



Trinity 3-6

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

July 2025

Tel: 01969 667553 Email: office@upperwenben.org
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Edition Number 116

From the Vicarage

Sarah and I returned a few days ago from helping to lead a conference at 'Yarnfield Park' in Staffordshire run by 'Resource Ministries'. The course was focussing on reimagining ministry for rural churches but we shared the venue with over 300 young people from the 'Mar Thoma' Church in Syria, Europe and Africa. The Mar Thoma Church has its origins in the first century when St Thomas travelled to India and began to share the good news of Jesus Christ. What a joy it was to see so many young people, happy and excited about committing their lives to the service of the gospel of Jesus Christ. They danced, they sang and they laughed as they shared the wonder of knowing Jesus with one another. It was a real tonic to have them alongside us as we discussed issues of vision and leadership and following the lead of the Holy Spirit in the rural church. A pertinent reminder that the Church of Jesus Christ continues to grow because Jesus has words of **Life, Love and Hope** for everyone!

That very theme was picked up by **Revd Nicky Gumbel** speaking at the 2025 Alpha Leadership Conference in London where he spoke of the wonderful growth in numbers of young people discovering Jesus for themselves as they searched for truth and meaning in their lives. What has become known as the '**Silent Revival**' is seeing tens of thousands of young men and women, the length and breadth of the land, receiving Christ as their personal Saviour and becoming disciples of Jesus.

It's so important for us to stay connected with what is taking place in the wider Church. Jesus said, "*I will build my Church*" ^{Matt.16:18} and where the simple, unadulterated truth of why Jesus came and died for us is shared with honesty and integrity, the transforming power of His Holy Spirit continues to rescue and set people free. Alleluia!

Bible teaching from across the Benefice in June was recorded as usual and is available for listening to and reflecting upon. It shared a theme of the power of God at work in our lives with wonderful testimonies of how the Holy Spirit makes His presence known to us today. He is to be known and to be experienced. He provides us with the resources of Jesus so that we may live our lives in the freedom and power that Christ died to give us.

Our Benefice '**Gathering**' service on July 6th will focus on these essential resources as detailed by Paul in his letter to the church in Ephesus. '**The Armour of God**'. We need to know *what* it is and *how* to use it if we are to be effective in our Christian walk and help to bring others into the fullness of their own relationship with Jesus. As said earlier, it's important to stay connected with the wider Church but it's also important to stay connected with the Church in Upper Wensleydale by meeting together to discover and to share in all that the Lord is doing amongst us and through us and to encourage each other by showing that we value one another.

We are living in exciting times – let's do all we can to enjoy them and to be a part of what the Lord is doing!

Rev Dave.

The next 'Gathering' will be on **Sunday 6 July**

10:30am at St Oswald's in Askrigg



The Armour of God

We are living in challenging times as any glance at the News will verify. A secular gospel is being promoted in a loud and often aggressive manner but essentially offering nothing. Christians are increasingly persecuted for their beliefs and lifestyle as they share a different message; one of Hope, Life and Freedom. Where this truth is being shared, the Church is growing but we need help. God has equipped us with everything we need to enable us 'to stand firm'^{Eph.6:14}

We hope to welcome you on Sunday Morning

as we gather together as Church to discover and to 're-discover' the essential resources that God has given us to help us in our walk.

Be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church

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



Preloved children's clothes

We all know how fast children grow out of their clothes. In St Margaret's Church you will find a rail of good quality but used children's clothes – this is available for families to pop in and take as needed. Please spread the word to those who may need this.



Wensleydale Filling Station

Thornborough Hall, Leyburn

Speaker – Sebastian Rab

Friday 11th July

Sebastian and Rachael Rab moved to the Dales in 2022 to take on the leadership of the Jonas Centre, a Christian residential centre and holiday venue. Seb has worked with different churches across North Yorkshire and as a UCCF staff worker with the university Christian Unions in York.

What a weekend that was!

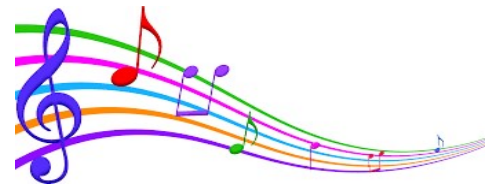
Friday 20th June saw the start of a fantastic weekend for the Benefice. The weather, which has often played a significant role in any event here in the Dales, was wonderful – warm and sunny – a perfect evening to go to a concert in St Oswald's, where 'Resound Worship' were performing songs from their latest album:

'Downcast Souls, Expectant Hearts'

The performers included Andy Clark, son of our Dave and Sarah. The concert was well attended and was a joy to attend.

Refreshments were served in the interval and people were able to buy merchandise from 'Resound'.

A retiring collection was made to cover Resound's travelling costs.



At St Margaret's the following evening, Mal Carruthers and Amy Cockett brought us '**Musicals for a MidSummer Evening**'. They performed songs from most of the big musicals including 'Les Miserables', Phantom of the Opera, Sunset Boulevard and Cabaret. The song that received the biggest applause was the duet – 'All I Ask of You' – from Phantom performed by Amy together with Rev Dave.

Even the weather wanted to join in, with a spectacular thunderstorm part way through the first half adding some drama.

A retiring collection towards the organ fund was made and raised almost £700.



If two concerts were not enough, St Matthew's held their annual **Flower Festival** with the theme of 'Dales Weddings' on the Saturday and Sunday. The skills of the flower arrangers was obvious to all, but it was also the photographs of the weddings, the beautiful vintage dresses and the other objects – hats, veils etc – that brought the displays to life and made them very personal. Below is just a selection of the arrangements on view.



Anyone know the collective noun for a group of churchwardens?

All the Benefice wardens, together with Dave (taking the picture) celebrated together after being sworn into office by Archdeacon James at St Gregory's Church in Bedale on 17th June. Churchwardens are a bridge between the clergy and the laity, and are involved in all aspects of church life, including governance, worship, and the care of the church building and its contents. Churchwardens have to be aware of, and adhere to, church laws, diocesan regulations, in addition to all the normal policies required by any other organisation. A key aspect of their role is to foster unity and peace within the congregation, and to create a welcoming atmosphere for the worshippers and visitors alike.



(From L to R – Steph & Liz from Askrigg, Sam (and Debbie!) from Hawes, Miriam from Busk and Sue, Jennifer and Allan from Hardraw)

Your churchwarden should normally be your first point of contact for all but the most sensitive matters which may need a Vicar's attention. If you contact Dave first he may well refer you on to the appropriate Churchwarden. This is normal protocol, otherwise Dave would be overwhelmed with issues to deal with!

Contact details are:

Askrigg:	Stephanie Durrant	07787 322481	stephaniedurrant@btinternet.com
	Liz Hayle	07796 173099	lizhayle@aol.com
Hardraw	Sue Foster	01969 667424	
	Allan & Jennifer Fawcett	01969 667241	pryhousefarm@hotmail.com
Hawes	Samantha Amsden	07541 054259	samantha.amsden@outlook.com
Stalling Busk	Miriam Cloughton	01969 650982	carpleygreen@yahoo.co.uk



Friday Mornings Together at St Margaret's Church!



Looking for something to do this summer? Come along to our friendly, relaxed drop-in mornings for connection, crafts, play and plenty of cake! Open to all non-parents, parents, carers, and kids.

- ☕ Unlimited tea, coffee & cake
- 🎮 A fun activity for children
- 🗣️ A chance to chat, laugh & connect
- 📍 *Every Friday, 10am–12pm at St Margaret's Church*
- 💷 recommended donation £3 per family (includes everything!)
- 📅 Running every Friday morning during the summer holidays



No need to book — just come as you are.



Whether you stay for 10 minutes or two hours, we'd love to see you!



Gayle Chapel Camp Service

6th July 2025 at 2pm
Led by Rev Dave Clark

'Be a Green Leaf for God'

With Hawes Silver Band

FROM THE BENEFICE CALENDAR



Baptism

7 June Robin Christopher Lambert: Hardraw

Funeral

25 June Patricia Martin: St Oswald's

Stay Connected and make the most of the Bible teaching taking place across the Benefice.

Search for:

'Rev Dave from Wensleydale' – June 3rd: 'We Believe' – 1700 years of the Nicene Creed, June 11th 'Holy Spirit is for Now!' – accounts of God at work in wonderful ways, June 17th 'God's Love X5' – Key aspects of God's Love for us all, June 23rd 'Demons Defeated!' – Break Free. Live Free – Gospel truths of Liberty and Power.



Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

July 2025

	St Mary & St John's, Harddraw 9.00am	St Margaret's, Hawes 10.30am	St Oswald's, Askrigg 10.30am	St Matthew's, Stalling Busk 2.30pm	
4 July	Sycamore Hall – Communion Service in the lounge – 10am				
6 July	The Gathering - Benefice Family Service St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
13 July	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style	12.30pm Soup followed by Communion	Evening prayer by telephone
20 July	Holy Communion	Family Service	Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
27 July	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer Explorers & Pathfinders	Evening prayer by telephone

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