

THE ANVIL

Magazine for The Benefice of The Wiske

*Great Smeaton, Appleton Wiske, Danby Wiske,
Birkby, East Cowton and North Cowton*

JUNE 2026



“Yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

Matthew 6:29

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION £4.00

St Eloy's Gt. Smeaton	St Mary's Appleton Wiske	St Peter's Birkby	Parish Church Danby Wiske	All Saints East Cowton
Benefice website: www.wiskebenefice.org				
Churchwardens				
Birkby	Mr Jonathan McCloy		Tel: 01609 881881	
Danby Wiske	Mrs Angela Aldridge		Tel: 07711 803243	

YOUR CLERGY: Contact Details

Rev David Bartlett, The New Rectory, Great Smeaton,
Northallerton DL6 2EP –

01609 765323 (07780512398) email:

David.Bartlett@leeds.anglican.org

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Our Prayer for 2026 – United Benefice of the Wiske

For your blessings, Father God,
we give you thanks.
For your generosity, your tenderness,
your care, your compassion, for seeing
our need,
for knowing our deepest yearnings,
for bearing our burdens with us,
we give you thanks and commit
ourselves to reflecting your generosity
in our lives.

May the joy of your Kingdom go
with us,
may the peace of your Kingdom
sustain us,
may we know the King of the
Kingdom, Jesus Christ,
as we journey through this
coming year.
Amen.

Where's Jesus?

When people talk about finding Jesus, it can sound as though you need to climb a mountain, sit in silence for three hours, or at the very least when you're in church. And yes, churches matter.

Worship matters. Community matters. But when you look closely at the stories in the Bible, something surprising appears. Jesus keeps turning up in ordinary places. Not polished, perfect, holy-looking moments. Ordinary ones.



He met Mary in a garden while she was crying so hard, she could barely see straight. She thought everything was over. Grief filled the space where hope used to live. Yet it was there, in heartbreak and confusion, that Jesus called her name.

He appeared to his friends in a locked room when fear had taken over. They weren't brave or faith-filled at that moment. They were hiding. Anxious. Unsure what would happen next. And Jesus came right into the middle of their fear with words of peace.

He stood by a lake while exhausted fishermen cleaned empty nets after a night of failure. They had worked hard and caught nothing. Imagine the disappointment, the frustration, the feeling of "What's the point?" Yet Jesus met them there too — in tiredness, routine, and disappointment.

Not one of those moments happened in the synagogue. Not one happened during an impressive religious event.

Again and again, Jesus meets people in the midst of ordinary life. On the road, in a crowd, at a house, over supper. And maybe that matters more than we realise.

Because most of our lives are ordinary too. School runs. Work shifts.

Washing up. Hospital appointments. Dog walks. Late-night worries. Traffic jams. Cups of tea at kitchen tables. Quiet moments when no one else sees what we're carrying. That's where Jesus still meets people.



The Christian story isn't that God stayed far away waiting for us to become more spiritual. It's that God came close. So close that through His Spirit, he dwells within us. Not occasionally. Not only in church buildings. It's every minute, of each hour of every day.

Sometimes we miss him because we expect something dramatic. But often God's presence arrives gently: a deep peace in chaos, strength you didn't think you had, comfort during grief, patience for one more difficult conversation, courage to keep going, love for someone who is hard to love. Small moments. Holy moments.

You may not always recognise it immediately, but if you make a little space — a quiet minute in the car, a whispered prayer while walking, a pause before the day begins — you might begin to notice him. In the ordinary. In the everyday. Closer than you thought. Perhaps the real question isn't "Where's Jesus?" but "Could he already be here?" Don't forget to look, to listen....

Blessings. David.

1st June 7.00 East Cowton Church Benefice meeting

This is a meeting for all 4 PCC's and anyone else who would like to come along. we will be looking at David's sabbatical Reflections and our responses, How do we go on from here? Review of service pattern. Connecting with our communities.

Well dressing in Derbyshire, May to September

Derbyshire is known for its wells and well-dressing. The annual tradition followed in many villages of decorating the village wells, or 'well dressing', attracts sightseers from miles away. By ancient, centuries-old tradition, five wells are decorated. Boards are set up around each one which is then covered in clay. The clay is then impressed with thousands of colourful flower petals to create pictures and tableaux. Often the stories illustrated are from the Bible. It is thought the practice may date back to the 14th century, and it may have started as an act of thanksgiving when the community escaped the Black Death. Over the years, and before piped water became available, it also became an act of thanksgiving for the village's supply of clean, clear water

Parish Finances expanded

Leaving a legacy to your local church isn't just an act of generosity—it's a way of weaving your story into the fabric of your community for generations to come. Many of us have fond memories of weddings, christenings, or simply quiet moments of reflection within these ancient walls. But have you ever thought about the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep the church looking its best?

From repairing the roof to keeping the churchyard tidy or upgrading facilities for future generations, every contribution—large or small—makes a real difference. By leaving a legacy in your will, you can help ensure that the church continues to be a place of comfort, celebration, and community for years to come. It's not just about bricks and mortar; it's about supporting a living, breathing hub that welcomes everyone.

So, if you'd like to leave a lasting mark, why not consider including the church in your will? It's a wonderful way to say thank you for the role it's played in your life—and to help keep its doors open for those yet to come.

All in the month of JUNE

250 years ago, on 11 June 1776 the Second Continental Congress appointed John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert R Livingston and Roger Sherman to create the first draft of the Declaration of Independence.

Also 250 years ago, on 11th June, John Constable, British landscape artist, was born.

100 years ago, on 1st June 1926 the American film actress, model and sex symbol Marilyn Monroe was born. Died 1962.

65 years ago, from 4th June to 9th November, the Berlin Crisis of 1961 took place. It led to Berlin being partitioned into East Berlin and West Berlin, and the erection of the Berlin Wall on 13th August.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral on 8th May - John Whitfield (Jim) - at All Saints, East Cowton, followed by Cremation.

Funeral on 22nd May - James Brian Harrison (Brian) - at All Saints, East Cowton, followed by interment in East Cowton graveyard.

Our British bumblebees

Did you know we have about 270 kinds of bee in the UK, including 24 types of bumblebees? Here are just six of them:

Early Bumblebee: – Found throughout the UK. Rather small, with distinctive lemon-yellow bands on thorax and abdomen, and an orange tail. An important pollinator of our soft fruit.

Common Carder Bee: – One of our most common bees, and often still feeding in November. Fluffy, brown and orange, with sometimes darker bands on the abdomen.

Tree Bumblebee: – Found in England and Wales, and recently Southern Scotland. A fuzzy bee, with brown-orange hairs on its thorax, a black abdomen, and a white tail.

Red-tailed Bumblebee: – The female is very large, with a big red ‘tail’, while males are smaller.

Garden Bumblebee: – A scruffy-looking large bee, with a long tongue and face. It has yellow bands at the collar, rear of the thorax and at the first segment of the abdomen, and the tip of the tail is white.

Buff-tailed bumblebee: – The biggest of our bumblebees, with a yellow collar near the head and another on the abdomen. The queen has a buff-coloured ‘tail’, while the workers have white ‘tails’ and black hair on their faces.

Be kind to our bees. They are in steady decline across the UK.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has praised the Pope for speaking out against injustice and about hope; has commended working together for the common good; and has endorsed the strengthening power of common witness, in an address after a recent private meeting at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican.

She prayed with Pope Leo and said: “It is a joy and a privilege to be received by you, together with this delegation from Lambeth Palace.

July & August 2026 – DOUBLE-ISSUE ANVIL - All articles, dates etc by 15th of preceding month to Sarah Hurhangee, Kirroughtree, Hornby Road, Appleton Wiske, DL6 2AF, 01609 881680, e-mail: sarah.hurhangee@gmail.com

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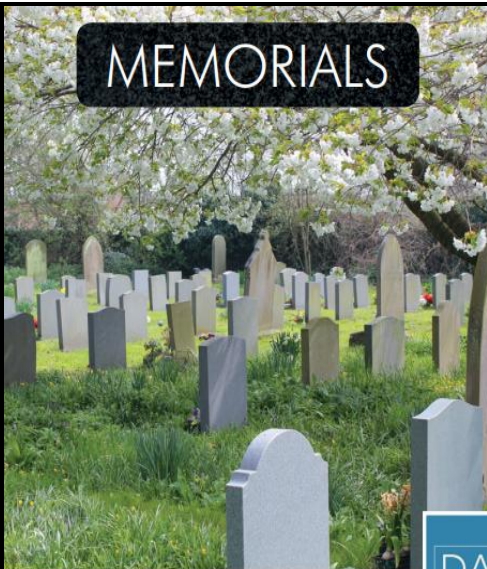
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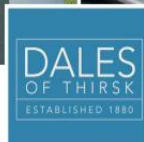
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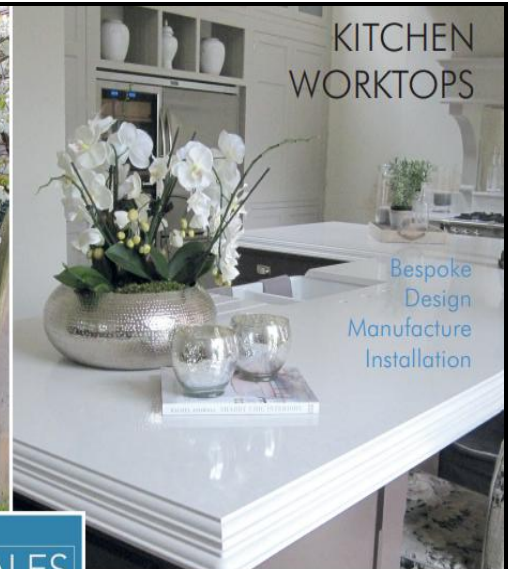
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New series of films marks contribution of self-supporting ministers

The Church of England's 'gifted, talented and brilliant' self-supporting ministers are celebrated in a series of films recently published, ahead of Vocations Sunday.

A hairdresser, a data consultant, a solicitor and a teacher, all of whom are priests, speak about their dual vocations in the secular workplace and in churches.

The Revd Anthea Mitchell, a hairdresser who is a part-time priest in charge at St Andrew's Church in Barming Heath, Maidstone, Kent, said: "I run services, I do baptisms and I take funerals and weddings, and I run a community café – all the things you would expect a vicar to do." "I suppose the longest part of my ministry, in terms of the time I spend, is at work, in the business. I go to work to cut people's hair and I do wear my collar.

"I can honestly say that I have more deeply spiritual conversations when people are sitting in my chair, than I ever do in church.

News in the Villages

Diary Dates for JUNE at a glance		
Sun 31 st	10.00am	Benefice service in St. Mary's, Appleton Wiske.
Mon 1 st	7.00pm	East Cowton Church benefice meeting for all PCCs.
Thurs 4 th	7.00pm	Appleton Wiske Pantomime Players AGM in Village Hall.
6 th -14 th		Exhibition in St. Mary's on 500 th anniversary of Tyndale.
Wed 10 th	7.30pm	Appleton Wiske YCA Craft Session
Thurs 11 th	7.15pm	Danby Wiske WI Moonshine Icecream.
Sun 28 th	11.00am	Birkby 250 th Anniversary with Bishop Anna.
Sun 28 th		Danby Wiske Strawberry teas Event.

APPLETON WISKE

The Village Shop takes food orders: Jackie on 07823 333075.

Iain and Diane at the Lord Nelson Tel: 01609 881351.

The minibus leaves every Wednesday morning at 9.15am from the village bus shelter and returns from Applegarth carpark at 11.30am.

FLOWERS FOR ST. MARY'S

June 14th Linda Breckon & Linda Thompson,

June 28th Sheila Simpson & Angela Carlin.

YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

Wednesday 10th June: Craft Session with Linda Breckon

What will we make this time?

Raffle: Sheila Simpson. Refreshments: Chris Canning

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S. Thank you to all who came to our lovely concert on Friday 1st May. £1000.00 was raised to help cover shop and post office relocation costs. Many thanks again.

THANK YOU- Many thanks to everyone who has again supported the Appeal to pay for the Churchyard Grass Cutting. St Mary's Church Council are very grateful for all your help to date; Thank you for donations received in Christian Aid Week - £157.29 in total.

HAMBLETON FOODSHARE - Please do not forget the Foodbank in the Post Office. It has provided much needed support to many families in the area and have calls on their services week by week.

APPLETON PLAYERS AGM - Thursday 4th JUNE, 7.00pm in Appleton Wiske village hall. New members welcome.

Saturday 6th – Sunday 14th

An Exhibition telling the story of the 500th anniversary Of Tyndale's translation into English of the New Testament in 1526. A 1551 family bible will be on display, with a Q & A session after the 11.00am service on 14th June. Please check notice boards for timings of openings and to see the 1551 bible.

Also, in St. Mary's on the same dates, an opportunity to take part in this year's '**Churches Count on Nature**', recording the wildlife in the churchyard.

METHODIST SERVICES IN JUNE, APPLETON WISKE

All services are 30 minutes and start 10.15am except where indicated.

Steward - contact Rob Portsmouth 07796610798

Sunday 7th Local arrangement.

Sunday 14th Kathryn Walker.

Sunday 21st J. Daly Godly Play, Fathers Day.

Sunday 28th P. Brophy Chaple Anniversary.

Followed by tea, coffee and social. All are welcome!

**GREAT SMEATON AND HORNBY
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY**

Meets fortnightly on Mondays, 2.00pm. Contact for more information.

Our Fellowship numbers have now been boosted by the East Cowton Bible Group merging with our group. There are plans for visits this month, and a break over the summer. For more information contact Mary at mrsmaryelliott@gmail.com

Do come along to our friendly sociable meetings.

Tea, coffee, biscuits and conversation freely available. All welcome.



PLANT SALE - A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any to a very successful plant sale: those who kindly donated plants,

those who gave donations, those who helped set up the morning of the sale, those who worked hard all day and of course all who came and supported us by buying plants and enjoying cups of tea and cake. Even the weather was kind.

The amazing sum of £460.99 was raised for church funds which will go towards the cost of some necessary repairs. Thank you everyone.

UKULELE CONCERT - After the success of the Ukulele concert last year there will be another concert on the afternoon of October 10th, 2026. Please keep the date free. Tickets on sale later in the year.

If you are looking for a little peace and quiet away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, remember the church is open for everyone, every day from 9.30 – 3.30.

Village Hall activities- Monday coffee 1st Mon in month. Ping pong, 6.30pm every Monday. History, 3rd Monday, 2pm. Wed, Pop up cafe, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 2pm. Craft, 4th of the month 2pm. Bowls every Thursday, 2pm.

LOVESOME HILL

Games Evening on the first Wednesday of the month starting March 4th at 7.00 pm until 9.30 pm.

Games and Darts and followed by table tennis for those who wish. £3 per session. Contact Alan Nesom 07969 662371

Table Tennis. Anyone interested in playing table tennis with a view to playing in the Northallerton and District table tennis league call John 07774 072383 for further information.

Bridge Group – meets every Monday evening in Lovesome Hill Village Hall. 6.30pm in the Hall. All welcome Contact 01609 774650.

DANBY WISKE

Our recently revealed wall art in the church, has now been inspected by Peter Martindale, an accredited conservator. His report funding by a grant from The Cathedral and Church Buildings department, confirms the art is from more than one period. There is evidence of medieval art along the whole length of the south wall of the Nave, and areas of post-reformation text. The border of the text may be a mixture of two paintings, but until the restoration work is done this

cannot be confirmed. First though the decorators need to return and finish their work.

The WI topic on Thursday 11th June at 7.15pm in the village hall is "Moonshine Ice Cream". Visitors are welcome, fee is £6 but it is deductible off your subscription if you choose to join.

The annual strawberry teas event is on the afternoon of 28th June.

EAST COWTON

A Summer Tea Party at the Church Annexe and Grounds on Saturday 11th July. Tickets will be on sale from June 1st, from church members and the pop-up cafe in East Cowton Village Hall. Price £12.50 for adults and £5 for primary school children.

North Cowton Open Gardens

Sunday 7th June 10.30-4.30 Entry £5 (Accompanied under 16s free)

Cowtons & Countryside U3A in All Saints' Church Annex, offering Book Club, Bridge, Canasta, occasional Historical Visits, French and German. Please contact Elaine Smith on 01325 378630.

BIRKBY

A Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of St Peter's Church

This event will be held on Sunday 28th June 2026. There will be a Special Service at St Peter's Church led by the Bishop of Ripon at 11.00am

The Service will be followed by a garden party at 12.15pm at The Manor, Birkby. The garden party will include a lunchtime BBQ (catered by Hutchinson Hobbs Farm Shop & Butchers), there will also be musical entertainment and garden games.

Tea & coffee will be provided but please bring your own soft drinks/beer/wine if you prefer!

There is no charge for attending the Church Service only, all are welcome. However, there will be tickets sold in advance for the garden party to cover the cost of the lunch and to ensure that we can manage numbers on the day.

Tickets for the garden party are available now and are **£15 for adults and £5 for children (under the age of 12)**

Please contact any member of the St Peter's, Ginny McCloy on 07903 757250 or Mike Roberts on 01609 881121.



CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION



Sir David Attenborough has inspired millions by bringing the natural world into our homes and classrooms.

Thanks to a life marked by a tenacious desire to explore, innovate and enlighten, his impact is even more surprising than you might expect. The writer, broadcaster and naturalist was born on 8th May 1926. He was educated at Clare College, Cambridge and after working at an educational publishing house, started working as a trainee at the BBC in 1952.

We recognise him as the voice of natural history programmes for the past 70 years. He has brought the natural world into our living rooms and classrooms through award-winning natural history programs such as **Life on Earth**, **The Private life of plants** and **The Blue Planet**. With over 40 animals and plant species named after him, and a constellation, he has explored uncharted land and met the remotest people on Earth, inspiring viewers with an interest in the natural world.

But did you know?

As BBC Director of Programmes in the 1960s, Attenborough continued to innovate and reinvent television – but this time in the world of comedy. He commissioned Monty Python's Flying Circus, a cult sketch show which made stars out of John Cleese, Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Eric Idle, Graham Chapman and Terry Gilliam. The show was a global phenomenon, inspiring generations of comedians around the world. In Britain, Python became part of the nation's cultural DNA, encapsulating a recognisably British eccentricity and spawning popular catchphrases and figures of speech.

As Controller of BBC Two, he oversaw the first ever colour broadcasts in Europe. He then commissioned the critically-acclaimed series *Civilisation*, written and presented by art historian Kenneth Clark.

“Young people – they care. They know that this is the world that they're going to grow up in, that they're going to spend the rest of their lives in. But I think it's more idealistic than that. They actually believe that humanity, the human species, has no right to destroy and despoil regardless.”

“The final chapter is ours to write. We know what we need to do. What happens next is up to us.”

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE OF THE WISKE JUNE 2026

	Appleton Wiske	Birkby	Danby Wiske	East Cowton	Great Smeaton	Readings
7 th June Trinity 1			Holy Communion 11.00am		Morning Worship 9.30am	Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4.13- 25; Matt 9.9-26
14 th June Trinity 2	Morning Worship 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30 am		Holy Communion 11.00am		Genesis 18:1- 15,(21:1-7); Psalm 116; Romans 5.18; Matt 9.35-10.23
21 st June Trinity 3			Morning Worship 11.00am		Holy Communion 11.00am	Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-17; Rom 6.1b-11; Matt 10.24-39
28 th June Trinity 4		250 Anniversary HC 11.00 +Anna				Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Rom 6.12-23; Matt 10.40-42
5 th July Trinity 5			Holy Communion 11.00am	Baptism 1.00	Morning Worship 9.30	Genesis 24:34-67; Psalm 45:10-17 Romans 7:15-25a Matt 11:16-30

‘Oh Lord our God give us by Your Holy Spirit a willing heart and a ready hand to use all Your gifts to your praise and glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.’

Thomas Cranmer, (1489–1556) Archbishop of Canterbury.