



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale

'Church in the Home'

November 2023

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Edition Number 98

From the Vicarage: Remembering responsibly

'Seek peace and pursue it' ^{Ps.34:14} So wrote King David some 3000 years ago. He wrote it out of personal experience that violence and aggression will always lead to fear and misery and will, inevitably, always require a resolution around a table. Sadly, several millennia later, Israel and the Middle East is still a place of considerable unrest and conflict and requires our continuing prayer.

In a month where our nation, and so many others around the world, will pause to remember the countless number of lives lost through conflict and in acts of service, I believe it is right to continue to reflect and to remember responsibly upon their sacrifice, and in response, to do all that we can in creating and maintaining a just and a fair world for *everyone*. This begins with self-examination and the willingness, where it is within our control, to seek to live in peace. ^{Rom.12:18}

On the 12th of November I shall be leading a service of Remembrance in St Margaret's, and at the War Memorial at Town Head in Hawes. Once again, I shall be inviting those gathered there to join me in the following prayer. *'Almighty God; this day I pray for peace. That the world may live for peace, the frightened and the lonely would know your peace, that people and rulers would seek for peace .. and that it might begin with me.'* Year on year, the urgency behind this prayer appears to increase.

It's always good to remember the happy and positive events in our lives as well, and this last month has seen several events where we as church family have created opportunities for ourselves and the community to gather together.

'Music from the Movies' at St Margaret's – what a truly wonderful afternoon we had together with Malcolm playing such a fabulously varied programme of film music. The building was full and those who were there thoroughly enjoyed themselves ... and the popcorn! Over £600 was raised for the organ restoration and maintenance fund.

'Carve your Pumpkin Happy' was a challenge set for our four Primary schools and there were dozens of entries competing for £120 worth of book vouchers, provided by the St Margaret's Educational Trust Fund. My thanks to our judges, Julia & Graham DiDuca.

'The Benefice Celebration' at St Oswald's was a joyful occasion as we welcomed Rev Felicity Lawson to preside at a service celebrating God's love for us all and the love that is lived out in Christian marriage. Musical worship was provided by a small band from the Clark Family and Malcolm on the organ. The sound of praise certainly rattled the rafters and it was lovely to hear the bells pealing out so cheerfully across the dale. Cake and Prosecco at the end also helped to continue the spirit of celebration!

Events such as these are always great opportunities for us to invite a friend along to. Let's all do what we can to invite someone to the **'Sing Good News'** event this Saturday evening in the Market Hall. We are all in need of some good news!

Rev Dave.

The next 'Gathering' will be on **Sunday 5 November**

10:30am at St Margaret's in Hawes

The Bible: Part 2 – 'How to know it'

We look forward to welcoming you there!

Be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church



Wensleydale Filling Station



Thornborough Hall, Leyburn

Friday 10th November 2023 7-9pm



Speaker: Matt Hirst

Hawkshead Hill, Lake District

Having been the lead minister at Kay Street Baptist Church in Rossendale, Matt has since moved to Hawkshead Hill in the Lake District where his ministry focusses on both the locals and the visitors. He is an inspiring Bible teacher and someone well worth listening to. Do join us on Friday 10th to share in worship and praise

"Prayer is where the action is" John Wesley

Come along to one of our prayer meetings

Did you know that there are regular prayer meetings held in the Benefice?

Everyone is welcome to come and join in.

St Margaret's Church, Hawes

Every Tuesday morning, 9.15am to 10am

St Oswald's Church, Askrigg

Alternate Tuesdays, 11am to 12 noon (14th & 28th November)

Upper Wensleydale Men's Breakfast Returns!

Saturday 18th November, 8.30am-10am, Sycamore Hall Restaurant, Bainbridge.

Full English Breakfast £8 or £1.40 for scrambled egg on toast.

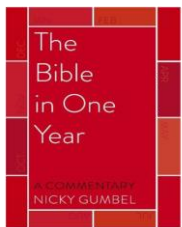
Afterwards there will be a short talk by Sebastian Rab from the Jonas Centre, near Redmire, followed by a discussion.

Please contact Rev Dave for further information



The Bible in One Year

Having a good working knowledge of the Bible is essential if we are to live our lives as God intended us to. Reading the Bible from cover to cover is something we should all do at least once in our lives (*and hopefully many more times than that*) But how to begin is the question that prevents most folks from even starting. Would it help you if you knew others in the Benefice were doing it with you as well? Last year several members of the church family joined with me in reading the Bible in one year. We used a wonderful teaching resource from Rev Nicky Gumbel (the author of the Alpha Course) By setting aside just 20-25mins a day you are taken through the Bible in a thematic way, with helpful teaching notes, powerful testimonies and prayers.



If you want to join in next year, then study books can be ordered through the office for approx. £16, or you can download a Kindle version for £6 or download the App for free and listen to Sir David Suchet reading it.

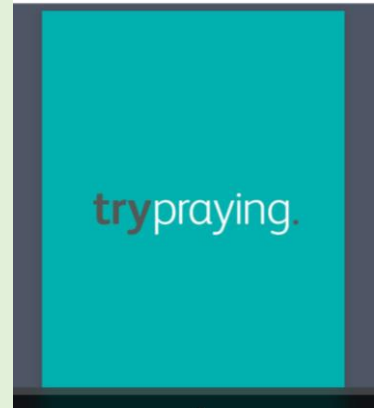


Bible in One Year
Alpha International
Designed for iPad
#107 in Reference
★★★★★ 4.2 x 100 Ratings
Free

Obviously other books and apps are available, but these are the ones that we recommend.

Try Praying

We have had supplies of the 'Try Praying' booklets in each of our four churches for some time now. They are proving to be very popular and we are having to top up supplies on a regular basis. Isn't it great that regulars and visitors want to learn more about praying?



For those of you who haven't seen the booklets, they are a 7 day prayer guide for those who are not religious.

At the moment, the church is funding the purchase of these books, but wondered if anyone would like to sponsor the purchase of the books. For £27 we can buy 10 copies or £42, we can buy 25 copies. Contact the Benefice Office if you are interested.



MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS – Saturday 2nd December, St Margaret's Church, Hawes 2pm-3.30pm

Following on from the very successful 'Music from the Movies', Mal Carruthers is holding another concert, this time in conjunction with the Askrigg Handbell Ringers. Why not get into the Christmas Spirit by attending this concert, and then walking down to the Market Place to see the Christmas Lights switch on and enjoying a carol singalong with the Hawes Silver Band.

...This Saturday This Saturday ...

Gospel Music and Congregational Singing



... with ...



'The Ayrton Family'

Andy & Irene & Rev Dave & Sarah

November 4th

7:30-9pm

Hawes Market Hall



Admission Free:



Donations taken for the **British Red Cross**
Earthquake and Flood Appeal

St Oswald's Church

Coffee Morning Askrigg Village Hall



Saturday 4th November 2023

10am-12 noon

Tombola and Jigsaw stall



Sarah and I would like to say a very BIG **'Thank You'** for the many beautiful cards and gifts that we have received from you in celebration of our **Ruby Wedding Anniversary** last Sunday, October 29th. It was a very special and enjoyable day, made all the more so by being able to celebrate it with church family. **Dave**

ADVANCED NOTICE – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

- 2 'Magic of Christmas' Concert at St Margaret's Church, Hawes (see article)
- 3 Toy Service at St Margaret's Church, Hawes
- 3 Memorial Service at St Oswald's Church, Askrigg 2-4pm
- 4 Taize Service at Gayle Chapel (see article)
- 10 Brass Band Concert at St Oswald's Church, Askrigg

Put the Kettle on!



.... and take a break to read and consider
Session **THREE** in our series exploring
'Generosity'



Seasons of Giving

Issues of Stewardship - 3

Generosity and Our Money

Luke 18:18-30



Jesus spoke a great deal about money. In fact the only subject he spoke about more was the Kingdom of God. Jesus knew that the way in which we handle our money and practice generosity will either help us or hinder us in living 'life to the full'.^{Jn10:10} Following Jesus will mean at some point that we will have to confront our attitude towards money.

Can you remember the very first thing that you ever bought? Have you ever regretted buying something? Is there anything you would like to buy? What do you like giving your money to?

The account of the rich young man asking Jesus as to what he must do to inherit eternal life appears in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. It's a powerful story and one that raises issues not only about money but also about discipleship. The man appears restless as he questions Jesus and seeks an answer that would fit his expectation and his privileged lifestyle. Interestingly, he is the only recorded person in all the gospels who turns down a direct invitation from Jesus to "*Follow Me*" and the writers pay attention to direct us towards the conclusion that his attitude towards wealth has a major part to play in this.

I wonder if you have any sympathy for the man. Was it his wealth or his attitude *towards* his wealth that led him to walking away 'very sad' and rejecting the invitation to join 'Team Jesus'?

Harvest time reminds us of the joy of gathering in the fruit of our labour and storing it carefully for use in the future but storing 'enough' can soon lead into hoarding and take us away from trusting in God for our needs and for our future. Remember the parable of the farmer and the bigger barn?^{Lk12:16-21}

Whilst teaching in an inner city school I came across one young boy who at lunchtime would move around the tables eating his fill from the leftovers on the trays he would help clear. Once he had eaten enough he would then begin to cram as much left over food into the pockets of his blazer and trousers as he possibly could. After further investigation I discovered he had recently been placed in foster care after his parents were found to be withholding food from him. As a result, at every possible opportunity he would hoard food just in case it was needed later. He hadn't yet moved into a place of trust that his foster carers would ensure that he was fed and looked after and so he lived in a constant fear of lack. He needed to be helped to move into a place of trust before he could experience the joy of living life fully and freely.

When Jesus asks the rich young man to *'sell everything you have and give it to the poor'* he has looked into the man's heart and seen that he loves and trusts his money for security far more than he loves and trusts in God for his security. Jesus is making a point.

It can be so easy for us to allow the grip of possessions and money to control our thinking, our planning and our generosity towards God and others. This readily happens when as church, we become so focussed on meeting our 'Parish Share' quota that we can lose our spirit of generosity in selfless giving to others in need and end up giving what we have *left* rather than planning to give to the Lord first. Equally it can happen with our household budgets in exactly the same way. I remember so clearly the first time I came across the words of the Lord through the prophet Malachi in this regard. It is the only time in scripture where the Lord directly asks us to test Him. Sarah and I have many testimonies relating to the Lord's financial blessing where we personally, or the church we have been worshipping with, has trusted the Lord, taken Him at His word and then given glory for his faithfulness. Faith grows wonderfully when you know the Lord well enough to truly trust him in this way. Perhaps you might discuss what you feel about this with a church family member ... (see if they've read this study! 😊)

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.^{Malachi 3:10}

Our response can so easily be the same as the man in the gospel account. When it is, we will experience the same emptiness and disappointment. Jesus asks us to trust our Heavenly Father and the simplest way of showing this is with our giving and our attitude towards our financial giving.

I know of a family who have lived through times of great prosperity and also times of great financial challenge but their attitude towards their situation has remained the same. The Lord had blessed them in the past with plenty and as such they were able to bless many others financially, but now, with very changed personal circumstances they are having to rely upon the Lord for their daily needs much more acutely and yet the joy in giving to others now seems all the greater.

For so many in the wealthy West, food and possessions are seen as having been earned and owned rather than being a blessing and a gift from God. The image can be of a full wallet or purse with a label attached to the front saying '**From God**' and yet it being bound tightly shut with a chain and a padlock.

The message is not one of living a profligate life without a care for the future but it is one that asks us some deep and challenging questions that we would do well to consider both personally and as a church.

Points to Prayerfully Ponder:

Do I trust in my money more than I trust in the Lord for my future? Why?

How generous are we currently in giving to the Lord?

Are we giving regularly to the Lord or only when we attend worship?

When might have been the last time we gave to the Lord and it required faith?



Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services November 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 2.30pm	Evening Prayer 4pm
1 November	Sycamore Hall – Communion Service in the long Lounge – 10am				
5 November	The Gathering Benefice Family Communion St Margaret's Church, Hawes at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
12 November		Holy Communion 8.30am Remembrance Service at 10.30am	Remembrance Service	12.30 Soup followed by Communion	Evening prayer by telephone
19 November	Holy Communion	Family Service	Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
26 November	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer & 3.15 Pathfinders	Evening prayer by telephone

Invite someone you know to join us for Evening Prayer on Sunday

For some time now we have been offering the opportunity of sharing in a service of Afternoon/Evening prayer by telephone from your own home. It is very simple to join in. I am confident that there are many more people in the upper dale who would benefit from joining with us. You may be one of them or you may know of someone who would appreciate the chance to do so. If that is the case, then follow the instructions below and we look forward to welcoming you at 4pm on a Sunday afternoon.

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 are in...

say 'Hello' or sit quietly and join a short service of prayer and reflection

Rev Dave Clark: The Vicarage, Burtsett Road, Hawes. DL8 3NP, 01969 667553, office@upperwenben.org

Upper Wensleydale Church – CofE

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