

Lower Wharfedale Benefice Newsletter

Issue 14

North Ripton, 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

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Rev'd Emma James

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Benefice Office

Administrator - Davina Tyler

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

Church Services

Sunday 6 September

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Pool	Parish Communion	9.30am
Sicklinghall.	Parish Communion	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Celtic Service	11.00am
Weeton	Family Service	11.00am

Sunday 13 September

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
North Ripton	Parish Communion Service	9.30am
Pool	Family Service	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow.	Family Service	11.00am
Sicklinghall	Pet Service	3.00pm

Tuesday 15 September

Sicklinghall	Community Service	10.30am
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Thursday 17 September

Pool	Wharfedale Court	10.30am
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Matthew 16:24-27

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Reflection

"The Road Home"

I remember taking a funeral for a wonderful woman in Wetherby. She had been involved in so many aspects of church life, town life and in the life of her wonderful family.

One of the things she was heavily involved in was girl guiding and on her service booklet we had the guiding symbol for ‘going home’ which i’ve shown here.



Many of us at the end of our summer holidays may well have that going home feeling. Going home is special. Even after a wonderful trip with great company, great scenery there is a moment when our own bed, our own front door and even our own kettle seems attractive.

Wherever we have been, every journey eventually reminds us of something very simple: the destination may be wonderful, but sometimes the road getting there, or getting home again, can be tiring.

In Sunday’s gospel passage Jesus tells his disciples that the road ahead will not be an easy one. He speaks of suffering, rejection and death.

Peter immediately objects. Surely there must be another way. Surely Jesus can choose an easier road. But Jesus knows that love does not always take the easiest path.

Then come those familiar words: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” That can sound very heavy.

Yet perhaps Jesus is not asking us to go looking for suffering. He is asking us to remain faithful when the road becomes difficult.

Reflection cont'd

Most of the Christian life is not lived in dramatic moments.

It is lived in ordinary faithfulness.

Being patient when patience is running thin.

Forgiving when it would be easier to hold a grudge.

Being kind when nobody notices.

Standing alongside someone who is struggling.

Getting up again when life has knocked us down.

And continuing to follow Christ even when we cannot quite see where the road is leading.

There are stretches of life that feel like walking beside a beautiful lake in the sunshine.

And there are others that feel as if we are walking up hill in the mud and our feet will fail at any time.

But Christ never promised us a road without difficulty.

He promised something far better.

He promised to walk it with us.

So whether today finds us rested or tired, joyful or worried, beginning something new or simply trying to get through another ordinary week, the invitation of Jesus remains wonderfully simple:

“Follow me.”

One step at a time.

One day at a time.

Trusting that wherever the road leads, Christ has already gone before us.

And that is good news for every journey. Amen.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus,

Walk beside me today not too far ahead to make me feel rushed,
and not behind me to leave me alone,
but right here at my side.

Steady my steps when the road is unclear.

Give me the courage to trust Your presence more than I need answers.

When worries or quiet fears arise, fill my heart with Your peace
and let me feel the steady strength of Your hand holding mine.

Thank You for never leaving me to walk this journey alone.

In Your holy name,

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, Mike, Kath, John, Catherine and Ruby](#)

[For the deceased and the families of the late
Myles Gibson and Don Devonish](#)

Prayers

We pray for all those affected by the devastating flash floods in Nepal and Tibet.

We pray for those who are grieving, and for those who are still waiting for news of their missing loved ones. We pray for the emergency workers in the region, operating in immensely difficult conditions to rescue people and bring relief. We pray too for those who are injured, and for the doctors and nurses working tirelessly to bring healing and rebuild lives.

Into the hands of our loving God, and in the name of Jesus Christ, we place all those who watch, wait and weep.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Sarah Mullally, The Archbishop of Canterbury

We pray for the events at the Big Church festival this weekend:

Dear Lord, we pray for the loss of life and the pain of eye witnesses of those who had gathered to worship you. We pray for healing for those injured and comfort for those wrestling with grief and fear. Amen

Around the Parishes

Photo of the amazing painting we presented to Margaret Harcourt for her many years of service as sacristan at All Saints KO at the 8:30BCP service on 9th August.

The painting of the village looking up to the church was painted and presented by Bruce Noble who had a hand in Margaret coming to the village in the first place, so we owe him a debt of favour on that.

Margaret has been an amazing and faithful volunteer over many decades and all the priests she has served with are so thankful for her commitment and dedication.

Margaret has now passed the reigns over to Linda Bullus and Sarah Carter and we are thankful for all the help they already provide. t



Kirkby Overblow Pet Service

So lovely to see - All Creatures Great and Small



A658 Road Safety – Important Public Meeting

Many of us share deep concern about the dangerous junction leading from North Rigton onto the A658. It has become a worry to us all, and sadly we have lost count of the number of accidents that have happened there — this is a situation that simply must be addressed.

The Parish Council is calling a special Public Meeting to discuss road safety on the A658, with representatives from Highways in attendance to hear our concerns directly. This meeting will be held in addition to the usual monthly Council meeting.



Tuesday 15th September



7:00 pm start

Expected to finish by 8:00–8:30 pm

This is our opportunity to speak up together, share our experiences, and urge those responsible to take action to make this road safer for everyone who uses it. Your presence and voice matter — please do come along and support this important gathering.

Around the Parishes



The wedding of Claire and Justin at
St Peter's Sicklinghall



Opening the Weeton Show,
Revd Stroma and The
Knaresborough Town Crier



Around the Parishes

All Saints Church and Lower Wharfedale Benefice Nepal Disaster Relief:



Many of you will have seen the devastating scenes on the news following the monumental scale of flash flooding in Nepal's Rasuwa district and the Xizang area of Tibet.

Families have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods in a matter of hours. Many have been forced from their homes and face an uncertain future even as rescue efforts continue. So far hundreds are known to have died with thousands, including children, are still missing. The priority for aid agencies and disaster recovery workers is saving lives through search and rescue and providing urgent aid. Aid agencies including the Red Cross are already helping people in Nepal and disaster recovery groups are at work trying to rescue survivors and ensure victims have some safety and security and can be connected with news of loved ones.

Could you contribute to this work by donating to the disaster fund today? Your money will go towards:

- Establishing emergency camps and providing essential support and shelter for people left homeless
- Provide emergency supplies like food, drinking water, first aid kits, blankets, sleeping mats, ropes and other emergency equipment
- Support with search and rescue teams
- Support people to find lost loved ones and support those bereaved.

Please whatever you can afford will go to help people living in and through this crisis and will make a difference. If you are a taxpayer and can give your generous donation with gift aid this will add an extra 25% to whatever you give.

All the monies raised are given to the Disaster Relief Fund so you can be sure that your generosity goes to where it needs to.

Thank You
Stroma

On behalf of Lower Wharfedale Benefice.
<https://givealittle.co/c/1Zddjb9HZUQ4U4F7A2jwHT>





Village Community Event

at St John's Church

TABLE-TOP SALE!

Saturday 12th September - 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

.....
Have fun disposing of all those things you no longer
require

Bricabrac, children's toys, plants, tools,

china, crockery, books, picture

No electrical items please

.....
£10.00 per table

You keep your sales income!

Gazebos and tables available or bring your own.

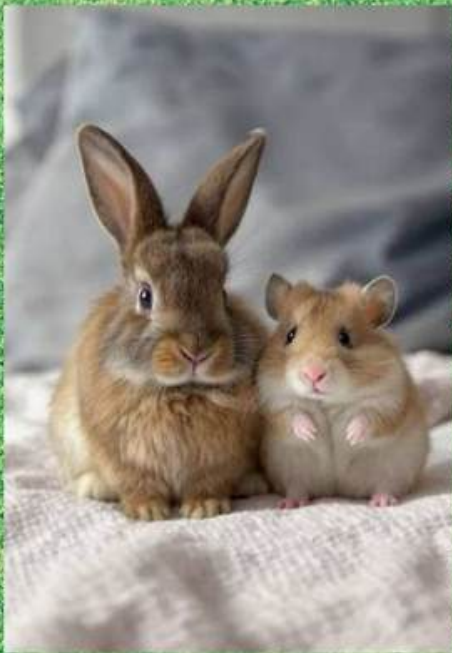
Coffee, teas and cakes for sale

To book a table contact us at: stjohnnorthrigton@gmail.com





**Come and join us at
one of our Pet Services -
well behaved owners
welcome**



Sunday 9 August - Pool - 9.30am

Sunday 9 August - Kirkby Overblow - 11am

Sunday 23 August - North Rigton - 9.30am

Sunday 13 September - Sicklinghall - 3pm

Join us on a

PRAYER WALK

1 Thessalonians 5: 17

to walk and pray for the
community of Pool

Saturday 19th September
2.30pm

Meet outside the village hall

All welcome

Any Qs: Emma.james@leeds.anglican.org



Rural Gathering

Tuesday 29th September

9.30am - 11.30am



Come and be part of the conversation

A warm welcome to all clergy and lay people
of our rural benefices.

Join us for our second gathering, a wonderful opportunity to share ideas and resources, and to learn from one another. We will explore how we can encourage and resource pastoral care and family-focused ministry, with plenty of opportunity for conversation, sharing, and reflection.

We're delighted that Caroline Pinchbeck, Rural Change Enabler, will be with us to share her experience and insight.

We hope you will be able to join us.

@ All Saints' Church
Kirkby Overblow

Regular Events for your Diary

Introducing our
NEW **Family service!**



A short, fun and interactive service for all ages!
2nd Sunday of each month, 9.30am
St Wilfrid's Church, Pool
All welcome!

St Barnabas, Weeton, Community Coffee Morning
Third Wednesday of every month
—
Come and join us

10am to 11.30am
Sleights Meadow, Crag Lane,
Huby



All Saints' Kirkby Overblow
VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

9.30am – 11.30am

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH



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.

Events to look forward to

Everyone Welcome !

PEACE & PRAISE

Sunday 19th July 2026

Sunday 16th Aug 2026

Sunday 20th Sept 2026

6-7pm
St John's,
North Ripton

An informal and sociable evening of
uplifting music, peace & prayer
Coffee, tea & cakes from 5.30pm!

More info: emma.james@leeds.anglican.org



Loving.
Living.
Learning.

HOW DO I MAKE MY FAITH COUNT?

Come along and find out...

Events 2026

10 February 2026, 7pm-9pm @Leeds Minster

Discussion Evening - Bishop Chris Edmondson will help us think about how we hear God's call

22 April 2026, 6pm-9pm @Wakefield Cathedral

Vocations Fayre - connect with people from a broad range of ministries, including lay, ordained and chaplaincy. Pre-event Choral Evensong at 5:30pm

13 June 2026, 10am - 3pm @Bolton Abbey Priory

Vocations Retreat Day - Spend time discerning with God and others whilst immersed in the history and beauty of Bolton Abbey

23 September, 7pm-9pm @St Peter's Huddersfield

Discussion Evening - Hear about real experiences of starting a new ministry for lay and ordained

18 November, 7pm-9pm @Church House Leeds

Discussion Evening - Hear perspectives on ordained ministry from the new and the retiring

For more details email vocations@leeds.anglican.org

Registration via Eventbrite

Exploring Vocation Together



Contacts

Jenice Guild
Administrator
jenice.guild@leeds.anglican.org

Rev'd Canon Sean Robertshaw
Diocesan Director of Vocations
sean.robertshaw@leeds.anglican.org



Come along
and help us
make a
difference



How can we embrace a
more sustainable
lifestyle in our Homes
and Churches?



Join us for a day of
eco-conscious
living!



POOL IN WHARFEDALE GREEN FAIR

Saturday 10 October, 10am-3pm
Pool Village Hall

Offers of help and ideas for stalls gratefully
received!

moirakeith2@gmail.com

Ripon Cathedral choirs celebrate 30 years with Alumni Reunion Evensong

Ripon Cathedral is calling on anyone who has ever sung in one of the cathedral's choirs to join its current choir for a special Alumni Reunion Evensong this October, marking the 30th anniversary of Ripon Cathedral's Girls' Choir.

Thirty years ago, the newly formed Ripon Cathedral Girls' Choir sang for the first time at a Sunday morning Eucharist.

To celebrate this milestone, Ripon Cathedral will hold a special Alumni Reunion Evensong on Saturday, October 10 at 5.30pm, bringing together former choristers and choir members from across the decades.

All who have sung in the choir are warmly invited to return, either to sing in the service or to join the congregation.

Former choir members will have the opportunity to sing alongside the current cathedral choir, recognised for its outstanding musical standards with recent broadcasts on BBC One and BBC iPlayer and on BBC Radio 3.

The afternoon will begin with registration at 2pm, followed by a rehearsal at 2.30pm.

The Alumni Reunion Evensong will begin at 5.30pm.

Dr Ronny Krippner, Director of Music at Ripon Cathedral, said: "This promises to be a memorable occasion, not only for returning alumni but for everyone joining us for this beautiful service of choral evensong, sung by a choir of more than 100 voices.

"For the alumni it is also a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with former choir friends."

Alongside the reunion there will be displays of archive photographs and memorabilia celebrating 30 years of the Girls' Choir and the cathedral's wider musical heritage. Following the service, alumni and guests are invited to stay for refreshments and attend the alumni dinner.

Those wishing to sing, please contact Laura Jones to book your place



Gardening Tips- for the end of Summer

- Divide overgrown perennials: Lift and split large, crowded clumps of herbaceous perennials like hostas and daylilies to encourage healthier growth next year.
- Deep clean the greenhouse: Empty out summer containers, sweep debris, and wash down glass and staging with a garden disinfectant to stop pests and fungi from overwintering.
- Take plant cuttings: Save money by taking semi-ripe cuttings from favorite evergreen shrubs or half-hardy perennials like pelargoniums to grow indoors.
- Maintain and sharpen tools: Clean off dried soil, sharpen the blades of your secateurs and shears, and oil metal parts so they stay rust-free until spring.
- Bring tender plants indoors: Move vulnerable potted plants, tender perennials, and half-hardy items into a greenhouse, conservatory, or bright indoor spot before the first frost hits.
- Clear fallen leaves: Rake leaves off your lawn regularly to prevent dampness and disease, and use them to start a rich leaf mold pile.
- Tidy up garden borders: Cut back faded perennial stems, clear away finished summer annuals, and leave select attractive seed heads to feed local wildlife.
- Mulch your beds: Spread a generous layer of organic compost or bark chips across your borders to lock in warmth, suppress weeds, and feed the soil over winter.
- Plant spring bulbs: Get your soil ready to plant spring-flowering bulbs like daffodils, crocuses, and alliums for bright early-year colour.
- Feed and repair the lawn: Apply a specialised autumn lawn feed rich in potassium to strengthen grass roots against cold weather, and patch up bare patches

A Recipe for the start of Autumns

An easy Blackberry and Apple Crumble is a classic, comforting recipe to celebrate the start of Autumn.

Ingredients

500g cooking apples (peeled, cored, and sliced)

300g fresh blackberries

2 tablespoons caster sugar

150g plain flour

90g cold butter (cubed)

90g soft brown sugar

Instructions

Heat your oven to 190°C (170°C fan).

Place the sliced apples, blackberries, and caster sugar into a medium baking dish. Mix gently.

Put the flour and cold butter into a bowl. Rub them together with your fingertips until the mix looks like fine breadcrumbs.

Stir the brown sugar into the crumb mix.

Scatter the crumb topping evenly over the fruit.

Bake in the oven for 35 to 40 minutes until the fruit is tender and the top is golden and crisp.

(for some extras calories - after all Winter is coming, serve with Cream, Custard or Ice Cream!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

We are Approaching Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight 2026 is just around the corner! From 21 September to 4 October, people across the UK will come together to celebrate fairer trade and support the farmers, workers and communities behind the products we rely on every day. Throughout the two weeks, the focus of the theme will be Fair Pay with the aim of encouraging people to remember a simple truth: fair pay matters because everyone deserves the chance to live well.

However we earn a living, we all deserve to be paid fairly. Supporting Fairtrade helps support fairer pay for the farmers and workers behind the products we love. For more on Fairtrade Fortnight, see

<https://www.fairtrade.net/.../fairtrade-fortnight.html>



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