrations (as for so many other clergy household's) are regularly delayed until a more convenient date allows us to gather together. This year the 'Dave Clark 14' will assemble at the Vicarage on the 28th and squeeze ourselves into the respective bedrooms to enjoy some quality time together. It will be fun, it will be entertaining and it will most certainly be noisy! On 'Christmas Morning' we'll breakfast together, the children will receive their gifts and the adults will take turns in opening their parcel from 'Secret Santa' and try to work out who *their* 'Santa' is.

As the rise in the cost of living continues to affect our household budgets, sales may be reduced but the purchasing of gifts this Christmas as a sign of love towards one another shows no sign of abating. Perhaps our decision making will become more considered and focussed as a result, avoiding us adding to the supply of lovingly received but not necessarily *needed* gifts. If this is so it may be no bad thing.

God is great with gifts. He knows exactly what we need and when we need it, but the decision remains ours as to whether we choose to receive them. Christmas, of course, celebrates the greatest gift of all, the gift of Jesus Christ to a world in need of a restored relationship with God.

Rev Canon J John puts it like this: 'If our greatest need had been education then God would have sent us an educator, if it was money then God would have sent us an economist but our greatest need was for forgiveness which is why God sent us a Saviour. The Magi understood this and their gifts reflected it. Our very own Tabitha Robinson in her planned book 'The Children's Advent' writes this about God's love and generosity: *'Sometimes we don't get what we want but instead, we get what we need. Sometimes we don't know what is best for us.'* Thankfully, the Lord does.

But first, before all of that, we have **Advent**. A season of expectation and preparation. Traditionally it's a time of looking back on the promises of God that were fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ but also in looking forward to the promises that are yet to come and of His return in glory. It's so easy for us to become lost in the busyness of the preparation for Christmas Day that we can forget these things and lose sight of the joy that there is in walking closely with the Lord along the way. So this Advent, why not plan in some essential down time and enjoy a 'Coffee with the Lord'? Put on some music, light a candle and spend some time with the one who loves you and longs to spend some quality time *with* you.

You can see from the calendar of services that there are many different things taking place over the next few weeks and, crucially, lots of great opportunities for us to reach out and invite someone along to share in the celebrations with us. I wonder who it is that you will invite?

*'Here is Good News for every generation! When we in faith God's Christmas gift embrace,
We test and prove the worth of incarnation, then learn to live in Christ's abundant grace.'*

Major Ken Lawson - SA

Sarah and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the Lord's Blessing on you in the New Year.



Christmas Memorial

St Oswald's Church, Askrigg
Sunday December 4th 2-4pm



The sense of loss that we feel through bereavement is often intensified at this time of year and so we would like to invite you to an opportunity to remember your loved one in a seasonal way.

St Oswald's will be open on the afternoon of the **4th of December**, 2-4pm, for prayer, reflection and thanksgiving for those we have loved & lost. During this time you might like to light a candle and write the name of your loved one on a star which can then be hung upon our Christmas Memorial Tree. If you are unable to attend please rest assured that we will be reading out the names of all those who were mentioned last year and including those whose funerals have taken place since December 2021.

Sunday December 4th St Margaret's, Hawes

8.30 Said communion

10:30am Toy Service



We are holding our annual opportunity as 'Churches Together in Upper Wensleydale' to bring our donations of new toys to our 'Toy Service'. As usual, our friends in the Salvation Army will be with us and they will then take our gifts to distribute through the area to families in need. Gifts can be brought on the day or if you are unable to attend and would like to contribute then they can be handed over at the Vicarage on Burterset Road. Please do not wrap the gifts but if you would like to donate some wrapping paper alongside your gift this would be very helpful. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.



Wensleydale Filling Station

Thornborough Hall, Moor Road, Leyburn DL8 5AB 7.00 – 9.00pm

9th December - Advent Praise

Dave and Sarah Clark

An evening of Testimony Praise and Fun

Lectio 365

Start the New Year with a daily Bible Reflection and prayer from the Lectio Team. It's a wonderful way to begin and end your day. Many in the Church family are already using it and gaining a great deal from it. 2022 saw several members of the church family start reading the complete Bible in one year, using the voice of David Suchet and notes from the Rev Nicky Gumbel. Why not make 2023 the year you commit to doing the same?

Download the app or have the study guide emailed to you.

Visit www.bibleinoneyear.org to discover more and hear David Suchet read God's word to you.



Services over the Christmas Season:
Look out for the postcard through your door



Christmas in Gayle, Hawes & Hardraw

 **December 14th** 
Hawes School Christingle 9:15am

 **December 17th** 
Crib and Carols by Candlelight 4pm

December 18th
Gayle Chapel Carol Service 6pm

Christmas Eve
 Carols in the Market Square 7pm – Bring a Lantern 

Hardraw: Christmas Eve  Communion Service 10pm

Christmas Day
 Christmas Communion with Gayle Chapel at St Margaret's 10:30am 

 **New Year's Day** 

Communion Service for Upper Wensleydale in Askrigg: St Oswald's 10:30am



Christmas in Askrigg & Stalling Busk

December 16th  
School and Community Christingle 2pm
Askrigg Christmas Tree Festival begins

December 18th
Carol Service 10:30am

 **December 20th** 
Christmas Tree Festival Concert 7pm

Christmas Eve
 **Stalling Busk:** Outdoor Carols around the village 3pm
Askrigg: Outdoor Carols with Lanterns beside the Tree 5pm 
Midnight  Communion: 11:30pm

Christmas Day
 Communion 10:30am at **St Margaret's Hawes** 

Askrigg: New Year's Day Communion 10:30am

 **New Year's Day** 

Communion Service for Upper Wensleydale 10:30am



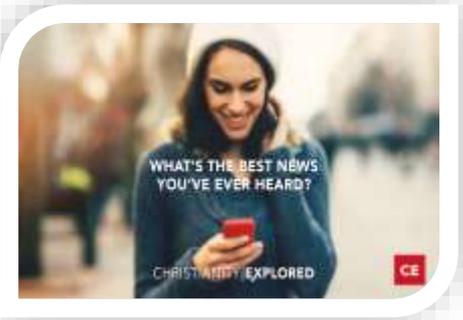
Who will you invite?



‘And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?’ Rom.10:14



‘Christianity Explored’

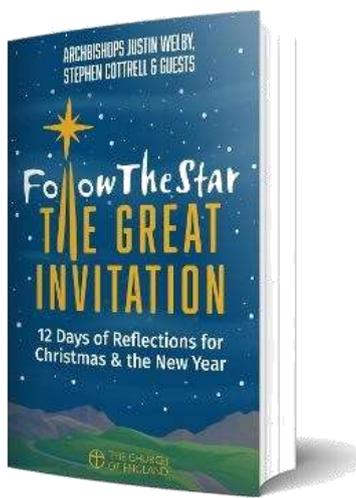


You will have heard me speaking about this course at services across the Benefice in recent weeks. It’s an exciting step forward for the **New Year** and creates the opportunity for every one of us to invite someone *we* know to come along with us and begin to explore what Christianity is *really* all about. The meetings are all based around **Mark’s Gospel** and follow a pattern of discussion and watching a short DVD presentation. Our aim is to begin each meeting with a shared meal. The sessions would begin at 7:15 and finish at 8:30pm. We have some professionally produced invitation cards to use which some of you have already taken away with you. These will be made available in each of our church buildings. The most important thing anyone can ever discover about their lives is that they were created for a purpose and that they are loved by God. God calls **us** through Jesus Christ and scripture to help others discover this truth for themselves and to step into the freedom that knowing God and living life with Him brings.

Please start asking the **Holy Spirit** to reveal to you who God is calling you to give an invitation to. Giving someone we love and care for the opportunity to explore the truth of who God is, is the single greatest thing we can ever do for them. What a wonderful New Year gift that would be.

Dave

January 26th, February 2nd, February 9th, February 23rd, March 2nd, March 9th & March 16th



‘Follow the Star’

12 days of Reflections for Christmas and the New Year

I’ve had a look at these already and they’re a great way to walk through the 12 days of Christmas. Our Archbishop’s and different celebrities have prepared a short reflection based on different verses from the Bible with a themed invitational thought for each day.

If you visit the Church of England’s website and click on ‘Resources for Advent and Christmas’ you can sign up for the series to be sent through to you each day by email. Alternatively you could download the App when it is launched in December.

www.churchofengland.org Dave



New Year's Day



The next 'Gathering' will be on Sunday January 1st
New Year's Day 2023 10:30am at St Oswald's in Askrigg

Some of us may be a little 'bleary eyed' after seeing out the old and welcoming in the new (!) but here's a wonderful opportunity to gather together in worship and prayer on the first day of the new year and pray into our hopes for the future and for all that we long to see of the Lord in our families, communities, our nation and the world.

We're meeting in Askrigg for January as the Christmas Day Communion service was held in Hawes. Feb 5th will be back in St Margaret's.

The first Sunday of the month was set aside by decision of all our PCC's to create the opportunity for us to purposefully gather as a Benefice to encourage one another together in worship, to declare our unity and to listen to what the Lord is saying to us as Church in this place. Please do all you can to be there. We have been blessed with some very special times with the Lord since we returned after the restrictions of the pandemic. We often underestimate the power that our physical presence has upon others, but the reality is that we all have an important part to play in encouraging and building one another up as church.

Be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church



Market Hall: 'Good Life' project and Open Pantry are hoping to be able to open up the market hall room 3 times a week as a warm space through the winter months. The idea is to offer tea, coffee etc but also a hot soup lunch for those who call in to stay warm and enjoy some company. If you think that you might be able to offer a few hours to help enable this to happen then please let Karen or Dave know at the office on 667553. Thank You.

OPEN PANTRY Now at Dalesplay

As we are now stocking Open Pantry at DalesPlay, donations of nappies, baby-wipes and smaller tins of spaghetti hoops/beans etc would be useful for parents with small children.

Donations can be brought to the Vicarage, Community Office or St Margaret's Church, Hawes.





Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

December 2022 – January 2023



	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	Evening Prayer
Fri 02 Dec	Sycamore Hall – Communion Service in the long Lounge – 10am				
Dec 4	St Margaret's, Hawes 8.30am- Said Communion 10.30am -Toy Service		St Oswald's, Askrigg 2-4pm Christmas Memorial		4pm Evening prayer by telephone
Dec 11th	Morning Prayer	Ecumenical Service 10.30 St Margaret's	Holy Communion	Soup Lunch from 12.30-1.15pm 1.30pm Holy Communion	4pm Evening prayer by telephone
Fri Dec 16th			2pm Christingle Christmas Tree Festival Opens Church open to 8pm daily 16 Dec – 1st Jan		
Sat Dec 17th		4pm Family Crib and Carols by Candlelight			
Dec 18th	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	10.30am Carol Service		4pm Evening prayer by telephone
Tues Dec 20th			7pm Christmas Tree festival Concert with the Ladies that Sing and West Witton Male Voice Choir		
Sat Dec 24	10pm Benefice Christmas Communion	7pm Town Carol Singing Market Square Bring a lantern	5pm Village Carol Singing Market Cross Bring a lantern 11.30pm Midnight Communion	3pm Carol Singing	
Dec 25		10.30am Benefice Christmas Morning Communion			



Come and join us from the comfort of your own home
Evening Prayer on Sundays at 4pm
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

January 2023

	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	Evening Prayer
Jan 1st			The Gathering Family Communion		4pm Evening prayer by telephone
Jan 8th	Morning Prayer	Ecumenical 10.30 Gayle Chapel	Holy Communion	Soup Lunch from 12.30-1.15pm 1.30pm Holy Communion	4pm Evening prayer by telephone
Jan 15th	Holy Communion	Praise in the Pen	Morning Prayer		4pm Evening prayer by telephone
Jan 22 nd	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Outreach café Style	2.30 Afternoon Prayer 3.15 Pathfinders	4pm Evening prayer by telephone
Jan 29th	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Forest Church		4pm Evening prayer by telephone

Missed a Service?

If you've been unable to attend a particular Sunday service and would like to know what the teaching and reflection was on that particular day, then audio recordings are available by visiting <http://upperwensleydalechurch.org/services/> . Transcripts are also available by visiting http://upperwensleydalechurch.org/from_the_rev/

Our **thanks** go to Malcolm Carruthers for the wonderful 'Christmas Reflections' organ concert on Saturday 26th November. Thanks also to Mike Hirst for the lighting and visuals that created a lovely reflective atmosphere.



We raised over **£550** for the organ fund and donations are still coming in.
Thanks to everyone who supported the event.

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Upper Wensleydale Church – CoFE

www.upperwensleydalechurch.org