

The Erringden Eagle



Mytholmroyd & Cragg Vale News May 2026. If you are on Facebook why not join the group 'Friends of the Erringden Benefice?'
Visit our website: <https://achurchnearyou.com/church/18017>



This year Ascension day falls on Thursday May 14th. **All are welcome at a Service at St Mary's Luddenden, starting at 7.30pm.**

Pentecost (Whit Sunday) follows 10 days later on Sunday May 24th. The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It is a major feast of the Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations.

Jesus had promised his followers that, although they would not see him after his Ascension, they would receive the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire them. The Acts of the Apostles describes how the crowds gathered in Jerusalem – representing many nationalities and speaking many languages – were able to hear the disciples preaching in their own language.

Events and activities in May

Date	St John's	St Michael's
Fri 1st	Chair Yoga 4.45-5.45pm Yoga 6pm	9am Benefice prayers 7 for 7.30pm Quiz Night
Sat 2nd		10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 3rd	9.30am Worship 2-4pm Spaw Sunday (see poster)	11am Worship
Mon 4th		10.30am BREW Wives May Day Walk and Lunch
Tue 5th	2pm-4pm Cragg Community Hubhub	2.00pm Guild meeting 7.00pm PCC meeting
Wed 6th		
Thu 7th		9.30am Angels 6.00pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 8th	Chair Yoga 4.45-5.45pm Yoga 6pm	9am Benefice prayers
Sat 9th		10am PCC coffee morning
Sun 10th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 11th	2.30pm YCA Yoga 6pm	10.30am BREW
Tue 12th	2pm-4pm Cragg Community Hubhub	
Wed 13th		2.00pm Book Club
Thu 14th Ascension Day	7.30pm History Group	9.30am Angels 6.00pm Bell ringing practice 6.30pm Alpha Course 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 15th	Chair Yoga 4.45-5.45pm Yoga 6pm	9am Benefice prayers

Date	St John's	St Michael's
Sat 16th		10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 17th	No service as Calderdale Relay Race is taking place	11am Worship
Mon 18th	3.30pm PCC meeting Yoga 6pm	10.30am BREW
Tue 19th	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubbub	
Wed 20th		
Thu 21st	7.30pm Cragg Vale History Group	9.30am Angels 6.00pm Bell ringing practice 6.30pm Alpha Course 8pm Wives—Michael Astrop 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 22nd	Chair Yoga 4.45-5.45pm Yoga 6pm	9am Benefice prayers
Sat 23rd		10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 24th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 25th	2-3pm Over 75s exercise class Yoga 6pm	10.30am BREW
Tue 26th	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubbub	
Wed 27th		
Thu 28th		9.30am Angels 6.00pm Bell ringing practice 6.30pm Alpha Course 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 29th	Chair Yoga 4.45-5.45pm Yoga 6pm	9am Benefice prayers
Sat 30th		10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 31st	9.30am Worship	11am Worship

**This is a copy of Lesley's sermon on 12th April
Sermon John 20 19 to end
2nd Sunday after Easter Mytholmroyd and Cragg
2026**

Sometimes we feel let down by another person who we feel has wronged us. Sometimes we feel let down by an institution, church, government, NHS, because they haven't helped us in life's difficulties. Or maybe sometimes we just feel let down by life in general - its' pains, its' injustices, its' burdens. At those times it is very easy to get 'stuck'. Stuck in a place I once heard referred to as 'the garden of remembrance'. You can easily get locked into a cycle of looking backwards at life in anger, in bitterness or blame. Sometimes we are stuck in this 'garden of remembrance' because we are reflecting on our own inadequacies and failings and regrets as we think back over our lives. Opportunities missed, time wasted, priorities all wrong. I meet lots of people who are in that place - young and old - in that 'garden of remembrance'. I'm in it myself sometimes. And it is not a good place.

Which is why this Easter story of the appearance of Jesus in the upper room to his disciples is such a crucial and uplifting message for us all. Jesus comes to his frightened disciples locked away (since his arrest) in a place they hope will be safe from the world. They now encounter the very person they betrayed and he doesn't say one word of condemnation. He doesn't remind them of the relationship they had together before his betrayal, desertion, arrest and death on the cross. Or refer back to those days when he could trust them. When they were loyal! He doesn't point out that when faced with danger they looked only to themselves and their self-interest and safety. Even for Peter who denied even knowing Jesus there is NO condemnation. Jesus's first words to his friends are 'peace be with you'. It is a conventional Jewish greeting (one we use a lot in the church today). PEACE.

The encounter in the upper room changes everything. For the hours since Jesus' death his friends have not been able to *believe* in that peace he promised them. Now they can. They trust. They don't apologise. Don't attempt to explain why they behaved as they did. There's no need. They are all filled with joy at his appearance. The risen Christ is with them.

But they are without Thomas. For some reason which is never explained he is not at the scene of that 1st appearance of the risen Christ on the evening after the resurrection. Thomas is a *fascinating mixture of doubt and belief*. Thomas believes passionately and deeply. He has to *know* to believe. He has to work things out for himself. Of all the disciples Thomas is the one I can most closely identify with. Remember how when Jesus announced his intention to go to Lazarus who had died the other disciples cautioned Jesus not to go? It wouldn't be safe. But it was Thomas who urged the all others to accompany and if necessary to die with Jesus if he was attacked. And remember that time when Jesus talked to his disciples about his father's house in which there are many dwelling places and told his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them? Remember it was Thomas burst out (John 15.5) 'We don't know where you are going. How can we know the way'. The question of somebody trying to understand. To work it out.... And so despite those reports from his fellow disciples Thomas cannot and will not believe until he has seen Jesus with his own eyes. When he *does* see Jesus he is the first person in the Gospels both to **see** and to **understand** what this really means. 'My Lord and my God' he says.

Jesus shows us how **not** to live in the 'garden of remembrance'. Jesus passionately believed in resurrection. It was in his every step, every word, and every breath. It was what characterised his ministry. To the distraught and guilt ridden - he said - follow me. To the oppressed and weary - go in peace. No judgement - just compassion. Jesus' every waking moment was concerned with the transmission of life. Not invoking not guilt or judgement. And so as he appeared among them in that upper room the disciples were able to quit that remembering place and move into the 'garden of resurrection' with him. We are called to do the same here in this parish. You are all called to do that in this church alongside your 2 local churches of brothers and sisters. There is much strength in that companionship and fellowship if you seek it out. None of us need to think it ALL depends on us. It doesn't. Everything depends on God's grace and he is in control. All we have to do is follow Jesus and know Gods power is with us. He is risen indeed. Welcome to the 'Garden of Resurrection'. Alleluia. **Amen**.

Alpha course at St Michael's Church Hall

**Alpha is a space to
unpack the basics of the Christian faith together.**

We start at 6.30 pm with a light meal in the hall
followed by a video and then group
discussion.

All are welcome

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>
May 7	-no Alpha meeting-
May 14	How can I have faith?
May 21	Why and how do I pray?
May 28	Why and how should I read the Bible
June 4	How does God guide us?
June11	-no Alpha meeting-
June 13	Holy Spirit weekend at Broad Head End (10.00-5.00) &(1.00-4.00)
June 18	How can I resist evil?
June 25	Why and how should I tell others?
July 2	Does God heal today?
July 9	What about the Church?



YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN, CRAGG VALE BRANCH

The Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association helps to bring women from all areas and backgrounds together to enjoy our core values of companionship, crafting, community and much more. We meet monthly, on the second Monday at St John's Church, Cragg Vale. Why not pop in to our next meeting on 11th May at 2.30pm? We would love you to join us!

SPA SUNDAY CELEBRATION & COMMUNITY PICNIC



SUNDAY 3rd MAY 2.00-4.00pm

- 2.00pm** *Meet at the Hinchliffe Arms for music & dancing with Ryburn Longswords*
- 2.30pm** *Join the procession* to the Spa for*

Traditional Spa Blessing
and
Free Community Picnic
followed by
Music & Dancing with Ryburn Longswords

**Or you can join the procession as it passes the Robin Hood at around 2.45pm*

Organised by Cragg Vale Community Association
For more information contact info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

VISION EVENT

**BUFFET &
PRESENTATIONS**

Free buffet followed by an exciting update on the work of CICS in Schools across Calderdale. All are welcome!

TO BOOK - CICSCALDERDALE.ORG.UK



Wednesday 13th May 2026,
5pm for buffet, 5.30 – 6.30pm for presentations
Heath Church, Halifax, HX3 0DW
(use Manor Drive entrance)

It's Your Move
Primary Assemblies
Faith Panels
Mentoring
Lessons
Chilli Tuesday
Support for Staff

To find out more about CICS please speak to Daphne Cansdale

A thank you to St Michael's.....

Brenda sends her thanks to the congregation for the gift of a bible to mark her confirmation on Advent Sunday .

ROTAS FOR MAY

Rotas St Michael's	Stewards	Readers	Prayers	Coffee
3rd May	Vivienne Jenny	Libby	Margaret	Christine Margaret
10th May	Madeline Daphne	Lesley	Christine	Jackie Kathryn
17th May	Linda Eric	Daphne	Sian	Sheila Libby
24th May	Libby Ali	Christine	David	Madeline Sandra
31st May	Mary, Pam Louise	Jackie	Daphne	Sandra K Gill J
7th June	Vivienne Jenny	Margaret	Jackie	Nancy Gloria

Rotas St John's	Stewards	Readers	Coffee	Communion assistant
3rd May	Sylvia Ed	Angela	Julie	Ann
10th May	Amanda Anne B	Geraint	Carol	Sylvia
17th May	Geraint Howard	Ed	Amanda	Julie
24th May	Sue Amanda	Pat	Sylvia	Ed
31st May	Howard Sylvia	Ann	Viv	Pat
7th June	Anne B Ed	Sylvia	Julie	Amanda

	Readings	Gospel
3rd May Easter 5	Acts 7.55-end 1 Peter 2.2-10	John 14.1-14
10th May Easter 6	Acts 17.22-31 1 Peter 3.13-end	John 20.19-end
17th May Easter 7	Acts 1.6-14 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11	John 17.1-11
24th May Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13	John 20.19-23
31st May Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end 2 Corinthians 13.11-end	Matthew 28.16-20
7th June Trinity 1	Hosea 5.15 – 6.6 Romans 4.13-end	Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26

Our Vacancy 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 May by
15th June