

THE ANVIL

Magazine for The Benefice of The Wiske

Great Smeaton, Appleton Wiske, Danby Wiske,

Birkby, East Cowton and North Cowton



October
2026



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION £4.00

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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.

There is something rather satisfying about seeing a field of wheat ripen. All those golden ears moving in the breeze, waiting for the combine to arrive. This year, though, the long, hot summer has reminded us that even something as familiar as the grain harvest cannot be taken for granted. Too much heat and too little rain makes life difficult for farmers, affecting quantity and quality.



But from that grain we make one of the most basic foods: bread. At its most basic, it needs only flour, water, yeast and salt. Four ordinary ingredients, transformed into something that has fed generations. In Jesus' time, bread was not simply something to accompany a meal; it was a staple food and was treated with a respect that can seem almost sacred to us. In many cultures today, that reverence for bread continues. It is not something to be casually wasted or thrown away. Which makes Jesus' words, *"I am the bread of life,"* rather more significant than they might sound to us today.

For most of us, bread is no longer a matter of survival. If the bread bin is empty, we simply pop down to the shop. And there are plenty of alternatives. *"I am the French fries of life!"* would carry as much significance today or the "pasta or rice of life" It's easy to lose the impact of Jesus' words because we are so used to having food readily available. For the people Jesus was speaking to, bread was different. It meant nourishment, strength and life itself. To say *"I am the bread of life"* was to say something profound: I am what you need to live.

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, He said to ask, *"Give us today our daily bread."* A simple, but challenging prayer. We are not asked to pray for everything we might want for the next ten years, but to trust God for what we need today.

That can be difficult for us. We like the freezer full, the savings account topped up and the calendar planned well in advance! Yet every time we pray for our daily bread, we are reminded that ultimately our lives depend upon God. Harvest illustrates this beautifully. Farmers can plough and sow, but they cannot make the seed grow. We depend upon God's provision of rain, sunshine and the mysterious processes of creation.



We fill our lives with all sorts, work, hobbies, possessions, holidays etc. None of them are necessarily bad, but they cannot satisfy the deepest hunger within us. There is a spiritual hunger which only Jesus can fill.

At Harvest we give thanks for the grain in our fields, for those who work the land, for rain and sunshine, and for the food that reaches our tables. But perhaps we can ask ourselves what truly sustains us – and do we trust God to provide what we need.

The next time you sit down with a slice of toast, or even a bacon roll, remember Jesus' words: *"I am the bread of life."* The harvest gives us our daily bread. Jesus offers us the bread that gives life.

Blessings

"Sleep is spiritual," is the claim made in a newly-published guide to discipleship, written by London-based Church of England vicar, Sarah Guinness. Although over-looked by many, 'The Alternative Guide to Discipleship' places sleep firmly at the core of growing in Christian spirituality.

Sarah Guinness writes, "Sleep is not wasted time. It is an opportunity for God to seal our dreams, and to deposit things and ideas in our hearts and minds.

"I'd like to imagine that at night God, who knit our brains and bodies together, stands by our beds, ready to sort through the day that we've had, patching the holes, processing that conversation, mending the tears in our armour so that we wake up feeling repaired, refreshed and ready for another day."

Sleep can be creative, an opportunity for God to speak to us, a place to be vulnerable and a practice run for our Christian lives.

She cites how Adam fell into a deep sleep, and wakes to find Eve; how God speaks to a sleeping Abram about His promises and seals a covenant with him; and how Jesus sleeps and then wakes with clarity to curse a fig tree and clear the temple.

It's in our dreams that God speaks to us most powerfully, she explains. "God, being God, can do far more in our sleeping than we can do in our waking. He uses dreams to get our attention. (parishpump).

All in the month of October it was –

800 years ago, on 3rd October 1226 that St Francis of Assisi, Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, and founder of the Franciscan Order.

300 years ago, on 28th October 1726 Jonathan Swift's novel *Gulliver's Travels* was published.

175 years ago, on 18th October 1851 Herman Melville's novel *Moby-Dick* was published.

125 years ago, on 12th October 1901 US President Theodore Roosevelt renamed the Executive Mansion the White House. It is the official residence and workplace of the US President.

Also 125 years ago, on 19th October 1901 Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1* and *March No. 2* were performed for the first time, in Liverpool.

100 years ago, on 14th October 1926 the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A A Milne, was published.

90 years ago, from 5th to 31st October 'The Jarrow March' took place. 200 men set off from Jarrow in north-east England to Westminster, to draw attention to the severe unemployment and poverty in their area following the closure of a shipyard.

80 years ago, on 20th October 1946 that the puppet character Muffin the Mule made his first TV appearance on the BBC series *For the Children*.

75 years ago, on 18th October 1951 that Snowdonia National Park was established in Wales. It was Britain's third National Park.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism of Felix William Barker - 13th September – All Saints, East Cowton.

Please look out for our beautiful Wiske Benefice banners. One can be found in each of our five churches.

Thank you to everyone who got involved and created a square, they really do look good and we try to bring them altogether, at a joint service, every so often.

We have identified all of the squares, except the cute Christmas pudding. So, if that one is yours, please let Jean Dennis know, and she will get your name written on the back.

Do check each church to discover which banner is where, or come along to a Fifth Sunday United Service, when we hope to have all banners displayed together.'



"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists'-attraction ratings guide, it's a Health and Safety warning!"

Be thankful for grandparents

Everyone seems to have their 'special day' these days, and this month brings us Grandparents' Day, on the 4th October.

If your grandchildren are still young, why not keep at your house:

1. A dressing up box – of fairytale clothes, plastic crowns and cardboard swords.
2. A craft supply box – egg boxes, old magazines full of pictures, cardboard, and glue.
3. Colouring supplies – crayons and any kind of paper – even the back of envelopes – will do fine.

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

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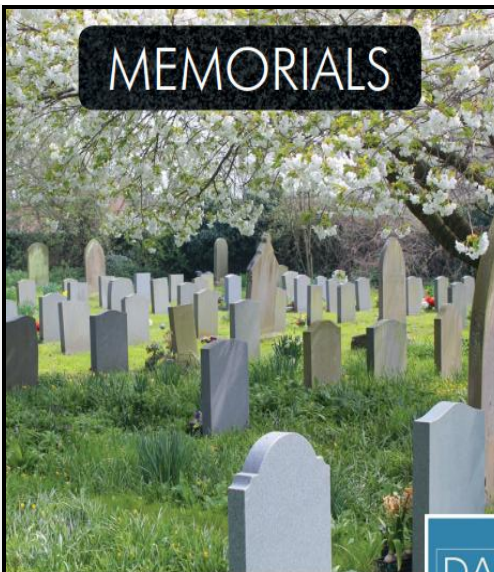
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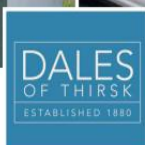
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100 years of Winnie-the-Pooh

One hundred years ago, on 14th October 1926, the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A. A. Milne, was published.

It was set in the Hundred Acre Wood, an innocent world described as "largely Edenic" but based on Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, which the Milne family often explored from their home in nearby Hartfield. It came about through the encouragement of E H Shepard, Milne's colleague on the humorous magazine *Punch*, who provided the beguiling illustrations.

Milne and Shepard wrote the book of children's verse *When We Were Very Young*, which led to *Winnie-the-Pooh* and its sequel, *The House on Pooh Corner*, all of which proved extremely popular.

It was apparently during a family visit to London Zoo, where Christopher Robin encountered a tame bear called Winnipeg, that the book was conceived. Winnie's literary friends, such as Piglet and Eeyore, were originally toys of the real Christopher Robin.

A plaque at Ashdown Forest declares that Milne and Shepard "captured the magic of Ashdown Forest and gave it to the world."

News in the Villages

Diary dates for OCTOBER at a glance

Fri 2 nd	7 for 7.30pm	Danby Wiske concert with Elaine Palmer.
Sunday 4 th	10.30am	Harvest Celebration, Appleton Wiske village hall.
Mon 5 th	daytime	AW village hall, pre-booked vaccinations.
Tues 6 th	7.00pm	Deanery Synod at Colburn.
Sat 10 th	10-12 noon	Danby Wiske WI Coffee morning for Marie Curie.
Sat 10 th	2.30pm	Great Smeaton village hall, Ukulele concert.
Wed 14 th	7.30pm	Appleton Wiske YCA talk in village hall.
Frid 16 th	7.30pm	Appleton Wiske concert 'The Marske Fisherman's Choir'.
Wed 21 st		Appleton Wiske trip to The Forum, 'Great British Bake-off'.
Fri 23 rd	6.45pm	St. Peter's Birkby talk
Sat 24 th	From 9.00	St. Mary's annual Churchyard Clear-up.
Nov. 1 st	10.30am	Confirmation service at East Cowton with Bishop Anna.

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

October 11th Angela Sellers & Liz Rees-Jones.

October 25th Janice Blake & Sheila Simpson.

YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

Wednesday 14th October: 'That Vile Woman!'

Tony Nicholson returns with part 2 of 'Secrets From The Attic'

Raffle: Dawn Turner. Refreshments: Shirley Duffield

Wednesday 21st October: Northallerton Forum – 'Great British Bake-Off – The Musical'. See Chris Donald for tickets.

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.

HARVEST CELEBRATION Sunday 4th October.

A short gathering of singing and thanksgiving, followed by tea/coffee,

and light refreshments. All are very welcome to join together in a community expression of gratitude to the farming community within the seasons of the year. (Children to be accompanied by an adult)

HOG ROAST Many thanks to Neville, Sarah and Judith in particular, and all who supported the Hog Roast on Bank Holiday Monday and raised £753 for St Mary's Church. It is an important community event.

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY The Annual Working Party to put the Churchyard to bed for the winter will be held on Saturday 24 October from 9.00 am. We need you, your garden tools and GREEN BIN. Refreshments will be provided! – Thank you.

APPLETON WISKE VILLAGE SHOP UPDATE By the time you read this Edition of the ANVIL the New Shop will have been delivered to AW Village Hall awaiting fitting out by the Post Office and transfer from the present building prior to opening in the first week of November with the Official Ceremony to be held on the 6th of November at 11.00 am!

SAVE THE DATE - MESERANI PROJECT African & Local Handicrafts & Jewellery Sale - A superb opportunity to buy unusual and unique Christmas presents! On Saturday 7th Nov.in Appleton Wiske Village Hall, from 10.00 to 2.00 p.m. More details next month.

FOODBANK Please do not forget the Foodbank in the Post Office. It has provided much needed support to many families in the area over the summer. Traditionally they do very well at HARVEST but have calls on their services week by week. – Thank you.

METHODIST SERVICES IN OCTOBER, APPLETON WISKE

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

Steward - contact Rob Portsmouth 07796610798

Sunday 4th Community Harvest in village hall at 10.30am.

Sunday 11th Geoffrey Bruce Holy Communion.

Sunday 18th Godly Play Janet Daly

Saturday 24th The annual 'Putting the churchyard to bed' morning at St. Mary's. This is **on Saturday 24th no service on Sunday 25th.**

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

GREAT SMEATON AND HORNBY

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

Meets fortnightly on Mondays, 2.00pm.

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.



THE HARVEST FESTIVAL service this year will be held on Sunday 4th October at 9.30.

This will be a traditional service of thanks and celebration led by the Hi 5's group to which everyone is invited. Refreshments will be served after the service, 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. All welcome to help with the decorations. Gifts of flowers would be wonderful.

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 children's part in the Harvest Service the following day.

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

UKULELE CONCERT

Saturday 10th October 2.30pm. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music from this well-known group of Ukulele players. A glass of prosecco on arrival. Tasty refreshments will be served mid concert with tea or coffee. £12 a ticket. Children 5+ £5 contact Gillian email gillian1919@live.co.uk

POPPIES - As we approach Remembrance Day, extra knitted poppies are always welcome to add to the displays over the church door and the gate. Any poppies can be left at back of church.

SAVE THE DATE On Friday 20th November 6.30 in the village hall, Andrew Marriott will be giving a talk on The Victoria Cross. More details next month.

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

Hutton Bonville Village Hall A.G.M. To be held on Tuesday 10th November at the earlier time of 7.30 p.m. Please come along and support. All welcome.

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 Harvest Festival is on the 9th October at 7pm, followed by supper in the village hall. Looking forward to celebrating this with everyone.

The WI are holding a coffee morning in aid of Marie Curie 10am – Noon, on Saturday 10th October. Their normal monthly meeting will be on Thursday 8th, where visitors are welcome, fee is £6 but it is deductible off your subscription if you choose to join.

The Village Hall committee are holding a 1st aid training course on 17th October.

Scammer. I got a call from a scammer who said, "I've got all of your passwords."

I said, "Great. What are they? I'll grab a pen.

BIRKBY

'Keeping Calm and Carrying On - Birkby and the Cowtons in World War 2'

Local historian Neil Reed will be giving a talk at St Peter's Church, Birkby on **Friday 23rd October** about World War Two as experienced in our local area.

The event will start at 6.45pm with a brief AGM for the Friends of St Peter's Church, followed by Neil's talk commencing at 7pm.

All are welcome from 6.45pm and the evening will conclude with tea, coffee and light refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be a fascinating and lively evening - who knows what secrets you might discover!

Tickets are £10 - available in advance from Ginny McCloy (07903 757250), Mike Roberts (01609 881121) or from other members of the Friends of St Peter's Church

EAST COWTON

We will be holding the

**WISKE BENEFICEALL SOULS SERVICE of
LIGHT for the DEPARTED**

at All Saints Church, East Cowton

on All Souls Day, Monday 2nd November at 7.00pm.

This is a gentle service of quiet reflection and prayer to remember our loved ones, who are no longer with us. Be that loss just recently, or many years ago. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in their memory, or someone can light a candle for you. Revd David Bartlett will lead the service. All welcome.



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.

Welbury

Coffee Morning for Teesside Hospice, **Saturday 10th October, 10-12 noon**. Entry £3.00. Contact Sue on 07789 658837.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE OF THE WISKE OCTOBER 2026

	Appleton Wiske	Birkby	Danby Wiske	East Cowton	Great Smeaton	Readings
4 Oct Trinity 18			Holy Communion 11.00		HI 5 Harvest 9.30	Exodus 20.1–4,7–9,12–20; Ps 19; Philipians 3.4b–14; Matthew 21.33–46
11 Oct Trinity 19	Holy Communion 11.00	Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30		Harvest 11.00		Exodus 32.1–14; Ps 106.1– 23; Philipians 4.1–9; Matthew 22.1–14
18 Oct Trinity 20			Morning Worship 11.00		Holy Communion 11.00	Exodus 33.12–23; Ps 99; 1 Thess 1.1–10; Matthew 22.15–22
25 Oct Last Sun Trinity	Holy Communion 9.30	Morning Worship 9.30		Holy Communion 11.00		Deuteronomy 34.1–12; Ps 90.1–17; 1 Thess 2.1–8; Matthew 22.34–46
1 Nov 2 All Saints'				Confirmation 10.30 +Anna		Revelation 7.9–17; Ps 34.1–10,22; 1 John 3.1–3; Matthew 5.1–12

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, three of them are frozen and I have no clue where the music is coming from...