

THE ANVIL

Magazine for The Benefice of The Wiske

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

JULY & AUGUST 2026



but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31).

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

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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.

Finding Space

Someone asked me after the last magazine article, "How do I make space for God? I'm not very good at it." I replied, "Neither am I." None of us are experts at this. Life fills every corner of our days. There is work, family, shopping, emails, appointments and the general busyness of life. Sometimes we're simply tired. We intend to pray or sit quietly with God and suddenly discover that the day has disappeared. So please don't feel guilty if making space for God feels difficult. You're not failing, and you're certainly not alone.



Like any new practice, making space for God takes time. It means being willing to keep trying, even when we miss a day or a week. It means beginning again and learning to be gentle with ourselves. God is patient with us, and perhaps we need to be patient with ourselves too.

I sometimes think of it like pouring concrete. Before the concrete is poured, someone builds a rough wooden frame. It isn't beautiful, but it creates the space that will later be filled. Our spiritual lives can be like that. We set aside five minutes to pray, choose a quiet chair, open our Bible, or take a walk and listen. These small, imperfect practices are like the wooden framework. They may not feel that big, but we are making space.

Then God does what only God can do. He pours in his Holy Spirit and fills the space we have made available. We cannot manufacture God's presence or force spiritual growth. We simply prepare the form and trust him to fill it. Little by little, something solid and lasting is formed within us.

Making space for God needs time, practice and desire. It also means learning to listen. That can be difficult because we live in a world full of distractions. There is always another message, another programme,

another task. Yet God often meets us in the quiet, with a gentle whisper

Holiday times can be a good opportunity to begin. The routines of everyday life are different, and there may be a little more room to breathe. It doesn't need



to be a grand spiritual project. Set aside a time and a place. Start small. Five minutes is enough. Sit in the garden with a cup of tea. Read a few verses of a psalm. Light a candle. Small beginnings matter. It can also help to share the journey. Find someone who's trying to do the same thing. Encourage one another over a cup of tea. We often grow. when we don't do everything on our own.

God rarely shouts. More often, he gently leads. He nudges, invites and calls us onwards. He doesn't usually give us a detailed map that says, "Here's the destination – get on with it". Instead, He leads us, one step at a time. Making space, is not about getting it right. But making ourselves available.

However clumsy our efforts may be, God is already there, waiting to meet us. I pray this summer you might hear the Father's whisper.

Blessings, David.

7th July St Willibald – the first ever Anglo-Saxon travel writer

Where do you go on your summer travels? If you enjoy including a Christian element to your trips, such as making a pilgrimage, or visiting places rich in Christian history, then St. Willibald (d. 876) is the saint for you this month. He was one of the most widely travelled Anglo-Saxons of his time.

Willibald began life in Wessex, becoming a monk at Bishops Waltham (Hants). But he obviously had the curiosity that besets all keen travellers – what is it like over there...just over the next hill, round the next corner? And so Willibald set out... for Rome, Cyprus, Syria and above all, Palestine. It was an amazing achievement, just to survive such journeys back in the early 8th century.

FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDING

6th June - Jennifer Dunn & Jake Paxton. - married in All Saints East Cowton.

4. Parish Finances Explained - Reviewing Our Giving

Most of us review our phone contracts, insurance policies and household bills from time to time. But when did you last review your giving to God? Giving in the Christian life is not simply about meeting a budget or responding to a need. It is first and foremost a response to God's generosity towards us. We give because we love Him, because we are thankful, and because we recognise that all we have comes from Him in the first place.

Jesus said, "You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24). Money has a way of competing for our affections and loyalties. Giving is one of the practical ways we declare that God, not money, is our master. So, how much should we give? Christians have long discussed tithing – giving a tenth of our income. For some, the tithe provides a biblical principle of putting God first. For others, circumstances may lead them to give differently. The important question is not simply, "What can I afford?" but "Lord, what would You have me give?"

Below is a brief summary of what it costs to run our churches. The figures are not there to pressure anyone, but to help us think and pray realistically about our giving. They provide an opportunity for each of us to ask: Does my giving reflect my thankfulness to God and my commitment to His work? Giving is an act of worship. It is a joyful response to the God who has already given us everything in Christ.

As you read the figures, why not take a few moments to pray and ask God whether this is the right time to review your giving?"

Weekly income and expenditure across the 5 Churches. These are based on last year's figures and don't allow for one off repairs or donations.

	Appleton Wiske	Birkby	Danby Wiske	East Cowton	Great Smeaton
Cost	350	270	400	415	414
Income	192	100	237	313	214

The average giving for a regular Church of England parishioner is approximately £16.20 per week (about £840 per year). This breaks down into approximately 3.3% of their personal income.

This lovely poem is from June Gill, at 94 Appleton Wiske's most elderly resident! Hope this will bring back many happy memories.

Day at the Show

Horses, cattle and Marquees where roses are a speciality,
Here's much excitement in the jumping ring,
Everything is going with a swing.
The crowds are getting very lively – it is to see our Yorkshire lad,
Harvey.

Once again it is the Great Yorkshire Show,
Where all the top names in Showjumping go.
On Wednesday we can see the Queen,
Who will be in attendance you see,
In this year of Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee.

A Dolphin running a parkrun?!

Did you know that very other breath you take comes from the ocean...

Professor Richard Hixson is an NHS anaesthetist in Darlington and an Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Exeter. Much of his work involves educating healthcare professionals about sustainability and climate change. In the 2008 London Marathon he dressed as a giant frog to raise money for F.R.O.G.S. (Friends of Great Smeaton School). Now he does park runs, dressed as a Dolphin. The 2026 Northallerton 10k was done to raise awareness of the impact of human activity and climate change on the ocean. Richard runs and races as a dolphin because it's unexpected. It makes people smile, and people often ask why. That gives him an opportunity to talk about the ocean and its importance to human health. He admits it is a slightly ridiculous way of encouraging people to think about the connection between human health and the health of the ocean, but he is a passionate believer in the importance of getting this message across. Because whether we realise it or not, our wellbeing and future depends upon it.

For more information go to: <https://cpdmatch.co.uk/dolphin-runner>
To support his work please follow the links on the website.

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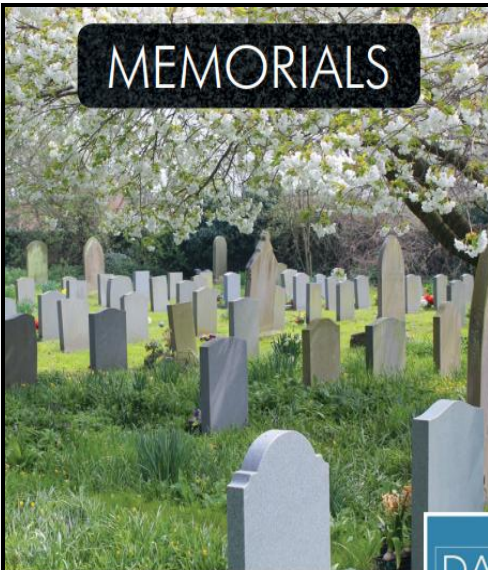
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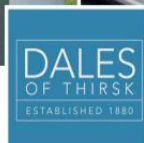
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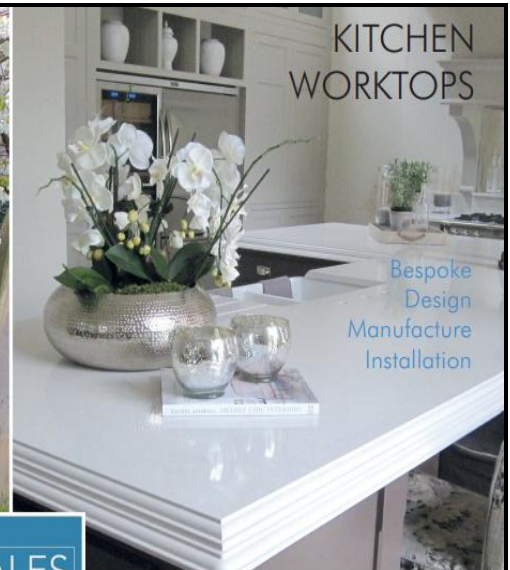
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NEW NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING CAMPAIGN

The Church of England are launching a campaign to raise awareness of how to recognise and report safeguarding concerns, keeping people at the centre. 'It's Not Just Policy, It's Personal' campaign is sharing resources that are designed to build confidence in responding and taking appropriate action. Safeguarding guidance and codes of conduct are statutory and must always be followed, but this campaign aims to remind us that these are not simply processes to be followed. At the centre of every safeguarding concern is a person who has taken the difficult step of disclosing harm or risk. Creating a safe space for people to report, and how we all respond to those reports, matters.

Richard Rolle was born in Yorkshire in c.1300 to a poor farming family. He was an English hermit, a writer, and a mystic, and was a part of the golden age of English mysticism. Best-known for *Incendium Amoris* or *The Fire of Love*, a devotional guidebook composed around 1343 and widely read during the Middle Ages.

News in the Villages

Diary Dates for JULY at a glance		
Thurs 2 nd	7.30pm	Archdeacon's Visitation in Ripon Cathedral.
Wed. 8 th		Appleton Wiske YCA Garden Party.
Thurs 9 th	7.15pm	Danby Wiske WI in village hall.
Thurs 16 th	2.00pm	U3a talk in All Saints annex, East Cowton.
Sat 18 th	Day	Picton Show.
Sun 19 th		Danby Wiske outdoor theatre of Romeo & Juliet.
Diary dates for AUGUST at a glance		
Sun 2 nd	2.30-4.30pm	Danby Wiske Ice-cream Sundae get-together, village hall.
Wed 12 th	7.30pm	Appleton Wiske YCA talk in village hall.
Thurs 13 th	7.15pm	Danby Wiske WI in village hall.
Sat 15 th	Day	Danby Wiske outdoor bushcraft activities.
28 th -31 st	Day	'Cowtonfest' at East Cowton, various activities.
29 th -30 th	Day	Danby Wiske Scarecrow trail round the village.
Mon 31 st	2.00pm	Appleton Wiske Village Hog Roast.

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

July 12th Janice Blake & Ann Pringle

July 26th Sheila Simpson & Liz Rees-Jones

August 9th Michelle Street

August 23rd Anne Golding & Sue McDonnell

YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

Wednesday 8th July Garden Party Hunters Ride

Bring savoury or sweet dish – and a shawl!

Wednesday 12th August: From Copper to Shepherd

Sue Woodcock tells stories from her varying careers

Raffle: Sandra Strickland. Refreshments: Jane Craven.

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.

THE HOG ROAST - Neville Gill has kindly agreed to cater for the Annual St Mary's Hog Roast which will take place on the Village Green outside the Lord Nelson from 2.00 pm on Bank Holiday Monday the 31st August. Tickets will be available from the Post Office. **PLEASE BRING** picnic chairs, tables, rugs etc as usual!

HOLIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS - Coffee mornings will continue during the School Summer holidays from 10.00am outside the Shop, or in St Mary's if wet. All Welcome.

THANK YOU to the 31 people from both Appleton Wiske and surrounding villages, who visited St. Mary's in June to see the Tyndale 500 exhibition. The 1551 family bible was enjoyed and our time together was made complete by Jenny Heimerdinger's excellent PowerPoint presentation, both informative and interesting, as was the Q & A session after the service on Sunday 14th. Special thanks to Oscar the dog who guarded the bible diligently all week, and Ralph the cat who sat with us for a full hour as people came and went...

METHODIST SERVICES IN JULY, APPLETON WISKE

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

Steward - contact Rob Portsmouth 07796610798

Sunday 5th Messy Church (outdoors), local arrangement.

Sunday 12th M. Breckon.

Sunday 19th R. Webster Godly Play.

Sunday 26th Rev. Kim Hurst Communion.

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

METHODIST SERVICES IN AUGUST

There are no services in chapel in August. If you are interested in exploring the bible month material over coffee and conversation, please let Rob know, so an alternative venue can be arranged.

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. After the summer break, we will start meeting again in September, using this study, 'The coming of the Saviour'. Dates to follow. For more information please

email mrs.mary.elliott@gmail.com
or patabbott1947@gmail.com



Do come along to our friendly sociable meetings.

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

Fellowship Group - The annual outing was to Grinton church and Marrick Priory. We had a most enjoyable and interesting day learning about the history of these two amazing buildings. The Fellowship group resumes its fortnightly meetings in September. The group is open to everyone in the Benefice and beyond. Dates and times in the next edition of The Anvil.

"Thank you" to all who distributed envelopes and/or have donated to the recent Christian Aid Appeal in Great Smeaton, which raised the sum of £290 of which £160 was Gift Aided". Elizabeth Turner.

St Eloy's Churchyard - Thank you to all those who have sent donations to go towards the upkeep of the churchyard. These donations are a great help and ensure we are able to keep the churchyard as a place of peace and beauty for everyone, but especially for those whose family members are laid to rest there.

Remembering Ranchod – Catherine Cadogan is again walking 1 mile a day to raise money for the orphans of Ranchod.

Contact 6, Church garth or 01609 881394 to donate. Thank you.

Advance Notices

The Harvest Festival service this year will be held on Sunday 4th Oct at 9.30am. The church will be decorated on Friday 2nd Oct at 2pm.

Hi 5's - On Saturday 3rd October there will be a Children's Workshop of crafts, games and songs 10-12 noon in St Eloy's preparing for the Harvest Service the following day.

To book a place please email mrs.mary.elliott@gmail.com or patabbott1947@gmail.com

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 9.30am – 3.30pm.

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 Wednesday evening 7-9.00pm and Thursday, 2pm.

LOVESOME HILL

Lovesome Hill Table Tennis Teams - Congratulations to Lovesome Hill A Team for winning the Winspear Plate and also Congratulations to Lovesome Hill B Team for winning The Kellet Cup and also winning the Handicap League in The Northallerton & District Table Tennis League.

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, next season starting October.

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

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

DANBY WISKE

Ladies are welcome on **9th July and 13th August** 7.15pm in the village hall for the monthly WI meetings. Visitor fee is deducted from subscription if you join.

19th July there will be a live outdoor theatre performance of Romeo and Juliet in the village hall field.

2nd August 2.30-4.30 in the village hall there is an Ice Cream Sundae get together. Let's hope for sunshine.

15th August have fun learning outdoor bushcraft activities.

29-30th August visit or participate in the village scarecrow trail.

Still wondering what to do? Pop into the church and explore. Contact the church warden (see p.2) if you wish to use the space for your own activity. Ideal for small gatherings, and informal social activities.

EAST COWTON

COWTONFEST 28th - 31st August. A variety of events happening each day.

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.

The u3a have invited the Community Defibrillator Co-ordinator at Yorkshire Ambulance Service to attend our Monthly Meeting, on **Thursday, 16th July, 2026, at 2.00pm.** in All Saints Annexe. Here we will learn everything there is to know about the access and use of Defibrillators and the application of CPR to those in need. **This meeting is open to both members and non-members. £3 pp. refreshments included.**

Look out for news of our August Outing to 'Breezy Knees' Garden, and walkabout in York. Full details soon.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE OF THE WISKE AUGUST 2026

	A Wiske	Birkby	D Wiske	E. Cowton	Gt. Smeaton	Readings
2 nd August			Holy Communion 11.00		Morning Worship 9.30	Gen 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7,15 Romans 9:1-5 Matt14:13-21
9 th August	Holy Communion 11.00	Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30		Baptism 11.00		Gen 37:1-28 Psalm 105:1-6,16-22 Rom 10:5-15 Matt 14:22-33
16 th August			Morning Worship 11.00		Holy Communion 11.00	Gen 45:1-15 Psalm 133 Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matt 15:10-28
23 rd August	Holy Communion 9.30	Morning Worship 9.30		Holy Communion 11.00		Ex 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matt 16:13-20
30 th August				Café Church 9.30- 11.30	Benefice Communion 10.00	Ex 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6,23-26,45b Romans 12:9-21 Matt 16:21-28

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE OF THE WISKE JULY 2026

	Appleton Wiske	Birkby	Danby Wiske	East Cowton	Great Smeaton	Readings
5 th July			Holy Communion 11.00am	Baptism 1.00pm	Morning Worship 9.30am	Gen 24:34-67; Psalm 45:10-17 Rom 7:15-25a Matt 11:16-30
12 th July	Holy Communion 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30 am		Holy Communion 11.00am		Gen 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112 Rom 8:1-11 Matt 13:1-23
19 th July			Morning Worship 11.00am		Holy Communion 11.00am	Gen 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-24 Rom 8:12-25 Matt 13:24-43
26 th July	Holy Communion 9.30am	Morning Worship 9.30am		Holy Communion 11.00am		Gen 29:15-28 Psalm 128 Rom 8:26-39 Matt 13:31-33,44-52

“I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth.”

– *Isaac Newton*

SEPTEMBER 2026 – 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