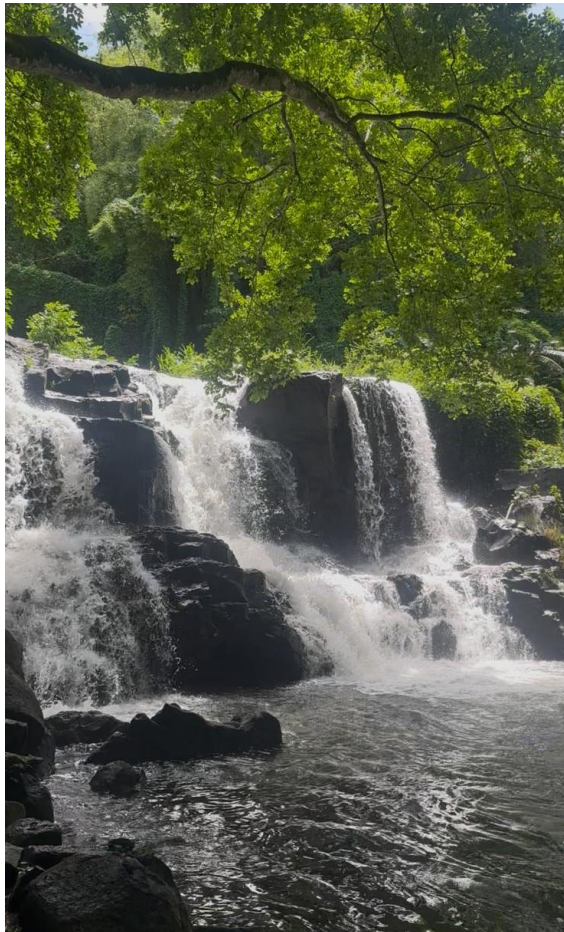


THE ANVIL

Magazine for The Benefice of The Wiske

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

SEPTEMBER 2026



Ezekial 47:9 “... so where the river flows everything will live...”

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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.

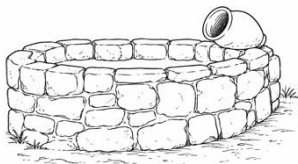
Living Water

The big topic of conversation this summer (apart from the world cup), has been the weather, heatwaves and drought. The grass has turned brown, gardens have needed constant attention, and across our farming communities many have watched crops struggle in the dry conditions, and more wildfires are breaking out. And once again we're made aware of just how precious water really is.

It also reminds us that the effects of climate change are no longer something we read about in the newspapers. They're being felt in our own fields, gardens and villages. This year's Harvest theme of **Living Water** seems particularly appropriate.

Water runs like a thread through the pages of the Bible. It brings life to thirsty land, cleanses, cools and refreshes, carries boats to new places, and in baptism becomes a sign of God's forgiveness and the new life in Jesus. Time and again, water reminds us that God is the giver of every good gift.

I love the account of Jesus meeting the woman at the well. She had come to draw water for the day, but Jesus gently turns the conversation in an unexpected direction.



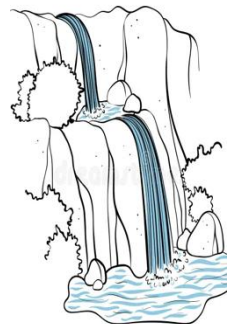
He said, *"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."* (John 4:10) She was thinking about the next bucket of water. Jesus was thinking about the deepest thirst of the human heart.

It's easy to spend our lives drawing water from all sorts of wells—keeping busy, chasing success, worrying about tomorrow, or hoping that the next thing we buy or achieve will leave us feeling satisfied. Yet those wells never quite fill us for long. Jesus's offer is different, Living water, it refreshes weary souls, washes away guilt and shame, renews strength and hope for the day.

We have seen again that water is a precious gift, not an unlimited resource. Using it carefully, caring for the world around us, and supporting those charities that bring clean, safe water to communities where it is still a daily struggle are all practical ways of giving thanks for what we have been given.

As we decorate our churches with sheaves of corn, baskets of fruit and late summer flowers, perhaps Harvest gives us the chance to pause amid the busyness of life. We can thank God for his generous provision, pray for our farming families and for all whose livelihoods depend on the land, and remember those for whom clean water is still a distant hope.

And perhaps make time to hear Jesus ask us the same question: *Where are you looking to satisfy your deepest thirst?*



His invitation remains unchanged. Come to me. The living water that never runs dry. In every season—whether the ground is baked hard by the sun or softened by autumn rain—he alone can refresh us, cleanse us and sustain us.

Blessings

David

Confirmation Service, Bishop Anna is coming to East Cowton on the 1st November at 10.30 to lead a confirmation service, if you would like to explore being confirmed then you are invited to join with us on Wed 2nd September at 7.30pm for the first meeting of the confirmation group. Contact David for more details. The venue is yet to be confirmed



Photo of Bishop Anna, Rev. David Bartlett, and the Ven. Simon Golding, at the 250th anniversary service for St. Peter's Church, Birkby, on 28th June 2026.

They are pictured admiring the five benefice banners that all came together for the day. It is hoped that the banners will tour round the five churches for every fifth Sunday Benefice service.

St Peter's Church, Birkby, 250th Anniversary Event

Gazebos galore, fine weather (thankfully), sausages and burgers a plenty, an enormous fruit cake, a prize-winning silver band and the perfect celebratory service delivered by the Bishop of Ripon.

In a nutshell these were the goings on at Birkby on Sunday 28th June 2026. St Peter's Church was built in 1776 and it seemed fitting that we should have a celebration to mark this historic occasion. The Bishop of Ripon, The Rt Revd Anna Eltringham very kindly agreed to come and take the service, and approximately 75 people (and one canine guest, Buttons) attended the Holy Communion, which was a celebration of both the church and the community that is brought together through St Peter's in Birkby and the wider Benefice of the Wiske. Rev Simon Golding assisted with the service, and Rev David Barlett also supported the Bishop and played in the musical group which came together to play some of the congregation's favourite hymns.

After the service, a garden party was held in next door at the Manor. Entertainment was provided by the excellent Cockerton Prize Winning Silver Band, and Hutchinson Hobbs gave us a magnificent barbeque (thank you so much Barry – it was all delicious). Julie Roberts had been busy in the kitchen and made a delicious celebratory fruit cake which the Bishop officially cut for us – despite it being a 12 inch square cake every scrap was eaten by the end of the afternoon. There were a few garden games to keep the guests amused (thanks to everyone who lent items) and the attendance of some past members of the church who have moved away from the area really completed what was a perfect afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who attended – you made it a truly special occasion and also thanks to everyone who helped with the organisation, St Peter's is definitely still going strong at 250!



All in the month of SEPTEMBER It was:

250 years ago, on 9th September that the Second Continental Congress adopted the name United States, which replaced United Colonies.

200 years ago, on 5th September 1826 that John Wisden, British cricketer was born. Founder of *Wisden's Cricketers' Almanac*.

Launched with 112 pages in 1864, it now runs to 1500 pages and is the bible of cricket.

175 years ago, on 19th September 1851, Wiliam Lever, 1st Viscount Leverhulme, was born. Co-founder of Lever Brothers with his brother James. Now called Unilever, this global consumer goods company operates in more than 190 countries.

125 years ago, on 29th September 1901 that Enrico Fermi, Italian-born American physicist was born. Creator of the first nuclear reactor, he became known as the 'architect of the nuclear bomb.'

90 years ago, on 7th September 1936 that Buddy Holly, the American rock and roll singer was born. Killed in a plane crash in 1959.

Also 90 years ago, on 21st September 1936 that Frank Hornby, British inventor, died. Remembered for Meccano, Hornby Model Railways and Dinky Toys.

Also 90 years ago, on 30th September 1936 that Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire were officially opened.

65 years ago, on 11th September 1961, that the World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature) was founded in Switzerland. Now the world's largest conservation organisation, operating in nearly 100 countries with over 35 million supporters.

50 years ago, on 5th September 1976 that the first episode of the Muppet Show was broadcast on ITV in the UK. It attracted 15 million viewers and ran for five series until March 1981.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms at All Saints, East Cowton

5th July Benjamin Slyfield

5th July Daisy Marie Beevers

9th August Olive Elizabeth Iris Beevers

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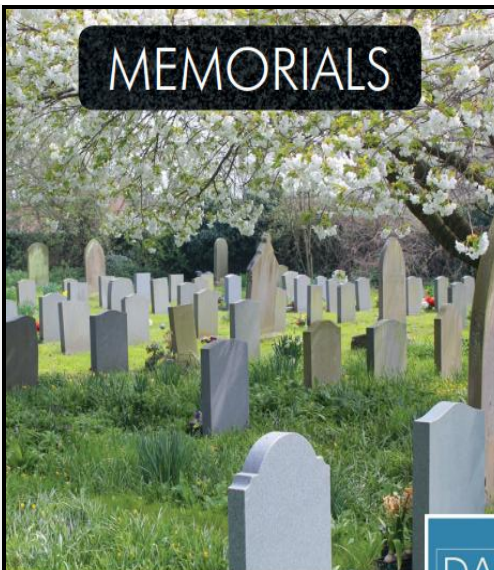
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1/2 page advert £80.00 pa

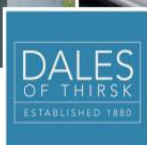
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A new School year – facing that first Day

No matter how old we are, we can probably remember our first day at school – being left at the door, meeting children we did not know, separated from the adults we did know and had trusted since the day we were born. But on the other hand, there was the excitement: a big step along the road of life, new friends to make, another adult to become important in our lives. Yes, quite a lot to handle when you're rising five!

And that's what hundreds of thousands of children are going to experience this month. Often children may have attended nursery and pre-school at the same site, but it's still a next step along the educational road.

Not much less is the anxiety of mum, who leaves her precious child, proudly resplendent in their new school uniform, in the Reception class-room.

Of course we'll be praying for them, and we know that like millions of others before them, they will hopefully eventually decide that their schooldays were among the best of their lives! (parishpump)

News in the Villages

Diary dates for SEPTEMBER at a glance

Wed 9 th	7.30pm	Appleton Wiske YCA talk by John Darwin.
Thurs 10 th	7.15pm	Danby Wiske WI talk on hearing dogs for the deaf.
Sun 13 th		Danby Wiske village hall Willow weaving.
Mon 14 th	2.00pm	Fellowship at Great Smeaton, all welcome.
Tues 15 th	5.30-7.30pm	Lovesome Hill free Defibrillator and CCR training.
Sat 19 th	7.00pm	All Saint's Annexe, Film night 'Life of Brian'.
Mon 21 st		Appleton Wiske Village Hall CIO.

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

September 13th Megan Patterson and Linda Thompson

September 27th HARVEST All contributions welcome.

YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

Wednesday 9th, John Darwin – The Canoe Man.

Ex-Superintendent Mark Braithwaite tells us the story behind this intriguing case!

Raffle: Diana Taylor.

Refreshments: Chris Donald

METHODIST SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER, APPLETON WISKE

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

Steward - contact Rob Portsmouth 07796610798

Sunday 6th Breakfast Church.

Sunday 13th Covenant Service Rev. Kim Hurst.

Sunday 20th Godly Play Jane Paine and Karen Portsmouth.

Sunday 27th Alison Brophy.

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

Advance notice for October, Saturday 24th – The annual 'Putting the churchyard to bed' morning at St. Mary's. This is **on Saturday 24th not Sunday 25th**. There will be no service at Chapel on this Sunday, so do come along and help with the churchyard clear-up instead. Soup and rolls to follow. All welcome.

Monday 31st August HOG ROAST - Many thanks to everyone who came and had an enjoyable and social time together with excellent food as always. Amount raised will be in next month's magazine.

Saturday 24th October Annual Churchyard clear-up day at St. Marys' from 9.00am.

Can you read and write? Appleton Wiske Village Hall CIO is seeking a secretary. If you are able to help and would like more information, please contact Simon Golding on 881185.

Appleton Wiske Shop and Post Office.

The new modular building has been ordered and will hopefully be opening at the village hall site in early November. A message from Jackie, "I would like to thank the whole community, all the surrounding villages and people who have made this happen. From supporting every fundraising event, whether a raffle, a supper, private donations or pig racing!! Well done for the community effort".

GREAT SMEATON AND HORNBY

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

Meets fortnightly on Mondays, 2.00pm.

The Fellowship group resumes on Monday 14th September at 2pm at 'Rose Cottage', Great Smeaton, as we consider 'The Coming of the Saviour'.

A warm welcome to all old and new members. For more information please contact mrs.mary.elliott@gmail.com

Do come along to our friendly sociable meetings.

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



A big thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the Kabwe, in Zambia, charity. It was quite a challenge as the heat wave interrupted our walks.

We have raised, even in these trying times, nearly £1,500.

Thank you very much

Summer BBQ.

Sincere thanks to Gillian and Martin for all their generosity in organising and hosting the Summer BBQ. It was a wonderful evening, a real community event which raised the amazing sum of £2,500. This will help with the ongoing upkeep of our beautiful

church. Thank you to everyone who attended, the ladies who produced some amazing 'puddings' and all those who helped with the 'clean up' operation on Saturday morning.

Harvest - The Harvest Festival service will take place on Sunday 4th October at 9.30. An informal service of praise and thanksgiving for all the harvest means to us. Everyone welcome.

The church will be decorated on **Friday 2nd October at 2pm**. Gifts of flowers, fruit and vegetables gratefully received. Do come and share in this community activity. A warm welcome to all.

Hi 5's -On **Saturday 3rd October 10-12**, in St Eloy's, there will be a morning of games, songs and craft for children preparing for the Harvest service. To book a place email Mary at mrs.mary.elliott@gmail.com or Pat at patabbott1947@gmail.com

UKULELE CONCERT - After the success of the Ukulele concert last year there will be another concert on the afternoon of Saturday October 10th, 2026. Please keep the date free. Tickets £10.00 to include refreshments. Contact gillian1919@live.co.uk

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

Free Defibrillator and C.P.R training at Lovesome Hall

Tuesday 15th September 5.30- 7.30 pm

We have a new Defibrillator situated on the wall of the village hall next to the post box, and would welcome everyone locally or nearby to be able to use it in an emergency.

Lovesome Hill 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

The Danby Wiske bell ringers, gave a fitting half muffled farewell to Steve Knight the landlord of the White Swan. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gill and Andrew.

Danby Wiske PCC would like to thank everyone who supported the Ice Cream Sundae event, apologies for the long wait for some. We learnt a lot to improve the event for next year. £535 was raised.

The next event is the Elaine Palmer concert on Friday 2nd Oct.

Tickets £12.50 from dwchurchevent@gmail.com, or contact Angela Aldridge on 07711 803243 if email is not possible.

Elaine's music is Americana/Alt Country in style, influenced by the North Yorkshire Moors where she was born and the Arizona deserts where her family live. Doors will open at 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Special Guest Maggie May Treanor will play a 40-minute set.

8.30pm (1 hour) Elaine Palmer duo.

Proceeds towards Danby Wiske Church Building Preservation Fund, <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3348/>

A big thankyou to Emma Robinson for her support at the Marske Fisherman's Choir event in the spring and for arranging £1000 matched funding from her employer Barclay's Bank.

The WI speaker at 7.15pm on 10th September is a representative from the hearing dogs for the deaf.

The Village Hall Committee have a willow weaving event planned for the 13th September.

EAST COWTON

Film Night in the Annexe, Saturday 19th 7.00 for 7.15pm. 'The Life of Brian' by Monty Python. £5.00 entry includes ice-cream.

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 SEASON OF CREATION – ‘LIVING WATER’

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from **1st September to 4th October**, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Many churches choose to use this time of year to hold special services and events to give thanks for God's gift of creation, and to renew their commitment to caring for our one planet home.

This is the season, running to St Francis Day on October 4th, when churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it. Its start and end dates reflect that it is a shared idea between Western and Eastern Christianity.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland adopted the concept in 2008. While its adoption was in part driven by the complex environmental crises the human race faces, the Season of Creation draws on much deeper roots in Scripture and in older Christian traditions of the relationship between God, humanity and the created order. The timing of the Season of Creation means it is an excellent way of rooting traditional harvest festivals in wider issues and firm theological ground.

Living Water - The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is living water, based on Ezekiel 47:1-12. God's life-giving water flows from the temple of God, growing deeper, restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems.

The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage and embracing interconnectedness. We are called to immerse ourselves in the water, actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

Ezekiel 47:1-12 "... so where the river flows everything will live. ¹⁰ Fishermen will stand along the shore; ... ² Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE OF THE WISKE SEPTEMBER 2026

	Appleton Wiske	Birkby	Danby Wiske	East Cowton	Great Smeaton	Readings
6 th Sep. Trinity 14			Holy Communion & Baptism 11.00am		Morning Worship 9.30am	Exodus 12.1–14; Psalm 149; Romans 13.8–14; Matthew 18.15–20
13 th Sep. Trinity 15	Holy Communion 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30 am		Baptism 11.00am		Exodus 14.19–31; Psalm 114; Romans 14.1–12; Matthew 18.21–35
20 th Sep. Trinity 16			Morning Worship 11.00am		Holy Communion 11.00am	Exodus 16.2–15; Psalm 105; Philippians 1.21– 30; Matthew 20.1– 16
27 th Sep. Trinity 17	Holy Communion Harvest 9.30am	Morning Worship Harvest 9.30am		Holy Communion 11.00am		Exodus 17.1–7; Ps 78.1–4,12–16; Philippians 2.1–13; Matthew 21.23–32

If a messy kitchen is a happy kitchen, my kitchen is delirious.

OCTOBER 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