THE ANVIL

Magazine for The Benefice of The Wiske

Great Smeaton, Appleton Wiske, Danby Wiske,

Birkby, East Cowton and North Cowton

NOVEMBER 2026



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid". John 14:27

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St Eloy's Gt. Smeaton	St Mary's Appleton Wiske	St Peter's Birkby	Parish Church Danby Wiske	All Saints East Cowton
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Churchwardens				
Birkby	Mr Jonathan McCloy		Tel: 01609 881881	
Danby Wiske	Mrs Angela Aldridge		Tel: 07711 803243	
Danby Wiske	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3348/			

YOUR CLERGY: Contact Details

Rev David Bartlett, The New Rectory, Great Smeaton, Northallerton DL6 2EP –
01609 765323 (07780512398) email:
David.Bartlett@leeds.anglican.org
https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/46-318B/





There is something about this time of year that encourages us to look back. As the evenings draw in, the leaves fall from the trees and the countryside settles into its autumn colours, life seems to slow down a little. It's often a time we look back and remember.
All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day offer opportunities to celebrate the saints who have gone before us and to remember loved ones no longer with us, giving thanks for their lives and the part they played in ours. Then, on Remembrance Sunday, we pause to honour those who have given their lives in war and conflict, and to pray for a world where peace might finally prevail.

These are important moments, but remembering can sometimes be painful. Alongside gratitude and happy memories, there may be sadness, grief or even regret. We may find ourselves thinking about things left unsaid, opportunities missed or relationships that never quite found their way. The past can be a lovely place to visit, but not always such a comfortable place to stay.

And grief can be a lonely business. Even when surrounded by family, friends and familiar faces in the village, we can sometimes feel that nobody really understands what we are going through. People may be kind, but they don't always know what to say. Some may quietly step back, unsure how to help. And so we find ourselves carrying things that are difficult to share.
It is into this very human experience that Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd. A shepherd doesn't simply point out the right path from a safe distance; he walks alongside his sheep. He guides them when the way is uncertain, stays close when danger threatens, and seeks them when they wander off or become lost. The familiar words of Psalm 23 remind us that even when we walk through the darkest valley, we need not be afraid, because God is with us.



The Apostle Paul offers another wonderful description of God, calling him the “Father of compassion and the God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3). What a reassuring thought! God is not impatient with our sadness, nor does he expect us to put on a brave face and carry on regardless. He meets us with compassion, offering comfort that can reach places even our closest friends may not be able to reach.

As we journey through this season of remembrance, perhaps the invitation is not to try harder to be brave, or to push painful memories aside, but simply to allow ourselves to be found by God. To let the Good Shepherd walk with us, to bring our regrets and sorrows into his presence, and to discover that we do not have to make the journey alone.
So, as the nights draw in and memories come knocking, take a moment to pause. We don't need to have all the answers or pretend that everything is fine. The Good Shepherd knows the way, even through the darkest valley. And he is already walking beside us.

Peace and Blessings
David

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Our Churchyard: A Place for Nature, Memories and Respect

Our churchyards are very special places. They are not only places of peace, prayer and remembrance, but often precious havens for wildlife and nature. Among the old gravestones, beneath the trees and among the wildflowers, birds, insects and other creatures find a home. In a world where natural habitats are becoming increasingly scarce, our churchyards have an important part to play in caring for God’s creation. But we also recognise that a churchyard is much more than a place for wildlife. For many families, it is a deeply personal place, filled with memories, love and grief. A bunch of flowers, a plant or a carefully tended grave can be a way of expressing feelings that are sometimes difficult to put into words. We understand this, and we want our churchyards to remain places where people can remember their loved ones with affection and find comfort and peace.

This means we have to balance two important responsibilities: caring for the natural environment and respecting the dignity and appearance of the churchyard, while allowing space for personal remembrance. To help us do this, there are regulations governing what may be placed on graves.

In general, fresh flowers are welcome, but artificial flowers, plastic decorations, glass containers, solar lights, ornaments and other personal items are not allowed under churchyard rules. The only exceptions are silk flowers, temporary Christmas wreaths, or Remembrance Day poppies, all of which must also be removed within one month of the event. These rules help us maintain the churchyard, protect wildlife, make grass cutting and other maintenance possible, and keep the grounds safe and peaceful for everyone.

We know that these matters can be sensitive. Nobody wants to cause additional distress to someone who is already grieving, and it is never pleasant for us to have to ask a family to remove something that has been placed with love and care. However, the regulations must be applied fairly and consistently to everyone.
We would therefore ask all families to help us by following the churchyard rules. Doing so saves unnecessary upset and allows us to care for this very special place together.

If you have any questions do please talk with David (the Rector) details on page 2.

FROM THE REGISTERS

22nd October 2026 The Funeral of Derek Baines in St Mary's

"Do not let your difficulties fill you with anxiety; after all, it is only in the darkest of nights that stars shine more brightly".

Iman Ali

Faculty update

The new **Buildings Management Portal (BMP)** is now live and replaces the Online Faculty System as the Church of England's platform for managing faculty applications, church building projects, and Church Heritage Record information. This is an easier system to use.
All new faculty applications, List B applications, List A records, notifications and other church buildings work must now be submitted through this system, which is accessed via the **CofE Portal**.

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Christmas is just round the corner!!



On Christmas eve, Danby Wiske and East Cowton each have a lovely all age service, A Christingle at Danby Wiske and Crib Service at East Cowton. I'm thinking of changing things slightly this year.
So I can be at both services, I would like to start one at 3.00pm and the other at 4.30pm. But even more than the timing I would love to include the families who come (both Children and Adults) in helping to plan and be involved in the services. Playing instruments, singing, drama and helping lead. I am looking to have a planning and preparation time in December, and a few people have already expressed a desire to be involved, if you would like to be part of this please let me know your details so I can include you in the conversations. The hope is not for polished performances, but to create fun, relaxed and interactive services.
Many thanks David.

Eco-Buzz, whose advert is in the middle pages, is a sister-owned, eco-conscious small business on a mission to make zero-waste living affordable. By managing their own beehives in Welbury, they produce and sell low-cost reusable beeswax wraps; 100% natural body and lip balms; eco-friendly wax melts and salt sizzlers. Their budget friendly, sustainably packaged products make it easier for local families to support the planet without overspending. (Smell gorgeous too! Sarah)

Dec 26 and Jan 27 – 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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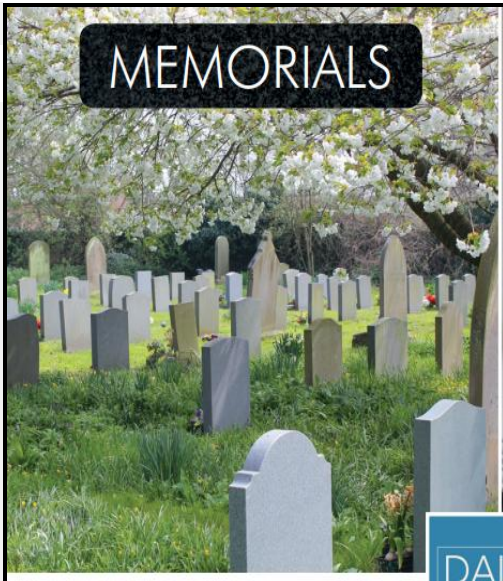
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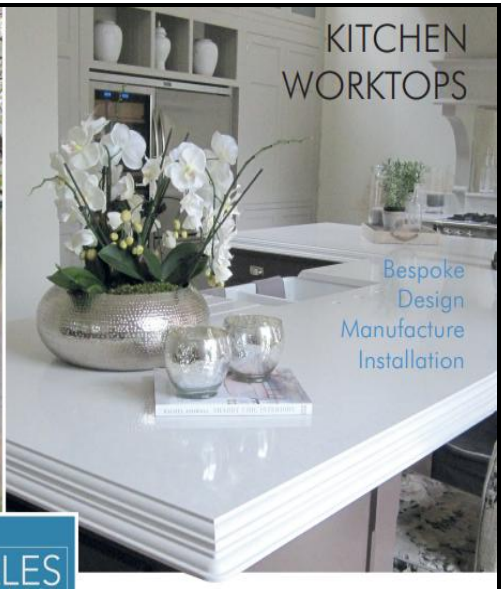
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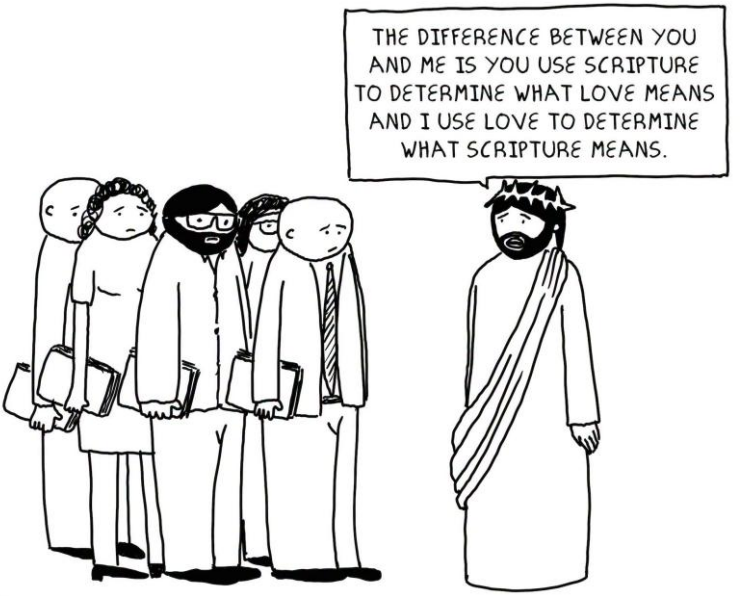
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News in the Villages

Diary dates for NOVEMBER at a glance		
Sun 1st	10.30am	Confirmation service at East Cowton with Bishop Anna.
Mond 2nd	7.00pm	Benefice All Souls Service East Cowton
Frid 6th		Official re-opening of Appleton Wiske shop and post office
Sat 7th	10.00-2.00	Appleton Wiske village hall – Meserani Christmas sale
Sat 7th		Appleton Wiske village bonfire and firework display.
Sat 7th	7.00pm	Danby Wiske village bonfire and firework display.
Sun 8th	10.50am	Benefice Remembrance Day services. (see below)
Mon 9th	7.00pm	Gt. Smeaton and Appleton Wiske PCC at St. Mary's.
Wed 11th	7.30pm	Appleton Wiske YCA talk on 1950s Women.
Thurs 12th	7.15pm	Danby Wiske WI AGM. And Northallerton handbell ringers.
Fri 20th	6.30pm	Great Smeaton village hall, talk on 'The Victoria Cross'.
Sat 21st	2-4.00pm	East Cowton All Saints Christmas Market
27th / 28th	Aft & eve	Appleton Players Pantomime. Robin Hood.
Sun 29th	9.00am-12	Danby Wiske Big Breakfast.
Sun 29th	5.00pm	St. Mary's Christingle (see below)

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

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday Display by Cubs.
Sunday 22nd Ann Pringle & Linda Breckon.
Sunday 29th Christingle Advent Greenery & Candles.

YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

Wednesday 11th November: 1950s Women

Carol Dean reminisces about woman's lot last century!
Raffle: Ann Wilkinson Refreshments: Janet Harding

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.

MANY THANKS to all who came and supported the Harvest Celebration in the village hall on Sunday 4th October. A lovely time of friendship, community, and apple crumbles! £117.00 was donated to 'Farming Community Network'.

THANKS ALSO to all who came and enjoyed the wonderful 'Marske Fisherman's Choir' concert on 16th October, with pie and peas supper. £1000.00 will be shared equally between St. Mary's Church and 'Appleton Recreation Association' (ARA). Thanks again.

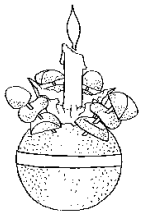
ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD - A big thank you to everyone who helped with the annual churchyard "Tidy-Up" on the 24th of October. It was an enjoyable morning, and a lot of hard work means that the churchyard is in good order – Thank you!

NEW SHOP AND POST OFFICE - the Official Opening will be held at the Village Hall at 11.00 am on Friday 6th November. All Welcome to celebrate this most important event for the Village and neighbouring Communities, and to thank everyone for their hard work and generosity in bring the project to fruition.

MESERANI PROJECT - African & Local Handicrafts & Jewellery Sale - A superb opportunity to buy unusual and unique Christmas presents! On Saturday 7th November in Appleton Wiske Village Hall, DL6 2AB from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. A vast range of hand-crafted jewellery, wood carvings and handicrafts from East Africa and local artisans in North Yorkshire. You don't have to spend a fortune - just come along to have a look if you want - it would be lovely to see you.

REMEMBRANCE-TIDE Sunday 8th November. Thanks to Jackie, Poppies will be on sale in the Village Shop - please give your support to this most worthy cause. The garden of Remembrance will be available as usual for people to lay their personal crosses. The Service will be at the Lychgate at 10.50am weather permitting, or in church.

CHRISTINGLE - Our Christingle Service this Advent at St Mary's will support the work of the Children's Society. 5.00 pm on Sunday 29th November. Invitations will be sent to all children of Primary School age in the Village but "Grown Ups" are welcome too!



FOODBANK 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. – Thank you.

APPLETON PLAYERS PRESENTS 'ROBIN HOOD', 40 YEARS OF APPLES, ARROWS AND APPLAUSE. See notice boards for details.

METHODIST SERVICES IN NOVEMBER, APPLETON WISKE
All services are 30 minutes and start 10.15am except where indicated.
Steward - contact Rob Portsmouth 07796610798
Sunday 1st Rowena Webster Breakfast Church
Sunday 8th Remembrance Service at St. Mary's 10.50am
SUNDAY 15TH THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR 205 YEARS
SUNDAY 22ND LAST SUNDAY SERVICE IN CHAPEL.
Sunday 29th no service in chapel Circuit Service at Romanby.
Followed by tea, coffee and social. All are welcome!

Sue McDonnell's Coffee Morning for Teesside Hospice in Welbury Village Hall raised an amazing £665.00 Many thanks everyone.

GREAT SMEATON AND HORNBY

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Sincere thanks to everyone who decorated the church so beautifully for the Harvest service. Twelve children enjoyed the workshop and led the Harvest service which was well attended and was a very joyful occasion. The collection of £95.00 was sent to the Northallerton Food Share.
The Ukulele concert was a lovely community occasion raising £642.00 for church funds. In addition, £100.00 was donated to the Band for their chosen charity 'Butterwick Hospice'. Many, many thanks to everyone who helped set up the hall, provided the fabulous refreshments and tackled the clearing up after the event.

The Annual Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 8th November at 10.45. Following the service refreshments will be served in church. A warm welcome is extended to everyone for what is always a very moving service. The church will be decorated with poppies on Friday 6th November at 2pm.

The Victoria Cross.

On Friday 20th November 6.30pm in the village hall, Andrew Marriott will be giving a talk on The Victoria Cross. Tickets are £8.00 to include light refreshments of cheese and wine.
Please contact Janet on 01609 881813 or 07939170817

David & Elizabeth Turner were unfortunately unable to organise the usual 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' at Great Smeaton Village Hall this year due to some ongoing health issues.
It was lovely that a suggestion was made by the Monthly Coffee Group that a collection be made for Macmillan instead at their normal Coffee Morning and this raised a magnificent £150, with some digital donations also being sent direct to the Macmillan website. Many thanks to The Coffee Group and to all those who help throughout the year.
Should another volunteer like to be involved in setting up next year's Macmillan Coffee Morning perhaps they could let David know and he will explain how to proceed.

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

Thank you, to those who supported the Elaine Palmer concert. It raised £572.09 towards the Church Building Preservation Fund.

Note the service pattern for November has changed:
We will be joining **East Cowton at 11am on 1st November** to celebrate with those being confirmed.
The Remembrance service on the 8th will start at 10.50am with the collection being donated to combat stress.
Normal morning worship at 11am on 15th
Joint Benefice service 29th Nov will be held at Danby Wiske at 10am.
The Christmas carol service will be on the 13th Dec at 6pm.
The Remembrance service on the village green will start at 10.45am on 11th Nov.
The ever-popular **firework display** will take place at 7pm on the 7th November. Hotdogs, burgers and much more to keep you warm.
Big Breakfast in the village hall returns on the 29th Nov 9am -noon.
The WI will be holding their AGM at 7.15pm on Thursday 12th.
The Northallerton Handbell Ringers will also be performing.

EAST COWTON

We will be holding the **WISKE BENEFICE ALL SOULS SERVICE of LIGHT for the DEPARTED** at All Saints Church on All Souls Day, Monday 2nd at 7.00pm.

All Saints Christmas Market on Saturday 21st Nov. 2pm - 4pm in the Annexe. Stalls to include - Cakes and Produce; Hampers Raffle; Quiz; Hand knitted goods; Tombola; Books; Lego; Children's Game. *Seasonal refreshments*. Admission free - Proceeds for church funds.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE OF THE WISKE NOVEMBER 2026

	Appleton Wiske	Birkby	Danby Wiske	East Cowton	Great Smeaton	Readings
1 Nov 2 All Saints'				Confirmation 10.30 Bishop Anna		Revelation 7.9–17; Ps 34.1–10,22; 1 John 3.1–3; Matthew 5.1–12
8 Nov 2026 Remembrance	Remembrance 10.50am	Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am	Remembrance 10.50am	Remembrance 10.50am	Remembrance 10.50am	Joshua 24.1–3a, 14–25; Ps 78.1–7; 1 Thess 4.13–18; Matthew 25.1–13
15 Nov 2026 2 before Advent			Morning Worship 11.00am		Holy Communion 11.00 am	Judges 4.1–7; Ps 123; 1 Thess 5.1–11; Matthew 25.14–30
22 Nov 2026 Christ the King	Holy communion 9.30am	Morning Worship 9.30am		Holy Communion 11.00am		Ezekiel 34.11–24; Ps 95.1–7a; Ephesians 1.15–23; Matthew 25.31–46
29 Nov 2026 Advent Sunday	Christingle 5.00pm		Benefice 10.00am			Isaiah64.1–9; Ps80.1–7,17–19; 1 Corinthians 1.3– 9; Mk 13.24–37

"Better to have a small dish of vegetables where there is love, than juicy steaks served with hatred".
Proverbs 15 v:17