



19-21st  
After Trinity

# The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

October 2024

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Edition Number 108

## From the Vicarage

I love the activity that surrounds the annual autumn sales at the **Hawes Auction Mart**. It's a time of expectation and anticipation that the hard work of the last year will be recognised and rewarded as our farmers bring their harvest to auction.

It's quite a spectacle as over **22,000 lambs** in pristine condition are brought to the Mart, moved to pens, led to the ring, sold and then led back out to pens and transportation to a new home. The logistics are mind boggling. As much as I would like to manoeuvre my way across the pens to celebrate in conversation at the fruit of their labours, I remain extremely concerned about being the one responsible for opening a gate and allowing hordes of sheep to suddenly rush by me into a place where they are not expected!

Harvest is an opportunity for gratitude and thanksgiving for the manner in which the hard work and skill that has been expended across the year has come to a successful conclusion. In a hungry world it is so important that we do not take any of this blessing for granted. The sheep and calves enjoying the grass of the dale are indeed the '**Wensleydale Harvest**'.

I've been mindful in recent days, however, of a different harvest; of how our behaviour and attitudes shown and shared towards others over preceding months and even years can create a harvest all of their own and the outcome is not always pleasant or welcome. Comments made and decisions taken in the corridors of power are now being aired in an uncomfortable way for those involved as news bulletins and TV docu/dramas are beginning to reveal.

*'A man reaps what he sows'* Gal.6:7 writes St Paul to the early Church in Galatia, as he applies agricultural truths to the importance of living life in the fullness of the Holy Spirit in order that God might receive the glory of their transformed lives. *'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'* Gal.6:9

At a time where ungracious behaviour and attitudes towards others seems to dominate our news, it's been so encouraging to hear the story of England Footballer Raheem Sterling MBE, giving his life to Christ and receiving a believer's baptism.

We need to celebrate the good with one another far more. Wouldn't it be lovely if we might all look to a *different* harvest ... one of blessing, gratitude, kindness, consideration, forgiveness and mutual love.

Now that really would be a bumper Harvest!

Rev Dave

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



*We look forward to welcoming you there!*  
*Be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church*

Car Parking available on the cobbles, at the Village Hall & at the former Carrs Billington site.

Been away and missed some of  
Dave's sermons?

Listen to the podcasts!



Search 'Rev Dave from Wensleydale'  
on your usual podcast platform

## St Oswald's Coffee Mornings

First Saturday in each month at the Village  
Hall 10am to 12 noon



Next one – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October

## Wensleydale Filling Station



**Thornborough Hall, Leyburn**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

**Speaker: Brian Wilson**

Brian, together with his wife Janice, came to faith in their late teens in an Anglican church in Sheffield and have been active members of the same church ever since. Brian has served there as a Lay Minister for the last 4 decades. After an early career in (what became) Fujitsu, he moved to a senior position with IVP, the publisher of the Bible Speaks Today and Tyndale Commentary series and most of John Stott's writings, spending 13 years as the Chief Executive. Two years ago, he retired from his role as Operations Manager with St Hild College, helping to train around 160 students for church leadership across the Yorkshire region.

## Invite someone you know to join us for Evening Prayer on a Sunday!

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 short service of prayer and reflection

## Pathfinder's Sponsored Walk



We had a lovely afternoon completing our annual walk around Semerwater raising funds for Cancer Research. Bags of Haribo kept the energy levels high half way around and a fabulous 'Carpley Green Farm Burger' was a welcome treat on completion! If you would like to make a contribution to the funds raised then please contact the office and we'll ensure that every penny gets sent to Cancer Research. Thank You!

**Money Raised so far - £164!**

## MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES 2



Saturday October 26th - 2.30pm at St. Margaret's Church, Hawes

Free entry (*Donations to organ restoration fund*)

In a follow-up to last year's successful event, Mal Carruthers returns with 'Music from the Movies 2' to bring you a further selection of movie related themes interpreted on the wonderful organ at St Margaret's Church in Hawes. This year, Mal will also be joined by Amy Cockett and Dave Clark who will lend their vocal talents to the proceedings. Those who have attended Mal's events before will be familiar with his trademark style of audio/visual presentation which once again will be provided by Mike Hirst.

Over the past few years Mal has given a number of concerts which have all been with the aim of raising much needed funds for the future restoration of the organ which is now over a hundred years old and he is very much of the opinion that it is an instrument worthy of preservation. As with many mechanical items, regular maintenance and repairs are required to keep things running smoothly, however it gets to a stage where more serious interventions are required and we are very much at that stage now with the organ at St. Margaret's. As soon as the necessary funds can be raised, this instrument requires a generational overhaul and restoration to keep it in working order for all to enjoy.

Through recent fundraising efforts, a reasonable 'fighting fund' exists which we really hope to increase with events such as this. In the past Mal's events here at St. Margaret's have had exceptional attendances and we hope that this will be no different and that you will enjoy the organ and vocal performances given. There is no entry fee, but we hope that you will be generous with any retiring donations to the organ fund, all of which will be ring-fenced for the restoration of this wonderful instrument.

A wide range of film genres will be covered, so we hope that there is something here for everybody to enjoy. Come along, sit back and immerse yourself in this Matinee performance which will also include information and anecdotes about the composers and the films. There will be a short interval during which cinema style refreshments will be served.

## Phase One completed - Boilers installed and up and running!



The new boilers in St Margaret's, (named Maggie & Liz) have been fitted to replace the previous boiler which failed gradually over the last two years. Two boilers 'future proof' the church heating system to allow for further work, increasing the capacity of the system. They will be more efficient and probably cheaper. The church will only be warmer following **Phase Two** which will involve replacing and increasing the number of radiators and pipework. This is estimated to cost in the region of £80,000.

As part of **Phase one**, a new radiator has been fitted in the Vestry/Kitchen which can be operated independently, and a new bunded oil tank has been installed along with an upgrade to the filling point. Asbestos was removed from the cellar prior to the installation of the new boilers.

# Halloween

**October** sees two very significant days in the Church's calendar: 'All Saints' and 'All Souls' or 'All Hallows' and 'All Hallows Eve' (Halloween). The word *Hallow* means Holy, so these are days when the church remembers and celebrates those who have lived their lives in faith as 'Disciples of Christ'. In some cultures, people wandered the streets dressed as Saints, knocking on doors and exchanging sweet pastries with one another. It's not difficult to see how this custom has become adulterated with current Halloween activities. Sadly, current activities focus on the celebration and trivialisation of evil and seeing as the target age group are children, this is something we should be concerned about. Principally, Halloween promotes four big lies:

- 1) **That evil is only external.** Big teeth, claws, costumes, synthetic gore etc ... our children need to be informed that nasty characters do exist but that the really dangerous evil comes from inside our hearts – thoughts, words etc. 'Out of the heart come evil thoughts' <sup>Matt.16:19</sup>
- 2) **That evil always looks ugly.** Evil is ugly but a lack of personal beauty does not equate to evil. The most dangerous form of evil is when it's wrapped up in a nice package ... The Bible tells us that 'satan masquerades as an angel of light' <sup>2Cor.11:14</sup>
- 3) **That evil is trivial.** When children are told that the scary character at the door is nothing to be worried about we minimise the power and danger of evil. 'Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness' <sup>Is.5:20</sup>
- 4) **That evil cannot be defeated.** One of the subtle messages that Halloween brings is that all you can do with evil is 'appease' it with an offering and hope that it will go away. As Christians we know better – when we have submitted our lives to God we can 'Resist the devil and he will flee from you' <sup>James4:7</sup> We are made for victory and to do war with spiritual powers and principalities.

Let's not forget: Jesus said: '**I am the Light of the World**' <sup>John8:12</sup>.

As a church we continue to work with our local schools and families to keep the focus on celebrating this light with happy pumpkin carvings and songs about God's goodness. Why not carve a **Happy Pumpkin** or light a candle, place it in a jar or lantern and have it shining out on your windowsill this Hallows Eve, as a reminder of all the things we are grateful for. More and more UK churches and their members are starting to be pro-active in combatting the sinister dangers of Halloween. Wouldn't it be wonderful if more and more of us started to do the same?



On Cold and dark and wintry nights,  
many fear the worst; especially in October and on  
the 31<sup>st</sup> - But though the dark may trouble me  
there's nothing I should fear, for shadows have no  
power to scare when Jesus He is near.  
For God is always by my side, morning, noon and night.



Jesus is my Champion He said ...

**I AM THE LIGHT!** ©2012



The Lord is my Light  
and my Salvation  
<sup>Psalm 27:1</sup>

Following **Jesus** is like being a  
**Pumpkin**

- 1) **God** lifts you up, takes you in and washes all the dirt off you.
- 2) He creates a **new** smiling face in you.
- 3) He brings you to **life** by putting His **light** inside of you, so you can shine out for others.

Have some fun this season carving your pumpkins and think of how wonderful Jesus is as you do it!

**Jesus said**  
"I am the **LIGHT** of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness"



# Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

## October 2024

	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 Oct	Sycamore Hall – Communion Service in the lounge –				
6 Oct	<b>The Gathering</b> Benefice Family Communion <b>St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am</b>				Evening prayer by telephone
13 Oct	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Café Style	12.30pm Soup Harvest & Bread Sale	Evening prayer by telephone
20 Oct	Morning Prayer	Family Service	Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
26 Oct		Music from the Movies 2 2pm			
27 Oct	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer & Pathfinders	Evening prayer by telephone

Free to a good home!



Leather sofa in good condition and meets current fire regulations. If you are interested, contact the office



**Rev Dave Clark**

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Administrator: Stephanie Durrant (work hours 1-5pm Tuesdays and Thursdays)