



The Erringden Eagle

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

Priest-in-Charge

We are still seeking a Priest-in-Charge for the Benefice of Erringden (St John's and St Michael's) and the Parish of Luddenden (St Mary's). It's 3 years since Cathy retired as vicar of Erringden Benefice and despite several rounds of advertising we haven't had any appropriate applicants. The post will be advertised again through September and we've heard that there has been some interest shown within the Diocese. So, let's all keep the prayers going and hope that we have a more positive response and result from this round of advertising!

Julie (on behalf of all your churchwardens)

The 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**

Events and activities in September

Date	St John's	St Michael's
Tue 1st	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubhub	2pm Guild Meeting 7pm PCC meeting
Wed 2nd	6-7pm Chair yoga	
Thu 3rd		9.30am Angels 6pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 4th	6pm Yoga	9am Benefice Prayers 7 for 7.30pm Quiz Night
Sat 5th		10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 6th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 7th	6pm Yoga	10.30am BREW 6-9pm Amateurs
Tue 8th	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubhub	
Wed 9th	6-7pm Chair yoga	2pm Book club
Thu 10th		9.30am Angels 6pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 11th	6pm Yoga	9am Benefice Prayers
Sat 12th	11am to 4pm Heritage open day (see poster)	10am PCC Coffee Morning
Sun 13th	9.30am Worship 11am to 4pm Heritage open day (see poster)	11am Worship
Mon 14th	2.30pm YCA meeting 6pm Yoga	10.30am BREW 6-9pm Amateurs
Tue 15th	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubhub	

Date	St John's	St Michael's
Wed 16th	6-7pm Chair yoga	
Thu 17th	7.30 pm Cragg Vale History Group	9.30am Angels 6pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice 8pm Wives Group
Fri 18th	6pm Yoga	9am Benefice Prayers
Sat 19th		10am Coffee in Erringden Room Wives Progressive lunch 6.30 for 7pm Quiz Night with Phoenix Brass Band (see poster)
Sun 20th	10am Celebration of Martin's 25 years of Ordination St Mary's Luddenden	
Mon 21st	3.30pm PCC Meeting 6pm Yoga	10.30am BREW 6-9pm Amateurs
Tue 22nd	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubbub	
Wed 23rd	6-7pm Chair yoga	
Thu 24th		9.30am Angels 6pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 25th	6pm Yoga 7pm Heptonstall Hilltoppers (see poster)	9am Benefice Prayers
Sat 26th	McMillan Coffee Morning	10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 27th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 28th	2pm Over 75s exercise class 6pm Yoga	10.30am BREW 6-9pm Amateurs
Tue 29th	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubbub followed by Whist Drive	
Wed 30th	6-7pm Chair yoga	

Events and activities in October

Date	St John's	St Michael's
Thu 1st		9.30am Angels 6pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 2nd	6pm Yoga	9am Benefice Prayers 7 for 7.30pm Quiz Night
Sat 3rd	10am – 3pm Quiet Day (see poster)	10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 4th	9.30am Worship	11am Harvest Festival
Mon 5th	6pm Yoga	10.30am BREW 6-9pm Amateurs
Tue 6th	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubhub	2pm Guild Meeting 7pm PCC meeting
Wed 7th	6-7pm Chair yoga	
Thu 8th		9.30am Angels 6pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 9th	6pm Yoga	9am Benefice Prayers
Sat 10th		10am PCC Coffee Morning
Sun 11th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 12th	2.30pm YCA meeting 6pm Yoga	10.30am BREW 6-9pm Amateurs
Tue 13th	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubhub	
Wed 14th	6-7pm Chair yoga	2pm Book club
Thu 15th	7.30 pm Cragg Vale History Group	9.30am Angels 6pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice 8.00pm Wives meetings

Date	St John's	St Michael's
Fri 16th	6pm Yoga 7pm Autumn Curry Club (see poster)	9am Benefice Prayers
Sat 17th		10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 18th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 19th	3.30pm PCC Meeting 6pm Yoga	10.30am BREW 6-9pm Amateurs
Tue 20th	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubbub	
Wed 21st	6-7pm Chair yoga	
Thu 22nd		9.30am Angels 6pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 23rd	6pm Yoga	9am Benefice Prayers
Sat 24th		10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 25th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 26th	2pm Over 75s exercise class 6pm Yoga	10.30am BREW 6-9pm Amateurs
Tue 27th	2-4pm Cragg Community Hubbub followed by Whist Drive	
Wed 28th	6-7pm Chair yoga	
Thu 29th		9.30am Angels 6pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 30th	6pm Yoga	9am Benefice Prayers
Sat 31st		10am Coffee in Erringden Room

Twenty-Five Years of Ordained Ministry

As I mark twenty-five years of ordained ministry on 23 September, I find myself pausing with deep gratitude at the mystery of God's call. This silver jubilee is not simply an anniversary of a role I have held or work I have done. It is a moment to give thanks for a vocation received, tested, deepened and renewed through the changing seasons of life. Looking back, I am aware above all of God's faithfulness, and of the patient grace that has carried me far more than I could ever have carried myself.

My ordained ministry began with a 'yes' back in 1996: sometimes confident, sometimes hesitant, and often surrounded by prayer, hope and uncertainty. The first seven years of that journey were spent in the Tring Team, Hertfordshire, where the early shape of ordained life was formed through parish worship, pastoral care, community life and the daily learning that comes from serving among God's people. I am particularly grateful for Frank Mercurio, my training incumbent, whose guidance and example helped shape those early years of ministry. The following eighteen years have been lived out in Luddenden and the Erringden benefice, where ministry has continued to deepen through the rhythms of worship, pastoral accompaniment, village life and shared faith. Across these twenty-five years, I have found myself saying that first yes again and again—in the quiet preparation of sermons, in the celebration of sacraments, in hospitals and homes, at bedsides and gravesides, in meetings and classrooms, and in countless conversations that never appear in any official record.

At the heart of these years has been service. I have tried to stand among the people of God, not above them; to point beyond myself to Christ; to listen before speaking; and to offer, as faithfully as I can, the compassion, challenge and hope of the Gospel. I have had

the privilege of sharing moments of great joy and deep sorrow: baptisms and weddings, confirmations and funerals, new beginnings and painful endings. Each encounter has become part of the sacred trust of ministry, and many of them remain quietly treasured in my heart.

This milestone also brings humility. I do not look back on twenty-five years unchanged. There have been mistakes, weariness, disappointments and prayers that seemed unanswered. There have also been laughter, friendship, unexpected encouragement and moments when grace broke through with unmistakable clarity. I have learned, again and again, that ministry is never sustained by personal strength alone. It depends on prayer, community, forgiveness and the enduring mercy of God.

I am especially grateful for the people who have formed me along the way. Congregations, colleagues, friends, family members, mentors and those who have allowed me to walk with them in vulnerable moments have all left their mark. I think especially of Victoria, my late wife, who died in 2014, and whose love, support, wisdom and companionship made an immeasurable contribution to my ministry and to the person I have become. Indeed, it was to her that God spoke of my becoming a priest 6 months before I heard the call myself and she never mentioned it to me, until I told her of my call. I thank God for bringing Ruth and me together and for all the encouragement, love and enthusiasm she has brought to our joint ministry at St Mary's especially with running Alpha and other courses. I stand in awe at the work and the relationships she and others have developed with the children and youth and for their ongoing discipling as the children's work continues to grow.

This silver jubilee is both a remembrance and a renewal. I look back with gratitude, but I also look forward with trust. The same God who called me at the beginning continues to call me now—perhaps in

different ways, with different energies, and amid different challenges. The invitation remains the same: to serve with love, to preach hope, to pray faithfully, and to keep discovering Christ in the lives of those around me.

After twenty-five years, the deepest word I can offer is thanksgiving: thanksgiving to God for the grace of calling; thanksgiving for the people who have sustained, challenged and loved me; thanksgiving for the privilege of walking with others in holy moments; and thanksgiving for the promise that the journey is not yet complete. Ordained ministry, at its best, is a lifelong offering of oneself to God and neighbour. Twenty-five years on, I make that offering again—with gratitude for the past, courage for the present, and hope for all that is still to come.

I hope that you will be able to join me at St Mary's on 20 September at 10.00 where I will be celebrating these 25 years. I am thrilled that Frank Mercurio has agreed to preach at that service and I am confident there will be Bucks Fizz and cake after the service.

Martin

Important Notice

No services will be held at St John's and St Michael's on Sunday 20th September.

This will enable us to attend Martin's celebration at St Mary's, Luddenden at 10am.

Siân's Sermon on Parables given on 26th July, 2026

For the last three weeks we've been hearing extracts from Jesus's great discourse, or sermon, about the kingdom of Heaven. This is the usual term we find in Matthew for the kingdom of God – it means exactly the same thing.

To a first century Jew, 'kingdom of Heaven' simply meant 'the kingdom of God'. But I think sometimes today we misunderstand the term 'kingdom of Heaven', and think it means somewhere far from here and now – perhaps life after death, or sometime in the future, or life in Heaven but not here, on this earth.

And in some ways, of course, it **does** mean a kingdom of the future – a time when justice and peace are found all over the earth, and there will be no more sorrow or tears. That certainly isn't the world we're living in now.

And yet once, when Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, he said, "The kingdom of God isn't coming with things that can be seen, and no-one will say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you" (Luke 17).

And he taught the disciples to pray 'Give us today our daily bread,' – not meaning, give us today's dinner, but meaning, give us today the bread of tomorrow's kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of tomorrow, and yet it is also a kingdom of now. It's very hard for us to grasp, which is why Jesus so often used parables when he was teaching about the kingdom.

Like the Pharisees, we might be asking, 'Well if it's a kingdom of now, where is it? When are we going to see it?' Sometimes our world feels very dark and full of violence and injustice and suffering.

This is partly because we're exposed to global media, which always emphasises the bad rather than the good – good things rarely make dramatic news. So I think we get a very skewed view of the world.

But there's no denying that the kingdom of God often feels very far away.

But Jesus says, no, it's not far away, it's here but you can't see it yet. It's working away quietly and almost secretly. It's like a tiny mustard seed in the ground, or a lump of yeast buried in a mass of flour.

And if we understand this, if like the disciples we trust what Jesus says, then this knowledge is a treasure so precious it's worth everything we have and everything we are. The **next** two parables read like fairy tales – stories of unimaginable wealth and good fortune.

A man finds a fantastic treasure hidden in a field, so he sells everything he has to buy the field and gain possession of the treasure. Another man finds a wonderful pearl, a pearl that will make his fortune. He sells everything he has, so that the pearl becomes his.

Listen, Jesus is saying to his audience of poor farmers, simple craftsmen, labourers and widows and all the poor and dispossessed of Israel, Listen, he says, this amazing treasure is just waiting for you to come along and seize it, so that when the kingdom of God arrives in all its fullness, you will be the ones who are rejoicing, and our enemies are the ones who will be weeping.

The next parable we heard today has two pictures in it – the net full of good fish and inedible fish mixed together, which are sorted by the fishermen and the useless ones discarded, and the world full of good people and wicked people mixed together, who are sorted by the angels, and the wicked ones cast into the fire.

Both these pictures tell the same story: perhaps we can't see **now** that there are consequences for opposing the kingdom of God, and ignoring its values, and living lives of selfishness and injustice. But just as we couldn't see the mustard seed or the yeast doing their work until the time came, there **are** consequences which everyone

will see eventually. W3

In these simple stories, there are fish that are good to eat and fish that aren't, and people who are righteous and people who are wicked. But we know that in actual life, things aren't that clear cut. All of us are sometimes good people and sometimes sinful failures. God plants his seed in us, and sometimes we let that seed flourish, sometimes we starve it or let the weeds choke it.

Jesus tells the parables to strengthen our confidence in the kingdom of God, to help us to trust that the kingdom is working in the world even though we can't always see it, and to help us to recognise its work in ourselves and to help that seed to grow and flourish.

It's often difficult to do the right thing – sometimes it's even hard to be sure what the right thing is. But we have been given a very clear guide as to what we should be striving for. We know what the Kingdom values are.

In the OT for instance, Micah says, What does the Lord require of you but to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God? And in the NT, Paul says that love, peace, gentleness, are all fruits of the Spirit.

And when a scribe said to Jesus that to love God and to love your neighbour was more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice, Jesus told him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God' (Mark 12). So the kingdom of God is something that belongs to the future, and yet it is also something that is very close to us now.

Let's pray.

God who was and is and shall be, Jesus taught us that the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. Strengthen and deepen our commitment to revealing your kingdom through our lives and by our prayers, and grant us wisdom to discern signs of your kingdom in the world around us, wherever grace, mercy and truth are present.

Amen

St John's News

The Lift

We have been working towards installing a lift from ground to first floor in St John's since our reordering was first planned. Phase 1 of the reordering was completed in 2017 but we didn't have enough money to include the lift. We started fundraising but then Covid got in the way! After 3 years of concentrated effort we raised enough to cover the cost of the lift and its installation. The lift is now installed and is just awaiting a few finishing details before it's commissioned and we can start using it. We would like to have a blessing/celebration sometime in September so please keep your ears and eyes open for a notice about this!

We would like to thank Hebden Royd Town Council, the Community Foundation for Calderdale, the Ethel and Gwynne Morgan Trust and many individuals who donated financially towards the lift plus those who supported various fundraising events.

We can now move meetings and classes which were held downstairs due to mobility issues, to the upstairs room which is a more modern, cosy space. This also opens up opportunities for other groups to meet in the room now it is accessible to all. If anyone would like to hire the room for an exercise or activity group, a training, work or retreat space or anything else please get in touch! The larger church space is still available to hire for bigger events, parties and so on

Dates for your diary

November 29th - Community Lights switch on and lantern parade

December 7th - Wreath making 7pm

December 11th- Cragg Christmas Cracker

December 20th – Carol Service



heritage open days

Join us at St John's, Cragg Vale to find out about some of the Everyday Histories connected to the church and the village.

Look at the history of some of the people, places and events that have 'made' Cragg Vale



Find your family history in our registers dating back to the 1830s

Learn about some of the people involved in the church over the years

Discover some of the various shows and events that have gone on in Cragg over the years!

Saturday 12th September 11am – 4pm

Sunday 13th September 11am – 4pm

Refreshments available

Find out more:



f /heritageopendays
@heritageopendays
@heritageopendays

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

In partnership with
 National Trust



A fundraising evening in aid of St Michaels Church

QUIZ NIGHT

WITH MUSIC FROM
PHOENIX BRASS BAND



RAFFLE - PIE & PEA SUPPER - GAMES

Date **Saturday 19th September**

Time **6:30pm for a 7pm start**

Venue **St Michael's Church Hall**

TICKETS

£12 each including supper. Available from Irene, call **07837 939 796**

or from the Mon/Sat Brew at St Michael's, Angels, or St Michael's Friday Quiz

St John's Church, Cragg Vale

Come and join us for



An Evening With Heptonstall Hilltoppers Community Choir

Friday September 25th at 7pm

Adults - £12

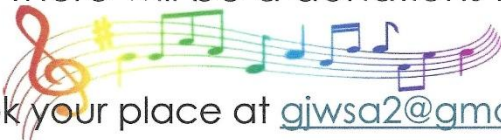
Children - £6

Family - £30

(2 Adults + 2 or more children)

**Includes a pie and pea
supper**

There will be a donations bar

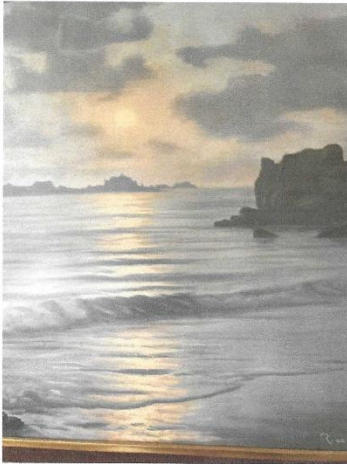


Book your place at gjwsa2@gmail.com,
07932542508 or at church during Hubbub
(Tuesdays 2 – 4pm)

REST, RENEWAL and REMEMBRANCE.

**A quiet day at St. John's, Cragg Vale
(HX7 5 TF)**

- * Saturday, 3rd. October 2026**
- * Any time between 10am and 3pm**
- * WHAT'S AVAILABLE –**



- * Walks by the water**
- * Craft activities**
- * Quiet areas for praying and reflection**
- * Thoughts on Water in the Bible**
- * Opportunities to hear how Charities are dealing with the water situation worldwide**

- * Refreshments (free hot drinks & biscuits)**
- * Bring your own packed lunch**
- * No booking necessary**
- * Contact Daphne 07419 331799
Libby 07799 644172
or Christine 07463 817001**

St John's Church, Cragg Vale

Come and join us at the



Cragg Autumn Curry Club!

Friday October 16th from 7pm

A chance to unwind at the end of the week and chat over chat with friends old and new!



A choice of curries
(mild/hot/veggie/meaty)

Plus rice, naan bread, etc.

£12 (Children £6)

Donations bar

Email [gjwsa2@gmail](mailto:gjwsa2@gmail.com) or text 07443420907 to
book your place!

Mytholmroyd St Michael's Amateurs

SOCIAL SINGING

Every Monday Evening:

S'MAJIC (KS2-18years) 6-7.30pm

Adults and KS4 7.30-9.0pm

Everyone welcome, whether you've been with us for years or
always wanted to join

£20 for the full term, September -December

Payable on the door

Rotas for St Michael's September and October

Date	Stewards	Readers	Prayers	Coffee
6th September	Vivienne Jenny	Christine	Siân	Sandra K Gill J
13th September	Mary, Pam Louise	Gill J	Daphne	Nancy Gloria
27th September	Daphne Linda K	Christine	Jackie	Sue Sylvia
4th October	Libby Ali	Lesley	Siân	Jackie Sandra
11th October	Geraldine Linda	Libby	Margaret	Christine Margaret
18th October	Sue Gloria	Geraldine	Roy	Shiela Libby
25th October	Vivienne Jenny	Daphne	Christine	Sandra K Gill J
1st November	Mary, Pam Louise	Jackie	Siân	Nancy Gloria

Rotas for St John's September and October

Date	Stewards	Readers	Coffee	Communion assistant
6th September	Anne B Howard	Angela	Sylvia	Ann
13th September	Sylvia Ed	Geraint	Viv	Julie
27th September	Sue Amanda	Ed	Julie	Sylvia
4th October	Ed Howard	Pat	Amanda	Edd
11th October	Geraint Ann B	Sylvia	Carol	Amanda
18th October	Amanda Sue	Ann	Sylvia	Pat
25th October	Howard Geraint	Angela	Julie	Ann
1st November	Anne B Sylvia	Geraint	Viv	Julie

Readings for September and October

Date	Readings	Gospel
6th September Christ in Creation	Isaiah 55.12-end Colossians 1.15-20	Matthew 8.23-27
13th September Trinity 15	Genesis 50.15-21 Romans 14.1-12	Matthew 18.21-35
27th September Trinity 17	Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end Philippians 2.1-13	Matthew 21.23-32
4th October Trinity 18	Isaiah 5.1-7 Philippians 3.4b-14	Matthew 21.33-end
11th October Trinity 19	Isaiah 25.1-9 Philippians 4.1-9	Matthew 22.1-14
18th October Trinity 20	Isaiah 45.1-7 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10	Matthew 22.15-22
25th October Last of Trinity	Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8	Matthew 22.34-end
1st November All Saints Day	Revelation 7.9-end 1 John 3.1-3	Matthew 5.1-12