

St. Philip's News



“UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT
FALLS INTO THE EARTH AND DIES,
IT REMAINS JUST A SINGLE GRAIN;
BUT IF IT DIES,
IT BEARS MUCH FRUIT”
(JOHN 12.24)

March 2026



Lent in the Light of Spring



There is something wonderfully honest about spring. It doesn't arrive all at once in a blaze of glory; it creeps in quietly. A slightly lighter morning. A stubborn daffodil. The sound of birds who seem to have set their alarms far too early. After months of grey skies and muddy shoes, the world begins, almost shyly, to wake up.

Lent sits right in the middle of this slow unfurling. While the hedgerows stretch and the days lengthen, we are invited into reflection, repentance and renewal. This year, as we follow the *Draw Near* reflections from the Church of England, we are gently encouraged to pay attention - to the nearness of God in scripture, in prayer, and in the ordinary details of daily life.

Spring and Lent might seem an odd pairing at first. One is full of blossom and brightness; the other speaks of ashes and self-examination. Yet both are about growth. And growth, as any gardener will tell you, often begins beneath the surface.

Jesus once said, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12.24). There is a pattern woven into creation itself: letting go, waiting, trusting - and then new life. The bare branches of February are not dead wood; they are preparing for bud and bloom.

Lent asks us what might need loosening in our own lives. What habits have become heavy? What grudges are we still watering? Where have we drifted from the simple, life-giving presence of God? It isn't about spiritual heroics or gloomy self-criticism. It's about making space. Clearing a patch of soil. Letting light reach places that have been shaded for too long.

And the good news is this: we do not do this alone. The same God who coaxes crocuses from frozen ground is at work in us. Even the smallest turn of the heart - a whispered prayer, a renewed kindness, a moment of honesty - can be the beginning of something beautiful.

So, as you notice the signs of spring this month, let them be little sermons. The longer evenings preaching hope. The blossom proclaiming promise. The birds insisting, rather noisily, that life wins.

Lent leads us towards Easter, and Easter is the ultimate springtime - resurrection life breaking through what seemed final. May this season be one in which we draw near, and discover that God has been nearer than we imagined all along.

Revd Jonathan

Services in March



Sunday 1 March

9.30am Morning Worship
- 2nd of Lent

1st Reading: Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17
Simon Smalley

Gospel: John 3: 1-7
Chris Prior

Intercessions: Beckie Briggs

Friday 6th March

2.00pm Communion
Priest: Robin Paterson

Sunday 8 March

9.30am Communion
- 3rd of Lent

1st Reading: Rom 5: 1-11
Simon Carlton

Gospel: John 4: 5-42
Stella Ambler

Intercessions: Ann Riley

Friday 13 March

2.00pm Prayer Meeting

Sunday 15 March

9.30am All Together Worship
- Mothering Sunday

1st Reading: 2 Cor 1: 3-7

Gospel: Luke 2: 33-35

Friday 20 March

2.00pm Communion
Priest: Gordon Cooper

Sunday 22 March

9.30am Communion
- 5th of Lent

1st Reading: Rom 8: 6-11
Maureen Martin

Gospel: John 11: 1-45
Gill Sinclair

Intercessions: John Edward

Friday 27 March

2.00pm Prayer Meeting

Sunday 29 March

9.30am Morning Worship
- 4th of Epiphany

1st Reading: LITURGY OF
THE PALMS:
Matt 21: 1-11

2nd Reading: LITURGY OF PASSION:
Matt 26:14 - 27:66

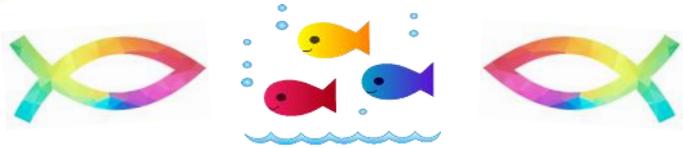
Intercessions: John Prior

6.30pm Palm Sunday
Praise & Prosecco
@ St Peter's Thorner

HOLY WEEK



Little Fishes



Parent & Toddler Group

For ages 0 – 4

Every Tuesday
10.30am – 12.00pm

St. Philip's Church,
Scholes



Drop in for friendly chats,
craft activities and
coffee & cakes

Find us on Facebook
www.stphilips-scholes.org



ALL SAINTS, BARWICK
SATURDAY
4 APRIL @ 6:30pm

If you've never been to Taizé worship service before, why not consider coming along. It involves sung and chanted prayers, meditation, periods of silence and liturgical readings.



HOME
GROUP



Friendship
& Fellowship



Prayer



Laughter



A traditional
hymn or two



WHERE: John & Sally Edward's home
73 Nook Road, Scholes LS15 4AX



WHEN: First Wednesday of the Month
7:30pm - 9:00pm

Everyone is welcome!

Especially if you are not a regular at a home group – no need to book, just turn up.

Prayer Chain

We are launching a new Prayer Chain in May 2026! If you like praying and have a WhatsApp account, we would love you to join us!

To find out more, or to sign up, please contact Clare de Normanville:
stphilips.webeditor@gmail.com



The Café will be open every Friday in March, from 9:00am to 12:00pm and on **Saturday 28th March** from 10:00am to 12:00pm for teas, great coffees, irresistible cakes, toasted teacakes, bacon butties & crumpets!

CARING FOR EACH OTHER...

If you haven't seen someone for a while, please either try and find out how they are or let us know and we will try and make contact. Please also ask the person if they would like to go on the prayer list (using their full name or just first name).

A note to us giving a contact number or address of the person concerned often helps.



When I am
afraid,
I put my trust
in You.

Psalm 56:3





Confirmation

We will be having a confirmation service in the Benefice on **17th May**, to be held at St Peter's. Confirmation is an opportunity to say a personal “yes” to the faith into which you were baptised, and to explore what it means to follow Christ today - questions, doubts and all. In a service led by the Bishop, we pray for the strengthening of the Holy Spirit, not because anyone has it all sorted, but because we all need encouragement for the journey. If you're curious, feeling a nudge, or simply want to take the next step, this may be for you - do have a word with Revd Jonathan to find out more.

come
serve
with us

We need more volunteers in every area of church life, so if you would be interested to help with:

- Music Group
- Reading / Intercessions
- PA Desk
- Refreshments
- Welcome team
- Prayer Ministry

or would just like to find out more, please contact Revd Jonathan or Ann Riley.

All volunteers would be required to undertake necessary training / legal checks (DBS).



Elmete Elderberries

Every Monday 1pm - 3pm
(except Bank Holidays)

Each week we offer:

- *Gentle, chair-based, exercise
- *Help with family history research
- *Crafting & card-making
- *Games, Bridge, Jigsaws & Dominoes
- *Drawing & Painting
- *Brass Band & Folk Singing
- *Knitting, Crochet & Needlework
- *Computer & Camera assistance
- *Refreshments & a warm welcome

*Drop in to learn new things,
make new friends and enjoy a cuppa
For Everyone: body, mind and spirit*

Need prayer?



Got something on your heart and need a listening ear? Our Prayer Ministry Team are here every Sunday after the morning service, just come over to the Prayer Area on the right side of the church. It's private, confidential, and you'll be with people who care.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for entries into the April issue of this Newsletter is **Monday 23rd March 2026.**

Please send any items to admin@elmetetrinity.org

If you need anything advertising between editions of the Newsletter, please contact Diane who will send out information via email and Facebook.



Prayer Group

What is prayer?

And why do we do it?

Prayer is our way of communicating with God and, incidentally, with each other.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday afternoon of every month to discuss and then pray for people and events within our local community and in the wider world.

If you want to know more, please speak to Ros Loach or email admin@elmetetrinity.org.

You would be very welcome to come along at any time, as and when you can, for a cup of tea and chat to find out what it is all about.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

On 2nd March our speaker is George Gale talking about "Whitby Muster Rolls"

In April our meeting is a social event at the Skyliner. This will be on 13th because of the Bank Holiday.

Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement working with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change. Our members are active in 83 countries and work tirelessly to serve their communities to build a future where everyone thrives.

Ending violence, ending poverty, ending injustice. We are a truly worldwide Christian movement. And a local one!

We usually meet on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm at St Philip's church.

If you want to know more, please contact:

Sally Wray ~ 07484 152 886

Elizabeth Lawson ~ 07518 642 942

Foodbank
FOOD FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

The Food Bank is short of the following items and any donations are much appreciated:

- ⇒ **Tinned Meats**
- ⇒ **Tinned Fruit**
- ⇒ **Tinned Potatoes**
- ⇒ **Packet Mash**
- ⇒ **Pot Noodles/Super Noodles**
- ⇒ **Toilet Rolls**
- ⇒ **Shower Gel / Toiletries**

If you can pop an extra item into your shopping basket, it really does help. Thank you!

PRAYER REQUESTS



Is there something you'd like us to pray about? You can send your prayer requests by using this QR Code and completing the form.

All prayer requests are confidential.



PALM SUNDAY

PRAISE & PROSECCO

SUNDAY 29 MARCH @ 6:30PM

ST PETER'S THORNER

WORSHIP OLD AND NEW

AS WE JOURNEY INTO HOLY WEEK –

WITH MUSIC, A REFLECTION, PRAYER,

AND A GLASS OF PROSECCO TO CELEBRATE

DR/W
NE/R
LIFE-GIVING
HABITS FOR **LENT**

Lent Reflection – Saturdays in Lent

For Lent this year, we will be meeting together to reflect the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

We will continue to meet together **every Saturday during Lent at 12 noon** (every Saturday until 28th March) for just half an hour with time for prayer, silence, quiet music and reflections on the weekly theme of Christian discipleship - worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

Just come and receive.

"Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God.

And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too."

Archbishop Sarah Mullally & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Going Shopping



- ⇒ Make a list before you go food shopping to help avoid over impulse buying and buying food you will end up throwing away.
- ⇒ Reduce your impact on the environment by buying second hand when you can. Ebay and charity shops are good sources of reused items.
- ⇒ When you need to buy a large item research it carefully. Think about how long it could last, how much it costs to run, what it is made of, where it is made, can it be recycled at the end of its life. Better quality items often last longer and so cost you less over time.
- ⇒ Tempted to buy in impulse when you are shopping? Get in the habit of coming back the next day or week when you have thought through if you really need to buy it.



*Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed. Take up
the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.*

Isaiah 1:17

GIVING

SUPPORT THE WORK OF ST PHILIP'S

St Philip's is a charity which receives no funding from the government and is entirely dependent on donations to keep its doors open, continue its work in the community and maintain its buildings and surroundings.

If you would like to support us, you can donate in the plate or use the contactless device at the entrance to church. If you would like to give regularly, you can set up a Standing Order or use a Giving Envelope.

More info from Tim South, the Treasurer or Revd Jonathan.



Standing Order

Giving Envelope



Contactless



Collection Plate



giftaid it

If you pay UK Income Tax, we encourage you to Gift Aid all your giving to church. Gift Aid in the UK is a scheme enabling registered charities to reclaim the tax from the Government on a donation made by a UK taxpayer, increasing the donation by 25p for every £1 you give, without costing you any extra.

St Philip's Church Weekend Away

18th-20th September 2026
at Wydale Hall



Join us for a refreshing and faith-filled weekend at beautiful Wydale Hall, set in the peaceful North Yorkshire countryside. It's a chance to pause, pray, and enjoy good company, good food, and plenty of laughter together. There'll be time for worship, reflection, walks, and rest – something for everyone!

Come and be part of it – a weekend to reconnect with God, with one another, and with yourself.

Cost: £224 per person

Children under 2 years: **Free**

Children aged 2-11: **40% of adult price**

Children aged 12-16: **60% of adult price**

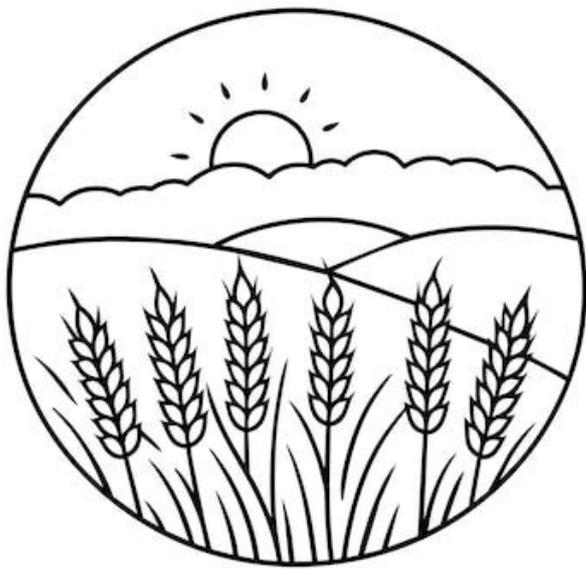
All accommodation is En-Suite and Full Board will be provided

**For more information and a Booking Form
please see Alan Stanley or Revd Jonathan
A £25 Deposit per person will be required**

Wydale

www.wydale.org





UNLESS A
Grain
of
wheat
FALLS TO THE
ground
and
dies
IT REMAINS
a grain
of
wheat
-JOHN 12:24

Conflict.

Fear.

Anger.

Distrust

Helplessness.

So often, Lord, so often.

It was only a small thing.

**But it looked large,
the way I saw it,**

And it frightened me.

**Lord, your world is a beautiful world,
full of beautiful people.**

Yet somehow the image gets distorted.

**Suspicion instead of trust,
secrecy instead of openness,
jealousy in place of appreciation.**

Anger where love should be.

**Lord, keep my vision clear,
the lens unclouded by distrust and fear.**

**Keep me open to your light
that I may walk in it,
and not in darkness - but with joy.**

**Help me to respond to others
and not to distort their needs
into threats to me.**

As I pray for myself

I pray for others who face disputes.

**Who make decisions,
and who try to make peace.**

**Give them understanding
of other viewpoints, Lord.**

**Not to make them indecisive and unsure,
but so that decisions**

can be made from knowledge.

Give the ability to see the whole.

**The wisdom to concentrate
on the essential things.**

And above all, Lord

**give us loving kindness
in our judgements.**

Eddie Askew



How to Contact Us



Rector

Revd Jonathan Brennan

☎ 0113 289 2437

✉ rector@elmetetrinity.org

Licenced Lay Minister

Alan Stanley

☎ 07739 184781

✉ alan.stanley8@btinternet.com

Licensed Lay Minister

Beckie Briggs

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✉ beckie@the-briggs.co.uk

Reader Emerita

Ros Loach

☎ 0113 260 5073

Churchwarden

Ann Riley

☎ 0113 273 3560

✉ annl.riley@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Tim South

☎ 0113 265 1742

✉ tim@thesouths.uk

Rector's PA (Interim)

Diane Brennan

✉ admin@elmetetrinity.org

Safeguarding Officer

Beckie Briggs

☎ 07794 155158

✉ safeguarding@the-briggs.co.uk

If you would like to speak to someone about any aspect of St Philip's Church safeguarding policy, or you have any concerns, please speak to Beckie in the first instance. You can also contact Revd Jonathan Brennan.

Prayer for Growth



*God of Mission,
who alone brings
growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit
to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions, and
power to our witness.*

*Help St Philip's to grow
in numbers, in spiritual
commitment to you,
and in service to our
local community,
through Jesus
Christ our Lord.
Amen*