United Benefice of Skipton, Christ Church with Carleton, St Mary



Newsletter

OCTOBER 2025

Weekly Services

Christ Church

Sunday at 9.30am – Eucharist Wednesday at 9.30am – Eucharist

St Mary's

Each Sunday at 11.15am

3rd and 5th Sunday – Bread Wine and Worship

2nd and 4th Sunday – Parish Eucharist

1st Sunday of each month: 8am BCP Communion; 11.15am Family Praise

Contact Details

Vicar of Christ Church, Skipton & St. Mary's Carleton Revd Canon Kathia Shoesmith

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The Parish Office for the Benefice of Christ Church with Carleton St. Mary

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OCTOBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Wednesday 1 October Remigius, bishop, 533 Anthony Ashley Cooper (Earl of Shaftesbury), social reformer,1885	Nehemiah 2.1–8; Psalm 137.1–6; Luke 9.57–end
Thursday 2 October	Nehemiah 8.1–12; Psalm 19.7–11; Luke 10.1–12
Friday 3 October George Bell, bishop, ecumenist, peacemaker, 1958	Baruch 1.15-end or Deuteronomy 31.7-13; Psalm 79.1-9; Luke 10.13-16
Saturday 4 October Francis of Assisi, friar, deacon, 1226	Baruch 4.5–12, 27–29 or Joshua 22.1–6; Psalm 69.33–37; Luke 10.17–24
Sunday 5 October Harvest Thanksgiving	Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Psalm 100; Philipians 4.4-9 or Revelation14.14-18; John 6.25-35
Monday 6 October William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536	Jonah 1.1–2.2, 10; Canticle: Jonah 2.2–4, 7 or Psalm 69.1–6; Luke 10.25–37
Tuesday 7 October	Jonah 3; Psalm 130; Luke 10.38–end
Wednesday 8 October	Jonah 4; Psalm 86.1–9; Luke 11.1–4
Thursday 9 October Denys, bishop, and companions, martyrs c.250 Robert Grosseteste, bishop, philosopher, scientist,1253	Malachi 3.13–4.2a; Psalm 1; Luke 11.5–13
Friday 10 October Paulinius, bishop, missionary, 644; Thomas Traherne, poet, spiritual writer, 1674	Joel 1.13–15, 2.1–2; Psalm 9.1–7; Luke 11.15–26
Saturday 11 October Ethelburga, abbess, 675 James the deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7 th cent.	Joel 3.12-end; Psalm 97.1, 8-end; Luke 11.27-28
Sunday 12 October 17th Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 29.1,4-7; Psalm 66.1-11; 2 Timothy 2.8-15; Luke 17.11-19
Monday 13 October Edward the Confessor, king,1066	Romans 1.1–7; Psalm 98; Luke 11.29–32
Tuesday 14 October	Romans 1.16–25; Psalm 19.1–4; Luke 11.37–41
Wednesday 15 October Teresa of Aviah, teacher of the faith, 1582	Romans 2.1–11; Psalm 62.1–8; Luke 11.42–46
Thursday 16 October Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, bishops, martyrs, 1555	Romans 3.21–30; Psalm 130; Luke 11.47–end
Friday 17 October Ignatius, bishop, martyr, c.107	Romans 4.1–8; Psalm 32; Luke 12.1–7
Saturday 18 October Luke the Evangelist	Isaiah 35.3-6 or Acts 16.6-12; Psalm 147.1-7; 2Timothy 4.5-17; Luke 10.1-9
Sunday 19 October 18th Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 31.27-34; Psalm 119.97-104; 2 Timothy 3.14 - 4.5; Luke 18.1-8

Monday 20 October	Romans 4.20–end; Canticle: Benedictus 1–6; Luke 12.13–21		
Tuesday 21 October	Romans 5.12, 15, 17–end; Psalm 40.7–12; Luke 12.35–38		
Wednesday 22 October	Romans 6.12–18; Psalm 124; Luke 12.39–48		
Thursday 23 October	Romans 6.19-end; Psalm 1; Luke 12.49-53		
Friday 24 October	Romans 7.18-end; Psalm 119.33-40; Luke 12.54-end		
Saturday 25 October Crispin and Crispinian, martyrs, c.287	Romans 8.1–11; Psalm 24.1–6; Luke 13.1–9		
Sunday 26 October BIBLE SUNDAY	Isaiah 45.42-end; Psalm 119.129-136; Romans 15.1-6; Luke 4.16-24		
Monday 27 October	Romans 8.12–17; Psalm 68.1–6, 19; Luke 13.10–17		
Tuesday 28 October Simon and Jude, Apostles	Isaiah 28.14-16; Psalm 119.89-96; Ephesians 2.19-end; John 15.17-end		
Wednesday 29 October James Hannington, bishop, martyr, 1885	Romans 8.26–30; Psalm 13; Luke 13.22–30		
Thursday 30 October	Romans 8.31-end; Psalm 109.20-26, 29-30; Luke 13.31-end		
Friday 31 October Martin Luther, reformer, 1546	Romans 9.1–5; Psalm 147.13–end; Luke 14.1–6		

All Souls' Memorial Service

Thursday 30th October at 7.30pm at Christ Church

This is a Benefice service of Commemoration of deceased family and friends. If you would like someone to be remembered by name during that service, please add their name(s) to the list at the back of church. There will also be an opportunity during the service to light a candle in their memory. Everyone is welcome.

Benefice Autumn Nurture Groups

led by Revd Emma, will be meeting on Wednesday evenings, 7pm

- -19th November
- 26th November
- 3rd December
- 10th December

at Christ Church Hall

...details to follow.

AUTUMN AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

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SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2025, 9.30AM HARVEST

THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER, 7.30PM

MEMORIAL SERVICE (BENEFICE SERVICE)

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 9.15AM REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER, 6.30PM ADVENT CAROL SERVICE (BENEFICE SERVICE)

SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER, 4.00PM CHRISTINGLE (BENEFICE SERVICE)

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 6.30PM CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 11.30PM MIDNIGHT SOLEMN MASS

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

AT ST MARY'S

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER, 11.15AM HARVEST

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 10.45AM REMEMBRANCE SERVICE,

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER, 7.30PM CHRISTMAS CONCERT

WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 6.00PM CAROL SERVICE

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE,

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2026

SOLEMN MASS AT CHRIST CHURCH, 9.30AM

HOLY COMMUNION AT ST MARY'S, 11.15AM

News from # THE CHURCH



Do not 'co-opt' the cross to divide: Bishops join church leaders in message after rally

Published: 21/09/2025

A group of Church of England bishops and senior clergy have joined leaders from across denominations in speaking out against any "co-opting or corrupting" of the Christian faith and symbols to exclude others.

The bishops of Winchester, Manchester, Southwark, Croydon, Bradford, Woolwich and Kingston were among the signatories to a joint letter from church leaders voicing concern at the use of Christian symbols, particularly the cross, at last week's 'Unite the Kingdom' rally.

They joined with senior leaders in the Methodist, Baptist and Pentecostal churches; the Church of Scotland; the Salvation Army; the Catholic social action network Caritas and leaders of major cross-denominational groups such as the Evangelical Alliance and Churches Together in England in the letter which appears in the media today. Other signatories include the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Williams, leaders of Christian charities such as the Bible Society, CARE and the Oasis trust, as well as prominent clergy and theologians.

The letter acknowledges that many of those involved in the rally felt a "deep sense of frustration at feeling unheard and forgotten in the democratic process" but that it also included "racist, anti-Muslim and far right elements".

"As Christians from different theological and political backgrounds, we stand together against the misuse of Christianity," they write.

"The cross is the ultimate sign of sacrifice for the other.

"Jesus calls us to love both our neighbours and our enemies and to welcome the stranger.

"Any co-opting or corrupting of the Christian faith to exclude others is unacceptable."

Bishops welcome recognition of Palestinian state

Published 21/09/2025

A group of bishops with a close interest in the Holy Land have welcomed the announcement that the UK has formally recognised a Palestinian state.

The Bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun, the Church of England's lead bishop for the Middle East, together with the Bishops of Chelmsford, Gloucester and Norwich, said the decision could help undercut extremist narratives and strengthen moderates.

The announcement by the Prime Minister, Keir Starmer – coordinated with similar moves by the governments of France, Canada, Australia and Portugal – came on the day that churches held a day of prayer for peace in the Middle East.

The bishops said: "We welcome the decision of His Majesty's Government to recognise Palestinian Statehood - one that many bishops have advocated for over 10 years.

"We hold that it is the reasonable aspiration of all peoples to belong to a state and enjoy the merits of full and active citizenship on their own lands.

"The British Government recognised Israel's right to self-determination and statehood in 1950, but it has delayed till now recognising Palestinian statehood as the inalienable right of the Palestinian people. This decision now provides much needed parity of esteem and equal status for both peoples.

"This decision will not alleviate the horrors unfolding in Gaza today – horrors that a UN Independent Commission of Inquiry described last week as genocide. Neither will it end the intensifying levels of settler violence, house demolition and administrative detention that we are witnessing across the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

"But, it does offer all Palestinians the hope of a future free from occupation and violence not only for them but for all future generations. It sends a strong moral and political signal that this occupation is unjust and untenable and must be brought to an end through negotiations.

"Recognising Palestinian statehood does not reward terrorism, but rather it undercuts extremist narratives and strengthens moderates. It gives the Palestinian Authority the legitimacy and pressure it needs to govern responsibly and to work towards the implementation of a two-state solution that provides for the creation of a sovereign, independent and viable Palestinian state – living in peace and security, side by side with Israel.

"Other actions by the UK Government – humanitarian, political and economic – must now accompany recognition. But recognition is essential, as a step towards

the attainment of equal rights and the settling of a long standing debt that Britain owes the Palestinian people."

- The Bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun (House of Lords Lead Bishop for the Middle East)
- The Bishop of Chelmsford, Guli Francis-Dehqani
- The Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek
- The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher



Farewell to the Rt Rev Nick Baines

A special Diocesan Farewell Service is being held at Ripon Cathedral on Sunday 23rd November at 3.30pm to the Rt Rev Nick Baines – the first Bishop of Leeds – on his retirement. Please note that seating is limited and seats will be unreserved. To book a seat, please click on the link below.

https://riponcathedral.org.uk/events/a-diocesan-farewell-to-bishop-nick/



Generosity Week 2025 runs from Sunday, September 28 to Sunday, October 5, and churches across the diocese are being encouraged to get involved.

Generosity Week is an annual event where churches are invited to explore God's generosity through eight days of service and worship materials.

Together churches are asked to reflect on God's generosity and explore how to grow generosity in our churches.

Developing a generous culture is essential for enabling our churches to have a sustainable and growing ministry, and the week is a chance to develop a deeper understanding of God's generosity and how we can live more generously in our daily lives. Generosity Week provides an opportunity for churches to focus on giving and generosity, providing ideas and resources to engage the whole church community. For further information on how to get involved with Generosity Week 2025, visit:

https://leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/finance-and-stewardship/stewardship-and-income-generation/generosity-week/

Poverty is a moral issue, not simply a social one

Church Times, 12 September 2025

Failure to help children and families soon will put a scar on the nation's conscience, writes *Gordon Brown*

CONCERN about poverty and calls to action for justice appear in more than 2000 verses in the Bible. One out of every 16 verses in the New Testament mentions poverty, and, in St Luke's Gospel, it is one out of every seven. There are at least 14 passages in Luke which refer to the tragedy of poverty. "Blessed are the poor" is probably the first and most memorable sound-bite in history. The text often translated as "The poor are always with us" actually means that we should always stand with the poor.

Yet, as a country, we seem to be forgetting the messages of the Sermon on the Mount and the parable of the Good Samaritan: that we should help those in need. Nor do we seem to remind people as often as we should that that there is a golden rule that is common to Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Sikhism, and unites every other faith with my own, which asks us to treat everyone as we would want to be treated ourselves: a shared view of our obligations to one another which we are not acting on today when we see the scale of need in our midst.

For too long, the political system has downplayed the scale of poverty in our country and the desperate sorrows of the 4.5 million children who are in poverty today. The condition of those in the greatest need is rarely discussed in Parliament, and is barely covered by newspapers and the media; so poor children suffer in silence and behind closed doors, their plight too often unreported, their pain unacknowledged, and their needs unaddressed.

And, even when politicians and the media do talk about poverty, they consider it more a social than a moral issue about human dignity; all too often, they peddle the wholly inaccurate allegation that children are poor because they have feckless, work-shy, incompetent parents, who are part of a dependency culture. The truth — that 70 per cent of them are growing up in working families on low pay — rarely merits a mention in any conversation.

BUT poverty — and particularly child poverty — is now so ingrained in our country, and so divides our society, that I consider it a moral issue: it is about how we value each child's life, and whether we can stand by as poor children live lives so different and detached from the mainstream that we are no longer one nation but two, the one barely recognising the needs of the other.

In fact, today, one million children are destitute or near-destitute, according to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation: that is, children who lack at least three of the basic essentials for civilised living, such as food, clothes, hygiene essentials, and a roof above their heads. This includes 180,000 children in England alone who are homeless — an increase of 15,000 in temporary accommodation in just one year.

Charles Dickens, 175 years ago, alerted us to the danger of nations so divided that people were living different lives and failing to understand one another. Today, according to the Children's Commissioner, children are living in Dickensian-level conditions; and yet we could begin to solve the problem of a broken support system tomorrow.

Breakfast clubs, free school meals, and family hubs can make a difference in helping poor children; so can help with housing, health, and education, as the experience of the Sure Start programme proved.

Multibanks, which I play a part in running, have given out 11 million goods in almost every region of Britain, helping children. Like foodbanks, faith-based charities, and anti-poverty groups, they mean that children do not have to be taken into care or that families are not forced into evictions. Breakfast clubs are worth £9 a week, and school meals £12 a week, for each child. Families have lost more than £70 a week, and, in some instances, £130 a week, because of the iniquitous two-child benefit rule, which has to be abolished.

IF WE fail to act soon, it will be a stain on our souls and a scar on our national conscience. This should concern all decent-minded people greatly. Social security was conceived on the principle that, as a community, we advance together or not at all.

Our Welfare State was built on the belief that progress was not one person succeeding at the expense of others, but all of us moving forward together. And so it is not anti-enterprise to say that those who have done well in enterprise should help those who have not had the chance to be enterprising; and it is not anti-wealth to say that those who have amassed wealth should do more to help the not-so-wealthy.

This is why I advocate a tax on the hugely profitable gambling industry, to be allocated to taking the first 500,000 children out of poverty (News, 8 August). One hundred and twenty years ago, when social reform was being demanded to deal with rising poverty, Winston Churchill called for an end to a world in which there was such a gap between the vast concentration of accumulated wealth and the gaping sorrows of the left-out millions.

The UK today can never be a community of equals if millions of children are, as now, permanently left out and left behind. This November's Budget must take the first steps in bridging this economic, social, and moral divide.

Gordon Brown, a former Prime Minister, is the president of the Multibank .themultibank.co.uk

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Churches well-placed to help families in need, charities' report suggests

By Madeleine Davies

Church Times, 24 September 2025

AMID cuts to statutory services, churches are well placed to serve as early responders to families in need, "before thresholds are met, before trust is broken, and before families reach breaking point", a new report says.

The report, *More than Sundays*, was produced by the Children and Families Alliance, comprising three Christian charities working with vulnerable children and families: Safe Families and Home for Good; Transforming Lives for Good; and Kids Matter. It describes the current landscape for early intervention. Local-authority spending on this fell by 46 per cent in real terms between 2010-11 and 2021-22, according to a study by Pro Bono Economics. In contrast, spending on "late intervention", such as youth justice and children in care rose by 47 per cent over the same period, making up four-fifths of spending on children's services.

"This shift is not just fiscal," the report says. "It reflects a fundamental transformation in how the system operates . . . locking councils into a reactive mode that responds only once harm has occurred."

There are currently 83,630 children in the care system in England: a 23-per-cent increase since 2014. The Department for Education reports that nearly one child in five is not meeting expected development milestones by the end of school reception year.

The charities that make up the Alliance provide parenting support, including parenting programmes, and practical help to families in need. *More than Sundays* estimates that, through a network of nearly 7000 volunteers, they have supported the lives of more than 33,000 children and more than 12,000 families, while "inspiring and equipping" more than 1800 new carers.

It calls on the Government to prioritise investment in early-intervention models delivered through community organisations, including churches, and to set up a cross-departmental working group to explore how partnerships between local authorities and faith-based organisations can be expanded and evaluated.

"Church-based support and interventions are uniquely relational, accessible, and stigma-free. They meet families where they are, quite often literally. In village halls, lunch clubs, toddler groups, coffee mornings, mentoring sessions, and home visits, church volunteers offer early support that feels informal, safe, and human. In this way, churches act as early responders, noticing the issues, responding to the overlooked, and providing help long before statutory services are triggered."

A strength of the Church is its "vast network of committed volunteers", the report says. "While there will inevitably be some roles in the children's social care sector that require salaried staff, there are many opportunities where trained volunteers can be deployed effectively around children and families who are in need."

The three charities report that families who are struggling "often demonstrate higher levels of trust and willingness to engage with volunteers rather than employees of statutory services. . . For many families, a mistrust of statutory officials can stem from feeling that individuals are 'paid to be there' whereas with volunteers, families are often encouraged by a person's willingness to give of their own time, energy and focus, knowing that they are not being financially paid in return."

Church-based groups are not an alternative to statutory provision, but a "vital complement", it says. "Their deep local presence, relational trust, and low-barrier access make them uniquely placed to reach families before problems escalate. In short, they are already part of the early help infrastructure. What's missing is consistent recognition and resourcing."

Upcoming Events....





We are always looking for volunteers to help deliver to our customers, or to choose the collections ready for delivery.

If you are interested in helping with this valuable service, then please ask at your local library, or contact us:

Telephone: 01609 533800 Email: libraries@northyorks.gov.uk

Find out more at northyorks.gov. uk/libraries-volunteering

Home Library Service customers say this about the service

"Excellent, invaluable, sanity saving!"

> I feel the service is very helpful... I'd be lost without itt"

'I look forward to seeing them every two weeks.

"Couldn't get through the days without my books, reading keeps me alive."

"I would be lost without it."

Telephone: 01609 534548 Email: skipton.library@northyorks.gov.uk

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The Home Library Service is a free personal service for people of all ages who live in North Yorkshire and are unable to physically visit their local library. This also includes mobility impairment, disability, illness, or because they are caring for someone.

Free home delivery service

The service is available on a permanent or temporary basis, for example, while recovering from an operation or illness. Our Home Library Service volunteers visit once every two weeks to drop off and collect items.

Collection service

If you prefer, we can choose your books and help you arrange for a friend or relative to collect and return them.

You can borrow...

- · books in standard or large print
- · audio books
- · DVDs
- · jigsaws

If you have access to the internet at home you can select your own books from the library catalogue and they can be collected or delivered to you.

You can also access a range of free resources including e-books, e-audio books, newspapers and magazines.

Explore more at

www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries



Just contact your local library, or call in to find out more information. Or you can complete the attached application form and send it to your local branch.

We will then contact you to arrange a home visit to discuss your reading and listening interests

You will receive a regular visit from our friendly volunteers each fortnight to deliver and collect your selection, we will let you know what day that will be





Alternatively, you can phone or send us an email:



Telephone: 01609 534548 Email: skipton.library@ northyorks.gov.uk

Or send the completed application form to: Skipton Library, High Street,

Skipton,

BD23 1JX







The Home Library Service



www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries

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www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy-notices

Please support....



Christian Aid is on a journey. We are building a world free from poverty, and based on dignity, equality, justice and love.

Our understanding of how to address and eradicate poverty is based on three pillars.

- Poverty We reach those most in need, in some of the hardest to reach places around the world.
- Power We challenge the systemic and structural causes of poverty by holding those in power to account.
- Prophetic voice We speak truth to power and build local and collective agency

To be part of our global movement for change, please visit: https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/

Skipton Food Bank

This is a list of standard items that we use to make up our food parcels. All items should be in good condition, unopened and not past their *use by* or *best before* date. This is a list of what currently is included in our food parcels

Food

- Tinned meat
- Custard
- Tinned fruit
- Instant Coffee
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Jam/Marmalade
- Jars of Pasta Sauce
- Tinned veg, e.g.

Sweetcorn, Peas, Carrots

- Rice
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned Fish
- Quick cook meals noodles, rice & pasta
- UHT milk
- Pasta
- Soup
- Beans
- Cereal

Toiletries

- Toilet roll
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Shower Gel
- Sanitary Products

We also collect

- Dog food
- Cat food
- Nappies (large size 5 or 6 most helpful)
- Baby wipes
- Household cleaning items and washing powder

Our heartfelt thanks. Together, we are able to provide much needed support to many households in Craven.



(part of the Inspire North charity group)

Foundation Craven delivers the following services in Craven District Council - Skipton and surrounding areas:

- Resettlement and Community Safety Scheme (RACS): A high performing short term support service working with offenders who have the highest need and pose the greatest risk to themselves and the community.
- North Yorkshire Young People's Pathway: This service offers young people the necessary support, advice and mediation to enable them to stay in their present accommodation. Where it is not possible for someone to remain at home, we have a variety of accommodation options to suit their needs.
- Mental Health Scheme: This service takes referrals from many places, including
 the Community Mental Health Team, GP, hospitals, substance misuse agencies
 as well as self-referrals, for those with a severe and enduring mental health
 diagnoses. We offer a mixture of floating support and accommodation based
 supported housing.

Contact Email Craven@foundationuk.org Website: https://www.foundationuk.org/

Telephone: 01756 701195

Foundation Craven welcomes donations of:

Food items

Household goods

Soft furnishings (beddings, towels, cutlery)

 monetary contributions can be made online at https://www.foundationuk.org/donate/ or in the office across the road from Christ Church, at:

The Carriage Works, 3-5 Cross Street, Skipton BD23 2AH

(hours: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).