

Lower Wharfedale Benefice Newsletter

Issue 17

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 8 November

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Remembrance	10.45am
North Rigton	Parish Communion.	9.30am
	and Remembrance at Village Memorial	
Pool	Service at Methodist Church, then	10.00am
	laying of wreaths at Cenotaph	10.45am

Sunday 15 November

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	8.30am
North Rigton.	Peace and Praise	6.00pm
Sicklinghall.	Parish Communion.	9.30am
Weeton	Holy Communion	11.00am

Sunday 22 November

Kirkby Overblow.	Holy Communion with Sunday Club.	11.00am
North Rigton.	Family Service with Baptism.	9.30am
Pool	Parish Eucharist	9.30am

Sunday 29 November

Weeton	Benefice Service	10.00am

Bible Reading

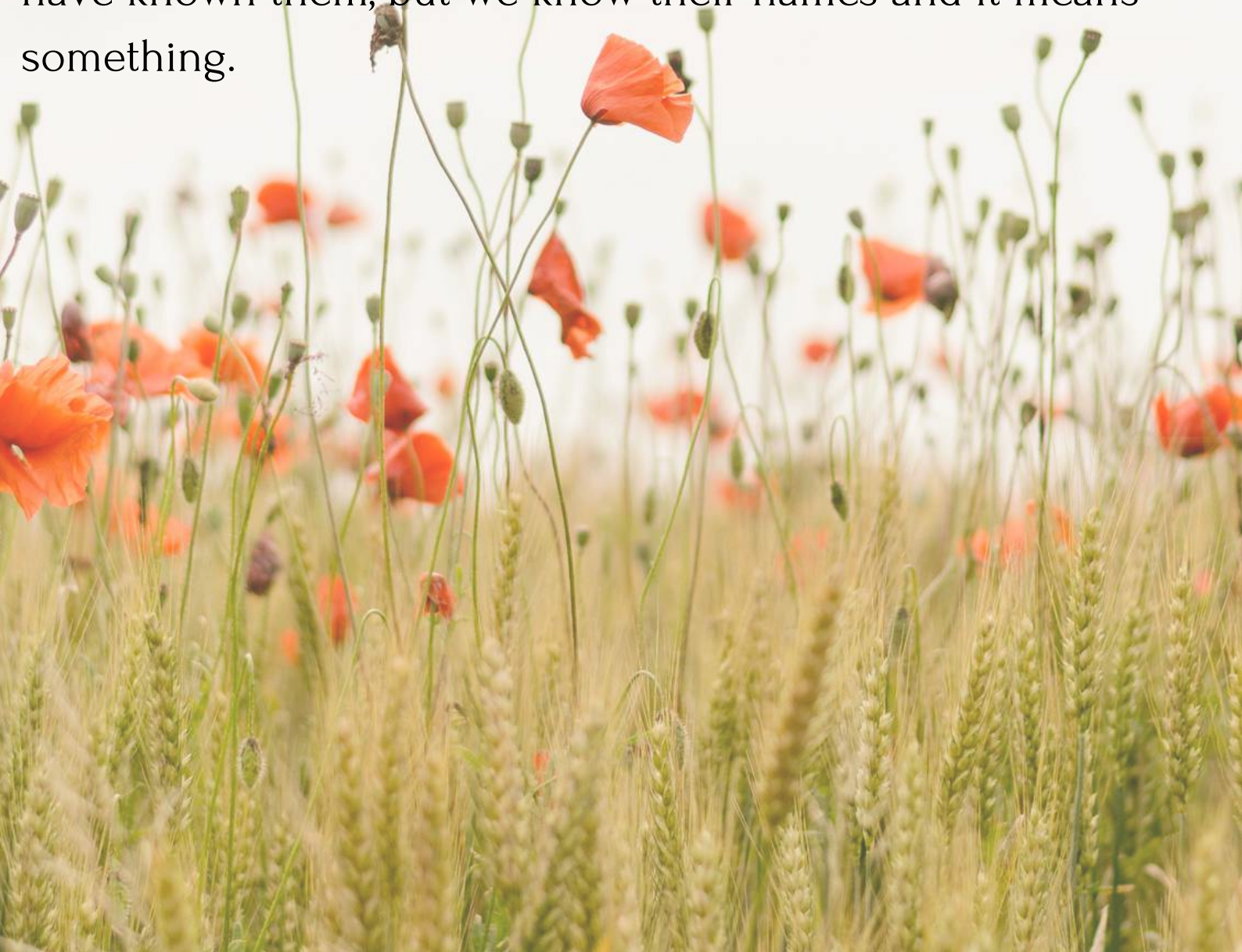
Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
[2] a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
[3] a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
[4] a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
[5] a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
[6] a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
[7] a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
[8] a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.



Reflection

In her book Fierce Imaginings: The Great War, Ritual, Memory and God, Rachel Mann writes about her memories of her Grandad Sam and Grandad Bert, both of whom fought in the Great War. They survived it yet remained its victims all their lives. Her reflections range far and wide across the landscape of conflict and how we remember it, yet she constantly comes back to these two men who anchor her writing in what is specific to them and their families. Particulars matter. Names matter. One of the moving and important parts of Remembrance is the reading out of names. We might not have known them, but we know their names and it means something.



Reflection

IA rabbi was asked whether a garment that had been symbolically torn in grief could be sewn up and used again. Yes, he replied, "but you mustn't disguise the tear. The scar must always show." In other words, we always carry our collective and individual memories around with us. Time gives a perspective from which meanings can become clearer, the picture comes into focus. However, we must learn in the ceremonies of remembrance not to make it better by easy. Every Sunday at a church is a remembrance Sunday, for every Sunday we remember a dying and a death. "Do this in remembrance of me."



Reflection

It is individual and specific: one man's pain and darkness, one man's broken body and shed blood, one man's mother and best friend looking on in grief as his life ebbed away on the cross. The cross ties our human suffering to God's for eternity. We remember. God remembers. Yet as we remember we also can glimpse a future that could be different, indeed, will be different according to our Christian hope.



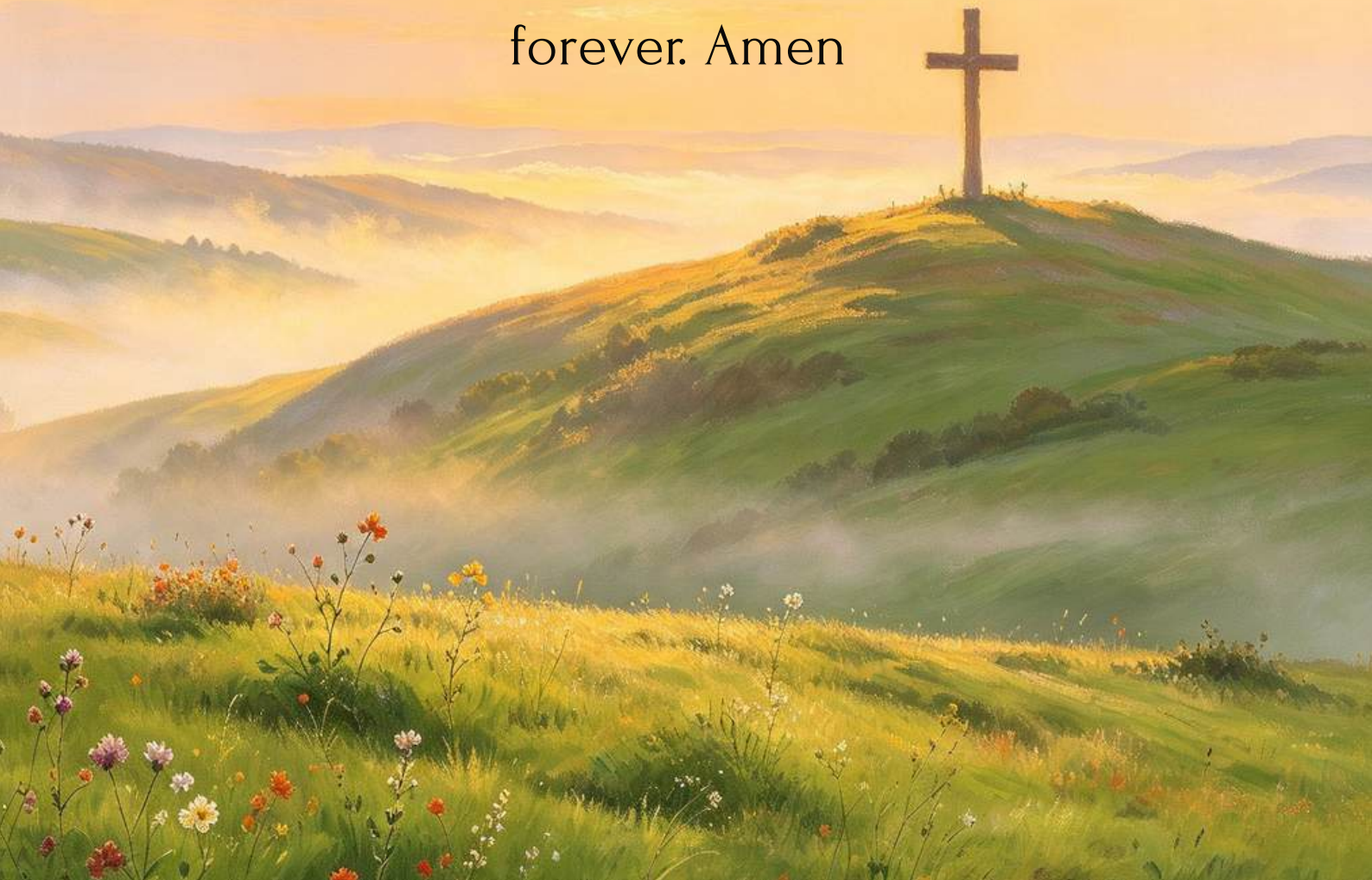
Reflection

In the Eucharist, we "remember forward" to what will dawn one day: that other country whose “ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace”. It perhaps seems far away. Our world is not in a good place as we come to mark Remembrance Sunday. All the more reason, then, to make sure remembrance leads us into prayer for the future of humanity. And into reflection, so that we ask ourselves what we have learned from the past and how we intend to act on it. Memory, prayer, wisdom and resolve are the antidote to despair. These are among the things that will make for "good remembrance”.



Prayer

O God of truth and justice,
We hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,
And grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.
As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future
For you are the source of life and hope, now and forever. 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 and Jo

For the deceased and the families of the late

Baby Flora

Peter Nigel Launder and Jeffrey Richard Liddle.



St Wilfrid's, Pool:

Following the visit from Rev,d Andy Muckle, Chaplain to St George's Crypt, Leeds and his inspiring talk, we would like to remind people of his request for prayer so that the Crypt can legally become a Housing Association and therefore be able to develop more transitional accommodation, and also the appeal for coffee and sugar which is in strong demand at the crypt at this time of year.

Donations can be left in the basket at St Wilfrid's.

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



Recent Services around the Parishes

A beautiful service was held at All Saints' Kirkby Overblow for All Souls Day



Regular Events for your Diary









SATURDAY
13th Feb '27

More details soon!

Contact: emma.james@leeds.anglican.org

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

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

Revd Canon Sean Robertshaw
Diocesan Director of Vocations
sean.robertshaw@leeds.anglican.org

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

The Bible Course
NEW EDITION



Want to *explore* how you can *apply the Bible* to your daily life?

***Come* and *join* our 8 week bible course, starting Monday January 11th 7-8.15pm**
All Saints, Kirkby Overblow

For more info & to get course materials:
Emma.james@leeds.anglican.org


Friday 6th November
Royal Hall, Harrogate
Time: 7:30pm
Tickets: U18s £5.00
£16.50 / £21.50 / £26.50 / £36.50 / £41.50
Reserve your tickets:
W. cuorechamberorchestra.com
T. 01423 502116
Cuore
Chamber
Orchestra
Grieg
Holberg Suite
Berkeley
Meditations for Strings
Mozart
Violin Concerto No.3
Symphony No.29
Jennifer Pike
Soloist
06/11
Cuore
St. Gemma's Hospice: Registered charity N° 1015941 Cuore Chamber Orchestra: Registered charity N° 1214332

what's happening elsewhere



Just a little brain teaser - the answers

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

A Recipe for the start of the chillier days

Roasted Carrot, Squash & Ginger Soup

Prep & Cook Time 45 minutes
Servings - 4 people

Key Ingredients

1 medium butternut squash, 6 carrots, 1 medium white onion, 2 cloves garlic, 1 thumb-sized piece ginger, 0.5 tbsp olive oil, 1 tsp ground cumin, sea salt & black pepper, 2 pints vegetable stock, juice of 0.5 lemon

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 200°C fan / 390°F.
- Roast vegetables: Place the chopped squash, carrots, onion, garlic, and ginger into a baking dish. Drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with ground cumin, salt, and pepper. Toss and bake for 30–35 minutes (stirring halfway) until tender and lightly browned.
-
- Blend: Transfer the roasted vegetables into a blender with the vegetable stock and lemon juice. Blitz until completely smooth, adjust seasoning to taste, and serve hot.

Pairing idea: Team this soup with a warm wrap or sandwich for a complete cold-weather lunch



From the Diocese

Black History Month Service celebrates "Honouring Our Communities" at Wakefield

People from across the diocese gathered at Wakefield Cathedral for a special Black History Month Eucharist Service, held under the theme "Honouring Our Communities" on Saturday, October 10.

The service began with uplifting music from members of the Huddersfield Community Gospel Choir, who set a joyful and celebratory tone for the service. Through prayer, scripture, music and reflection, including readings and prayers offered by the diocesan Racial Justice team, the congregation gave thanks for the diversity and contributions of Black and Global Majority Heritage communities within the diocese and wider society.

The sermon was preached by the Revd Dr Garfield Campbell, an ordained priest in the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands since 2009. Dr Campbell holds a PhD from the University of Leeds and currently serves as a Research Associate at the Scottish Episcopal Institute, where his work explores the legacies of slavery, colonialism and the Church's role in historical learning, commemoration and reconciliation. Dr Campbell reflected on the enduring impact of slavery, systemic racism and inequality on Black and other Global Majority Heritage communities.

He acknowledged the barriers and injustices experienced over generations, both within society and the Church, while encouraging continued commitment to racial justice, inclusion and belonging. He concluded by emphasising that the Church has a responsibility to ensure that all God's people are able to flourish.

Bishop Smitha said: “This service was a celebration of heritage, resilience and the remarkable individuals whose contributions continue to inspire our communities, while challenging us all to build a future rooted in justice, belonging, and hope.”
The first Diocese of Leeds annual Black History Month service was in Bradford in 2025, and the next one is already being planned for Leeds, as the gathering aims to travel around each Episcopal Area



Eco Tip



Fight climate change

Trashed food ends up in a landfill, where it rots and emits methane — a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes more to global warming than CO2. Toss your leftovers in a compost bin instead. They'll emit no methane, and you'll reduce the energy needed to haul your garbage to the dump. And if you're a gardener, adding compost to your soil will enrich it while increasing moisture retention, reducing the amount of watering you'll need to do.



Conserve water

Example tip: Go meat-free — especially avoiding beef — at least one day each week. Beef is not great for the planet: Production of one quarter-pound burger requires 460 gallons of water and emits 0.126 pounds of methane — a greenhouse gas roughly 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Globally, about 15 percent of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions are due to livestock, nearly two thirds of which come from cattle.





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