

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



Newsletter

DECEMBER 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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Ministry Team

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

Tel: 01756 699270 (answerphone)

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DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

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| Monday 1 December <i>Andrew the Apostle</i> | Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 19.1-6; Romans 10.12-18; Matthew 4.18-22 |
| Tuesday 2 December | Isaiah 11.1–10; Psalm 72.1–4, 18–19; Luke 10.21–24 |
| Wednesday 3 December <i>Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552</i> | Isaiah 25.6–10a; Psalm 23; Matthew 15.29–37 |
| Thursday 4 December <i>John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c.749. Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637.</i> | Isaiah 26.1–6; Psalm 118.18–27a; Matthew 7.21, 24–27 |
| Friday 5 December | Isaiah 29.17–end; Psalm 27.1–4, 16–17; Matthew 9.27–31 |
| Saturday 6 December <i>Nicholas, bishop, c.326</i> | Isaiah 30.19–21, 23–26; Psalm 146.4–9; Matthew 9.35–10.1, 6–8 |
| Sunday 7 December 2nd Sunday of Advent | Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-7, 18, 19; Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12 |
| Monday 8 December Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Isaiah 35; Psalm 85.7–end; Luke 5.17–26 |
| Tuesday 9 December | Isaiah 40.1–11; Psalm 96.1, 10–end; Matthew 18.12–14 |
| Wednesday 10 December Ember Day | Isaiah 40.25–end; Psalm 103.8–13; Matthew 11.28–end |
| Thursday 11 December | Isaiah 41.13–20; Psalm 145.1, 8–13; Matthew 11.11–15 |
| Friday 12 December Ember Day | Isaiah 48.17–19; Psalm 1; Matthew 11.16–19 |
| Saturday 13 December <i>Lucy, martyr, 304 Samuel Johnson, moralist, 1784</i> Ember Day | Ecclus 48.1–4, 9–11 or 2 Kings 2.9–12; Psalm 80.1–4, 18–19; Matthew 17.10–13 |
| Sunday 14 December 3rd Sunday of Advent | Isaiah 35.1-10; Psalm 146.4-10 <i>or Canticle: Magnificat</i> James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11 |
| Monday 15 December | Numbers 24.2–7, 15–17; Psalm 25.3–8; Matthew 21.23–27 |
| Tuesday 16 December | Zephaniah 3.1–2, 9–13; Psalm 34.1–6, 21–22; Matthew 21.28–32 |
| Wednesday 17 December <i>O Sapientia Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer, founder of 'Save the Children', 1928</i> | Genesis 49.2, 8–10; Psalm 72.1–5, 18–19; Matthew 1.1–17 |
| Thursday 18 December <i>O Adonai</i> | Jeremiah 23.5–8; Psalm 72.1–2, 12–13, 18–end; Matthew 1.18–24 |
| Friday 19 December <i>O Radix Jesse</i> | Judges 13.2–7, 24–end; Psalm 71.3–8; Luke 1.5–25 |
| Saturday 20 December <i>O Clavis David</i> | Isaiah 7.10–14; Psalm 24.1–6; Luke 1.26–38 |
| Sunday 21 December 4th Sunday of Advent <i>O Oriens</i> | Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25 |

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| Monday 22 December <i>O Rex Gentium</i> | 1 Samuel 1.24–end; Psalm 113; Luke 1.46–56 |
| Tuesday 23 December <i>O Emmanuel</i> | Malachi 3.1–4, 4.5–end; Psalm 25.3–9; Luke 1.57–66 |
| Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve | 2 Samuel 7.1–5, 8–11, 16; Psalm 89.2, 19–27; Acts 13.16–26; Luke 1.67–79 |
| Thursday 25 December Christmas Day | Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12]; John 1.1-14 |
| Friday 26 December Stephen, deacon, first martyr | 2 Chronicles 24.20-22; Psalm 119.161-168; Acts 7.51-60 Matthew 10.17-22 (or) Acts 7.51-60; Psalm 119.161-168; Galatians 2.16b-20; Matthew 10.17-22 |
| Saturday 27 December John, Apostle and Evangelist | Exodus 33.7-11a; Psalm 117; 1 John 1; John 21.19b-25 |
| Sunday 28 December 1st Sunday of Christmas | Isaiah 63.7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2.10-18 Matthew 2.13-23 |
| Monday 29 December The Holy Innocents Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170 | 1 John 2.3–11; Psalm 96.1–4; Luke 2.22–35 |
| Tuesday 30 December | 1 John 2.12–17; Psalm 96.7–10; Luke 2.36–40 |
| Wednesday 31 December John Wyclif, reformer, 1384 | 1 John 2.18–21; Psalm 96.1, 11–end; John 1.1–18 |

**St Mary's 'Coffee Pot' is open each Friday
from 2pm – 4pm**

Benefice Autumn Nurture Groups

The remaining sessions of the meetings led by Revd Emma, will be on
Wednesday evenings, 7.00pm-8.30pm

- 3rd December

- 10th December

at Christ Church Hall

Each session will be a stand-alone and will close with a short optional
Compline.

United Benefice of Skipton Christ Church with Carleton St Mary

January 2026 Newsletter

Please send any Notices/articles for the January edition to
christchurchstmarysoffice@gmail.com before 22nd December.

Thank you.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

AT CHRIST CHURCH

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

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, 7.30PM
(**BENEFICE SERVICE**)

Nature Note

During a walk round Christ Church premises with the new church architect early in November, Sue Wrathmell (a long-standing member of the British Hedgehogs Conservation Society) noticed a hedgehog hibernating in an area outside the kitchen door on the south church wall.

She returned later, and after some tidying up in the area, she arranged a covering of some leaves, sheep wool and twigs over two large clay pot crocks - which hopefully, will keep the worst of the weather off the hibernating hedgehog and see it through to spring.



Sue said “It is always a wonder to see some of our wild nature in the urban setting, an encouragement to treat the church grounds with special care!”

To find out more about hedgehogs and hibernation, visit:

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hibernation-2/>



The Archbishop of York on the task of ending poverty.

One in five people across the United Kingdom are living below the poverty line. In Middlesbrough and Hull, two places in the diocese where I live and serve, recent statistics paint a shameful picture of the depth of poverty across neighbourhoods.

I have heard moving stories from charity leaders and staff who spend their waking hours making sure that families have the clothes, sanitary products, and basic appliances they need. I have met children who take empty lunchboxes with them into school so they can fill them up with food provided during the day, in case there is nothing for dinner when they get home.

I think most of us can sense deep in our bones that something is wrong here. This is a country with so much wealth, yet at the same time so many people are struggling to heat their homes and feed their families. Make no mistake, the scale of the challenge is significant and the pain is not equally shared. Children, disabled people, and people from some minority ethnic groups face particularly high and deep levels of poverty. But we must resist the pessimism which says that this is all too difficult for us to confront and change. Turning the tide on poverty is one of the moral missions of our times.

Poverty may be a pressing issue, but it is not a new one. This winter marks forty years since the Church of England published its landmark 'Faith in the City' report, a compelling call to action towards justice in urban areas. Faith in the City called first on the Church, and then on the Government, to shift its priorities towards supporting the poorest and most marginalised people and communities. The impact of the report was profound. It inspired many Christians of my generation to pursue ministry within the church, and it gave fresh energy, vision and purpose to our calling to serve the whole nation. Many of the projects run by churches today – from food banks to night shelters – have their roots in a report which reminded us to practise what we preach.

Faith in the City also reminded us that we cannot shy away from some of the structural issues which cause and exacerbate poverty. The report states: 'The exclusion of the poor is pervasive and not accidental. It is organised and imposed by powerful institutions which claim to represent the rest of us.' Norman Tebbit described 'Faith in the City' as Marxist, which wasn't an accurate reflection of the report's themes or conclusions, but it demonstrated that a nerve had been struck at the heart of government.

So where does all of this leave us today? I think we need to set out a clearer vision of how we tackle poverty and injustice. We need to articulate and embrace our shared responsibility to contribute and care for one another.

There is an argument to be won in defence of a welfare state which protects people in their moment of need, strengthening the Beveridge post-war settlement whilst remembering that we have an important role to play as citizens, both in caring for one another and recognising our shared stake in a society without poverty.

Some of the changes we seek can only be made by our political leaders. As the Budget approaches, I am mindful that the Prime Minister and Chancellor face difficult decisions as they seek to chart a fair and equitable economic course. But I cannot help thinking about those children in Middlesbrough with their empty lunchboxes. What will be in the Budget to give those children and their families hope that a better future lies ahead of them? Abolishing the two-child limit would not answer that question in full, but it would be an enormously helpful start.

Poverty causes despair and desperation in our communities. This is not what God longs for the world he created and loves. The task of ending poverty is significant and requires us to work together in partnership. I have the privilege of seeing so much good work taking place across the country– bringing together people of faith and goodwill – underpinned by a shared vision of what it looks like for people and communities to flourish, living lives free of poverty and able to pursue their aspirations.

There is a role for all of us as individuals in our communities, doing what we can to point towards a more different future, whilst calling on the Government to prioritise action which offers much-needed hope and opportunity.

Archbishop Stephens article is published in the Yorkshire Post, 26/11/25

Bishop Nick encourages all to have confidence at farewell service



The Rt Revd Nick Baines, retiring Bishop of Leeds, encouraged all to be confident in God, the Church and our context at his diocesan farewell service at Ripon Cathedral on Sunday, November 23.

Church members, civic representatives, leaders from other faiths and more gathered together to thank Bishop Nick and Linda for their years of service to the diocese, and to praise Bishop Nick for his resilience, character and skills shown in the creation of our young diocese.

Attendees included the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York; Johanna Ropner, the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire; Ed Anderson, the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire; the Most Revd Ezekiel Kondo, Archbishop of Sudan and Bishop of Khartoum; Bishop Ralf Meister, Bishop of Hanover; the Mayors and civic representatives of Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Boroughbridge, Harrogate, Knaresborough, Richmond, Skipton, Bedale, Wetherby and Calderdale; and more.

During the service Bishop Nick preached a sermon all about confidence, talking about we can be confident in the person of God, who keeps our future open and invites us all to be part of shaping that future.

Bishop Nick said: "Clarity, confidence and competence have been watchwords for our diocese over the last eleven years. "Confidence comes from having a clarity of what we're about, and the competence to have a go.

"We can have confidence in the person of God and the content of the Christian faith, and we need to be confident about the Church of England and its unique vocation to serve all people in our geographical area.

“We can also be confident in our context, that we have been called to this place and time because we have the gifts and imagination to fulfil the tasks before us.

“We are not people of despair, but people of hope, and we face our future with a vision for what it should be, and the imagination to make it so. “God is the wide space for our hope.”

The service began with a welcome from the Very Revd John Dobson, Dean of Ripon, before readings from Sir Andrew Lawson-Tancred, the High Sherref of North Yorkshire, and Linda Baines, Bishop Nick’s wife.

After sung worship led by members of St George’s Leeds, the prayers were led by the Revd Canon Rachel Firth, chair of the diocesan House of Clergy; Canon Matthew Ambler, chair of the diocesan House of Laity; the Worshipful Mark Hill KC, Chancellor of the Diocese of Leeds; Canon John Wood, former headteacher of St Aidan’s Church of England High School, Harrogate; the Revd Canon Matthew Pollard, Chaplain to the Yorkshire Agricultural Society; and Canon Elaine Swinhoe, former president of the Mothers’ Union in the Diocese of Leeds.

After Bishop Nick delivered his sermon, he blessed all in the diocese, before laying down his crozier at the altar of Ripon Cathedral, assisted by Dean John; the Revd Canon Philip Hobday, Acting Dean of Wakefield; and the Very Revd Andy Bowerman, Dean of Bradford. Dean John blessed Bishop Nick, asking for continued health and strength as he continues his pilgrimage.

After this several people gave speeches thanking Bishop Nick for his leadership, support, character, resilience, determination and skills he brought to the role of being the first Bishop of Leeds, driving the creation of our diocese and leading both here and in the wider world.

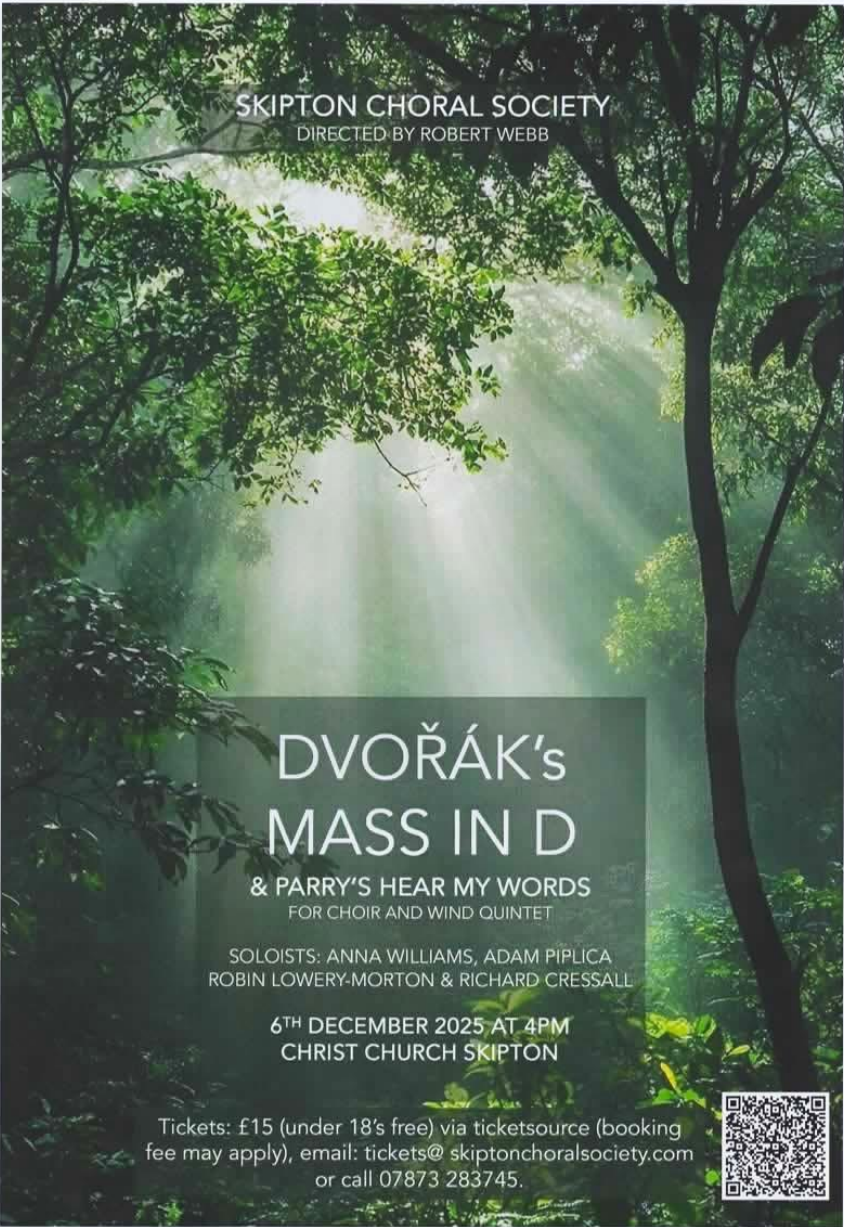
Speeches were given by Johanna Ropner; Revd Canon Rachel Firth; Archbishop Stephen Cottrell; and Bishop Ralf Meister.

Sarah Hinton, from the Charity Shine, based in West Bowling, gave a speech thanking Linda Baines for all she has done in our diocese, including health visiting, helping people in disadvantaged circumstances, and supporting Bishop Nick.

Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo gave a speech thanking Bishop Nick and Linda for their support of the church in Sudan, and for Bishop Nick’s leadership in our global fellowship of faith.

The service ended with a blessing from the Rt Revd Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford and Acting Bishop of Leeds, followed by a rousing round of applause for Bishop Nick and Linda and all they have done in their time in our diocese.

Upcoming Events....




SKIPTON CHORAL SOCIETY
DIRECTED BY ROBERT WEBB

**DVOŘÁK's
MASS IN D**
& PARRY'S HEAR MY WORDS
FOR CHOIR AND WIND QUINTET

SOLOISTS: ANNA WILLIAMS, ADAM PÍPLICA
ROBIN LOWERY-MORTON & RICHARD CRESSALL

6TH DECEMBER 2025 AT 4PM
CHRIST CHURCH SKIPTON

Tickets: £15 (under 18's free) via [ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) (booking fee may apply), email: tickets@skiptonchoralsociety.com or call 07873 283745.



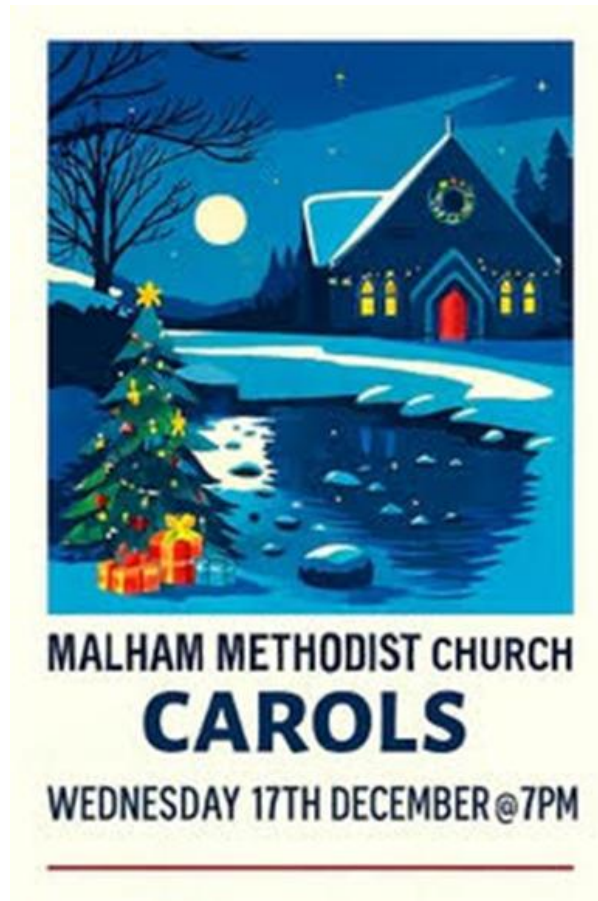
Pinsuti Chamber Choir

O Great Mystery

A choral journey through
Christmas mystery and joy

Saturday 13 December, 4pm
St Andrew's Church, Gargrave

Christmas Events in support of



in support of the Christian Aid '*No Crib for a Bed*' appeal,
which focuses on people fleeing violence and conflict.

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Thursday 18th December @ 2pm
Upper Wharfedale Churches Together
are singing Christmas Carols
in the Foyer of
TESCO SKIPTON
To raise money for Christian Aid
ALL WELCOME

*Benefice of Skipton Christ Church with Carleton St Mary
Christingle Service*



SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER, 4.00PM

Benefice of
Skipton Christ Church
with Carleton St Mary

**SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
(Nine Lessons and Carols)**

6:30PM AT CHRIST CHURCH



ALL WELCOME

Please support....

The poster is for the Skipton Food Bank Christmas Appeal. It features a festive design with green pine branches, gold baubles, and gold stars. The Skipton Food Bank logo is at the top center. The text is centered and reads: 'Christmas Appeal', 'Christmas is a time to spread love and joy. At Skipton Food bank we make special festive food parcels for those in our Craven community who are struggling financially', 'Can you help us this Christmas?', 'WE NEED DONATIONS OF', followed by a list of items: TOILETRY GIFT SETS FOR MEN AND WOMEN, CHRISTMAS CAKE BARS, BOXES OF NICE CHRISTMAS BISCUITS, CHOCOLATE SELECTION PACKS, SMALL BOXES OF CHOCOLATES 200-300G, TINNED HAM/CHICKEN, STUFFING PACKETS, GRAVY GRANULES, CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS SMALL, MEDIUM & LARGE, MINCE PIES (check best before is after Dec 25th 2025), CHRISTMAS CRACKERS (to pull!), and NO TOYS OR GIFTS PLEASE. It then states: 'WE START PACKING ON 26/11, PLEASE GET DONATIONS TO US SOON, EARLY NOV IS GREAT. LAST DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS 08/12/25. WE ARE OPEN FOR DONATIONS MON, WED, FRI 9-11AM AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL, NEWMARKET STREET, SKIPTON, BD23 2JE.' The bottom section says: 'For more information, including other donation points please visit www.skiptonfoodbank.org. Tel: 07856 080 194, email food@skiptonfoodbank.org'.

Skipton food bank

Christmas Appeal

Christmas is a time to spread love and joy. At Skipton Food bank we make special festive food parcels for those in our Craven community who are struggling financially

Can you help us this Christmas?

WE NEED DONATIONS OF

- TOILETRY GIFT SETS FOR MEN AND WOMEN
- CHRISTMAS CAKE BARS
- BOXES OF NICE CHRISTMAS BISCUITS
- CHOCOLATE SELECTION PACKS
- SMALL BOXES OF CHOCOLATES 200-300G
- TINNED HAM/CHICKEN
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- MINCE PIES (check best before is after Dec 25th 2025)
- CHRISTMAS CRACKERS (to pull!)
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WE START PACKING ON 26/11, PLEASE GET DONATIONS TO US SOON, EARLY NOV IS GREAT. LAST DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS 08/12/25
WE ARE OPEN FOR DONATIONS MON, WED, FRI 9-11AM AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL, NEWMARKET STREET, SKIPTON, BD23 2JE,

For more information, including other donation points please visit www.skiptonfoodbank.org

Tel: 07856 080 194, email food@skiptonfoodbank.org

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Mary's Meals currently works in 16 of the world's poorest countries, feeding over 3 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education. They are asking you to donate any left-over foreign currency or obsolete UK currency that you may have lying around. Just bring any foreign or old coins/notes to church by 31 December and we will pass them on. The money raised from this initiative will help Mary's Meals bring hope to more desperately hungry children across the globe. Every 10p is enough to provide a hungry child with a nutritious meal in school.

Mary's Meals would like to thank you for your continuous support & prayers.

Mary's Meals UK

Units 10-13, Claremont Centre, 39 Durham Street, Glasgow, G41 1BS, Scotland

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Foundation 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).