Trinity

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale
'Church in the Home'

September 2026

Tel: 01969 667553 Email: office@upperwenben.org
www.upperwensleydalechurch.org

Askrigg Hardraw Hawes Stalling Busk

Edition Number 129

Do not be afraid!

It is striking how often that phrase appears in the Bible. It is usually the first thing angels say when they meet the people they visit. Fear is a deeply human emotion, and we are very good at feeling it. We like routine and certainty, and anything unfamiliar or beyond our control can easily make us anxious.

If you asked an older person what most often robbed them of joy, I suspect they would say it was worrying about things that never happened. We spend so much time and energy on needless anxiety because we expect the worst, whether in our leisure, work, or spiritual lives.

Here in Upper Wensleydale, we are now stepping into the unknown. With Rev Dave retiring on 30th August, it falls to all of us to keep the Benefice running. For me, working in the office, this means taking on more responsibility without Dave nearby to answer questions.

For the churchwardens, it brings greater responsibility and a bigger time commitment. For our retired clergy—Rev Vera, Bill, and Steve—it means extra work too, alongside our brilliant and willing lay leadership team. Others in our congregations will also take on new roles, including home visiting, schools work, and hospital visiting.

Dave has prepared us well for these roles, and we can step into them with confidence, knowing that God is with us. I will not pretend it is not daunting—because it is—but we must never let fear prevent us from doing what we know is right.

Nor will I pretend it will feel the same as when Dave was here. Even so, everything already in place will continue: the work of God's kingdom does not, and will not, stop.

We know you will support and pray for us, just as we will support and pray for you. We look ahead with confidence to where God is leading us. We are here for our wider community and if you need prayer, a visit or some other help, or know someone who does, please continue to contact your church, because we remain committed to you.

So as we begin this new chapter, let us do so not with fear, but with faith: trusting that God has already gone ahead of us, that He will equip us for what He asks of us, and that together we will continue to serve, grow, and bear witness to His love in this special place.

Steph

The next **'Gathering'** will be on **Sunday 6th September**
at 10:30am at St Oswald's in Askrigg

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.

We look forward to welcoming you there.

Be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church

ST OSWALD'S DAY

On 8th August, St Oswald's held their St Oswald's Day celebrations. From 3pm there were stalls, games, a family treasure hunt, drawing and writing competitions – and a strawberry tea! We were overwhelmed by the amount of people who came.

At 6pm the first Askrigg's Got Talent was enjoyed by over 60 people. Performers included Lara Scarr, who sang and played her guitar expertly, Hilary and Martin read their newly composed limericks, Mal played the keyboard and Mel did some expert tap dancing! All in all, we had 9 performers and the evening was rounded off by Dave and Sarah who led the audience through a series of well known songs.

The day raised over £1300 for church funds.

ST MARGARET'S COFFEE MORNINGS IN AUGUST

Throughout August, St Margaret's have hosted a Friday coffee morning. Each week we welcomed both church and local families, as well as holiday makers and we shared homemade cakes, tea, coffee and fellowship.

We've had some great conversations and time together plus lots of puzzles and crafting, including badge, beading and card making. Elizabeth aged 5 commented how much she's enjoyed crafting with Pauline and eating smartie biscuits with friends!

INTERREGNUM –

Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask!

The first thing to say is – Don't panic! We have most things covered.

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. As usual, you can email the office on office@upperwenben.org and this will also be monitored regularly.

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. Arrangements have been made for regular school visits and communion at Sycamore, and the church is still available for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Even though there is not a vicar in post at present, thanks to Dave's foresight, careful teaching and shepherding, people are in place to care for our communities. 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.

Violinist Olivia Returns to Askrigg

Royal Academy student, Olivia Chadwick Jones, aged 16, returned to Askrigg to give a wonderful recital, which was enjoyed by a large audience on a sunny afternoon. After the music they were treated to Pimm's and canapes.

A total of £540 was raised for church funds.

New Venues

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Leeds

Loving. Living. Learning.

Contact us at layministry@leeds.anglican.org

Introduction to Theology

- Want to deepen your discipleship?
- Feel called to a particular ministry?
- Just want to know more?
- This course is for you!

Running in a local venue to suit you!

Leyburn

Ripon

Gargrave

Course runs over 4 Study Days:

Saturday 19 September, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Saturday 17 October, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Saturday 14 November, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Saturday 5 December, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Further details: https://leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/training- for-ministry/training-programmes/introduction-to-theology-course/

This is a really interesting and thought provoking course, now being run locally. It is also a pre-requisite for anyone thinking of completing the lay worship leaders course.

FROM THE BENEFICE CALENDAR

Baptisms

30 August	Stephen & Gail Barlow	Busk
	Kaitlyn Alderson	Busk
	By immersion in Semerwater	

Weddings:

20 August	Jack Wright & Charlotte Wright	Hardraw
22 August	Jonathan Malley & Emma Curtis	Askrigg

Funerals

21 August	Gladys Isobel Heseltine	Hawes
25 August	Christine Louise Pounder	Hawes

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

Search for:

'Rev Dave from Wensleydale'

Latest Episodes

138 – How to be Happy Psalm 1

139 – Help when you're not Happy Psalm 42

140 – How to Stay Happy Psalm 103

'Psalms for the Summer'

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

September 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	
4 Sept	Sycamore Hall: Communion Service in the 'Activity Room' – 10:00am				
6 Sept	**THE GATHERING** St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
12 Sept	**Coffee Morning at St Oswald's Church** **10am – 12 noon** **Proceeds to Horatio's Garden Charity**				
13 Sept	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style	12.30 Soup & Communion Pathfinders & Explorers	Evening prayer by telephone
20 Sept	Holy Communion	Family Service	Harvest Celebrations		Evening prayer by telephone
27 Sept	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer	Evening prayer by telephone

Prayer Suggestions for September

- For Dave and Sarah as they move into their new house and retirement
- For the Benefice as we move into interregnum

The Vicarage, Burtersett Road, Hawes, DL8 3NP

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Administrator: Stephanie Durrant (in office work hours 1-5pm Tuesday and Thursdays)