



# The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

May 2025



Tel: 01969 667553 Email: [office@upperwenben.org](mailto:office@upperwenben.org)  
[www.upperwensleydalechurch.org](http://www.upperwensleydalechurch.org)

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## NOT FROM THE VICARAGE – A view from a Pew

As every reader is bound to notice or already know Dave and Sarah are on holiday. I was asked to write something in the optimistic hope that it would be better than a blank page. All of us in Upper Wensleydale must share the view that few people deserve a holiday more than Dave and Sarah.

During all the events of Holy Week the prospect of a two-week break must have helped to keep them going. When holidays were a lifeline for me – about twenty years ago – I thought that all decent holidays fell into three parts. Part one was shaking off all the things that had absorbed your time and energy leading up to the break. Part three was beginning to think about the challenges you would face when the holiday came to an end. Part two, the middle of the time away, was the whole point of the holiday when you were free from the stress of what you had been doing and hadn't begun to be tempted into thinking of what you were going back to. I suggest that we should all pray that "Part two" takes up much the greater part of Dave and Sarah's holiday.

Worthwhile breaks don't all have to be long. A couple of months ago Ann bundled me into our car for one night and half a day on Lindisfarne. If you have never been or last went like us many years ago, I strongly recommend it. We didn't go to the castle but found lots to absorb us in the monastic ruins, the church, the visitor centre and the immediate landscape. It's not history for the sake of it. It is all about the introduction of the Christian faith to our part of England, it is hard not to be inspired and challenged by the lives of Cuthbert and others. Coping with the limited times for visiting and leaving Lindisfarne gave us time to spend a few hours in Berwick on Tweed. It has one of the very few churches in England (and it is just in England!) built during the Civil War. Oliver Cromwell looked in and gave various architectural instructions. After 1660 they took rather less notice of him.

It is not immediately relevant to our Benefice, but it seems right to mention that we now have no head of the Roman Catholic Church and no head of the Anglican Communion. The two roles are very different, of course. The Archbishop of Canterbury is responsible for a diocese, for a province (the southern half of England), for a country (England) and for the worldwide Anglican Communion. The successor to Pope Francis will have the worldwide role but not an equivalent of Canterbury's more specific responsibilities. I am not sure that that difference entirely justifies the time that it will take for a man or woman to be appointed to succeed Justin Welby. He resigned on 12 November 2024. It may be a year or more after that before we know the name of the next archbishop. It is quite likely that we will know the name of the next Pope in less than a month's time.

Joe Pilling

The next 'Gathering' will be on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May**  
10:30am at St Oswald's in Askrigg



## Extraordinarily Ordinary

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.

An Evening of Music with

## *The Ayrton Family*

St Mary and St John's Church  
**Hardraw**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
7-8:30pm

Come and enjoy an evening of 'toe-tapping' live music from this *much loved* and *well renowned* local family of musicians. Something for everyone!

Free admission – retiring donation

## Church APCMs

Please make every effort to attend your Church's Annual Meeting. The dates for your diaries are:

<b>Busk</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Hardraw</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Hawes</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> May</b>
<b>Askrigg</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>

Please make every effort to attend and hear the reports about the church from the past year and the plans going forward

## Wensleydale Filling Station



**Thornborough Hall, Leyburn**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**Speaker – Jonny Hirst**

Jonny is the minister at Kay Street Baptist Church in Rawtenstall and is also working for the NW Baptist Association and nationally with a special focus on young people and young adults. With his brother Simon, he led the teenage work at King's Club in Askrigg for 8 years. He is married to Joy and they have a young daughter, Jemimah and a dog, Fintan.

## St Oswald's Tower Commemoration, Consecration & Celebration

At the end of March, the scaffolding was removed from the tower and the re-rendered tower was revealed. The tower featured in all the national newspapers, the BBC and ITV!

Bishop Anna attended the Commemoration Day on 12<sup>th</sup> April along with over 200 others and everyone enjoyed the afternoon. Below are some pictures of the event, and Rishi Sunak's visit the following week.





# Coming soon to a church near you!



RESOUND  
WORSHIP

DOWNCAST SOULS  
EXPECTANT HEARTS

**CONCERT**



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

*retiring donation, merchandise available*

Dave and Sarah's son  
Andy is making a return  
visit to Askrigg Church



*Ascension Day  
at Jervaulx Abbey  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
7pm*

Mal & Amy return for  
a summer show – this  
time with songs from  
Musicals



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

**Amy Cockett**  
Vocals

**Mal Carruthers**  
Keyboard

**MUSICALS**  
FOR A MIDSUMMER'S EVENING

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 7pm St Margaret's, Hawes**

Entrance is free with retiring donations  
towards the Organ Restoration fund

This event is supported by **J. BLADES & SONS**

## FROM THE BENEFICE CALENDAR



Baptism		
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Sarah Townsend	Busk
	Jacqueline Glover	Busk

# EASTER IN RAYDALE



The top picture shows the Good Friday Walk from the beach at Semer Water, stopping at the Old Churchyard, before pressing on to St Matthew's for Hot Cross Buns. The Sunrise Service on Easter Morning was attended by 62 adults and saw two baptisms by full immersion. The service ended with bread and fish on the shore, and an egg hunt for the children



*You are invited to our*  
**Sanctuary Day**

The **Benefice Sanctuary Day** will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 10am to 4pm in Stalling Busk. The day will be led by Rev Felicity Lawson of 'ReSource' and Rev Annie Naish, Chaplain of the **Scargill Community** in Upper Wharfedale and will be an opportunity for us all to listen to and receive from the Holy Spirit and to take time to rest in God's peace.

There will be times of teaching, reflection and receiving throughout the day, which will end with communion in St Matthew's. The time is designed to refresh us and equip us for going forward with confidence in God's love and provision for us as individuals and as a church in Upper Wensleydale.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided. We would love you to join us in what we know will be a special day. If you would like to be a part of this special time together then please let Stephanie know by 5<sup>th</sup> May in order that we can make the necessary catering arrangements.



**Askrigg VE DAY Village Party!!**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 1pm

Let's all get together for a **BRING & SHARE** lunch on the cobbles at the right-hand side of the church.

Teas, coffees and squash provided.

We will set up tables and chairs from 12pm. More hands make light work, so if anyone is free to lend a hand moving them up from the hall, that would be appreciated.

If each family or group brings something to share, finger food ideally, we will have a wonderful feast!!

Quiche, sausage rolls, sandwiches, crisps, cakes and biscuits. Anything you fancy!!

To help reduce waste people are encouraged to bring their own plates, cups and cutlery.

We will move the party to the Village Hall if the weather isn't playing ball.

Thank you to those who are allowing us to use their electricity, clearing cars from the area in advance and helping during the day.

**PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND HELP THEM TO ATTEND WHERE NEEDED**

**CELEBRATING**  
**80**  
**YEARS**  
**VE DAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 1945**

**VICTORY IN EUROPE**  
the dark clouds of war were at last lifted over Great Britain at 3 o'clock on 8th May 1945. Six long years of war were finally at an end.

*Come along and join us on*  
**Saturday 10th May 2025**  
in the  
**Market House, Hawes**  
Music from Hawes Silver Prize Band  
Sing-a-Long & local memorabilia.  
Cream Tea ~ Raffle  
Doors open at 2pm

Admission: £5, Children half price  
Extra cost for cakes  
All proceeds to Hawes Silver Band and the Market House  
**Everyone Welcome**  
Hawes Silver Band



# Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

**May 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	
4 May	<b>The Gathering - Benefice Family Service</b> St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
9 May	Sycamore Hall – Communion Service in the lounge – 10am				
11 May	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style		Evening prayer by telephone
18 May	Holy Communion	Family Service	Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
25 May	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer Explorers & Pathfinders	Evening prayer by telephone

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

**Rev Dave Clark**

**The Vicarage, Burtsett Road, Hawes, DL8 3NP**

Tel: 01969 667553 Email: [office@upperwenben.org](mailto:office@upperwenben.org) Web: [www.upperwensleydalechurch.org](http://www.upperwensleydalechurch.org)

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