



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale 'Church in the Home'

October 2023



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From the Vicarage:

Surrounding ourselves with God's truth

I was recently taken with a report on a BBC Radio news broadcast that highlighted the latest advice from the 'International Society of Hypertension'^{Sept 15th}. In an attempt to reduce the number of high blood pressure cases that were on the increase across the nation they have released new guidance for us to follow. Amongst promoting a greater willingness to be grateful for all we have, quitting smoking and consuming less salt, the report says that we would all benefit from engaging in an act of meditation for approx. 45 minutes every day.

I love it when medical science finally catches up with God's advice. Jesus was a wonderfully holistic teacher, focussing on the body, mind and (essentially) our spirit. Throughout his life Jesus constantly promoted the daily need to have time on our own away from distraction, but, crucially, to spend this time in the presence of God in thoughtful reflection and prayer.

St Paul develops this further: *'Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things and the God of peace will be with you.'* Phil.4:8

I commend this wisdom to you ... it also saves a fortune on expensive classes!

With this in mind, please put the evening of **Saturday November 4th** in your diary as we bring a very different event to the area. **'Sing Good News Together'** will be an evening of doing precisely that. An opportunity to hear and to join in with singing songs about the life and hope that Jesus brings. Many of you will remember the 'Ayrton Family' who have blessed us with their music previously, and they join us once again. It promises to be a joyful evening as we celebrate together. Set the time aside now and prayerfully consider who it is that you might invite to accompany you.

When we seem surrounded by so much distressing news at home and overseas, there is no one who would not benefit from hearing and realising that the truth of God's Love remains. The worship song 'Surrounded' by Michael W Smith is often played (quite loudly) in the Vicarage – it has this key line: *'It may look like I'm surrounded, but I'm surrounded by you.'*

Let's take this opportunity to celebrate that truth and to invite others to hear and enjoy that truth as well. We look forward to welcoming you (and your friends) there!

With the Lord's blessing

'The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them' Ps.34:7



The next 'Gathering' will be on **Sunday 1 October**
10:30am at St Margaret's in Hawes



'The Importance of the Bible'

We look forward to welcoming you there!

Be a Blessing – Be Encouraged – Be Church

Wensleydale Filling Station



Thornborough Hall, Leyburn

Friday 13th October 2023 7-9pm

Speaker: Roger Carswell

Roger has visited the Filling Station on many occasions and always brings his infectious love for Jesus with him. He is a writer and evangelist who loves to share his faith wherever and whenever he can. Roger will bring various literature with him so it's good to be prepared with some cash to make a purchase!

Save
the
Date

Thursday October 19th – 3:30pm

Evening Prayer with Bishop Anna

Our new area Bishop of Ripon will be in the Benefice to lead a service of **Evening Prayer** at St Oswald's, Askrigg. She would love to see as many of you there as might be able to attend.

“Prayer is where the action is” John Wesley

Come along to one of our prayer meetings

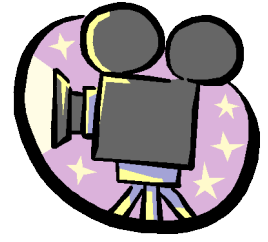
Did you know that there are regular prayer meetings held in the Benefice?
Everyone is welcome to come and join in.

St Margaret's Church, Hawes
Every Tuesday morning, 9.15am to 10am

St Oswald's Church, Askrigg
Alternate Tuesdays, 11am to 12 noon (3rd, 17th & 31st October)



Malcolm Carruthers Presents:
MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES



Saturday October 21st - 2.30pm

St. Margaret's Church, Hawes

An afternoon of organ music featuring well known classic movie themes.

In the last couple of years Malcolm has presented two Christmas Music organ concerts which have raised approximately £6,000 towards essential work required for the upkeep of the wonderful pipe organ in St Margaret's Church. "It's a great instrument to play with some really lovely voicings and the acoustic in the church is good enough to show this off. Unfortunately, time has taken its toll and the organ is really in need of a 'generational' overhaul and restoration similar to that undertaken on the organ at St. Oswald's in Askrigg"

Those who have attended these events before will be familiar with Malcolm's trademark style of audio/visual presentation which will be central to this event also.

From Westerns to War films, Action to Sci-Fi, Musicals to Drama, there will be something for everyone 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 refreshments will be served. There is no entry charge for the event, instead there will be the opportunity to make a retiring donation towards the organ restoration fund.

Hawes Junction: Mount Zion Chapel

Come and be part of the congregation on the **3rd Sunday** of every month at 2:30 for a wonderful faith lifting time of congregational worship in this historic chapel. The original building was constructed by navvies working on the Settle Carlisle Railway and provides scenic views of the Dandrymire viaduct and Garsdale Station.

Come with a favourite hymn or worship song in mind but take note: seats are occupied swiftly!





Mother's Union Reunion



I'm sure that this will interest many

St Matthew's Church in Leyburn is holding a Mother's Union Reunion service on Monday 9th October at 2pm in St Matthew's. This is for anyone in the Deanery who has had any connection with MU over the years, and would like to catch up with friends old and new. There will be Soup and Pud between 12 noon and 1.30pm which anyone is welcome to come along to if they wish, the service will be at 2pm, and will be followed by refreshments. If anyone has any MU memories, photos etc they would like to share please bring them on the day. If you think you may be coming please let Rev'd Gillian know either by email on gillian.lunn@leeds.anglican.org or 07502016476 (call or text).

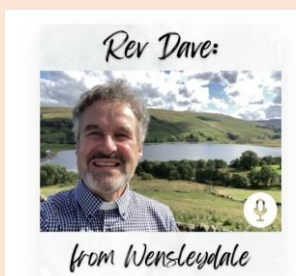
Margaret Newton

Many of us have fond memories of Margaret, our dear friend and sister in Christ who died earlier this year. Margaret's ashes will be interred in the top churchyard of St Margaret's Church in Hawes on **Sunday October 8th at 9am** and the family would welcome others to join them there.

Later that morning at **10:30** we have our ecumenical service which this month will be held in Gayle Chapel with Rev Melanie Reed. Margaret's family will be in attendance and there will be a time to remember Margaret's life with thanksgiving. I would be most grateful to receive some memories of Margaret that could then be shared in the service.

Please call or email me or post them through the Vicarage letterbox.

Thank You: Rev Dave



Listen Again ... Later!

Here's a new and more convenient way of catching up with any missed teaching or listening in again to a message. On the Apple Podcasts App on your iPhone or Mac or on the Spotify App search for:

Rev Dave from Wensleydale

September additions: **'Harvest'** from Lowlands Farm, **'We Believe'** – the Nicene Creed, **'Resolving Challenge in a Godly Way'** and **'Grace isn't Fair!'** – Matthew 20

Planning for the Future

The Church of England has partnered with **'Farewill'** (the National Will writing firm of the year 2020) to offer church members the opportunity to write a will for free. Writing a will and keeping it updated is the only way to make sure that our wishes are carried out after our deaths, regarding such things as our funeral service plans and finances.

Take a look at their website: farewill.com

Put the
Kettle on!



... and take a break to read and consider
Session Two in our series exploring
'Generosity'



Seasons of Giving

Issues of Stewardship - 2

Generosity: Our gifts and talents



At the heart of our faith is a personal response to a personal understanding of the wonder of God's love for us; that the greatest gift we can ever receive in this life is to know and to receive the gift of salvation through placing our faith in God's son, Jesus Christ. His sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate act of life changing generosity. So; if we have placed our trust in him, been '*Born Again*' ^{Jn.3:3} and received eternal life through a right standing before God the Father ... how should our lives look as a result?

Last month we explored the account of Jonah and his attitude towards God's generosity towards *all* people, even those we find personally disagreeable and difficult, and examined what attitudes we might be holding that prevent us from responding to God's call to live our lives generously.

This month I invite you to take a look at a rarely told event from the first book of Samuel in which King David meets and responds to two very different hearts and approaches to generosity.

I wonder what you consider are the things that you do well? What are your gifts and talents? Don't be shy .. we all possess something that we do well. Take a moment to consider what these might be. Hospitality? Music? Writing? Empathy? Care? Do you tend to use these gifts to enhance yourself, to build others up or to give glory to God? I wonder what would happen if we allowed God's Holy Spirit to guide us into using our gifts more effectively in His service? We might not know or see the results but the effect of acting with a heart of generosity can have far reaching consequences.



Turn to **1 Samuel 25:4-28** and read the account of the interaction of three different characters; **David**, the future King of Israel, **Nabal**, a wealthy but mean spirited man and his wife, **Abigail**.

David and his men have ensured the safety of Nabal's shepherds and flocks of sheep from marauding parties whilst they have been grazing the hills. During these months nothing went missing and nothing was asked of them but now, according to the culture of hospitality, Nabal should show his gratitude. He is perfectly able to do so, he is a very wealthy man but he violates this tradition by refusing David's request for anything he might

spare from the bounty of his harvest to feed his men and grievously insults David by doing so. Nabal asks an important question (v10-11), Abigail makes a request (v24-25) and David's response changes (v33-34).

It's striking how swiftly Abigail realises the danger of the situation and takes matters into her own hands to prevent disaster for Nabal and for David. As soon as she is made aware of the insult via an aggrieved servant, she responds with generosity out of her husband's great wealth: 'Abigail lost no time.'^{v18} She certainly rights a wrong on Nabal's behalf but she also saves David from his own anger and from incurring the judgement of God through him slaughtering those innocent of any crime. Her prudent action keeps David's sword 'clean' enabling him in the future to take the throne destined for him.

It's not too difficult to make a comparison between David's protection of Nabal's shepherd's, flocks and servants and of the Lord's protection of his people; you and me. There should have been gratitude and appreciation for all that had been received at David's hands but instead there is greed, ingratitude and a failure to understand the manner in which they had been blessed. It is Abigail who averts the bloodshed, it is Abigail who displays her gratitude and it is Abigail who gives what is due out of her own blessings and her husband's riches. But there is more. Abigail absorbs the blame for her husband's foolish and selfish actions and response. How do you feel about her actions? Was it the right decision?

In the end this story had a happy ending (not necessarily for Nabal^{v37}) but Abigail could not have known that when she acted as she did and then told her husband of her actions. Sometimes we need to be prepared to take risks when seeking to live with generous hearts within God's will.

I wonder what you consider to be reasonable when it comes to acts of generosity. Where might you place a limit? Why? What is it that holds us back from living with truly generous hearts? How prepared are we to take criticism and face danger in order to ensure that the right thing is done?

Prayer:

God of infinite grace

Thank you for your love for us. Help us to listen to your calling in our lives.

Help us to be prepared to spread your light in the darkness, that your love might be known throughout this Dale. Give us Lord, we pray, a generous heart towards everyone around us.



Saturday November 4th 7:30-9pm

‘Sing Good News Together!’

An evening of Gospel Music and congregational singing with:

The Ayrton Family, Andy & Irene, Dave & Sarah


Hawes Market Hall: A retiring offering will be available in aid of the recent devastating Earthquake and Flood Relief



Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services

October 2023



	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	Evening Prayer 4pm
1 October	 The Gathering Benefice Family Communion St Margaret's Church, Hawes at 10.30am				Evening prayer by telephone
6 October	Sycamore Hall – Communion Service in the long Lounge – 10am				
8 October	Morning Prayer	Ecumenical Service Hawes	Holy Communion	12.30 Soup followed by Communion	Evening prayer by telephone
15 October	Holy Communion	'Jubilate' Family Service	Morning Prayer		Evening prayer by telephone
22 October	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style Service	Afternoon Prayer & 3.15 Pathfinders	Evening prayer by telephone
29 October	<i>Our 5th Sunday Event</i> Benefice Celebration Service <i>Our 5th Sunday Event</i> 10.30am St Oswald's Church, Askrigg				



Evening Prayer on Sunday

At Home

For some time now we have been offering the opportunity of sharing in a service of Afternoon/Evening prayer by telephone from 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 of someone who would appreciate the chance to do so. If that 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#**
 And then you are in: say 'Hello' or sit quietly and join a short service of prayer and reflection ...



New Podcast Page available to access audio recordings of teaching from the archives. Scan the QR code or search for **Rev Dave from Wensleydale** in Apple Podcasts

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