



Trinity

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

August 2026



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'As for me ... I will always have HOPE' Psalm 71:14

For those of you who like your sport ... what a summer this is!

We've just finished Wimbledon and the FIFA World Cup, the Commonwealth Games are under way and the European Athletic Championships, 'The 100' Cricket series and Premier Football all fight for our attention this month. But perhaps the disappointment of England not reaching the world cup football final was too much for you to bear (again) A good friend of mine reminded me as we were watching England play Argentina in the semi-final together, that *"It's the hope that kills you!"* The quote comes from the American sports comedy-drama series 'Ted Lasso'.

Ted goes on to counteract its sentiment in the pre match talk by telling his team that *"It's the lack of hope that kills you"* That, I feel, is a far more accurate assessment.

The Bible speaks a great deal about **Hope** and I have always appreciated the words from Psalm 71 in this respect. The writer reminds us all that whatever our current circumstances might currently be, we can rely on the 'rock of our refuge'^{v3} for 'Who O God is like you?'¹⁹ Indeed, we're encouraged to consider that Christian Hope actually *increases* with age and that we all have a part to play in ensuring that what we know and have experienced of God's love in our own lives we can actively pass on to those who are younger than ourselves. Succession planning is a key component of the Christian life *and* the life of the Church.

Throughout my professional life in the classroom and the lecture theatre I have tried to apply the philosophy of 'making myself redundant' with regards to leading others and building effective teams that can operate successfully and with autonomy. Now, (Praise God) within the Kingdom of Heaven *no one* is ever redundant and we all have a very important part to play right up to our very last breath but the succession planning to handle the forthcoming vacancy has been long in the planning and the team of wardens and worship leaders and the dedicated members of your local PCC's will ensure that the Church of Jesus Christ in the Upper Dale not only continues to operate as she has done up until now but, with your active support and prayers, she thrives!

In that, you can all have a very important but very simple role to play. Please do not underestimate the power that your physical presence has on encouraging others in their walk of faith. *'Do not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another, especially as Christ's return draws ever closer'* Hebrews 10:25 Encourage one another by gathering in worship together, studying God's word together *and* (crucially) praying together. Jesus calls us to hold fast to His teaching Jn.8:31 Let's not lose our minds just because the world has. Know what you believe & why you believe it and love others who haven't discovered that assurance yet; but, loving those who disagree with you does not mean that you have to live life *their* way. **Hold fast to Christ's Hope.**

The world *needs* HOPE. Christ *is* our Hope and Christ *brings* Hope to a needy world. What a privilege it is to be called into sharing His love and Hope to those around us. Thank you for all that you have been to us these last 10 years. Now, together, we are all stepping into a new adventure. We may not know what the future holds but, Alleluia, we can know the one who holds the future!

With our love and gratitude to each and every one of you. *Sarah & Dave*

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



'Fully Known, Fully Held'

Psalm 139



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

This summer

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

Fun and friendship!



**EVERY
FRIDAY IN
AUGUST**

10 am till 12 noon

St Margaret's Hawes

- Tea and coffee
- Cakes, pastries and fruit
- Family games
- Craft activity

Drop in or stay and play



"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."





**Last few places
remaining!**



I am arranging a social event on behalf of The Benefice to say farewell to David and Sarah Clark at **The Wensleydale Pantry at 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm on Thursday 27 August 2026.**

The cost will be £16.50 per person for an extensive buffet meal of both hot and cold dishes, followed by a selection of deserts with tea and coffee available all evening. The licensed bar will be open for those wishing to purchase other drinks. Those who have attended events at The Pantry in the past will know that it is both an excellent meal and excellent value. Those who haven't are in for a treat. The event is open to all members of the community and anyone who wishes to say farewell to David and Sarah.

Please note, this is not a 'drop in' event, The Pantry need to know numbers in advance. If you wish to attend please inform me directly, preferably by e-mail at gdiduca@btinternet.com. In view of the arrangements for payment I cannot accept bookings by 'word of mouth'.

The closing date for replies is Friday 21 August 2026.

To simplify the administration, payment will be made by cash or card on the night but please be aware that if you commit to attend and then don't, payment is still required unless you cancel before the closing date.

I am sorry but I cannot arrange transport, but I am sure there is ample time to arrange lifts within each of the churches in the Benefice. This should be an excellent evening and a great celebration of David and Sarah and all that has been achieved in the Benefice of Upper Wensleydale over the past ten years. Thank you.

Graham Di Duca

PSALM 23 Retreat

28-31 AUGUST

With Max Swart teaching on Psalm 23

Saturday sessions free for everyone

INFO AND REGISTER TODAY

jonascentre.org/events



**JONAS
CENTRE**

A *Summer* AFTERNOON CONCERT

by
Alice Chadwick Jones

— VIOLIN —

A mixed recital
including works by
*Bach, Glazunov
and Elgar*

Alice is 16 and
a student at the
Junior Royal Academy
and winner of
many prizes.

FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST

• 4 PM •

ST OSWALD'S CHURCH, ASKRIGG

FREE ENTRY
Donations are
always welcome



**REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE
AVAILABLE**





On Sunday, 13 September 2026 Graham Di Duca will be running the famous Great North Run. Although a regular runner, on this occasion he will be running to support a carefully chosen charity, C.A.L.M. a suicide prevention charity, in memory of his and Julia's son, Andrew. His aim is to raise £1,000.

If you feel able to support him the best way to do so is through his Just Giving page. To find it simply Google 'Just Giving' and click on the link, having found the page type his name 'Graham Di Duca' into the search facility. Alternatively follow this link and it will take you directly to his page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/gr-duca-1>

If you want to know more about C.A.L.M. then simply Google 'Calm charity' or follow this link <https://www.thecalmzone.net/>

The event will be televised live on the B.B.C. so you may even catch a glimpse of him on the day!

Praying for the Dales

8am, The Jonas Centre Prayer Barn, Redmire

Wednesday 5th August

A monthly prayer meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. This is an opportunity to gather with other local Christians to praise God together and to pray for our local churches and communities here in the Dales. We would love to extend a very warm invite to anyone locally who would like to join us.

CHURCHWARDENS' UPDATE

The Joint PCC Away Day took place on 4th July at Stalling Busk and in a wonderful atmosphere we discussed the strengths, weakness and opportunities that exist in our Benefice. We then considered what gifts we wanted our new priest to bring.

As a result of that day, we are creating a draft Benefice Brochure that is now in its 6th version. We hope to have a final version ready by the middle of August, which will be submitted to the Diocese for approval.

We have met to discuss the September to December's services and are aiming to run the same services at Christmas as we did last year.

‘Hefted in Love’

Words of Farewell

Brought on holiday with my family as a young child from the plain of Holderness in the East Riding of Yorkshire, the rugged hills and tumbling waters of the Yorkshire Dales captured my heart instantly. I knew even then that this was a place that I would just *have* to keep returning to. What an incredible privilege then, to find myself so many years later, Licensed as an Anglican Priest and serving my ministry amongst the wonderful people and the glorious landscape of the Yorkshire Dales.

I don’t think that a day has gone by in the last 10 years where I have not thanked God for this incredible opportunity; for there is something quite exceptional about ‘Dales folk’. I love the deep rooted, deep seated old fashioned common sense approach to life, where old fashioned is never a criticism but something to treasure and to admire. I love the way that ancient families have lived and worked together across the centuries facing everything that nature, history and constantly changing agricultural policies have thrown at them, and yet, they remain and apply their skill and tenacity to work the land and repeatedly entice a harvest from the thin soiled hillsides.

I love the timeless nature of it all and I love the people. Resourceful and resilient because they have to be; helpful and caring because they want to be. I love the sight, I love the sounds, I love the changing seasonal fragrances (!) I love sharing my back garden with tens of thousands of sheep for the annual sales in September and I have loved the way that (barring road repairs of which we have seen plenty in the last few months) my nearest set of traffic lights are 17 miles away. In short ... I love the Dales and I have truly treasured every moment of the time that Sarah and I have been able to spend with you all here, but we have sensed the call to turn the page and to allow a new adventure to unfold for us and for the church here in the upper dale.

Clergy appointments are always a ‘temporary ticket’ and you know that one day you will have to move on but the inevitability of time running away too swiftly does not make the process any easier. In this regard I read recently of the ‘Theology of the Ice Cream Cone’: just like our sense of time, ice cream disappears faster than you think it will. You begin with a sense of confidence that the time you have available to enjoy and appreciate its delights will be more than enough only to discover that it’s soon running away down your fingers, onto your clothes and, just like time itself, it has disappeared all too swiftly.

Whilst writing to the first century persecuted Church, Jesus’ disciple James reminds us of the same truth. He writes, *‘What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes’* James4:14 The message? Treasure what you have *whilst* you have it and enjoy the journey.

We shall look back upon these last 10 years with great love and affection as we remember the stories, the laughter, the challenges and the triumphs. Tables buckling under the weight of wonderful Wensleydale cake, baptisms in Semerwater as snow starts to fall, weddings where flower displays burst into flame, hundreds of us enjoying singing carols in the streets on Christmas Eve and the extraordinary privilege of being welcomed into your homes to share with you in times of joy and to sit with you in times sadness through illness or bereavement. I hope that I have never taken a moment of it too casually. You have shaped me.

I had never encountered the word 'Hefted' before I arrived in Wensleydale. For Shepherds it describes that instinctive ability Ewes have to train their lambs to keep safe by recognising their particular hillside and developing a unique sense of belonging to it. King David, the Shepherd boy King of ancient Israel wrote the familiar words of Psalm 23: *'The Lord is **my** shepherd, therefore I will lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters, **He** refreshes my soul.'* David reminding us of our need to be 'Hefted' to God; to know that He is the source of all we truly need in life to nourish us and to keep us safe. As St Augustine wrote: *"Our heart is restless Lord until it finds its rests in you."*

My last Communion service will be in St Margaret's church in Hawes on Sunday August 30th at 10;30am followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch and then onto our annual outdoor service on the beach at Semerwater with Hawes Silver Band at 3pm where we will once again have the privilege of having two immersion baptisms in the lake. This time hopefully without the snow! It would be wonderful to welcome you there.

I might not be born a Dalesman and I might not be connected to the hillside like the flocks of sheep or ancient Dale's family lineage but, as Rev Dave of Upper Wensleydale, you have all had a very special part to play in this wonderful chapter of our lives and I am most definitely 'Hefted' in Love to this magnificent landscape and the glorious people of Upper Wensleydale.

Thank you and God bless you all!

Sarah

and

Rev Dave.



ST MARGARET'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

The St Margaret's Day celebration on Saturday 18th July was a great community day. The event has raised over £3,800 (and this figure has continued to rise) towards the church's 'Illuminate!' project.

Rev Dave said that that it was wonderful to see the community in relationship with their parish church and to see so many happy, smiling faces.

Dave and Sarah wished to thank all those who helped out before, during and after and all those who donated prizes to the raffle or stalls.



Special thanks go to:

Semerwater Alpacas
Bentham Golf Club
Wensleydale Heifer
Bolton Castle
Catterick Racecourse
Dales Countryside Museum
Yorebridge House
Kiplin Hall
Leyburn Pottery
Settle Swimming Pool
Tennants
Askrigg Ropemakers
McGarry Solicitors

Travel Chapter
Yorkshire Tea
Rick & Nicky Smith
Millrace Tearooms
Stone House Hotel
Yorebridge Leisure Centre
Carrs Billington
Streethed Inn
Sweet Clementine
Alnwick Castle Gardens
Beamish Museum
Dales Surveying
Wensleydale Creamery

Raydale Preserves
Hawes Sweet Shop
Cocketts Bakery
Wensleydale Pantry
Caffe Curva
Tesco
CoOp, Leyburn
Tracy Johnson
JMP
Dales Dairies
Hawes Chippie

FROM THE BENEFICE CALENDAR



Weddings:

11 July	Steven Reed & Diane Lapworth	in Askrigg
18 July	Judy Marston & Mark Galley	in Hardraw
21 July	Ian & Jennifer Flowdy	
<i>Marriage Blessing and Renewal of vows on their 25th Anniversary in Hardraw</i>		
25 July	Charlie Bell & Alicia Sims	in Busk

Schools:

8 July Bainbridge	Collective Worship
9 July Askrigg	Y6 Leavers Bible Presentation
17 July Hawes	Y6 Leavers Bible Presentation

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

Search for:

‘Rev Dave from Wensleydale’

Latest Episodes



134: ‘Make it Count’

135: ‘Chunky Truths 1’ The Parables of Jesus:
The Sower, The Wheat and the Tares

136: ‘Chunky Truths 2’ The Parables of Jesus:
The Mustard Seed, The Leaven, The Treasure,
The Precious Pearl, The Dragnet



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

August 2026

	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	
2 Aug	The Gathering - Benefice Family Service St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
7 Aug	Sycamore Hall: Communion Service in the 'Activity Room' – 10:00am Rev Dave's Last Communion Service with you in Sycamore Hall				
9 Aug	Psalms for the Summer	Benefice Summer Communion St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am			Evening prayer by telephone
16 Aug	Psalms for the Summer	Benefice Summer Communion St Mary & St John's Church, Hardraw at 10.30am			Evening prayer by telephone
23 Aug	Psalms for the Summer	Benefice Summer Communion St Matthew's Church, Stalling Busk at 10.30am			Evening prayer by telephone
30 Aug	Benefice Summer Communion St Margaret's Church, Hawes Busk at 10.30am Followed by Bring & Share Lunch at The NASH Lakeside Service with Hawes Silver Band with baptisms Semerwater Beach at 3pm				No Evening prayer by telephone

Rev Dave Clark

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