

North Rigton, Pool in Wharfedale, Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall, Stainburn, Weeton

Welcome To Our Benefice

If you are joining one of our services for the first time, please introduce yourself to one of the Welcomers at the back of the church. They will be glad to answer any questions you may have or any assist you with any mobility assistance you may require.

CONTACTS AND WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH

Rev'd Stroma McDermott
Tel: 07791 499036
Tel: 01423 733341
email - stroma.mcdermott@leeds.anglican.org

Rev'd Emma James
Tel: 07856 198293
email - emma.james@leeds.anglican.org

Benefice Office
Administrator - Davina Tyler
email - lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

For all Safeguarding queries and concerns, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Office - Jeremy Cross - jem_cross@yahoo.co.uk.

UPCOMING Church Services

Sunday 6 December		
Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Pool	Parish Communion	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Celtic Service: Christmas Tree Decorating	11.00am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9.30am
Weeton	Family Service	11.00am
Sunday 13 December		
Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Nativity family Service	11.00am
North Rigton	Parish Communion with Carols	9.30am
Pool	Carol Service	4.00pm
Sunday 20 December		
Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Carol Concert	6.00pm
North Rigton.	Family Nativity	9.30am
Sicklinghall	Joint Village Carol Service with RC	3.00pm
Weeton	Carol Service	4.00pm
Stainburn	Nativity Carol Service	1.30pm

Bible Reading

Psalm 80:1-3

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might;
come and save us.
Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

Reflection

The waiting of Advent'



Prayer

Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us that we may be saved.

Amen

Prayers and Care

We are always delighted to pray or visit those needing support or help. Should you wish to be remembered in prayer, receive a visit or Holy Communion from the Pastoral Team, please contact:

Rev'd Stroma McDermott - Tel: 07791 499036

stroma.mcdermott@leeds.anglican.org

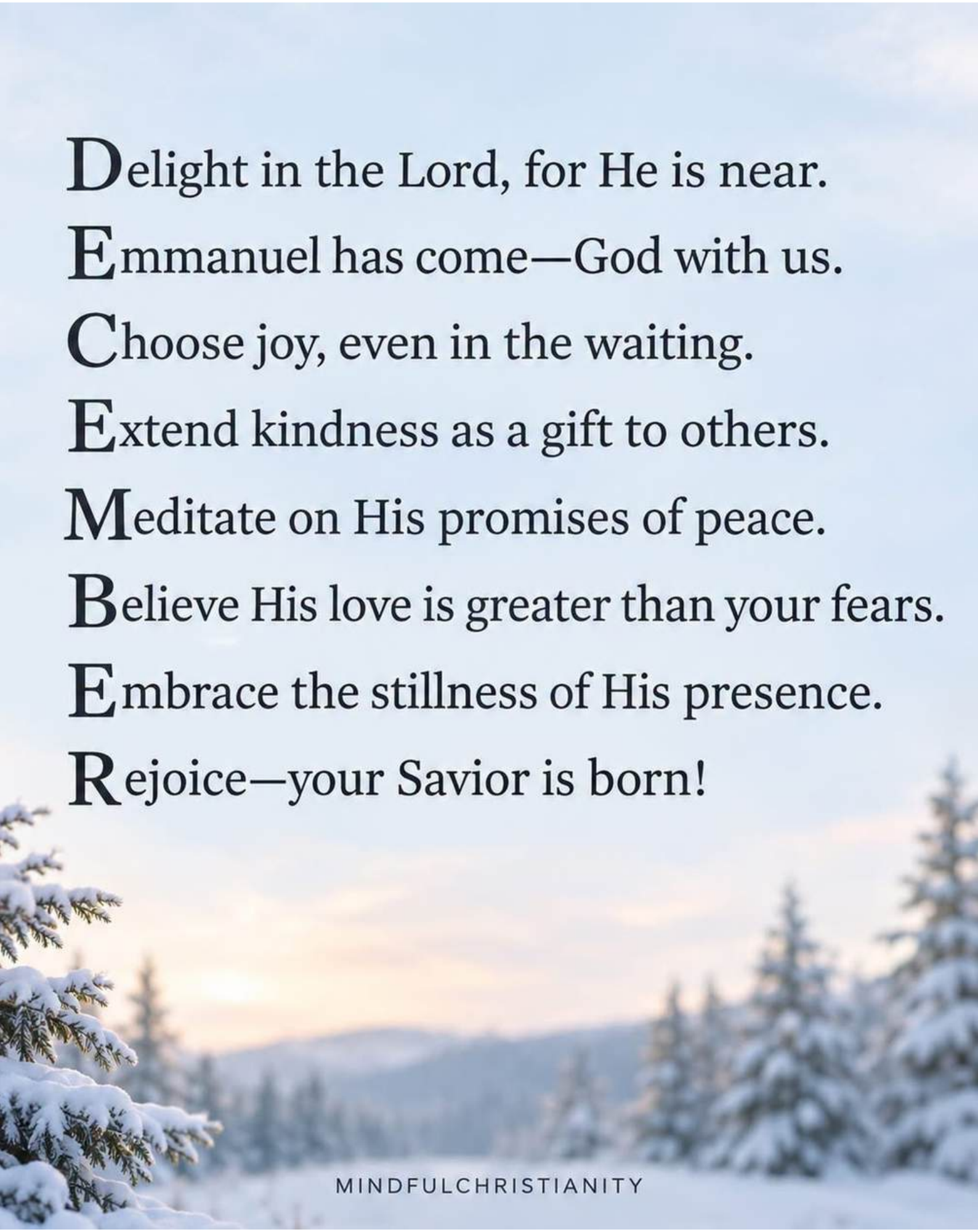
We remember in our Prayers

For those who need God's healing and love, thinking of:

Louise, Jo, Trevor, Susan, John, Catherine, Ruby, Margaret, Jenny, Jo and Leslie

For the deceased and their families

We pray for all those who are dying and those accompanying them.
May they be at peace.


Delight in the Lord, for He is near.
Emmanuel has come—God with us.
Choose joy, even in the waiting.
Extend kindness as a gift to others.
Meditate on His promises of peace.
Believe His love is greater than your fears.
Embrace the stillness of His presence.
Rejoice—your Savior is born!
MINDFULCHRISTIANITY

Coming in the New Year.....



SATURDAY

13th Feb '27

More details soon!

Contact: emma.james@leeds.anglican.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We have wonderful churches and congregations but they can only continue to serve with the help of many willing volunteers.
Sadly at a few churches now we are struggling to have enough people to ensure that each service can run smoothly.
Whether it's helping to open up, help with refreshments, help with prayers or doing a reading we would love you to be more involved and to help our benefice churches flourish. Please either speak to me or Revd Emma or one of the church wardens and we will be delighted to have you on board the team.

Thank you Rev'd Stroma

Lower Wharfedale Benefice

Sunday Club

We are looking for a volunteer to help lead Sunday Club once a month at All Saints, Kirkby Overblow, as part of a team, working with our children during the service.
Each month will have a particular theme, game, bible story and chat activity. Training will be given along with ensuring you have resources, help and encouragement.

If you are interested please contact
Rev'd Emma James
emma.james@leeds.anglican.org



Our Christmas Services

Lower Wharfedale Benefice Christmas Services

CAROL and FAMILY SERVICES

13 Dec North Rigton, Parish Communion with Carols **9.30am**
13 Dec Kirkby Overblow, Nativity Family Service **11.00am**
13 Dec Pool, Carol Service **4.00pm**
20 Dec North Rigton, Family Nativity **9.30am**
20 Dec Stainburn, Nativity Carol Service **1.30pm**
20 Dec Sicklinghall, Joint Village Carol Service with RC **3.00pm**
20 Dec Weeton, Carol Service **4.00pm**
20 Dec Kirkby Overblow, Carol Concert **6.00pm**

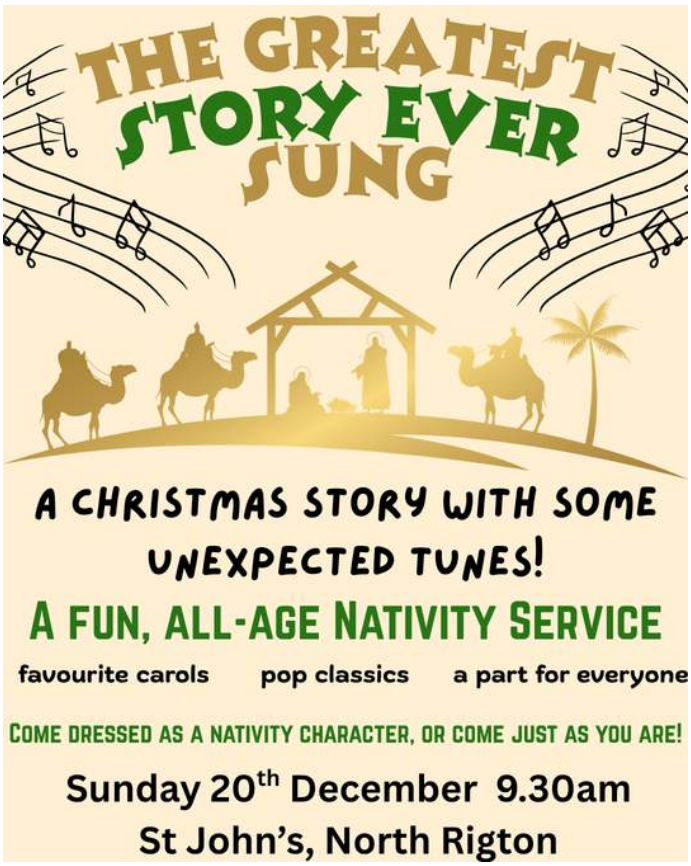
CHRISTMAS EVE

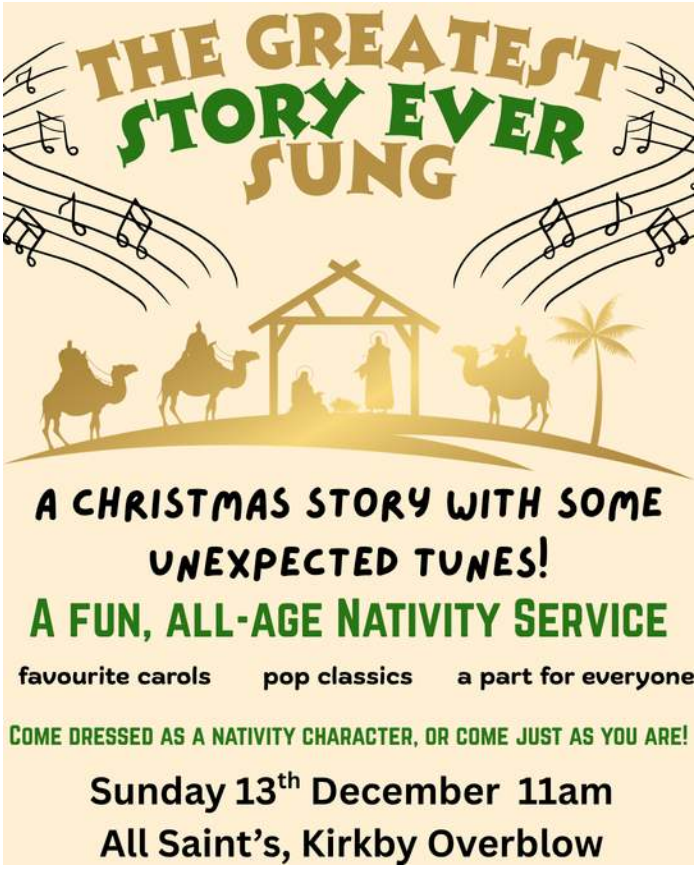
Kirkby Overblow Christingle Service **4:00pm**
Pool Crib/ Christingle Service **4:00pm**

CHRISTMAS DAY

Kirkby Overblow Christmas Day Communion Service **10:00am**
Pool Christmas Day Communion Service **10:00am**
Sicklinghall Christmas Day Service **10:00am**

Whats happening in our Churches







All Saints' Church

Kirkby Overblow



This year we are asking you to help us support

Lifeline Harrogate

Housing The Homeless.

Lifeline Harrogate

Lifeline Harrogate work with homeless people, and those vulnerably housed. They provide supported accommodation to men and women in eight, 3 and 4-bedroom houses within Harrogate.

A generous benefactor has agreed to match-fund every gift up to a maximum of £100,000. That means every donation to Lifeline could be doubled ! It's a great way to make a significant difference .

Please Scan Here To Donate

Thank you for your support and generosity.

All Saints' Church

Kirkby Overblow

Please help All Saints' this Christmas caring for those less fortunate than ourselves by contributing to St Peter's, Harrogate,

Feeding Hungry People.

They have asked for easy-to carry, strong, gift bags filled with non-perishable food:

- A tinned meat meal
- A hearty canned soup
- A pudding
- Chocolate biscuits
- Shower Gel
- Sweet treats
- A soft drink
- Jar of instant coffee
- Tea bags
- (please no baked beans!)

As an extra treat, please include: socks, scarf, beanie hat and gloves (Please keep these separate from above.)



We aim to provide 35 Goody-Bags so please ensure you bring your bags to church no later than Monday 14 December and leave them under the Christmas Tree.

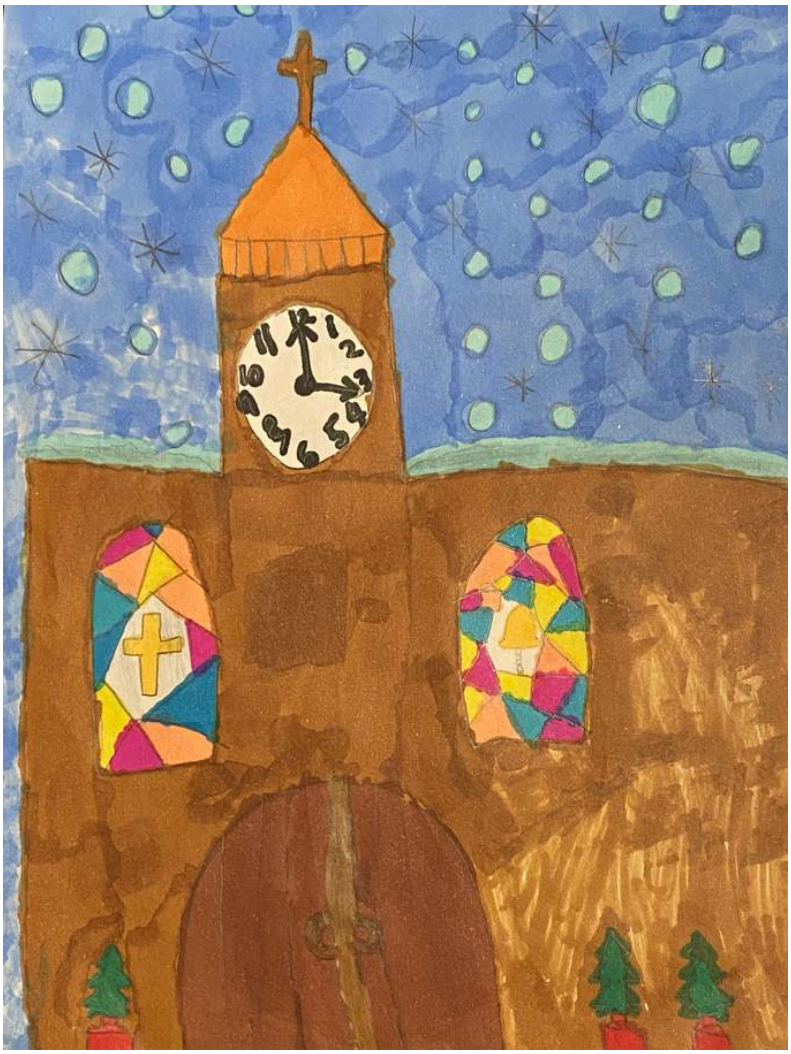
Thank You

Christmas Card Competition in Pool

The children of Pool Primary School were asked to design a Christmas card for us to advertise Christmas services and events in Pool. Here is the entry from the runner-up.

The winning card is "In Production" and will be popped through your letterboxes (in Pool) in the next couple of weeks. The winning picture will posted here in the next Newsletter.

Thank you to all the children who took part.



Family Events you might want to attend

The Christmas Adventure & Illuminations

Dates & Hours: Illuminations run 26 November 2026 to 3 January 2027; park hours are Mon–Sun, 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM.
Location: Stockeld Park, Harrogate Rd, Wetherby LS22 4AN.
Description: Yuletide theme park and light trail with Nordic skiing, ice skating, a snowflake maze, and Santa's grotto.
Tickets & Info: Advance tickets recommended; offers include 15% off Christmas and Illuminations tickets (valid 25 Nov – 24 Dec 2026 with code) and a 3-month ice skating membership. More details at Stockeld Park and Visit North Yorkshire.

Christmas at Harewood House ("Heart Magic at the Mansion")

Dates: 6 November 2026 to 3 January 2027.
Location: Harewood House (Harrogate district).
Description: Seasonal festive display and Christmas experience at the historic house.
Tickets & Info: Tickets required via Visit North Yorkshire.

Hughes Family Lights

Dates & Hours: Typically runs 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM nightly from early December through New Year's Eve.
Location: 41 Norwich Dr, Harrogate HG3 2TQ.
Description: Free neighbourhood Christmas light display welcoming donations for Martin House Children's Hospice.

Harrogate Ice Pavilion

Dates: 17 December 2026 to 3 January 2027.
Location: Valley Gardens, Valley Dr, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
Description: Real-ice skating under an open-sided canopy with 45-minute sessions and skate hire, including public, parent-and-toddler, relaxed, and disco sessions.
Tickets & Info: Adults £14.60, juniors £13.60, with family tickets and discount days available; spectators free. See listings on Harrogate Mumbler.

Santa's Christmas Funland

Dates & Times: 13 December to 24 December (sessions at 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM).
Location: Yorkshire Event Centre / Great Yorkshire Events Centre, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate HG2 8NZ.
Description: Indoor festive event featuring 3-hour sessions with rides, an indoor ice rink, Winter Forest mini golf, and Santa's Grotto.
Tickets & Info: Tickets required; available via Crow Leisure Group.

Børn of the Forest: Festive Family Sessions

Hours: Venue open Mon–Sun, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM.
Location: Pannal Rd, Follifoot, Harrogate HG3 1DR.
Description: Outdoor woodland sessions offering a gentle, unhurried, child-led festive experience with no adult charge, suited for families and children with SEND needs.
Tickets & Info: Check session availability at Børn of the Forest.

Regular Events for your Diary





Sicklinghall Community Service

Together in Faith, Growing in Community

We meet at 1030am on the Tuesday following the second Sunday of the month (now that will have confused you!), we enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake or biscuits and have a good natter before turning to a time of reflection. The reflections take many forms, pictures, poems etc., and are a prompt for what they are saying to us. We end with some simple prayers and have a prayer tree for anyone who wishes to add their own prayers which are included in our Sunday worship.

All this takes place at Sicklinghall Cricket Club where we can enjoy God's creation in the warmth through the huge windows.

EVERYONE is welcome.

A Recipe for December

Pork and Cranberry Meatballs

- Meatballs
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 echalion shallot, finely chopped
- 2 clove/s garlic, crushed
- 75ml dry vermouth or white wine
- 250ml chicken or vegetable stock
- 300g full fat crème fraîche
- 2 tbsp finely chopped tarragon leaves
- 90g fresh cranberries
- ½ tsp sea salt flakes
- ½ tsp freshly ground black peppercorns

Breadcrumbs

- 50g soft white breadcrumbs
- 60ml whole milk
- 60g fresh cranberries
- 500g pork mince
- 1 large egg
- ½ tsp freshly grated nutmeg
- ½ tsp freshly ground black peppercorns
- 1 tbsp finely chopped tarragon leaves
- ½ tsp sea salt flakes

- First, make the meatballs. Put the breadcrumbs in a mixing bowl and add the milk. Stir and leave to soak for a few minutes. Briefly pulse the 60g cranberries in a small food processor (or roughly chop by hand), then add to the soggy breadcrumbs along with the pork, egg, spices, herbs and salt. Use your hands to thoroughly mix, then shape into spheres slightly larger than a golf ball (around 45g each). Arrange the rolled meatballs on a baking sheet, then chill in the fridge for at least 1 hour.

- Find a saucepan or sauté pan large enough to hold the meatballs in one layer and set over a medium heat. Heat the oil and fry the meatballs for around 7-8 minutes, turning halfway through, so they colour a little and firm up (they don't need to be fully cooked at this point). Use a slotted spoon to transfer them to a plate and set aside.

- Return the pan to the heat and add the shallot to the rendered fat with a pinch of salt. Soften for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally, before adding the garlic and cooking for 1 minute more. Increase the heat. Add the vermouth or wine and let it bubble and reduce for 20 seconds before pouring in the stock. Stir in the crème fraîche, reduce to a gentle simmer, then add the tarragon, cranberries and the part-cooked meatballs. Add the salt and pepper and gently simmer for 8-10 minutes more, until the meatballs are piping hot and cooked through with no pink meat remaining. Serve with mashed potatoes and peas, if liked.
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From the Diocese

The Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth officially became Bishop of Leeds in a historic Confirmation of Election ceremony during a service led by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, on Friday, November 6. Colleagues, family and friends of Bishop Toby gathered at York Minster with the Deans and Chapter Representatives from the Diocese of Leeds's three cathedrals for the election confirmation service.

The legal process for confirming the election of a new bishop in the Church of England has a number of stages. In July this year, it was announced that the Crown Nomination Commission had recommended Bishop Toby, previously the Suffragen Bishop of Bradford, as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Leeds, which includes the Episcopal Areas of Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds, Ripon and Wakefield. The recommendation was approved by the Prime Minister and His Majesty The King.

The next stage took place during September, and involved all the Colleges of Canons of the diocese's three cathedrals – Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield – meeting in Ripon when they agreed to elect Bishop Toby as next Bishop of Leeds. A College of Canons is an advisory, representative and governing body attached to each Church of England cathedral and made up of clergy, laity and ecumenical canons.

Bishop Toby then became Bishop-Elect until the confirmation service, when his election was confirmed by Archbishop Stephen. The final stage of the process will take place on three consecutive weekends in January 2027 when Installation services for Bishop Toby will take place at each of the three cathedrals.

Friday's Confirmation of Election service began with Archbishop Stephen reminding Bishop Toby of the trusts given at the ordination of Bishops and Bishop Toby reaffirming the promises he made then. The Legal Process of the confirmaton then took place, in which those present sit as a Court of Law led by the Vicar General of the Province of York, Gregory Jones KC, on behalf of the Archbishop. The Vicar General's role is to decide whether the procedural steps have been properly carried out, so that the election of the new Bishop can be confirmed by the Archbishop. David Whitaker, Registrar for the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, representing the College of Canons, and Louise Connacher, Provincial Registrar for the Province of York, presented and read the Letters Patent required from HM The King, and demonstrated proofs to the court that all the necessary procedures had been complied with and that opportunity had been given for objections to be raised and none had been heard.

Qari Asim MBE acted as Advocate for Bishop Toby, identifying and presenting him to the court as the person elected by the Cathedral Colleges of Canons. Bishop Toby made the Declaration of Assent and took the Oaths and an Order was made confirming the Election. Archbishop Stephen presented mandates for induction and enthronement to the Deans of Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield Cathedrals and they accepted and agreed to induct the new Bishop of Leeds "into the actual and corporeal possession of the Bishopric of Leeds."

Archbishop Stephen then delivered his Charge for Bishop Toby's Mission in the Diocese of Leeds and the Church of England. This included the charge to proclaim God's kingdom, heal the sick and make disciples of all nations, to lead effective safeguarding across the diocese, to be a strategic and visionary leader, prioritising evanglism, engaging young people, diversity and church growth; to be an imaginative developer of resources and a passionate advocate of a younger and more inclusive church, more representative of the communities it serves. Across the Church of England, the Charge was to be a prophetic voice in sharing the gospel of Christ and representing the Church in the Public Square.

Archbishop Stephen also spoke to the passage from the Bible, chosen by Bishop Toby for the service, from John 21:15-19, with its three commissions given by Jesus to the apostle Peter – and still the commssion of Bishops today – to love and follow Jesus and to lead and feed his sheep. Bishop Toby will formally pay homage to HM The King as a new Diocesan Bishop later this month and will then be taking a short sabbatical break until the installation services in mid-January to prepare for his new role. Bishop Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall will take on the role of Acting Bishop of Leeds during this period.









Eco Tips at Christmas Time

THINK ABOUT YOUR LIGHTS

Use LED lights on your Christmas tree, they use less energy, last longer and look just as good! Also, switch off your lights at night - it's safer and won't cost the earth. Choose lights that have a plug over battery powered, and if you have to choose a battery powered item, make sure you purchase rechargeable batteries (and recharge them in future).

TABLE DECORATIONS

Many Christmas crackers are not recyclable, and the toys inside are often made of plastic that is thrown away after use. Instead, look out for FSC-certified crackers which mean that the packaging is made from sustainably sourced paper and card. Always check what's inside a cracker to make sure you get something that people will reuse (and ask if you really need them in the first place). Reusable DIY crackers are another great option. Fill them yourself with sustainable options like Fairtrade chocolates and personalised festive favours. Avoid single-use tablecloths and napkins. Instead, use material versions which have a longer lifecycle than their paper equivalents as you can wash and keep them.

AVOID EXCESS PACKAGING

Reduce waste even further by buying gifts with little or no packaging. Shopping local instead of online can help with this, especially if you have a local refill shop. If you can't avoid packaging, look for recycled or recyclable materials. Avoid plastics where possible, and don't forget your reusable bags to carry all your shopping home!

GIFT AN EXPERIENCE

Gifting an experience for your loved ones will help to reduce demand for physical resources, avoids filling homes with unwanted presents and can help you to spend quality time together. There are lots of options for different budgets to choose from that will reduce your festive footprint. You could buy tickets to an event, book a restaurant for a date, donate your time to help babysit, or to visit a local park together for a daily dose of nature, maybe a nice picnic in the summer. Many restaurants and activity locations offer gift vouchers that you can buy for use at a later date. Why not plan a day out to a National Trust or Wildlife Trust location, or even make a homemade meal? It also makes your gift last longer – having something to look forward to later in the year.





Would you like to stay on our newsletter list? Or know somebody who would like to receive it? Please drop us a note at lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com
We're excited to keep in touch and welcome new readers!

....and finally

We are so grateful that you have signed up to receive our newsletter.

We would also like to occasionally send you one-off emails with items of interest, updates, and information that we feel may be relevant to you.

If you are happy to receive these occasional emails, there is no need to do anything. We promise not to bombard you with messages and will only send information when we feel it is worthwhile.

If you would prefer not to receive these additional emails, please simply reply to let us know and we will make sure you are removed from this list.

Thank you again for your support.

Lower Wharfedale Benefice Team