



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

March 2025



Tel: 01969 667553 Email: office@upperwenben.org

Edition Number 112

www.upperwensleydalechurch.org

From the Vicarage: - 'Living Lent Differently!'

Lent, (like its counterpart Advent) is traditionally a time of preparation and contemplation, of creating an opportunity for us to recalibrate our thinking, to pause and look with fresh eyes upon the Lord who loves us, whose love remains steadfast in a world that is changing so rapidly around us and to consider our frail humanity in the light of his glorious majesty. It's a time where many of us will partake in some form of fasting – food, drink, treats, TV etc – to spend mindful time in prayer and reflection. All of this is good and to be highly commended and I do encourage us all to consider entering into just such an activity but, if we're not careful, Lent can easily become a downward and an inward looking time rather than an 'upward and an outward' one.

In keeping with our focus of '**More Alive in 2025**', I would like us to consider living Lent differently this year. How might we be able to use this season of reflection to bless our friends, families and communities in new ways? What might we be able to do for others through action or invitation? How might the Lord use us, use **you**, as His Church this Lent?

Prayer is such an important part of our daily lives as disciples of Jesus and Prayer will be, quite rightly, at the heart of our time together in the weeks that lead up to our celebration of Easter. The account of the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness^{Lk.4, Mtth4} fasting and praying and preparing for his earthly ministry amongst us, reminds us of the importance of **prayer** and of the giving of ourselves **to** prayer in our daily walk with the Lord. **Prayer** will be our central focus this year during Lent. Locally, nationally and internationally there are no shortage of things for us to seek the Lord over or issues that draw us to intercede on behalf of the world. I *ask* and *encourage* you to give yourselves to this call to prayer as we specifically seek the Lord for guidance and help during these days with a very real expectation that we will receive and hear from Him. Prayer, as John Wesley famously pointed out, 'is where the action is'. Our meetings together will move across the Benefice: 6:30-7:30pm and details can be found in this newsletter.

I would also like to draw your attention to a new initiative for us: '**40 Acts 2025**' The Christian organisation 'Stewardship' are relaunching their initiative to do Lent differently by focussing on 40Acts of Generosity. I introduced this to our Pathfinder group on Sunday. If you wish to be involved you can sign up by simply clicking on this link: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40-acts-sign-up> Starting on Ash Wednesday, you will then receive a daily email with a reflection on the theme of generosity, a Bible verse, prayer points and an idea of an act of generosity that you could show to someone around you. Samantha Amsden from East Shaw Farm in Hawes took part the last time the project was run and says: "*What a way to bear witness and what a joy and an honour it was to be a part of. We are the hands and the feet and the light in the darkness.*"

I will also be making time available during Lent for a '**Question Time**' session every Tuesday morning in 'The Pantry' in Hawes from 10:30am. An opportunity for anyone to come with a question or comment about issues of faith, life or the Church and discuss it together over a cup of tea or coffee. Please spread the word about all of these things and come and be refreshed, renewed and challenged as we seek the Lord together this Lent.

Rev Dave.

The next 'Gathering' will be on **Sunday 2 March**
10:30am at St Oswald's in Askrigg



'Generosity'

We look forward to welcoming you there!
Be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church

Car Parking available on the cobbles, at the Village Hall & at the former Carrs Billington site.

Been away and missed some of
Dave's sermons?

Listen to the podcasts!



Search 'Rev Dave from Wensleydale'
on your usual podcast platform.

Latest Podcasts:

God of Surprises

God is in Control

Beautiful Attitudes

Come up Here

St Oswald's Coffee Mornings

Askrigg Village Hall
10am to 12 noon



Next Coffee Morning:

Saturday 1 March

Proceeds this month to: Action Medical Research

Wensleydale Filling Station



Thornborough Hall, Leyburn

Friday 14th March

**Speaker: Gerald Charles,
Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF)**



The Church Electoral Roll

This year it is time for each church to renew its Electoral Roll. So what is the Roll?

Each parish has an Electoral Roll. It is a register of electors and in the same way that being on the civic electoral roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and stand for election to the PCC. If you attend a church regularly, you are already considered 'a member'.

Why join the Electoral Roll?

Joining the electoral roll is an important way of confirming your commitment to the life and ministry of the Church community and to the vision of the Church; but it also opens up the way for greater involvement in the life of the Church of England, at Deanery, Diocesan and national levels.

By joining, you become entitled to participate in the government of the church and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Any person entitled to attend the APCM may raise any question of parochial or general church interest. Joining the roll is an important statement of support for your local church. Any one doing so is affirming that they value the significance of a living and flourishing church within their community and wish to show their support for its continuing work. If you're a regular at a Church, you should definitely be on the electoral roll!

Do I have to join?

You can, of course, be a full and active member of a Church without joining the Roll. Being on the Electoral Roll does not entail signing up to any additional commitments, however, it does help the Church show its strength. Representation on the governing bodies of the church depends on the number on the Electoral Roll.

What does the Electoral Roll affect?

The maximum number of PCC lay members. If the Roll is not representative this means that the PCC is too small for the workload involved, putting heavy strain on the members. It also affects the representation on the governing bodies of the Church, such as the Deanery representation.

The Electoral Roll does NOT have a direct bearing in the way the Parish Share is assessed – that is based on estimated membership and socio-economic factors.

Do I qualify for the Roll?

To apply for the Electoral Roll you must meet the following conditions:

- You must be aged 16 or over (though you can apply in the year you become 16 and your name will be entered once your birth date has passed).
- You must be baptised.
- You must be a member of the Church of England (see above) and EITHER live in the parish OR have attended a church in the parish regularly for at least 6 months.

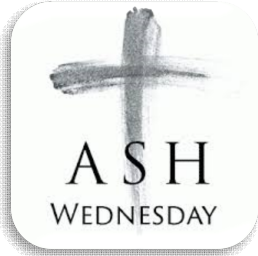
How do I join?

If you are already on the Roll of one of the Benefice churches, you will receive a new form to complete. If you are not on the roll as yet, please ask a member of the PCC for a form or contact the Office. It would assist us greatly if you would also complete the telephone and email address boxes, which we will then use if we need to contact you. Please note that only names will appear on the published Roll and the Benefice will not pass your details on to anyone else.

Thank you in anticipation of your support for all that the church in Upper Wensleydale seeks to do.



'Living Lent' Diary 2025



Wednesday March 5th

St Margaret's: Hawes - ASH WEDNESDAY:
Communion and the Imposition of Ashes 6:30pm

Please do all you can to attend our weekly **Lent Prayer Meetings**



"Prayer is where the action is"

John Wesley

Wednesday March 12th - **Hardraw**: 6:30pm

Wednesday March 19th - **Askrigg**: 6:30pm

Wednesday March 26th - **Stalling Busk**: 6:30pm

Wednesday April 2nd - **Hawes**: 6:30pm

Wednesday April 9th - **Hardraw**: 6:30pm



Spread the word

'The Wensleydale Pantry'

From 10:30am

Tuesday March 11th

Tuesday March 18th

Tuesday March 25th

Ask your questions, share your views:
an opportunity to chat over the bigger
issues of life with a cup of
Tea or Coffee.

Come and say 'Hello'
Especially if I'm sat on my own!



Lent 'Bring and Share' Lunches with Lenten 'Reflection' at Gayle Chapel: 12 Noon

Tuesday 11 March: Led by Julia & Graham DiDuca

Tuesday 18 March: Led by Rev Jo Brown

Tuesday 25 March: Led by Rev Dave Clark

Tuesday 1 April: Led by Pat Whitehead

LENT LUNCHESES 2025

You are invited to journey through Lent
with Churches Together in Upper Wensleydale



**Lunch and Reflections at
Gayle Methodist Chapel Schoolroom**

Tuesday 12 noon till 1.15pm

Led by:

- 11th March - G&J Di Duca
- 18th March - Rev Jo Brown
- 25th March - Rev David Clark
- 1st April - Pat Whitehead

*Please note, the lunches will be 'Bring and Share'.
Please bring a contribution to the table if you are able.*



The 'Alive in Christ' course is now full

Pancakes at Busk

Tuesday 4th February

St Matthew's Church

12-1.30pm



GOOD FRIDAY 2025 WALK OF WITNESS

with Churches Together in Upper Wensleydale



The annual Walk of Witness will begin at

**Gayle Methodist Chapel
10.30 am on Friday 18th April 2025**

Members and friends of Churches Together in Upper Wensleydale will reflect on events of that first Easter nearly 2000 years ago, as we walk through the town to take part in a Good Friday service at

11.30 am at St Margaret's Church

Everyone is invited to join these events.

St Oswald's Church
invite you to join us to celebrate
the completion of the Tower Project
on Saturday 12th April from 2.30pm

We have planned an afternoon to give thanks for the completion of the church tower, and the support and dedication of everyone who has contributed to this project. The afternoon will start with an act of blessing, and include refreshments, bell ringing, an exhibition, topping out and a craft activity. Come and be part of our church history



March 5th sees the start of the season of Lent. This year our annual Benefice Ash Wednesday Communion service will be in **St Margaret's at 6:30pm** and it will, as in previous years, incorporate the ancient practice of the imposition of ashes. The use of ashes to symbolise repentance and mourning is an ancient one and there are many accounts of them being used in this way in the Old Testament but within the Church the custom can be traced back to Bishop Aethelwold in the year 970AD. The practice continued uninterrupted until the Protestant Reformation but returned with new interest in the middle of the 20th century due to the influence of the ecumenical liturgical movement. At its heart is an acceptance of a state of repentance before God and of our need of a Saviour as found in the sacrifice of God's Son, Jesus Christ.



This Lent – Why not try something *DIFFERENT?*



Be a part of a movement of generosity across our communities this Lent

Sign up to a daily Bible verse, reflection and 'Generosity Idea' or just create your own 40 random acts of kindness

I wonder what stories we can share at the end of it all.

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40-acts-sign-up>

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

For some time now we have been offering the opportunity of sharing in a service of Afternoon/ Evening Prayer by telephone in 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 someone who would appreciate the chance to do so. If this 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#**. Then you are in!
Say hello, sit quietly, and join in with the short service of prayer and reflection



Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

March 2025

	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	
2 March	The Gathering Benefice Family Communion St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
4 March	Pancake Day at Stalling Busk 12-1.30pm				
5 March	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion St Margaret's Church Hawes at 6.30pm				
7 March	Sycamore Hall – Communion Service in the lounge – 10am				
9 March	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style	12.30 Soup followed by Communion	Evening prayer by telephone
16 March	Holy Communion	Family Service	Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
23 March	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer Pathfinders	Evening prayer by telephone
30 March	Songs of Praise	Holy Communion	Forest Church		No Evening Prayer



Funerals since the last Newsletter:

6 February Ann Pannell

From
the Benefice Calendar

Rev Dave Clark

The Vicarage, Burtersett Road, Hawes, DL8 3NP

Tel: 01969 667553 Email: office@upperwenben.org Web: www.upperwensleydalechurch.org

Administrator: Stephanie Durrant (work hours 1-5pm Tuesdays and Thursdays)