



Pentecost



Trinity

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

June 2026



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Edition Number 126

www.upperwensleydalechurch.org

From the Vicarage

Across the UK, June 21st is marked as '**Father's Day**'. Although it is secular in its origin the Church has naturally embraced the celebration as a way of affirming and endorsing a Biblical model of fatherhood. Unlike the gods of other faith cultures, who can be seen as capricious and vengeful in nature, the Christian God is portrayed as a *loving* and *merciful* Father. Indeed, we know that Christ himself constantly referred to His Heavenly Father in this way.

Our current age seems to struggle with the concept of manhood and masculinity in a way that has allowed some nasty and 'toxic' examples of what 'being a man' is all about to gain publicity and influence. It has been a concern of mine for many years and I believe it's time that the Church raised its head and its voice and unashamedly promoted the Christian ideal of 'Fatherhood' as a positive role model to our boys and young men.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son^{Lk.15:11-32} is widely celebrated as one of the greatest short stories ever written. At only about 500 words, it captures the human condition through unparalleled drama and the universal themes of love and forgiveness.

Closer scrutiny reveals the attitude of the younger son as astonishingly offensive. His request would have required the family estate, handed down through the generations, to be divided and sold off in order that his desires can be fulfilled. Absorbing the pain that every parent experiences, the father lets him go. There is a parallel here with God the Father allowing Adam and Eve the freedom to make their own decisions even when He knows they will choose foolishly. He does the same for us.

Later, filthy and hungry, realising his mistake and rehearsing his apologies the younger son returns home to be greeted by his father running to meet him. He engages in an extravagant response of love with gifts and feasting. It's a scandalous example of grace. The father absorbs the shame just as our heavenly Father did on the cross. He does the same for us. Grace is costly.

Fatherhood is costly, both emotionally and spiritually. It requires wisdom, patience, sacrifice and sometimes the willingness to be misunderstood and to take the 'hits'.

The invitation is to see our Heavenly Father in the parable and to replicate His attitudes and character. The one who runs to meet us. The one who bears the cost. The one who celebrates when the 'lost' find home.^{Lk.15:10}

Jesus was always remembering and celebrating his Heavenly Father. He loved to spend time with Him and modelled a way of us doing so by finding a quiet space to talk to Him and to listen to His voice. The invitation is for us to make every day a Heavenly 'Father's Day'.

Take time out from 'juggling' your daily demands, 'slow down' and spend some quality time with Him. Grace, after all, works both ways.

Rev Dave.

The next 'Gathering' will be on **Sunday 7 June**
at 10:30am at St Oswald's in Askrigg



**To include prayer and commissioning of our
Wardens and PCC members**



This service is an opportunity for us to unite as Church in the Upper Dale in worship and to share in Biblical teaching together. Please do all you can to make this service a priority in your diary – our physical presence always encourages others in their faith and it's important that we learn and grow as a united church in the upper dale.

Be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Safeguarding training (Basic and Foundation level) is mandatory for every member of the PCC, and they need to be updated every 3 years. This can be completed online and everyone who has an email address should have received instruction on how to log on earlier in the year.

For those who are not computer literate or prefer to do their training in person, Linda Collingwood will be running a Basic level training course on **Wednesday 10th June** at St Oswald's Church commencing at 10am. A Foundation course will run later in the month.

As stated the training is mandatory. If for some reason you are unable to complete the training either online or in person, please speak to Dave as soon as possible as your position on your PCC will need to be reviewed.



**Recycle empty
Blister Packs**



We will take these to a
central collection point at
Boots in Catterick

*Collection box
in the porch of
St Margarets
for your empty
blister packs*

Musicals for a summer's evening 2



**Saturday
27th June 7.00pm**
**St. Margaret's
Church - Hawes**



**Amy
Cockett**
Vocals



**Mal
Carruthers**
Keyboard



Also featuring
**Dave
Clark**

This event is kindly supported by:



Free entry. Interval Refreshments.
Retiring Donations towards Organ Restoration Fund

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Enjoy another evening concert at St Margaret's church, Hawes, featuring Mal Carruthers on the organ and Amy Cockett on vocals. No doubt our own Dave Clark will also make an appearance!

The concert is free, but there will be a collection plate for donations towards the Organ Restoration Fund.

Refreshments will be available in the interval.

Saturday 27th June
7pm

HOPPERS SALE – SATURDAY 27TH JUNE

The Benefice have been asked whether we would like to provide the refreshments for Hoppers Sale at Askrigg Village Hall at the end of June, as BAWB PTA are unable to cover the event on this occasion. In the past the PTA have made around £600 from this, which would be a welcome boost to Benefice funds. We need to staff the kitchen all day, and also need plenty of baked goods – cakes, quiche, sausage rolls etc. If you are able to help out by taking a stint in the kitchen, or baking, please let the office know.

Pentecost in Busk with the Explorer Group



Wensleydale Filling Station



Thornborough Hall, Leyburn 7-9pm

Friday 12th June

Speaker:

Matt Hirst, Baptist Minister from Hawkshead in the Lake District

CHURCHWARDENS' UPDATE

We regularly get asked about what is happening to find a new vicar for when Dave leaves at the end of August. It is our intention to keep you as updated as possible about everything we know! The process for replacing a vicar is governed by the Diocese and there are no shortcuts. If you attended your local Annual Church Meeting this month, you will have been fully updated with the latest situation – that is the Diocese have agreed to replace Dave but it will be with a 'Priest in Charge' rather than a vicar, what this means and the implications of it. This is because they are looking to reorganise the whole Wensley Deanery area and are hoping to create a 'Resourcing Deanery'. It will be part of the Priest in Charge's role to help to shape this. The churchwardens of our churches, along with all members of our PCC's and wardens and PCC members in the rest of the Deanery, have been invited to the next Deanery Synod, which is due to be held on 9th June at St Oswalds, where Bishop Anna and Archdeacon James will explain their vision on what a Resourcing Deanery could be.

In the meantime, we are progressing with organising a day for a Joint PCC meeting, where we will consider what needs to go into our Parish Brochure – effectively our promotional booklet for prospective priests – including what our aspirations are for their ministry here in the Upper Dale. This is due to take place at the end of June. The complicated work of pulling together a draft brochure will then take place during July and August, which we are sure will go through a number of edits, before being presented to the Archdeacon at our next meeting with him which is scheduled for September. This meeting cannot take place until after Dave leaves.

Even if you are not on your church's PCC, we still want you to play a vital part in shaping the future of our Benefice by contributing your thoughts – in each church there is a suggestion box and paper for you to write your thoughts on what sort of person we need, or other issues that should be considered. You are also welcome to discuss your thoughts with your churchwarden.

SAVE THE DATE!

Dave's official Benefice leaving party will take place at the Wensleydale Pantry on the evening of August 27th. Please save the date and further information about the evening will come out shortly.

St Oswald's Church hosts the Swaledale Festival once more



After a gap of nearly a decade, St Oswald's was delighted to once again host a concert as part of the 2026 Swaledale Festival.

The duo Intesa specialise in music designed for the voice and the viol. They formed in 2023 at the Royal Academy of Music and currently perform all over the world. Their program of music places both a folk and early music repertoire side by side which brings together both European and Armenian traditions.

The concert was held on Tuesday 26th May, one of the hottest days of the year, and the church provided a beautifully cooler space for over 80 people to enjoy the music.

Professionals Study Day at St Oswald's

Over 50 architects, surveyors, specialist contractors, masons and DAC members came together to hear about the Tower Project.

Historic England and the National Churches Trust were among the speakers. After lunch, the delegates were able to go into the tower to see the work with the masons.



FROM THE BENEFICE CALENDAR



Weddings:

16th May Arturs Umbrasko and Alina Golubkova Askrigg

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

Search for:

'Rev Dave from Wensleydale'

Latest Episodes

May 4th 'Wobbly or Firm?'

May 11th 'Known, Known?'

'May 19th 'Busy Waiting'

May 24th 'No Limits!'

Available on Apple podcasts and Spotify **OR:**

Upper Wensleydale Church - CofE



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





Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

June 2026

	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	
6 June	Sycamore Hall: Communion Service in the 'Activity Room' – 10:00am				
7 June	The Gathering - Benefice Family Service St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
14 June	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Café Style	12.30 Soup followed by Afternoon Prayer	Evening prayer by telephone
21 June	Holy Communion	Family Service	Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
28 June	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer Pathfinders and Explorers	Evening prayer by telephone

Prayer Points for June

- For the Deanery Synod meeting in St Oswald's on the 9th at 7pm where Bishop Anna and Archdeacon James will explain plans for the Wensley Deanery. All PCC members are invited to attend. Anyone interested in visiting the renovated Tower please come at 6:30pm
- For our PCCs as they meet to begin the process of creating the Parish Brochure
- For Gillian Lambert & Geoffrey Shearcroft getting married in Harddraw on June 20th
- For our nation and our political leaders

Rev Dave Clark

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