



Trinity

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

July 2026



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Edition Number 127

Active in our Communities

For many years now we have had a wonderful relationship with our local Primary Schools. This has been created through a rhythm of regular weekly visits, conversations with staff and children, prayer and the very real 'favour' of God. We lead times of 'Collective Worship', join together for Christingle, Christmas, Harvest and Easter celebrations as well as enjoying one another's company on many other occasions.

The end of the school year is just a few weeks away and once again we will be gifting every Y6 pupil with a copy of a **Youth Edition Good News Bible**. The Bibles for our Hawes children are donated in loving memory of Alan Watkinson who many of you will remember fondly.

Those of you who have bought a copy of July's edition of the 'Upper Wensleydale Newsletter' will know that this year sees the **500th** anniversary of the very first printing of the Bible into English by William Tyndale. As a way of marking the moment that changed the course of our nation's history, children from **Hawes School** in years 5 & 6 will be reading the complete **Gospel of Mark in St Margaret's Church** on the morning of **Tuesday July 7th**. Whilst you're out visiting the market perhaps you might like to call in and encourage them as they do so? It would be lovely to welcome you there.

Planning and preparation for the 'interregnum' is taking place on many different levels and one very important part of this is in finding volunteers willing to take over the school visits. I am delighted to announce that after a request for you to consider if the Lord might be prompting you to take on such a role, that Miriam Cloughton and Jackie Masterman will be covering Bainbridge and Askrigg schools and Mike and Pauline Hirst will be maintaining the church's relationship with Hawes school. The schools are delighted that our close relationship will continue. Please pray for them as they begin to plan and prepare.

June was a busy month for different activities within our communities: serving refreshments in Askrigg Village Hall for the Hoppers Sale, baptisms, weddings, village fetes and concerts. You will find in this edition some pictures from some of these events: the return of the Swaledale Festival to Askrigg, the Flower Festival in Stalling Busk and 'Music for a Summer's Evening' in Saint Margaret's. I am extremely grateful to you all for your ongoing support and willingness to engage with these important points of contact that we have with the communities that we are here to serve. They were all very successful, memorable and joyful occasions.

This month sees the return of the **St Margaret's Festival day on July 18th** – lots of stalls and food during the day with a good fun community concert in the evening. Many of these events have the purpose of fund raising behind them but I always think that the most important contribution that they make is in creating the means for community to gather and to celebrate and enjoy who we are together. May the Lord continue to bless the work of our hands in this regard.

Rev Dave

The next 'Gathering' will be on **Sunday 5th June**
at 10:30am at St Oswald's in Askrigg



**To include prayer and commissioning of our
Wardens, Worship Leaders 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

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."



As most of you know by now, Rev Dave & Sarah will be retiring at the end of August 2026

If you would like to make a contribution towards their leaving gift you can click on the QR code below:



This link can be used between now and the end of July.

Baskets will be available after before and after services in the churches, or money can be given to any of the churchwardens at any time in an envelope clearly marked 'Rev Dave's retirement'. Alternatively, you can drop it in to me in the Benefice Office on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon.

Safeguarding Training

For those of you who have completed your Basic Safeguarding course, either in person or online, the follow up course, Foundation Safeguarding, which is mandatory for all PCC and lay leaders, is being held in St Oswald's on **Wednesday 22nd July from 10am.**

This will be led once again by Linda Collingwood

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



Can you support our explorers and runners?

Kamil, his wife Catherine and their children have been members of our church family for several years now. Kamil is an avid wild camper and trekker and makes some quite beautiful documentary films of his treks. Below he tells of his next adventure:

By the end of June 2027, I plan to climb all 214 Wainwrights in the Lake District, a challenge that will push me physically and mentally. From May 5 to 11, 2026, I spent a week trekking and wild camping, carrying all my supplies and relying on the natural environment, and now I will be doing the rest in one or two-day stretches.

This is meant to be super-tough, even for an experienced trekker like myself. I have already

walked the first day of this trek, and you will find the video from that hike on my YouTube channel. I'm raising funds to support the creation of two new documentary films I am planning to make, one in 2026 and another in 2027, following the success and good response to my first one (A Wanderer's World <https://www.awanderersworld-film.uk/>) that received some amazing feedback. These films will capture the essence of adventure and the spirit of the wild. The money will also support growth and development of my YouTube hiking channel Wandering Cloud. Your support will help cover the costs of equipment, travel, and music composition, allowing me to share these experiences with a wider audience. It will also support the rather difficult financial circumstances in which my family are finding themselves after three years of near-constant significant financial pressure.

Its 340 miles, over 120,000 feet, 200 hours + of hiking, trekking and sweating and production of some truly beautiful films to move people's hearts and souls. If you can support us, it would be fantastic - but if not, are you able to share this with others who might? Donate at: <https://gofund.me/dc7432098>

Wandering Cloud YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@wanderingcloud78>

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!

Wensleydale Filling Station

FINAL MEETING!

Thornborough Hall, Leyburn

Friday July 10th

Speaker: Sebastion Rabb of the Jonas Centre

This is our Final Filling Station Meeting in Wensleydale

Thank you for all the support you have given over
the 13 years of these evenings.



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. He has spoken at Filling Station several times and always brings encouragement from God's word.

Those of you who taken advantage of the 'Filling Station' being organized and run in Wensleydale for the last 13 years will know just what an **Enormous** blessing it has been in the encouragement of the Lord's Church in the Dale. We have had the opportunity to listen to top speakers from all over the UK and overseas sharing God's word and bringing testimony of the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit throughout the world.

On your behalf I want to thank Mike and Pauline Hirst for their tireless commitment and leadership in enabling these meetings to take place and encourage you to take advantage of this last event to be together in this way. *Rev Dave*

CHURCHWARDENS' UPDATE

This month the PCCs will get together to begin to pull together the information that will go in the Benefice Brochure. This is the document that accompanies the advert for the new Priest in Charge and it is designed to give those interested in the vacancy an idea of what the Benefice is like, what it can offer and what sort of person it is looking for. Needless to say this is an important document and a large piece of work! The meeting is due to take place on Saturday 4th July, and your prayers would be welcome.

If you are not on your church's PCC, or are not a regular church attender, you can still 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, and/or other issues that should be considered. You are also welcome to discuss your thoughts with your churchwarden.

We hope to have the first draft of the Brochure by the end of July, and it will then be edited several times before the final draft is presented to the Diocese at the beginning of September for their approval.

With competition from village fete's, BBQ's and a 'Take That' tribute band to name but a few of the alternative ways of spending a Saturday night, **'Musicals for a Summers Evening'** drew an eager crowd of over 130 into St Margaret's, ready for another musical treat. The rain held off (almost) as the audience was treated to a wide variety of styles, solos and duets from some of the best musicals in the repertoire. My thanks to the excellent team that are **'Maggie's Angel's'** who so efficiently prepared and served refreshments throughout the building to a thirsty audience as the temperature rose steadily to a record high. So noteworthy was it that I took a picture for posterity! Thank you to Sarah Clark for creating such a great team of volunteers.

Malcolm, Amy and Mike had put in an enormous amount of effort to make the event such a success and for that I am extremely grateful. Over £1k was raised for the Organ maintenance fund but the real win of the evening was another gloriously joyful time together and seeing the delight on people's faces and hearing of the pleasure and enjoyment that they had all had in being there. *Dave*



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





As part of the **Swaledale Festival 2026**, St Oswald's hosted the duo Intessa'. They are Lucine Musaelian and Nathan Giorgetti and together they create music with Viols and Voices. The afternoon programme captivated the audience with their musical versatility and at times hauntingly beautiful performances.



RIP Fr Bill Simms

The news of Fr Bill's death was announced this week by his family.

Fr Bill served as the Vicar of Hawes and Low Abbotside for 16 years between 1993 and 2009. I have only ever heard positive statements about his time here. Clearly, a much-loved man and priest with a widely respected ministry.

As we give thanks to God for his life and pray for his family, we do so in the sure and certain hope that he has now claimed his inheritance and dwells in the presence of the Lord.

Dave



'The Colours of Creation' Flower Festival in St Matthew's

What a wonderful way of drawing a community together a flower festival can be. After many years of careful and loving outreach from members of the church family in Stalling Busk to their local residents, the church has been able to put on their second 'community' flower festival with so many of the households in the village contributing to a wonderful variety of colour and displays in their parish church. The scent of the flowers carried well beyond the door drawing you in to enjoy the creativity and to linger for good conversation and excellent cake!

With cards explaining the inspiration behind them can you spot 'The Burning Bush?', 'Noah's Ark'? 'Genesis 37'?



FROM THE BENEFICE CALENDAR



Baptisms:

13 June Amelia Janet Tallen Hawes

Weddings:

20 June Geoff Shearcroft & Gill Lambert Hardraw

Funerals:

3 June Les Turner Darlington Crematorium

24 June Gillian Chaloner (Ashes) Bainbridge

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

Search for:

‘Rev Dave from Wensleydale’

Latest Episodes

129: ‘Dictum Meum Pactum’ June 4th

130: ‘Everyone Needed’ June 7th

131: ‘There’s Allus Summat’ June 14th

132: ‘The Cost of Fatherhood’ June 21st

133: ‘Thinn’ No More’ June 28th



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

July 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	
5 July	The Gathering - Benefice Family Service St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
10 July	Sycamore Hall: Communion Service in the 'Activity Room' – 10:00am				
12 July	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style	12.30 Soup followed by Communion	Evening prayer by telephone
19 July	Holy Communion	Family Service	Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
26 July	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer Pathfinders and Explorers	Evening prayer by telephone

PRAYERS FOR JULY

- For the teachers and school children as they break up for the summer holidays
- For our PCCs as they put together our Benefice Brochure
- For the three couples getting married this month in our churches

Rev Dave Clark

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