



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

June 2025



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Edition Number 115

From the Vicarage

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4

June 8th sees the Church celebrate the feast of **Pentecost**. The name comes from the Greek word *pentekoste* which means fiftieth and is celebrated 50 days after Easter. It recalls how, after Jesus's ascension, God's **Holy Spirit** was given to the disciples, empowering them to share the good news of Jesus and make disciples of all nations. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to the Church and Pentecost is often described as the Church's Birthday. The Bible teaches us that we receive the Holy Spirit at the moment we give ourselves in faith to God and believe and trust in His son Jesus Christ Acts 2:38 and that it is a spiritual seal, a mark of our salvation. Eph. 1:13 Paul also talks of a 'Baptism of the Holy Spirit', that it is possible to experience an overflowing of His presence in our lives. Acts 19:6

Essentially, it is about us desiring to 'breathe in' and *receive* from God. This was the focus of our Benefice '**Sanctuary Day**' last month in Stalling Busk. A day of listening, resting and receiving from God through His Holy Spirit. We knew it would be a very significant day for whoever wanted to attend and it has certainly proven to be just that with some very exciting developments taking place in individuals' lives that have already started to bear fruit for the Church in the Upper Dale.

The Holy Spirit is often described as the living 'breath of God' and scripture reminds us of this life and our need to receive it Ps. 36:6, Job 33:4 There were many creative responses during the day. Here is a poem from Sarah that reminds us of our need to receive from Him.

*Holy Spirit Breathe on me. Breathe in me. Sharing, reviving, giving life.
Breathe on me. Breathe in me. In - Rest - Out.
Breathe on me. Breathe in me. I am willing to receive.
Breathe on me. Breathe in me. Let your rhythm lead. Calm me. Regulate.
Breathe on me. Breathe in me. Slow me down. Deep. Deeper.
Breathe on me. Breathe in me, Transforming Breath of God Sarah Clark*

Essentially, it is important to realise that this gift from God did not cease after the lives of the first disciples and that people in this dale have, and *still do*, encounter His power in the same way. The written accounts of Ralph Metcalf, a farmer in **Cotterdale** are so exciting! He tells of the momentous events of a fervent prayer meeting in 1836 where the Holy Spirit came upon the villagers just as He had in Jerusalem: '*That divine influence which had been working inwardly burst into a visible flame and affected nearly the whole of the inhabitants in the dale.*' *

Oh, that we might pray with the same hunger and witness the same for His glory!

*Memoirs of Ralph Metcalf: upperwensleydalechurch.org - M Hirst

REV Dave.



The next 'Gathering' will be on **Sunday 1st June**

10:30am at St Oswald's in Askrigg

What is the Nicene Creed?



1700 years ago in the year 325, this statement of faith that so many of us know so well, came into being. It is an historic part of our liturgy and has shaped Christian thinking and culture across the millennia.

What is it? What does it mean? Why is it so important?

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.



What a wonderful time we had together on Saturday evening in Hardraw Church with 'The Ayrton's'. If you've heard them play at previous events then you will know that this local farming family bring a blend of gospel, folk and country style music that never fails to get your feet tapping. I love the way that their music is always interspersed with gentle testimony and an

invitational message of Jesus' love. With audience participation, the rafters were well and truly rattled when we all joined together in singing 'How Great thou Art' and 'When the roll is called up yonder'! Fabulous. The joy of the Lord was certainly in the house with many folks staying for over an hour at the end enjoying Hardraw hospitality, good fun and fellowship.

My thanks to Irene Whaley, Andy Souter and 'Team Hardraw' for organising such a happy and memorable time for everyone there.



Wensleydale Filling Station



Thornborough Hall, Leyburn

Speaker – Sarah Clark

Friday 13th June

Worship songs ... why are they written? Are they all the same? Do we just sing what we like? Are they backed up with good theology? A good traditional hymn or a new chorus? Come and listen about the ethos of "Resound worship". Grassroots songwriters for the local church.



DOWNCAST SOULS
EXPECTANT HEARTS

CONCERT



FRIDAY 20TH JUNE | 7PM
ST OSWALD'S CHURCH, ASKRIGG

retiring donation, merchandise available



ANDY CLARK is back with friends from 'Resound Worship' to present an evening of music in St Oswald's Church, Askrigg. Andy is Sarah and Dave's son and many of you will remember the concert given last year with his song writing colleague, Elise Massa. This year Andy returns with friends fresh from the 9th international Christian song writing conference in Wydale Hall that 'Resound' organises and runs. It's sure to be a refreshing and enjoyable evening. Why not take this wonderful opportunity to experience the very best of contemporary Christian music that is helping to shape the Church in the UK, Europe and across the world ... it's here - right on our doorstep!



Amy Cockett
Vocals

Join Amy and Mal
for an evening of
Songs from the Shows
(also feat. Rev. Dave Clark)



Mal Carruthers
Keyboard

MUSICALS

FOR A MIDSUMMER'S EVENING

Saturday 21st June, 7pm St Margaret's, Hawes

Entrance is free with retiring donations
towards the Organ Restoration fund

This event is
supported by





For those able to respond to the invitation, our Benefice 'Away Day' on May 17th proved to be all that we desired it would be. The sun shone and the wonderful setting of St Matthew's in Stalling Busk created an ideal setting for a time of escape, reflection and receiving.

The day was led by Rev Felicity Lawson and Rev Annie Naish from 'Resource Ministries'. Felicity is a successful author of many Christian Discipleship courses, was Director of Pastoral Studies at St John's College Nottingham and Vicar of Gildersome and Drighlington for many years. She has been a regular visitor to us here in

Upper Wensleydale as well as to 'The Filling Station' meetings in Leyburn. Annie is Chaplain at the much loved Scargill Retreat House in Upper Wharfedale and together they made a wonderful team creating space for teaching, listening and receiving from the Lord, silent consideration and creative responses whilst being able to appreciate the wonder of God's creation that surrounded us in Raydale. An excellent lunch was provided by 'The Wensleydale Pantry' and the day concluded with a service of Communion with anointing in St Matthew's.

The responses given by those present show how much the day was valued and received:

'It has been a wonderful helpful day; very fulfilling; couldn't have been better.'

'I really appreciated being together as a Benefice; The joy of learning and sharing together in peaceful surroundings.'

'It was wonderful to have space to listen to each other and be in God's presence to hear and feel what He wants us to hear.'

'I enjoyed the time for relaxation and fellowship.'

'The day created time to reflect and respond; great teaching; great scripture that spoke into our situation.'

'I have realised the Holy Spirit needs to flow out, not just sit in me – it is to share and shine!'



Amen to that! Ed.

FROM THE BENEFICE CALENDAR



Baptism		
10 May	Maisie Rebecca Baldeston	Hardraw
24 May	Elliot Finlay Lofts	Hardraw
Funeral		
22 May	John Edward Hunter	Hawes



Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

June 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	
1 June	The Gathering - Benefice Family Service St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
6 June	Sycamore Hall – Communion Service in the lounge – 10am				
8 June	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	12.30pm Soup followed by Communion	Evening prayer by telephone
15 June	Holy Communion	Family Service	Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
22 June	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer Explorers & Pathfinders	Evening prayer by telephone
29 June	Songs of Praise	Morning Prayer	Forest Church		No Evening Prayer

Join us for Evening Prayer

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

Rev Dave Clark

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