



Trinity 16-18
Bible Sunday

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

October 2025

Tel: 01969 667553 Email: office@upperwenben.org
www.upperwensleydalechurch.org



Edition Number 119

From the Vicarage

It's been heartening to see and hear the rivers and becks tumbling with fresh water once again after the drought experienced through the summer months, but even after the recent downpours and dramatic pictures of flooding at Haylands Bridge reaching the national media, a lot more rain is needed before the hosepipe ban will be lifted!

One of the effects of the drought has been the 'stress' suffered by our local trees, encouraging them to shut down their external systems earlier than usual in a self-induced strategy for survival. To preserve water at their core, trees have been shedding branches and losing leaves earlier than usual making many of us think that autumn has arrived earlier this year.

External signs can be a helpful barometer and indicator as to what is going on in hidden places and there have certainly been plenty of such signs in our own nation in recent weeks to suggest that hidden tensions and anxieties are increasing and that stress fractures are beginning to show themselves. Indeed, the very reporting of such issues is adding to the problem with the World Health Organisation identifying the incessant 24/7 culture of revolving news creating what they are terming 'Media Overload'. Life in Wensleydale may often seem and feel removed from such cares and concerns, but they are real enough and close enough.

So; as Church, how are we supposed to respond? What can we do? ... **PRAY.**

Paul in his first letter to Timothy reminds and urges him and the early Church that: '*... petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*' ¹Tim.2:1ff

Worship and prayer draw us close to the Lord, to hear and know His will and to receive the strength we need to carry on. We are not called to shut down to preserve ourselves but to draw close to our source of Life and Refreshing. The imagery of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah is helpful here as he encourages us to abide *in* and *with* God in worship and prayer that we might be like: '*.. a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river ... its leaves will be green, sustained in drought and it will remain fruitful.*' ^{Jer.17:7-8}

Let's continue to give thanks for all the Lord has done, is doing and *will* do amongst us, with us and *through* us. We are not short of things to cry out to the Lord over but this should always be preceded with praise and thanksgiving for who He is. The Lord is sovereign – He rules and He reigns. Alleluia! Hold steadfast to his word and pray that through the challenges of these days that many will come to a 'knowledge of the truth'.

Rev Dave.

The next 'Gathering' will be on **Sunday 5 October**
at 10:30am at St Oswald's in Askrigg



Giving our Resources to God



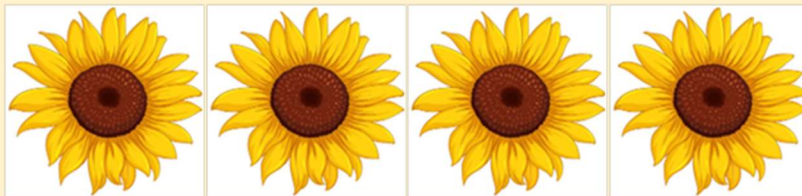
During September we have focused our Biblical teaching on the subject of God's Generosity to us, the abundance of His provision to us, our attitude of gratitude to Him, the reality that 'God Owns it All' and at this gathering of the Benefice we conclude with what the Bible teaches us about what our response should be to Him. Much of this teaching is recorded and available for you to listen to.

'The Gathering' was introduced to enable the Church in the Benefice to meet together, to learn together and to encourage one another by worshipping together.

We hope to welcome you on Sunday Morning

Blessed to be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church

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



Sunflowers!

Did you plant any of the sunflower seeds that Dave gave out in a Gathering service early this year? If so we would love to see your pictures or stories about how well they grew!

Email the office office@upperwenben.org



**The Diocesan Farewell Service
for The Bishop of Leeds,
The Rt Revd Nick Baines
and his wife, Linda
at Ripon Cathedral
Sunday 23rd November, 2025 at 3.30pm**

To book please follow the link below

[A Diocesan Farewell to Bishop Nick - Ripon Cathedral](#)

Please note seating is limited

This is not a ticket

FROM THE BENEFICE CALENDAR



Funerals

30th Sept Lesley Coates Jones Busk/Aysgarth

Stay Connected and make the most of the Bible teaching taking place across the Benefice.



Search for:

'Rev Dave from Wensleydale'

Latest episodes include:

7th September - Absurd Generosity
14th September - Lost & Found
21st September - God Owns It All
28th September – Attitude of Gratitude

Available on Apple podcasts and Spotify



Join us for Evening Prayer

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 half an hour service of prayer and reflection



REAL ADVENT CALENDARS

The first Real Advent Calendar was launched in 2013. Twelve years on it is still the only one which is Fairtrade, includes a 24 page Christmas story and which supports charitable work in the UK and abroad. Each year leading artists are approached to illustrate the Christmas story books and over 1.2 million calendars have been sold with more than 3 million people experiencing the Christmas story through a Real Advent Calendar.



Meaningful Features:

- Foiled for freshness
- 25 Festive chocolates made from a quality Fairtrade blend-30% cocoa
- 24 Page Christmas story activity book
- Behind each of the 25 windows there is a line from the Christmas story with a colourful matching picture.
- £300 children's prize competition
- Palm oil free
- Charitable donation
- Recyclable box and tray
- Packed in hygienic wrap
- Made, designed and produced in the UK

This is a good news story and worth sharing and encouraging other to go ethical this Christmas. If we buy the milk calendars in cases of 18 they cost £4.95 and delivery is free.

It's a great way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. Contact the office to place your order by 31st October.



AT LOWLANDS FARM, ASKRIGG

Sunday 28th September



St Margaret's Church, Hawes

In association with
Roundthorn
COUNTRY HOUSE

**PROUDLY
PRESENT**

**Mal
Carruthers**



And

**Amy
Cockett**



MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES 3

Saturday Oct.25th 7:00pm



Admission Free

Refreshments available

Retiring donations for the
Organ Maintenance Fund



Exciting developments at Hardraw

The new solid oak noticeboard for St. Mary & St. John's church, Hardraw, financed by individual donations, will be erected in the churchyard very soon.

The large Cupressus trees have been removed, opening up the churchyard & allowing light to flood into the church. The cost of this work was paid for by the sale of unwanted stone plus some donations. Our church organ has been completely dismantled, repaired & re-assembled. This work was financed by money donated at the original installation in 2007, plus some very generous recent donations, for which we are extremely grateful.

Our Harvest Festival service will take place on 19th October 2025 at 10.30am. During the service the organ will be blessed & the new noticeboard dedicated. We hope you will be able to come along to this special service.

Wensleydale Filling Station



Thornborough Hall, Leyburn

Friday 10th October

Speaker: Michael Hepper - Northumberland

Michael Hepper was the vicar of Leyburn and Bellerby and Rural Dean for several years. After retirement he moved to Northumberland onto what became an equestrian centre run by his son, and he became a part time 'pizza chef' – something he'd always wanted to do.

Michael was involved with Wensleydale Filling Station right from the start in 2013, as it evolved from a United Service which had been running for 22 years. His guidance and support were invaluable as it was with King's Club where he was part of the leadership team.

ARE YOU GOOD WITH FIGURES?



Hardraw church is looking for a person to come alongside Sue, the current Treasurer, to learn the ropes and to eventually take over the accounts. If you are interested, please let us know in the Office and we will put you in touch.



Some thoughts on Halloween

October and November mark several significant days in the Church's calendar:

- 'All Hallows', ('All Hallows Eve') Halloween, on October 31st,
- 'All Saints' November 1st, and
- 'All Souls' on Nov 2nd.

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' - 'Allhallowtide'. 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 of 'Trick or Treat'.

It is widely believed that many Hallowe'en traditions have evolved from an ancient Celtic festival called [Samhain](#) (pronounced 'Sow-in') which was Christianised by the early Church. Samhain is a Gaelic word meaning 'end of the summer'. This festival is believed to have been a celebration of the end of the harvest, and a time of preparation for the coming winter. Goodbye to the months of fruitfulness as people prepared to accept and embrace a season of sterility and barrenness.

It is now understood that the early church missionaries chose to hold a festival at this time of year to honour and to remember with gratitude the lives of Christians (saints) who have died, in order to absorb existing native Pagan practices into Christianity, thereby smoothing the conversion process. It became a tradition to hold a Vigil Mass on 'All Hallows Eve' which often included a visit to the churchyard where candles were left. These processional candles were often placed inside gourds to protect the flame from draughts.

The latter half of the 20th century saw the rapid commercialisation of Halloween into what has now become a celebration of the grotesque and the macabre and the costumes and images that are on display and for sale have become increasingly graphic causing many children's organisations to ask the question, 'When is scary, *too* scary?'. That said, the predominant attitude remains, that it is still a night of harmless fun for the children that never harmed anyone and those who consider it otherwise are labelled as 'Party Poopers' or 'Kill Joys'. I would like to advocate that fun *and* the truth can exist alongside one another and I remain concerned about how secular Halloween promotes four big lies.

Principally:

- 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 subversive evil comes from inside our hearts. We need to guard our hearts and lips and minds.

'Out of the heart come evil thoughts' Matt.16:19

- 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 and sadly this kind of subversive and duplicitous behaviour is on the increase. The Bible tells us that:

'satan masquerades as an angel of light' 2Cor.11:14

3) **That evil is trivial.** I understand why as a parent you might tell your child that the scary character at the door is nothing to be worried about, but when we do, we run the risk of minimising 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'* Is.5:20

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. In the name of Christ, *'Resist the devil and he will flee from you'* James4:7
We are made for victory - to do war with spiritual powers and principalities and we do well to reveal this spiritual truth to those we love and care for.

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

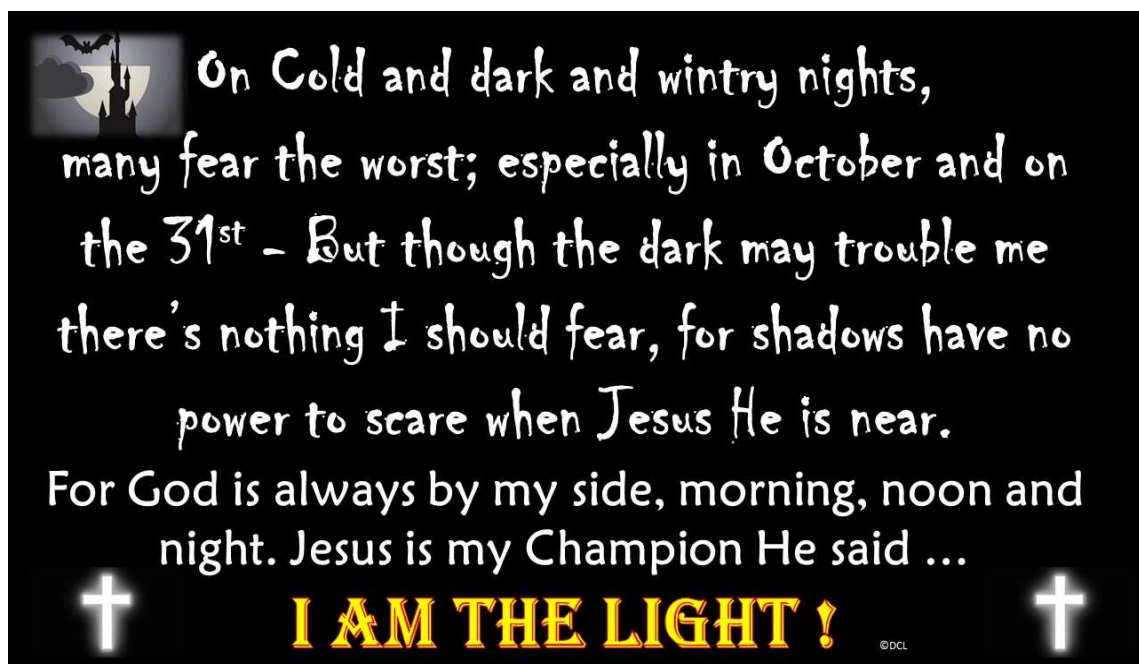
I am pleased to see how the Church in recent years has been working hard at reclaiming the real meaning of 'Halloween'. A celebration of that which is good and holy and wholesome. A celebration of Light.

As Church in the Upper Dale we continue to work with our local schools and families to keep the focus on celebrating this truth with fun activities such as **'Carve your Pumpkin Happy'** competitions, fun songs, activities and parties that remember God's goodness, love and power.

Why not carve your pumpkin with a happy face this year? 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?





Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

October 2025

	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	
2 Oct	Sycamore Hall – Communion Service in the lounge at 3.30pm				
5 Oct	The Gathering - Benefice Family Service St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
12 Oct	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style	12.30 Soup followed by Communion	Evening prayer by telephone
19 October	Family Harvest Communion At 10.30am	At Hardraw	Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
25 October	Music from the Musicals 3 St Margaret's Church, Hawes at 2pm				
26 October	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer Pathfinders and Explorers	Evening prayer by telephone

Prayer suggestions for October:

- *Peace in the world - peace for our nation - leaders and all in positions of authority and influence locally and nationally*
- *For the decision over a new Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of Leeds*
- *for the light of Christ to continue to shine brightly over the Dale as many get distracted with 'celebrating' Halloween*
- *For the sick and the lonely - how can we as individuals in Christ's Church intervene and help and be church?*
- *For finances and ensuring that the Church of Jesus Christ remains alive and fruitful in this place.*

Rev Dave Clark

The Vicarage, Burtsett Road, Hawes, DL8 3NP

Tel: 01969 667553 Email: office@upperwenben.org Web: www.upperwensleydalechurch.org

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