

The Erringden Eagle



Mytholmroyd & Cragg Vale News Nov 2025 Visit our website

www.erringdenbenefice.org.uk

If you are on Facebook why not join the group 'Friends of the Erringden Benefice'?



MYTHOLMROYD

GATHER AT MYTHOLMROYD COMMUNITY CENTRE - 1:45PM

REMEMBRANCE PARADE TO MEMORIAL GARDENS - 2:00PM

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE AT MEMORIAL GARDENS - 2:15PM

SERVICE & REFRESHMENTS AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH - 2:45PM

Events and activities in November

Date	St John's	St Michael's
Sat 1st		10am Wives coffee morning and cake stall in Erringden Room 11am Gardening group - all welcome
Sun 2nd	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 3rd	6.pm Yoga	10.30am BREW
Tue 4th	12-3pm Cragg Community Hubbub	Guild meeting — Lunch at Pecket Well 7.00pm PCC meeting
Wed 5th		
Thu 6th		9.30am Angels 6.00pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 7th	6.pm Yoga	9am Benefice prayers 7 for 7.30pm Quiz Night
Sat 8th		10am PCC Coffee Morning in Erringden Room
Sun 9th	9.30am Worship -	11am Worship REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SEE Front page
Mon10th	2.30pm YCA - AGM 6 pm Yoga	10.30am BREW
Tue11th	12-3pm Cragg Community Hubbub	
Wed12th		2.00pm Book Club
Thu 13th		9.30am Angels 6.00pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 14th	6.pm Yoga	9am Benefice prayers
Sat 15th		10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 16th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship 9.30am Angels

Date	St John's	St Michael's
Mon 17th	3.30pm PCC meeting 6.pm Yoga	10.30am BREW
Tue18th	12-3pm Cragg Community Hubhub	
Wed 19th		
Thu 20th	7.30pm History Group	6.00pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice 8.00pm Wives meeting—Craft evening
Fri 21st	6.pm Yoga	9am Benefice prayers
Sat 22nd		10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 23rd	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 24th	2-3pm Exercise Group 6.pm Yoga	10.30am BREW
Tue 25th	12-3pm Cragg Community Hubhub	
Wed 26th		
Thu 27th		9.30am Angels 6.00pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice 7.15pm Spotlight on 75
Fri 28th	6.30 for 7pm Whist Drive (last one until March 2026)	9am Benefice prayers 7.15pm Spotlight on 75
Sat 29th		10am Coffee in Erringden Room 2.15pm and 7.15pm Spotlight on 75
Sun 30th	9.30am Worship Christingle and community Lighting up the Valley	11am Advent Sunday Worship 2.30pm Confirmation service at St Mary's, Todmorden

Martin's latest sermon: St Michael's Mytholmroyd & St John's

19 October 2025 Proper 24

Luke 18:1-8

I miss the fact that Talitha, my border collie, always came running to see me. She seemed overjoyed when I appeared.

Thinking about this, it set me to wonder how excited we are when we come to God.

In this morning's gospel reading, Luke 18:1-8 Jesus focuses on prayer - using the parable of the Unjust Judge to encourage us to stick at prayer.

We should pray so we don't lose heart.

and we should recognise that Prayer is very precious to God.

Prayer is precious and special

It is important to note **what Jesus is not saying** with Parable of the Unjust Judge. He is NOT saying that God is as parsimonious in answering prayer as the unjust judge was frugal in dispensing justice.

Jesus is not telling us to imitate the cowardly judge, but it seems right to think through the story and think of our own prayer to the Father.

God loves us. After all, God loves us so much that He gave His only begotten son to death to atone for our sins and raised Him up and ascended Him to His right hand so we become His adopted children.

Looking at the context of Jesus parable:

Judges were notoriously corrupt in Jesus' day and often taking bribes to influence the outcome. Clearly this widow could not offer any kind of bribe.

Yet, in this parable, her persistence won through.

What is Jesus saying: If the Unjust Judge in this parable gives justice to the woman - surely God - who wants to answer our prayers - will answer prayer.

For me, there are three challenges from this passage:

1. God is looking for people who are persistent prayers.
2. He is looking for people to be changed through prayer
3. He is looking for people who have time for him.

1 Let us look at the first of these challenges:

God is looking for people who are persistent in prayer

St. Luke gives us this parable about the necessity for us to pray always even if we get tired of praying for the same thing month after month, year after year.

I heard on Thursday, at the Clergy Study day, that Joy comes when God breaks in, but we cannot choose when and where he breaks in.

If we pray for a healing, or a solution to a financial crisis, or for a friend or relative to repent and come to Christ and His Church, we cannot impose a deadline on God's reply. He's not an unjust judge, but He is the judge and knows what is best for everyone.

God has His own timetable, and we must respect it.
The Jews in Jesus' day, limited prayer to three times a day, so that they wouldn't wear God out by their pestering.
Jesus taught quite the opposite.
God is glad when we pray.
And the real danger is that we will wear out first.
That we will run out of energy and give up praying.

It is worth noting that the woman came to the judge because she expected to win. In other words, she had faith in receiving a fair judgment from the judge eventually.

I meet people who really don't expect God to answer prayer.
And it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.
There may be some of us here today who find prayer very hard.
Sometimes the reason we don't seem to get anywhere may be because our motivation is suspect:

We may see prayer as some sort of Divine insurance policy.
prayer something we do to appease an angry God.
Maybe we see it simply as a religious duty. Like cleaning our teeth in the morning. Somehow it is good for us
Many people know God wants us to pray but have no real idea why. They certainly don't think that God will actually intervene on their behalf

Maybe we pray because we think it makes us better people
In Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector the Pharisee thought he was a cut above the Tax Collector, because he prayed and fasted regularly whereas the Tax Collector didn't

2. The second challenge is that God is looking for people to be changed through prayer

As it says in 2 Chronicles 7.14
If my people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land.
If we don't repent of our wrong ways and come in a humble attitude - we can forget to pray.

That's why we always start our services with a prayer of confession.
It is when a man or a woman repents – God can really use him or her

Story: In the 18th Century, John Newton was the slave trader. He swore and cursed. He sold slaves. He nearly lost his life in a storm and it was in that storm that he found God.

He renounced his evil ways and eventually became a vicar in the Anglican Church.

He helped William Wilberforce in outlawing slavery in the British Empire.
He was one of the leading men of the Evangelical Revival in England.
You may know him as the author of the famous hymn: "Amazing Grace".
When we repent and pray `god can use each one of us.

3. The third challenge is that God is looking for people who have time for Him.

Prayer is communication between God and us – just as we might talk to our friends

Conversation needs to be two way. We don't go a see our doctor, pour out all our troubles and pains and then say thank you and leave. No we listen to what the doctor has to say. How much more should we stop and listen to what God has to say.

We need time for private prayer with God.

We need to shut ourselves away and have this intensely personal time with God. The devil is out to get us so busy - that we overlook our time with God. And it is especially true for vicars!

Jesus said in St. Matthew's Gospel

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you they have their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room close the door and pray to the Father who is unseen. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. (Matt. 6: 5/6)

Jesus - after intense ministry- used to go away, even from his closest disciples to pray quietly.

St Mark records the following in the life of Jesus:

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and went off to a solitary place where he prayed. (Mk 1:35)

If Jesus needed time alone with God, then surely, we will even more.

We need also to LISTEN to the Voice of God. You will not hear the response from God until you LISTEN to Him.

As it says in the Psalms,

"Be Still and Know that I am God." Ps. 46:10

In the hustle and bustle of life – we need to slow down – draw aside and spend time with our heavenly Father

What a privilege it is to call God – Dad – because that is the meaning of the word ABBA

In conclusion:

The three challenges from the parable in the Gospel reading this morning are:

God is looking for people who are persistent prayers.

He is looking for people to be changed through prayer and

He is looking for people who have time for Him.

Amen.

SPOTLIGHT ON 75: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION

27th - 29th November 2025

St. Michael's Church Hall, Mytholmroyd

ticketsource.co.uk/MSMA



NODA
For every stage



St Michael's choir trip to Scarborough

Each year we choristers have animated discussions with David, our revered choirmaster, about our next trip to sing Evensong. Not very long ago, this was quite a big event. We hired a coach which was filled with choir and many loyal members of the congregation, known affectionately as our 'groupies' ! We generally went to well-known Cathedrals or Minsters in towns where our friends could spend time in an interesting way while we rehearsed.. These places include Bridlington, Durham, Newcastle, Ripon and Cartmel. Sadly, both choir and congregation numbers have diminished, and coaches are too expensive. So this year, after other several other suggestions, David mentioned St. Martin-on-the-Hill, in Scarborough. There were quite a few reasons for this. The present incumbent, James Kenny, had been one of his organ scholars, having lived in this area, attended Rishworth school and even having taken a group of like-minded friends to visit St. John's in the Wilderness! Also many of us had spent time in Scarborough and had happy memories of that. Not least for David, was the fact that the church possesses a fine organ, in-

stalled in 1890 by the notable London firm of Henry Willis.

Margaret booked a community minibus, complete with driver, and we set off on Saturday 27th. September for our journey to East Yorkshire. Our driver, Keith, was an amenable man and made it clear that we must tell him if we needed to stop. As it turned out, we just had one 'Comfort' stop of around 30 minutes and arrived at about 1:30 pm. There were the usual concerns about parking until Keith had a word with the attendant, mentioning problems with mobility. The attendant said he was the only person on duty, and we were fine to stay there for the duration! Lesley and Eric, who had travelled by car, kindly brought our folders and met us there.

From the very beginning, we were warmly welcomed by the staff there and by the church wardens, David Wain and Cathy Cook, and the very friendly vicar, James. I, for one, was quite overwhelmed by the splendour of the building which is, according to the information, 'A perfect High Victorian church which was built in response to the rapid urban development of the South cliff that had taken place since 1845.'

It was designed by George Frederick Bodley, who had been commissioned by a Miss Mary Craven, a wealthy benefactress and her generosity ensured the success of the project. We enjoyed refreshing drinks and snacks before our rehearsal. This went well; we adjusted to the seating - though the Sopranos suffered slight discomfort on narrow sloping pews obviously designed for small choir boys!



Next, we were pleased and quite

humbled to be taken to the 'Beggar's Belief' cafe at the rear of the church, seated round a table and treated to piles of delicious sandwiches, homemade quiche, soup, scones, cakes and hot drinks. These were served by a team of attentive volunteers, who waited on us with grace and kindness. The vicar, James, told us that the cafe and shop had begun ten years before and had made a huge difference to church attendance. Local people became involved and began to take an interest in services.

We had some free time before Evensong which meant we were able to look more closely at the church's interior. Not called 'Scarborough's hidden gem' - for nothing, this beautiful building houses an astonishing collection of uniquely designed windows, exhibiting Pre- Raphaelite glass and decorations by such notable people as William Morris, Edward Burne-Jones, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Philip Webb and Ford Maddox Brown. The pulpit and east wall are decorated with paintings designed by Rossetti, Morris and Burne- Jones. Depictions of the Stations of the Cross are also in evidence, this being of a high Anglican persuasion.

We managed to walk towards a view of the sea and the beautiful bay before returning for Evensong. As we processed in our robes, we were surprised to see quite a large congregation (unusual these days for Evensong). The service went well. David, as usual, was outstanding, playing and singing to accompany our choir. John Houlston was the soloist as we sang the anthem, 'Seek Ye the Lord'. This he did clearly and confidently. We were also grateful to have Julie Taylor and Joanne Sparkes, Eric and Lesley's daughter and their strong beautiful voices with us!

As we left, the vicar and wardens gave thanks to us, the cafe staff offered us more food and we walked towards our minibus feeling grateful for the privilege of having taken Evensong in such a beautiful, unique church - and most of all for the extremely kind hospitality and Christian fellowship from its members. Where next? We wonder!

Christine Jackson

News from St Michael's

- A big thank you to Graham Hill for all the work he has done repairing the churchyard wall next to the gate.
- St Michael's Amateurs have been entertaining us for 75 years and will be celebrating this with a show, 'Spotlight on 75', with performances on 27th –20th November. See poster on page 7 for details of how to book tickets or speak to Roy!
- Bishop Smitha is holding a confirmation service at St Mary's Todmorden at 2.30pm on Sunday 30th November. Ali and Brenda will be confirmed. All are welcome to attend and give them our support.
- Two coffee mornings with delicious homemade cakes for sale will take place this month! The Wives hold theirs on Saturday 1st November followed by the monthly PCC event on 8th November. Both start at 10am.

News from St Johns

- On November 30th get prepared for the Lantern walk from the Robin Hood to Church followed by the switching on of the community Christmas lights and refreshments.
- Join the wreath making event on Monday December 1st at 7pm. See the poster on page 12 for details ‘
- The annual Christmas Cracker event takes place on December 12th at 6.3.0 pm with the Hebden Bridge Junior Brass Band in attendance. See poster on page 13 for details.

St John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Cragg Vale



Christmas Wreath **Making**



Monday December 1st from 7pm

**Come and make your own
Christmas wreath.**

£22 – includes wreath base,
greenery, wire, twine, ribbon, dried
oranges etc. plus a glass of wine and
nibbles.

There will be a donations bar for wine and
beer.

**Feel free to bring along extra greenery
and decorations plus secateurs if you
have them!**

Book your place by emailing Julie at
gjwsa2@gmail.com or texting 07443420907



Come and join us for a



Cragg Christmas Cracker!



St John's Church, Cragg Vale

Friday December 12th @ 6.30pm

Featuring

Hebden Bridge Junior Band



Adults £12 Children (u12) £6

Family ticket £32 (2 ad & 2+ children)



Supper, Mulled Wine/juice
and Crackers included!

Book your place at gjwsa2@gmail.com or text to
07443420907

Santa's Grotto

**at St Michael's Church
Mytholmroyd**



Admission Free

Stalls

Saturday 13th December

10.00 to 12.30

(Santa here from 10.30 to 12.00)

£2.00 to meet Santa (includes gift)

**Bacon and Sausage Butties and tea
and coffee on sale**

Rotas St Michael's	Stewards	Readers	Prayers	Coffee
2nd November	Eric Linda K	Margaret	Christine	Jackie Kathryn
9th November	Mary, Pam, Louise	Daphne	Margaret	Sheila Libby
16th November	Libby Ali	Gill J	Jackie	Madeline Sandra
23rd November	Jenny Sheila P	Christine	Daphne	Nancy Gloria
30th November	Gloria Sue L	Libby	David	Christine Margaret
7th December	Madeline Daphne	Roy	Geraldine	Sandra K Gill J

Rotas St John's	Stewards	Readers	Coffee	Communion assistant
2nd November	Anne B Sylvia	Geraint	Carol	Ann
9th November	Sue Howard	Ed	Amanda	Julie
16th November	Ed Geraint	Sylvia	Viv	Amanda
23rd November	Sue Anne B	Angela	Sylvia	Ed
30th November	Sylvia Amanda	Ann	Julie	Pat
7th December	Ed Howard	Pat	Carol	Sylvia

	Readings	Gospel
2nd November All Saints	Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18 Ephesians 1.11-23	Luke 6.20-31
9th November Remembrance Sunday	Job 19.23-27a 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-17	Luke 20.27-38
16th November 2 before Advent	Malachi 4.1-2a 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13	Luke 21.5-19
23rd November Christ the King	Jeremiah 23.1-6 Colossians 1.11-20	Luke 23.33-43
30th November Advent Sunday (Year A)	Isaiah 2.1-5 Romans 13.11-14	Matthew 24.36-44
7th December Advent 2	Isaiah 2.1-5 Romans 13.11-14	Matthew 24.36-44

Our Interregnum Prayer

All knowing and loving Father, we bring before you
our three parishes of St John's, St Mary's and St
Michael's as we look forward to the appointment of
our New Vicar.

We pray that the person you are calling to lead us
will hear and respond to that call. We ask that your
Holy Spirit will prepare us to respond, with open
hearts and minds, to all the future holds for our
three churches and the communities around them.

We ask this in our Saviour's name. **Amen**

Please send articles and detail of events for December to Margaret by

15th November