

All Saints
2nd & 3rd Sundays
before Advent
Christ the King
1st Sunday of
Advent

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

November 2025

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Edition Number 120



From the Vicarage



'Seek peace and pursue it' Ps.34:14 So wrote King David some 3000 years ago. Writing from personal experience he knew that violence and aggression leads to fear and misery for everyone involved and will, ultimately, require some form of a resolution agreed around a table. Sadly, several millennia later, the distress and destruction of war continues to reap havoc within the Middle East and between so many other nations around the world.

November remains a month where our nation, along with so many others around the world, will pause to remember the countless number of lives lost through conflict and in acts of service. Since I was a child I have always found Remembrance Sunday a moving and a special occasion; not in any jingoistic or xenophobic way, but in a manner of respect and gratitude for the sacrifice of those who have gone before us. I lived with first-hand accounts from my family of what that meant, what that looked like and what that cost. My great Uncle was posted to the Far East to fight. Having failed to receive a single letter in almost 4 years his family thought him, like so many others, had been lost in action and the whereabouts of his body, unknown. His unannounced return created shock and joy but to his dying day, he never spoke a word of what he had experienced.

Last month I repaid a visit to the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington and was struck once again by the size and the fragility of the Halifax Bomber, 'Friday the 13th' that is housed in a hangar there. The Halifax flew in great numbers from Elvington and from other airfields from across East Yorkshire. My admiration was rekindled as I considered once more the courage and self-sacrifice of my grandparent's generation and thanked God that I had never had to face such a similar challenge. And yet we know, all too sadly, that violence and injustice continue to ravage our world. It was never meant to be like this.

2,000 years after King David, the prophet Isaiah spoke the heart of God when he gave the instruction: *'stop doing evil and learn to do what is right. See that justice is done; help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights, and defend the defenceless'* Isaiah1:16f

In a world where we continue to create and deliver such havoc and horror upon one another, may we be willing to consider our part in it all, repent and remember Christ's sacrifice for us.

On the 9th 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.

'Whilst we were still sinners

Rev Dave



Christ died for us' – Romans 5v8

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



Be a Saint!



We hope to welcome you on Sunday Morning

Be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church

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



Hardraw and Hawes Harvest Celebration

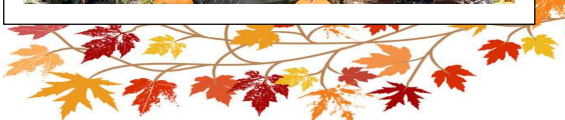
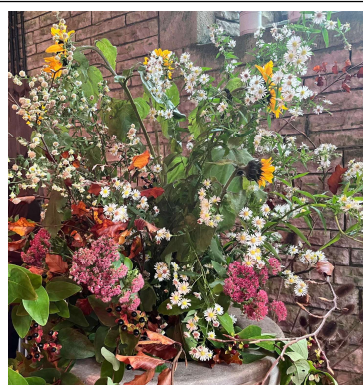


What a wonderfully joyful time we had together in Hardraw for our joint Harvest celebration. With our young folk present in number and with over 70 others in the congregation, the singing rattled the rafters as we enjoyed some traditional harvest music led by Andy Souter on our newly refurbished organ. We followed the **'Yorkshire Harvest'** format which has become so popular with our churches in the upper dale; presenting gifts of soil, crops, fruit, flowers, dairy produce, a fleece and bread, as we gave thanks to Almighty God for His blessing and provision.

Gratitude was expressed for the donations given and the hard work of the team behind the organ's restoration and the instrument was blessed by Rev Dave for the many more years of service that will now lie ahead.

The Askrigg furniture maker Tom Addison and his family were also present as we delighted in his handcrafted noticeboard which now sits most finely at the entrance to the churchyard. It truly is a work of great craftsmanship and will be used to inform the local community and visitors of the life of the church for decades to come.

We then all shared together in a magnificent lunch of pork and apple rolls, cake and lots of tea and coffee. Thank you to *'Team Awesome of Hardraw'* for your hospitality and hard work and for everyone who contributed towards our chosen harvest charity of 'Water Aid'.



FROM THE BENEFICE CALENDAR



Baptisms:		
4 th October	Erin Elizabeth Cloughton	Askrigg
Wedding Blessing:		
4 th October	Isabel and William King	Hardraw

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

Search for:

‘Rev Dave from Wensleydale’

Latest episodes include:

October 6th: God owns all the Donuts!

October 13th: One step at a time

October: 26th Know the Answer!

Available on Apple podcasts and Spotify



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 half an hour service of prayer and reflection





A number of people have asked about different ways of giving to the church following Dave's talks on God's generosity, which have prompted people to think about how much, and the way in which, they give to the church.

Regular planned giving is important for the church to be able to budget. The Parish Giving Scheme is the preferred method for most church treasurers. The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a national Anglican charity which facilitates regular, planned giving on behalf of our churches and also claims the Gift Aid where appropriate. It is not for profit organisation and the money that is collected is forwarded to our treasurers in one lump sum, including the gift aid, cutting the work that they have to do. Leaflets are available about the PGS in our churches, but if you want to find out more you can find details on their website:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>

It is also possible to give one off donations via the PGS too. Hawes and Askrigg both have had this system up and running for some years. If you wish to set up a regular donation or make a one-off payment you can do this via the website above, or by using the QR codes below which will take you directly to the PGS for the appropriate church.



St Oswald's Askrigg



St Margaret's Hawes

It is still possible to make regular donations in other ways

- by setting up a standing order or direct debit through your bank – please contact the treasurer of the church or the Office to get the correct bank account details.
- In cash. Some people still prefer to make their donations in cash, and a collection plate is available in church. Outside of service times, each church also has a place for donations. However most churches now have to pay to deposit cash and this does reduce the donation.

If you would like to make a donation to St Matthew's at Stalling Busk or St Mary & St John's in Hardraw, at the current time they are in the process of setting up their accounts with the PGS. You can still give one off amounts via the QR codes below.



St Matthew's, Stalling Busk



St Mary & St John's, Hardraw

If you have any questions about financial giving, please contact the Office and we will do our best to answer them.

Music from the Movies 3

What a wonderfully happy and entertaining evening we shared in together at St Margaret's for 'Music from the Movies 3'.

The first members of the 170 strong audience began arriving some 40 mins before the start to ensure they could select their seat for an event that has grown considerably in its reputation.

As usual, the big screen was used to display supporting images during each performance as well as to provide informative introductions to

the diverse programme of instrumental and vocal music provided by Mal Carruthers & Amy Cockett. Drum, whistles and vocal support were provided by Rev Dave culminating in the classic Italian duet 'Time to say goodbye'.

Our community team of 'Maggie's Angels' once again provided enormous help in preparing and setting tables and serving hot and cold drinks, popcorn and choc-ices in the interval - we are so very grateful for your happy smiling faces and continuing willing support -Thank You.

The enthusiastic and generous applause indicated the level of appreciation and gratitude for the hard work of Mike Hirst on PA and visuals, Mal on the Organ and keyboard and for Amy's beautiful singing voice.

As people left the building the conversation was full of praise for all they had heard and seen. It really was a lovely, memorable time together.

So far, the event raised has raised just over £1000 for the general maintenance fund of our wonderful pipe organ





Sunflowers

In October's issue of the newsletter we asked for pictures of your sunflowers, grown from the seeds given out earlier in the year by Dave at The Gathering.

Pictured here on the left is two sunflowers and the remains of two others lost to the wind, all grown by Martin Betts. On the right is one grown by Steph Durrant. Did you do better?



Happy pumpkins and happy children!



Once again, we ran the Carve your Pumpkin Happy with the schools in our area – this is what they said:

Hawes School

Carve your Pumpkin Happy - Thank you to everyone for your INCREDIBLE pumpkins. They were all amazing and the judges found it very hard to choose winners.

Congratulations to: Teddy and Isaac who won the EYFS/KS1 prizes
Betsy and Zara who were the KS2 winners.



BAWB Schools

We thoroughly enjoyed meeting the entrants of Rev Dave's annual 'Carve Your Pumpkin Happy' competition! Our children are definitely highly creative, with a carousel pumpkin, a pumpkin with a fine head of autumn leaves for hair and a lovely pumpkin with Jesus's cross carved on it as well as many others.



The winners were:

Category 1 (Nursery, Reception and Year 1):

1st place - Emilia

2nd place - Thomas

Category 2 (Years 2, 3 and 4)

1st place – Rocco

2nd place – Ceci

Category 3 (Years 5 & 6)

1st place - Aidan

2nd place - Douglas

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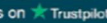
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St Oswald's Coffee Mornings

Saturday 1st November

at the Village Hall, Askrigg
10am to 12 noon



Admission £2.50

Includes unlimited Tea/coffee and scones

Tombola, cake stall & jigsaw sale

If you shop regularly online, please consider doing so using easyfundraising.org.uk. It will cost you nothing, but every time you use one of these retailers a donation will come into our churches. Spread the word!



Remembrance Commemoration in Upper Wensleydale



Services of remembrance will take place across the upper dale on Sunday 9th November 2025.

10.30am **St Margaret's Church, Hawes**

Led by Rev Dave Clark with Hawes Silver Band, the names of the fallen will be read as we join with the nation in the two minutes silence and will conclude with the procession to the War Memorial, where the names will be read again at this 80th anniversary of the end of WWII

10.30am **St Oswald's Church, Askrigg**

Led by Rev Ian Robinson and will be conclude at the Market Cross with the reading of the names of the fallen, the laying of wreaths and the national two minute silence.

1.30pm Remembrance at **St Matthew's Church, Stalling Busk**

All collections on the day will go to the work of the British Legion



Wensleydale Filling Station



Thornborough Hall, Leyburn

Friday 14th November

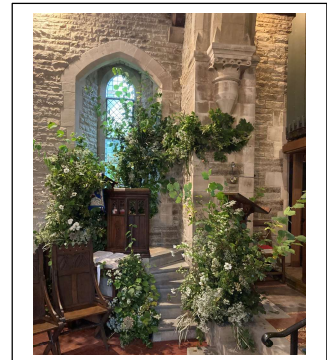
Speaker: Matt Hirst

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 14th to share in worship and praise

Wedding Blessing hits BBC News

The wedding blessing of William and Isabel King in St Mary and St John's church in Hardraw hit the national BBC News this month.

Late Friday afternoon as Storm Amy was rattling the Dale, Rev Dave was conducting a rehearsal as swiftly as he could manage to beat the River Ure bursting her banks and flooding the road at Haylands Bridge. He was 5 minutes too late. With the top road to Askrigg closed due to road works, he and the couple's DJ had to try and navigate the road to Appersett instead and only just made it in time. A few more minutes of delay and that road would have been impassable as well. The couple and their guests, who were staying at Simonstone Hall, were ferried by Landrover to the warmth and comfort of the Hotel taking dramatic video of the rising water as they did so.



Shannon Macintyre of 'Feather and Fern' who knows the building well had created some wonderful displays of foliage and flowers that filled the porch, the windowsills and most of the rest of the building as well. The actual celebration managed to catch a lull in the storm and the sun even shone in time for the confetti which delighted the 90+ guests.

ARE YOU GOOD WITH FIGURES?

Hardraw church are looking for a person to come alongside Sue, their current Treasurer, to learn the ropes and to eventually take over the accounts. If you are interested, please let us know in the Office and we will put you in touch.



Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

November 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 Nov	St Oswald's Coffee Morning in the Village Hall 10am-Noon				
2 Nov	The Gathering - Benefice Family Service St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
7 Nov	Sycamore Hall – Communion Service in the lounge – 10am				
9 Nov	Remembrance Service 10.30 at St Margaret's Church, Hawes followed by a procession to the war memorial	Remembrance Service	12.30 Soup followed by Remembrance	Evening prayer by telephone	
16 Nov	Morning Prayer	Family Service	Morning Prayer	Evening prayer by telephone	
23 Nov	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer Pathfinders and Explorers	Evening prayer by telephone
30 Nov	Benefice Advent Communion Service at St Matthew's, Stalling Busk at 10.30am				No evening prayer

Prayer suggestions for November:

- *The National and International church*
- *Reconciliation and peace across the world*
- *Our new Archbishop*
- *Pray for those who you are going to invite to our Christmas events*

'Prayer is where the action is' – John Wesley – Prayer meetings every Tuesday in the West End Meeting Room, Hawes 9:15-10am and in Askrigg on alternate Tuesdays 11am to 12 noon

Rev Dave Clark

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