

Lower Wharfedale Benefice Newsletter

Issue 16

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 assist you with any mobility assistance you may require.

CONTACTS AND WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH

Rev'd Stroma McDermott

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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.

UPCOMING *Church Services*

Sunday 18 October

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
North Rigton	Peace and Praise	6.00pm
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9.30am
Weeton	Parish Communion	11am

Sunday 25 October

Kirkby Overblow	Communion with Sunday Club	11.00am
North Rigton	Family Service	9.30am
Pool	Parish Communion.	9.30am
	Celebration With Revd Andy Muckle from St George's Crypt	
Weeton	Baptism for Ruby Consodine	11:30am

Sunday 1 November

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Pool	Parish Eucharist	9.30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	All Souls Service	3.00pm
Weeton	Family Service	11.00am

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Reflection

Yesterday we had a wonderful celebration of the Feast of St Wilfrid at Pool where Dean John came to preside and preach from the 'mother' church for St Wilfrid at Ripon Cathedral. There is something really appropriate about remembering Saint Wilfrid when Wilfrid belonged here.

Born in Northumbria around AD 634, he became one of the most energetic and, it has to be admitted, occasionally argumentative, churchmen of the seventh century. He spent time at Lindisfarne, travelled to Rome, became Abbot of Ripon and later Bishop of York. He was also a central figure at the Synod of Whitby in 664, where he argued strongly for the Roman way of calculating Easter and for closer unity with the wider church. Wilfrid's Christianity was never particularly comfortable.

Reflection cont'd

He travelled enormous distances by the standards of his day. He crossed seas, endured political arguments, exile, imprisonment and more than one dispute with kings and fellow bishops. Yet again and again he returned to the work of proclaiming Christ, establishing communities and building up the Church.

There is something amazingly northern about that stubborn determination. We might call it perseverance. A Yorkshireman might perhaps use a slightly more colourful word. Yet Wilfrid also reminds us that Christianity in northern England was never an isolated little local affair. His world stretched from Northumbria to Rome and continental Europe. Faith crossed borders long before passports, airports and Wi-Fi made the world seem small.

Psalm 113 says “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.” (Psalm 113:3)

Amazing to think as you read this someone else in Toronto, Vancouver, Boston, New York or somewhere considerably warmer than Hubby may be drinking their first coffee while I wonder if it is time for another cup. Of course, it always is! Psalm 113 quietly gathers us together.

Wilfrid loved his northern homeland, but he recognised that the Church was larger than Northumbria. The Christian faith always calls us beyond the boundaries we are tempted to draw around ourselves.

Yet Psalm 113 goes further still. The God who is “high above all nations” is also the God who stoops down and raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy.

As we learnt yesterday at the family service at KO, that is important. Christian faith is never simply about impressive churches, ancient saints or theological arguments. It must reach the person who is struggling, overlooked, lonely or frightened.

The work of the Christian charity Compassion which we heard about yesterday is all about lifting children out of extreme poverty through sponsorship. All Saints Church already sponsor a young girl in Bangladesh and I'm delighted others were sponsored yesterday and the Fellowship schools at North Rigton and Kirkby Overblow are looking to sponsor a child also.

We can all do our little bit to help those in need. So, a question for us all: How will my praise of God become visible in the way I treat the person who needs lifting up today?

Prayer

Lord God,
from the rising of the sun to its setting,
your name is worthy of praise.
As you strengthened Saint Wilfrid
to carry the Gospel beyond familiar shores,
give us courage to live our faith wherever you have placed us.
Keep us mindful of those who are forgotten or struggling,
and make our lives signs of your compassion,
until people of every land and nation
are gathered into the peace of Christ. 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, John, Catherine, Ruby, Redmond and
Margaret, Jenny and Jo

For the deceased and the families of the late
Baby Flora
Joan Jefferson and Hazel Kirkley

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



KIRKBY OVERBLOW

1 NOVEMBER 2026 AT 3PM

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

A list of names will be kept at the back of each church for our All Souls Service. If you would like your loved one to be named and remembered during the service, please add their name to the list.

All are welcome



ALL SOULS DAY

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.

what's happening elsewhere



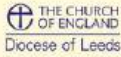
ST JAMES'
PARISH CHURCH OF WETHERBY WITH UPTON
For Christ at the heart of the community



**Come and Sing
Fauré's Requiem**

Sunday 18 October 2026
Rehearsal @1:30pm
Informal Performance @ 5pm

*For more information and to sign
up to sing at:*
www.stjameswetherby.org.uk



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

Loving.
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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
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Diocesan Director of Vocations
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Jenice Guild
Administrator
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RIPON
CATHEDRAL

Ripon Cathedral
Friday 23 October 2026

Silent Disco

Two Sessions • One Night
Family disco • Adults only disco

Saturday 31st October 2026

**Ripon Cathedral
presents...**



RIPON
CATHEDRAL

**THE
ROZZERS**

Beethoven Symphony 7 Jack Liebeck 27/06

Violin Concerto in E minor

Mendelssohn
Midsummer Night's Dream (Overture)

Saturday 27th June

Royal Hall, Harrogate

Time: 7:30pm

Tickets: U18s £5.00

£16.50 / £21.50 / £26.50 / £36.50 / £41.50

Reserve your tickets:

[E. cuorechamberorchestra.com](http://E.cuorechamberorchestra.com)

T. 01423 502116

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what should we do today?????

During October 2026, The Old School Art Gallery in Muker will host the Yorkshire Dales Landscape Photography Show, bringing together a collection of images celebrating the landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales, captured by some of the UK's leading photographers.

From Nidderdale and Ribblesdale to Malhamdale, Wharfedale, Dentdale, Wensleydale and Swaledale, each dale has its own distinctive character. Through the eyes of nine photographers, visitors can explore the dramatic fells, drystone walls, field barns, villages and ever-changing light that make the Yorkshire Dales such a special place. Photographers exhibiting this year include Joe Cornish, Lizzie Shepherd, Richard Walls, Paul Grogan, Paul Clark, Oliver Wright, David Speight, David Tarn and Wendy McDonnell. Each brings their own unique perspective and style to the exhibition. The exhibition is free to visit and runs at The Old School Art Gallery & Craft Centre, Muker, from Thursday 3 September to Sunday 18 October 2026.



Just a little brain teaser

1. Which historic parish church in Ilkley is famous for housing three pre-Norman Anglo-Saxon carved cross shafts in its churchyard?

- A. St Margaret's Church
- B. St John's Church
- C. All Saints' Church
- D. Sacred Heart Catholic Church

2. The historic parish church of All Saints in Otley contains notable tombs, monuments, and effigies linked to which prominent Yorkshire noble family?

- A. The Fairfax family
- B. The Percy family
- C. The Tempest family
- D. The Scrope family

3. Which major 19th-century industrial site on the banks of the River Wharfe profoundly shaped the employment and development of Burley-in-Wharfedale?

- A. Salts Mill
- B. Manningham Mills
- C. Dean Clough Mill
- D. Greenholme Mills

4. Before becoming a famous Victorian spa destination and parish centre, what was the name of the Roman fort established at the site of modern-day Ilkley?

- A. Eboracum
- B. Olicana
- C. Cataractonium
- D. Calcaria

5. Pool-in-Wharfedale is a historic village that sits strategically at an important crossing point of which river that carves through the Lower Wharfedale valley?

- A. River Aire
- B. River Nidd
- C. River Wharfe
- D. River Ouse

6. What archaeological discovery made during recent renovations provided evidence of a pre-Norman Christian presence at the site of All Saints Church in Kirkby Overblow?

- A. A fragment of carved stone dated to the 10th century
- B. An intact Anglo-Saxon stone baptismal font
- C. A silver coin hoard from the reign of King Athelstan
- D. A royal parchment charter signed by King Edgar

Just a little brain teaser, cont'd

7. On what exact date was the foundation stone for St Peter's Church in Sicklinghall laid?

- A. July 4, 1875
- B. May 15, 1883
- C. September 12, 1881
- D. August 21, 1890

8. The interior furniture of St John the Evangelist Church in North Rigton features distinctive oak carvings crafted by which famous Yorkshire businessman and artisan?

- A. Thomas Chippendale
- B. Robert "Mouseman" Thompson
- C. David Linley
- D. Josiah Wedgwood

9. Before evolving into the distinct parish church, it is recognised as today, what was the historical status of St. Wilfrid's Church in Pool-in-Wharfedale relative to the larger neighbouring town?

- A. A private chapel exclusively owned by the local Pool House estate
- B. A chapel of ease to its mother church of Otley
- C. An independent medieval cathedral for lower Wharfedale
- D. A monastic grange established by Fountains Abbey

10. Between which years was St Barnabas' Church in Weeton constructed?

- A. 1820–1822
- B. 1801–1803
- C. 1851–1852
- D. 1890–1892

Looking after Garden Visitors - Autumn

I

Garden Birds: In October, you should pause feeding garden birds seeds and peanuts to prevent the spread of fatal diseases like trichomonosis, but you can offer small amounts of fat balls, suet, or mealworms in hanging containers rather than flat trays. Clean feeders weekly and change water daily. Maintain boxes: Clean out nest boxes during autumn so they can offer dry winter shelter for small birds

Squirrels: Help them build winter reserves by providing unshelled nuts like hazelnuts or walnuts, placing them in dedicated squirrel feeders or scattered away from bird areas

Foxes and Badgers: Supplement their natural foraging with small amounts of dog biscuits, fruit (such as apples or pears), or unsalted peanuts.

Leave natural food: Retain seedheads on sunflowers, teasels, and herbaceous plants, and allow fallen windfall apples to stay on the ground for migrant birds and late insects

Create shelter: Build log and leaf piles in quiet corners of the garden to give amphibians, small mammals, and hedgehogs safe places to hibernate as temperatures drop.

A Recipe for the start of the dark nights

Make a warm and creamy Butternut Squash Soup for an easy, comforting autumn meal.

Ingredients

Butternut squash: 1 medium squash, peeled and cubed

Olive oil: 2 tablespoons

Onion: 1 large, chopped

Garlic: 2 cloves, minced

Vegetable stock: 750 ml

Double cream: 100 ml

Salt and pepper: To taste

Instructions

- Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and cook for 5 minutes until soft.
- Add the minced garlic and cubed butternut squash, stirring for another 2 minutes.
- Pour in the vegetable stock, bring to a boil, then cover and simmer for 20 minutes until the squash is tender.
- Blend the soup until smooth using a stick blender.
- Stir in the double cream, season with salt and pepper, and warm through before serving



Eco Tip

Jesus said: “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted” (John 6, 12). If food waste was a country, it would be the third biggest emitter of greenhouse emissions. Much fruit and veg is wasted because it's the wrong shape or size to sell in supermarkets. But it's just as tasty, and available for sale through Oddbox. Oddbox is delivered to your door weekly or however often you wish at very reasonable prices.

Worried you can't make a difference on your own? Here is a story about that very thing - “One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a small boy picking something up and throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, the man asked, “What are you doing?” The youth replied, “Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die.” “Son,” the man said, “don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!” After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said...” I made a difference for that one.”

It's harvest, when we celebrate God's bounteous gifts. But are we using them wisely? Go through your fridge and pantry this week and use up any produce which is near its use-by date, to avoid throwing it out later. And try to make this a habit.

10 million pumpkins are grown a year in the UK. What percentage are hollowed out for lanterns? Answer 95%! If you buy one use the pulp for soup or even make beer with it.



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