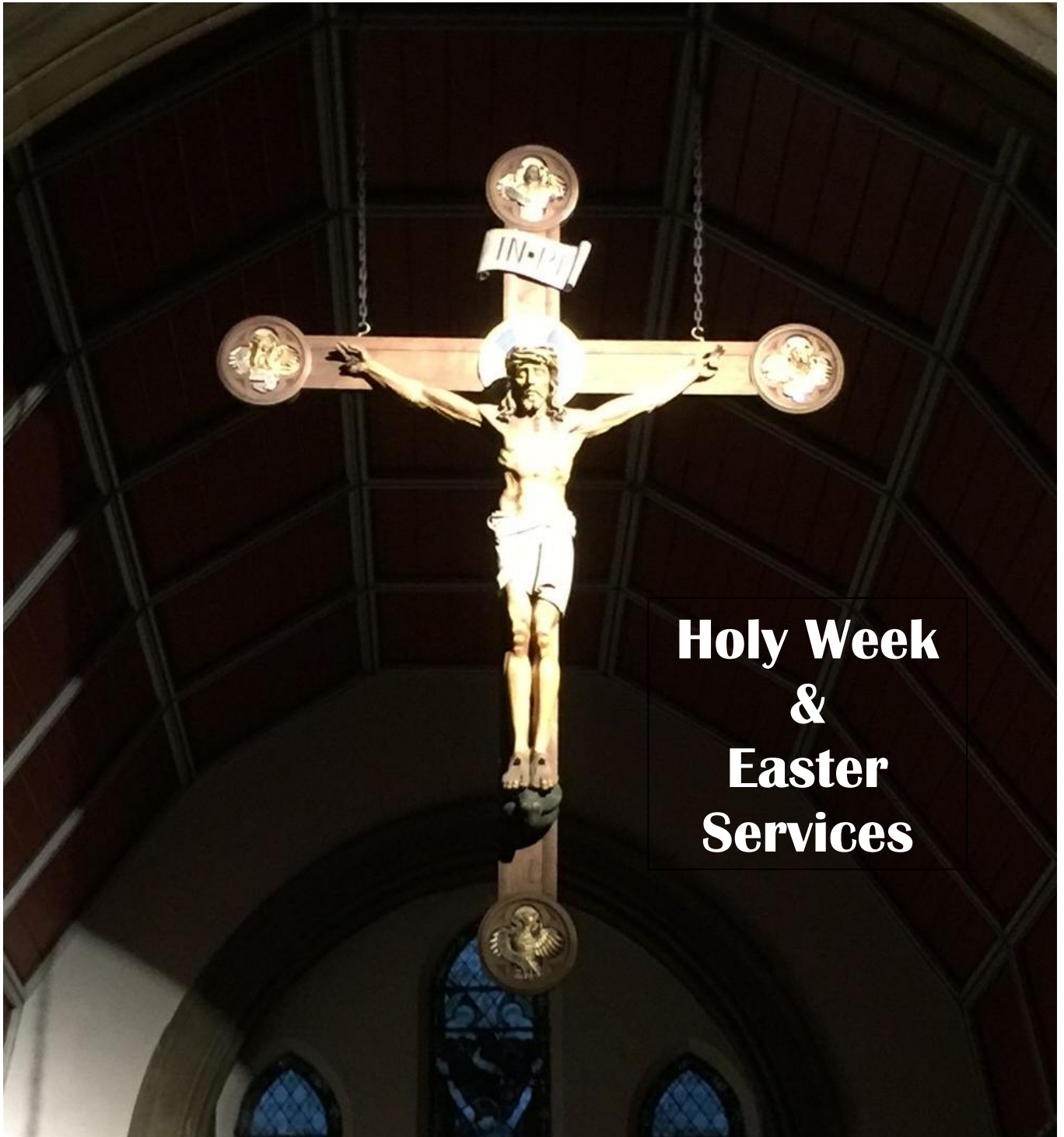


April 2026

# CHURCH NEWS

The Monthly Newsletter from Holy Cross Church, Swainby  
and St Mary's Church, Potto

*Delivered to your door, to keep you in touch with local events*



This issue is kindly sponsored by **10 Good Reasons**  
*Swainby's very own independent card & gift shop*

# 10 Good Reasons Spring Market of local artisans

FREE ENTRY

Bring your  
friends & family

10am-3.30pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

SWAINBY CHURCH HALL

*Selling:* ❖ aprons, ❖ art, ❖ books, ❖ candles, ❖ cards, ❖ ceramics, ❖ earrings,  
❖ fused glass gifts, ❖ garden accessories, ❖ gemstones, ❖ GF bread & pizza mixes,  
❖ homeware, ❖ jewellery, ❖ soap, ❖ textiles, ❖ willow baskets & ❖ yoga accessories!

Homemade bakes by 'The Rabbit Hole' *Free tea & coffee!*

PLEASE SUPPORT LOCAL

Come and join us at our next



## VILLAGE LUNCH



in support of



IN SWAINBY CHURCH HALL

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 12.30pm

All are welcome

*Please enter your name on the list at the back of church  
or at 'the GAP' on Wednesday mornings in Swainby Village Hall*

### **Blue Mission : Emergency Lifeline for Lebanon**

*Medical Care; Mental Health; Education Protection.*

South Lebanon is facing an unexpected war emergency. Families and children are confronting trauma, loss of essential healthcare, and interruption of safe learning spaces all while humanitarian aid cuts threaten to collapse the programs that once sustained them. We call for immediate mobilization to prevent the collapse of life-saving medical care, trauma support, and safe education spaces in South Lebanon, safeguarding communities from further destabilization and long-term impact amid escalating conflict and funding cuts. Through Blue Mission, supporters can contribute via an established nonprofit framework that ensures transparency, accountability, and alignment with international giving standards. Every donation directly supports frontline services, protecting health, education, and hope for the most vulnerable.



### **Palm Sunday**

Our Benefice comes together at 11:00 am for the Palm Sunday Liturgy and Eucharist in St Botolph's Church, Carlton-in-Cleveland.

### **Maundy Thursday**

The Last Supper will be commemorated at 8:00pm in All Saints Church, Hutton Rudby with a Benefice Communion followed by the Watch of the Passion.

### **Good Friday**

The Benefice Commemoration of the Passion at 2:00pm in Holy Cross Church, Swainby.

### **Holy Saturday**

The Benefice Easter Vigil and Communion at 8:00pm in All Saints Church, Crathorne.

### **Easter Day**

We will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with the Benefice Communion at 10:30am in All Saints Church, Hutton Rudby.



**Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**  
**BENEFICE COMMUNION**

**10:30am**  
**All Saints Church**  
**Hutton Rudby**



**Easter Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April**  
**BENEFICE COMMUNION**

**10:00am**  
**Whorlton Old Church**  
**The Church of the Holy Rood**

### **Whorlton Old Church**

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*For many years it has been a 'tradition' to hold a Communion service on Boxing Day and Easter Monday in the Old Church.*

*One of our local residents provides a few points of interest here.*

How fortunate we are in this community in having visible evidence of such a long-established settlement. From the Iron Age hill fort on the escarpment above Heathwaite in Scugdale, to the Roman coins and silver hoard found on the slopes of Whorl Hill in 1810, to the early Norman arches at the Old Church and the Castle dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century with its impressive gatehouse from about 1400 AD.

That doorway, with its four engraved shields denoting important families who once owned the estate, is also contemporary with the building of

the tower at the Old Church. Castles and churches were always a 'work in progress' – they were being continually modified over the centuries. Even cathedrals can take a century to build, and are changed along the way.

There may have been a Saxon church on the site at Whorlton, but our 'Old Church of The Holy Rood' (Anglo Saxon for Cross) began life in the early 1100's. Yet parts of it are up to 300 years younger. In its early centuries it was of course a Roman Catholic church, until the Reformation, when the Anglican Church emerged from Henry VIII's challenge to Rome. Most of the local community lived in the vicinity of the Castle and Church up to about 500 years ago, and the surrounding fields, now protected from any excavations or ploughing, show clear evidence of buildings as well as a large Deer Park.

Items featuring at the Old Church include a large Saxon grave cover unearthed in 1997 and now erected inside the Chancel; the bog oak effigy c1330 of a knight – believed to be Nicholas de Meynell II – lying on a stone tomb; some 13<sup>th</sup> century stained glass in the East window; early wall paintings in the Chancel, revealed some 30 years ago and then covered over again, and a small Mass calendar cut into the outside South wall of the Chancel.

Over the centuries the Old Church fell into near ruination on a number of occasions, but it was finally abandoned in 1875 due to fears of its imminent collapse. It took two years to build its replacement in the village, the Victorian school building serving as a church until its consecration in late 1877. The Nave of the Old Church had its roof removed, but the Chancel was kept intact as a Mortuary Chapel, and occasional services are still held there – e.g. Boxing Day, Easter Monday, and an open air service in the Summer. Very occasionally a christening has taken place, usually for families living up at Whorlton.

Our historic ecclesiastical parish is 'Whorlton'. This includes the settlements of Swainby village, Potto, Heathwaite (Scugdale), Trenholme and Goulton.

*For more detailed information, copies of The Story of Whorlton Old Church by Joan Hartley are available in the porch of Holy Cross Church in Swainby.*



## **Forthcoming Events in April**

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**Sun 12<sup>th</sup>: Café Church 10.30am in Swainby Church Hall** *All ages welcome.*  
*Informal worship, discussion, prayer & song as well as tea or coffee and cake.*

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup>: Village Lunch 12.30pm in Swainby Church Hall** *All are welcome.*

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup>: Spring Market of local artisans 10am-3:30pm in Swainby Church Hall**

## **Regular Events**

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**Wednesdays:** Join us at **The Gap in Swainby Village Hall** from **10am to 1pm**  
*Barista coffee with homemade cakes, teacakes and bacon buns.*

**Thursdays: Table Tennis in Swainby Church Hall at 7pm.** Info: 07799 372405

**Second Wednesday: Swainby & Potto WI meet in Swainby Village Hall at 7.30pm**

## **Reports**

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This year the **World Day of Prayer** took place throughout the world on 6<sup>th</sup> March and in Hutton Rudby Church House, we gathered to join in the service which this year was prepared by the women of Nigeria.

It is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome us to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

The origins of the World Day of Prayer stretch back to 1861 in the USA and Canada. It changed over the years but the emphasis was Christian unity and, after the devastation of WW1, peace was tied to world mission. It was originally named Womens' World Day of Prayer but by 1928 the name became just World Day of Prayer and men of the world were encouraged to take part.

This doesn't really seem to have taken on however, even after almost a 100 year's time. There was only one man in our rather small gathering at Church House this year. Let us hope and work towards an improvement next year.

The **Lent Lunches** have been well supported and our thanks go to the teams that provided a wide selection of delicious home-made soups every week. Each organiser chose a

charity to support and so far donations (*including Gift Aid*) have been sent to the following charitable organisations:

£478.75 *Whorlton Old Church*

£951.25 *Dementia Forward:*

£603.12 *Hambleton Foodshare*

£455.00 *1<sup>st</sup> Stokesley Scout Group*

### **100+ Club March Draw**

1: Lorna Kessell (46)	£25
2: Pauline Kynge (70)	£15
3: George & Carolyn Hopper (29)	£10
4: Bill & Sue Hogg (3)	£10

**Table Tennis** in the Church Hall seems to be going from strength to strength. We hear that there are now two tables, so perhaps there will now be twice the fun and double the amount of games? Can't be bad!

## Items for next month's issue

Please note that items for inclusion in the May issue of Church News should be sent to [peterjshipp44@gmail.com](mailto:peterjshipp44@gmail.com) as Pauline will be otherwise engaged (*no pun intended!*)

## A Message of Thanks

As a family, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported us following the passing of our much loved mum, Linda Graham, on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026. Your kind words, cards, and prayers have brought us great comfort during a very difficult time.

With sincere thanks, *The family of Linda Graham.*

## Our new Archbishop of Canterbury



Before being ordained, Sarah Mullally worked as a nurse in the NHS. In 1999, she was appointed Chief Nursing Officer for England and, in 2005, was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

She was ordained in 2001, initially serving as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004.

In 2015, she became Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England and in 2018 was installed as the 133<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of London, the first woman to hold the role.

The cope and mitre, worn by the archbishop on 25<sup>th</sup> March at her installation as the 106<sup>th</sup> Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral, were commissioned when she was first consecrated. The morse (the metal clasp fastening the cope) is decorated by the buckle from her belt worn as a nurse serving in the NHS.

## From the Parish Registers

### Funeral

19 February

Linda Graham

Holy Cross

*We give thanks for her life and offer our sympathy to her family & friends.*

**POTTO VILLAGE HALL**

**St. George's Pub Night**



**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April from 6:30pm**

*Terry's Fish & Chip Van will be in attendance!*

Please use the form on [www.pottovillagehall.org](http://www.pottovillagehall.org),  
email [pottovillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:pottovillagehall@gmail.com)  
or text or ring 07956 126983  
with how many orders and if you want fish  
by latest 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

*Please feel free to dress in St George's flags  
or come as dragons or just yourself!*

## Services in Whorlton Benefice

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### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

8.00pm Hutton Rudby

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

2.00pm Swainby

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

8.00pm Crathorne

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

10.30am Hutton Rudby

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April

10.00am Whorlton Old Church

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

8.00am Potto

9.30am Hutton Rudby

10.30am Swainby

11.00am Middleton

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am Hutton Rudby

9.30am Swainby

9.30am Carlton

11.00am Crathorne

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am Hutton Rudby

9.30am Swainby

11.00am Faceby

### Mid-Week Services

Tuesdays at 10.00am

Thursdays at 9.15am

### Maundy Thursday

Benefice Communion & Watch of the Passion

### Good Friday

Benefice Commemoration of the Passion

### Holy Saturday

Benefice Easter Vigil & Communion

### Easter Day

Benefice Communion

### Easter Monday

Benefice Communion

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Parish Communion (BCP)

Parish Communion

Café Church (*in Church Hall*)

Parish Communion

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Morning Prayer

Parish Communion

Parish Communion

Parish Communion

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Parish Communion

Morning Prayer

Parish Communion

Hutton Rudby Church House

Swainby Church Hall

For further details see [www.whorltonbenefice.org.uk](http://www.whorltonbenefice.org.uk)



### Church Contact Details

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### Deadline for next issue: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Items for publication please to [peterjshipp44@gmail.com](mailto:peterjshipp44@gmail.com)

