



Trinity

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

October 2026



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Harvest Gratitude

There is something wonderfully grounding about harvest. It invites us to pause, breathe, and notice again the everyday miracles we so easily pass by - a tiny seed becoming grain, rain soaking thirsty ground, hands tending the soil, food placed upon our tables, and neighbours sharing what has been gathered. In the rush of life, we can forget how much grace is woven into our daily life. In this season, harvest gently calls us home to gratitude.

Psalm 65 gives us a beautiful picture of God's care. God waters the earth, softens the ground with showers, blesses its growth, and crowns the year with goodness. The fields and valleys seem to sing for joy. Harvest is more than a date in the church calendar; it is a joyful reminder that we are held, fed, and sustained by a generous God.

One gift of harvest is the reminder that **we are receivers before we are achievers**. Now of course, human labour matters deeply. Farmers prepare, sow, tend and gather. Drivers transport, shopkeepers sell, cooks prepare, and families serve and whilst we need to be grateful to every pair of hands involved, none of us can command a seed to awaken or order the rain to fall. Our work is real and precious, but it takes place within a gift we did not create.

Scripture knows how easily a full table can make us forgetful. When life is comfortable, we may begin to imagine that everything rests on our own strength. But we are lovingly called back to remember the Lord. Gratitude does not belittle our hard work; it helps us see that our effort is surrounded by mercy—by gifts, people, opportunities and grace we could never provide for ourselves.

So perhaps, for a moment, we can quietly name the gifts we often overlook: the earth solid beneath our feet, the changing seasons, the wisdom handed down to us, the strength to work, the kindness of those who help us, and the grace that has carried us through both lean and plentiful times. Our thanksgiving should begin with the simple, humble words: "Thank you, Lord."

Harvest gratitude is too good to keep to ourselves. God's gifts are placed in our hands so that the blessing can pass through them into the lives of others. Christian generosity grows from knowing that we ourselves have been generously loved. What we receive can become a harvest of kindness, thanks and care. So instead of asking, "What have I gathered?" we might ask, "Who could be encouraged by what God has placed in my hands?" Sometimes the answer is a gift of food or money; but sometimes it is time, or a welcome, a listening ear, or a place at our table.

Enjoy this autumn season that is now upon us.

Steph



The next 'Gathering' will be on **Sunday 4th October**
at 10:30am at St Oswald's in Askrigg

**Topic: The Gift of Fellowship –
why Christians need each other**

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

We look forward to welcoming you there.

Be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church

INTERREGNUM UPDATE

The members of the four PCCs met with Archdeacon James and Area Dean Stephen Hanscombe on 15th September for our 'Pre Section 11 Meeting'. This is essentially a meeting to set out what will happen next. The PCCs have another meeting scheduled for 13th October, which is the 'Section 11 Meeting', and a final meeting on 10th November for the 'Section 12 Meeting' which will include the Bishop.

We have been issued a provisional timetable by the Diocese and if everything goes to plan, the advertisement for our new priest will be issued in late November with a closing date in January 2027. Shortlisting and interviews are pencilled in for mid to end of January.

This is a great encouragement and is much quicker than we had anticipated. However, before we get too excited, we need to pray that God is preparing people to apply for the position!



HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

at

St Mary & St John's Church, Hardraw

Sunday 18th October 2026

At 3pm

Led by Revd Vera Sinton

SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 7.00PM.
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH AYSGARTH



AMY COCKETT
VOCALS



MAL CARRUTHERS
KEYBOARD/ORGAN

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS



HANNAH
CHAPLIN
GUITAR & TROMBONE



MIRIAM
CLOUGHTON
OBOE



MILLO
CHAPLIN
GUITAR

FREE ENTRY. INTERVAL REFRESHMENTS. RAFFLE

RETIRING DONATIONS TO BE SHARED BETWEEN ST. ANDREWS CHURCH FABRICS FUND
& 'FLYING FOR LIFE' (MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP)

KINDLY SPONSORED BY:

THE AYSGARTH FALLS HOTEL & THE GEORGE AT THORALBY

COFFEE MORNING



Join us for our regular church coffee morning on:

Saturday 3rd October 2026

From 10am to 12 noon

St Oswald's Church, Askrigg

Entrance fee £2.50 includes unlimited tea/coffee and scones with jam and cream.

Cake stall * jigsaw & book stall *
Tombola

A massive thank you to everyone in and connected to the benefice who sponsored me to run the Great North Run last month. I was ran to raise money for CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) a suicide prevention charity. At the time of writing this my total stood at £1,710.00 which greatly exceeds my personal target of £1,000.

Graham Di Duca



Goodbye to Dave and Sarah

August was a strange month for many of us within the Benefice and I am sure for Dave and Sarah too. There were a lot of 'lasts' – the last service in each church, the last wedding, the last baptisms, the last August Bank holiday service by the lake. Add to that the wonderful supper at The Pantry on 27th, and the services on 30th August, both at Hawes and Semerwater, with the speeches and gift presentations – well it was an emotional time.

Thank you to all those who contributed to their gift. In the pictures you can see we were able to commission a beautiful artwork by Andrea Hunter (Focus on Felt) of Semerwater. In addition, a white 'rambling rector' rose was bought and a set of patio furniture was delivered to their house the day after they moved in.

A few days later, when we felt they might need a little boost, another gift arrived at their home – a large bouquet of flowers, a bottle of champagne and an afternoon tea,





Thank you

What a wonderfully memorable and incredibly generous 'send-off' you gave us as we said 'Goodbye' to you all after ten very exciting, fulfilling and fruitful years amongst you.

It was very special to be able to move around the Benefice in August celebrating Communion in all of our buildings and being able to pray for each of the church families in their respective places of worship. One of the great joys in recent years has been to witness

how each of the worshipping communities has blessed and made the Benefice stronger by sharing their gifts and abilities and drawing closer together in purpose, fellowship and love.

Thank you for the way that this was so beautifully displayed at our last Communion together in St Margaret's. To see so many of you there with many members of the wider community present as well was such a great encouragement to Sarah and myself. We have been deeply touched and humbled by the messages of love, gratitude and encouragement that you have shared with us in recent weeks.

Sarah made the very wise decision (she's always been good at those) of collecting all the cards together into a special box in order that we might be able to re-open them and process them more fully once the busyness of the packing and moving had subsided. This we have started to do by re-reading and placing a few of the many cards we received on the mantelpiece for a few days at a time in order that we may more fully appreciate the love that is held within them.

The activity of moving home is one that is always full of many emotions (exhaustion being a constant!) but as we begin to settle into our new community and start to discover a different rhythm to our life, we are surrounded by reminders of our time with you all and of the love that you have shared with us.

The picture of Semerwater created by Andrea Hunter just couldn't be more perfect! The beauty of the lake has held a special place in my heart since I was a teenager and it will now hold pride of place in our home above the fireplace for all to see; no doubt, creating many conversations as well as reminding us both of the stories we have shared with you together.

Within days of us arriving the Patio table and chairs were delivered, and we have already been able to spend some very pleasant times sat outside with family and friends. The weather down here is noticeably different and allows this to happen!

The 'Rambling Rector' Rosebush has been assigned a place where we anticipate it will flourish and as if that wasn't all enough ... flowers also arrived with an 'Afternoon Tea' treat of cake & scones with cream and jam. You have all been so very, *very* kind. Thank You. Thank you for all that you have been to us and for the ways in which you have shared your lives with us in such an open and generous way. We will always remember you with such great fondness and love.

Dave & Sarah

(Picture taken just before Dave and Sarah left Wensleydale, following the removal van)

FROM THE BENEFICE CALENDAR



Weddings:

5 Sept	Scott Howard & Sarah Wiejak	Askrigg
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Funerals:

10 Sept	Andrew Craske	Askrigg
18 Sept	David Clifford Gordon	Hawes
21 Sept	Mary Louisa Blades	Hawes
24 Sept	James Hodgson	Askrigg

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

The office remains the central point of contact and although Stephanie will be in the office as usual on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, the telephone answering machine will be monitored on a daily basis. You can email the office on office@upperwenben.org. You can contact your wardens:

Askrigg:	Liz Hayle:	07796 173099	churchwarden.askrigg@upperwenben.org
	Stephanie Durrant	07787 322481	office@upperwenben.org
Hardraw:	Allan & Jennifer Fawcett	01969 667241	churchwarden.hardraw@upperwenben.org
Hawes:	Samantha Amsden	07541 054259	churchwarden.hawes@upperwenben.org
	Graham DiDuca	01969 667327	churchwarden.hawes@upperwenben.org
Stalling Busk	Miriam Cloughton	07419 192100	churchwarden.busk@upperwenben.org

They will arrange visiting of those who are sick, either at home or in hospital, home communions, or deal with any enquiries about their church or communities. The church is still available for weddings, baptisms and funerals. Please pass the word out to those not in regular contact with the church, so that they too may know that if they have a need, we will be there.

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

October 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 October	Sycamore Hall: Communion Service in the 'Activity Room' – 10:00am				
3 October	Coffee Morning at St Oswald's 10am to 12 noon				
4 October	The Gathering - Benefice Family Service St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
11 October	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style	12.30 Soup, communion & Harvest Pathfinders	Evening prayer by telephone
18 October	Harvest Celebration 3pm in Hardraw		Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
25 October	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer	Evening prayer by telephone

Administration Office:

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale

The Vicarage, Burtsett Road, Hawes, North Yorkshire, DL8 3NP

Tel: 01969 667553

Email: office@upperwenben.org

Website: upperwensleydalechurch.org

Stephanie is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm-5pm.

Emails and telephone messages will also be picked up outside those times.