

# Cross Talk



July 2025

Cross Talk is published monthly by email. To receive a copy please contact [kitnorris@live.co.uk](mailto:kitnorris@live.co.uk)

Cross Talk contains the weekly Collect and Readings together with details of Church services in the Benefice and news and items of interest supplied by our readers. The magazine will also be available on the web sites: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3447](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3447) and [baldersbychurch.com](http://baldersbychurch.com).

## CHURCH SERVICES

### St. James' Church, Baldersby St. James with Dishforth, Rainton and Skipton on Swale

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July, 9.30am	Breakfast Service <i>with coffee and croissants</i>
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July, 9.30am	Morning Service <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Everyone very welcome	



### St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July, 11am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July, 11am	Family Service <i>followed by refreshments</i> <i>All are most welcome</i>



### St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

*Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society*

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>with refreshments and fellowship</i> <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July, 8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
6.30pm	Choral Evensong <i>followed by</i> <i>pre-supper refreshments and wine</i>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>with refreshments and fellowship</i> <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>led by Revd Robert Williamson</i> <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July, 10.45am	Sung Matins <i>followed by refreshments</i>



**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 11am**

**Midweek Morning Prayer** *with refreshments and fellowship  
led by Revd Dawn Ward*

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July, 10.45am**

**Holy Communion** *led by Revd Robert Williamson*

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 11am**

**Midweek Morning Prayer** *with refreshments and fellowship  
led by Revd Dawn Ward*

**July Reflection** - *Richard Byas p.4*

**Bolton Abbey** - *Richard Byas p.5*

**Village News** – *p.7-8*

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## **Readings for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity to the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

*(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)*

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July, The Third Sunday after Trinity**

#### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts  
whereby we call you Father:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
that we and all creation may be brought  
to the glorious liberty of the children of god;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

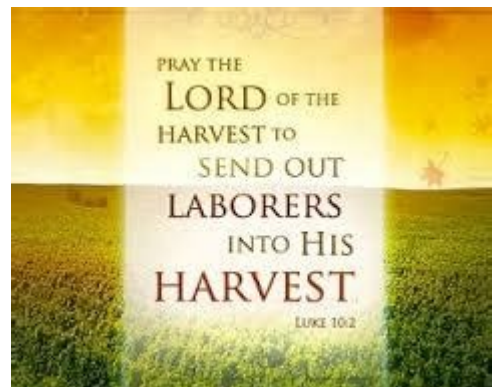
#### **Readings (Proper 9, Related, p981)**

Isaiah 66.10-14

Psalms 66.1-8

Galatians 6.[1-6,] 7-16

Gospel: Luke 10.1-11, 16-20



### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July, The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

#### **Collect**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
grant this, heavenly Father  
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Readings (Proper 10 Related, p987)

Deuteronomy 30.9-14

Psalms 25.1-9

Colossians 1.1-14

Gospel: Luke 10.25-37

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July, The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

#### Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Readings (Proper 11 Related p992)

Genesis 18.1-10a

Psalms 15

Colossians 1.15-28

Gospel: Luke 10.38-42

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July, The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

#### Collect

Merciful God,  
you have prepared for those who love you  
such good things as pass our understanding:  
pour into our hearts such love toward you  
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,  
may obtain your promises,  
which exceed all that we can desire;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
one God, now and for ever.

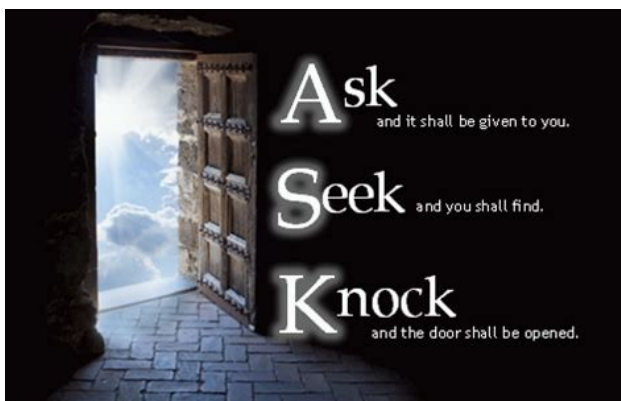
### Readings (Proper 12 Related p998)

Genesis 18.20-32

Psalms 138

Colossians 2.6-15, [16-19]

Gospel: Luke 11.1-13



## Reflection July 2025

Looking at my vegetable patch recently I was reminded of the Parable of the Sower. Some of my plants look as if they will give a good crop and others are maybe going to be a waste of space. Of course, it would be good if I could put all the variation down to something external and over which I have no control like the weather but to be truthful I expect the variation is down to me – maybe the wrong variety sown, the ground poorly prepared or, as often happens, the seeds being sown too late.



The Parable of the Sower is one of the most well-known of all Jesus' stories. It appears to give a simple message: some people will respond to the word of God and some will not, because they are hard, shallow or easily tempted.

However, when reading it again, the story made me feel uneasy. Why did the Sower carelessly sow his seed in places that would only bring failure? In my vegetable patch some seed is sown more with hope than expectation that it will succeed but surely God is not so lax.

Looking at the parable it is obvious that given the choice, no seed would have chosen the path, the rocks, or the thorns. So, there's something unsettling about certain seed being given more opportunity than others. A good Sower would have known better (as often I should know better when planting my garden). So, the seed being sown among inhospitable ground look to be the victims of the story. Don't those seeds deserve the same opportunities as the rest?

It is unsettling to think that some seeds are sown carelessly, or even wilfully, onto inhospitable ground. And here lies the dilemma; so many people desire to grow and make their lives into a plentiful harvest but despite their best efforts, their seed fails to grow.



We may feel that the seed of life isn't allowed to fully germinate due to circumstances beyond our control. Maybe there's something wrong with our soil, which prevents us from realizing our potential. We are left wondering why? Why did the Sower place me here—in these circumstances, in this environment, in this community?

For many people life often feels this way. For some people circumstances never seem to fall in their favour and they resign themselves to the notion that they will never realize their potential. Some even come to believe that they never had any potential to begin with. This attitude then ripples throughout their lives, affecting lives mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Thomas Merton (1915 – 1968), the Catholic Trappist monk and author, argued that, rather than being a one-off event at the start of our lives, perhaps the Sower sows multiple or daily seeds in our lifetime and so the parable points to the possibility of every day being an opportunity for a new seed, a renewed hope to carry us forward despite all the difficulties and problems we may face. This understanding is what we would expect from a loving God.

So, every moment and every event of everyone's life on earth plants something in their soul and each moment brings with it germs of spiritual gifts. Most of these seeds perish and are



lost because we are not prepared to receive them. Seeds can only spring up in the good soil of freedom, spontaneity and love.

And this is the source of our hope from this parable. The Sower continually sows the seeds of our lives, and every day is an opportunity for a new seed, a renewed hope to carry us forward despite all the difficulties and problems we may face. Although we may face an uncertain future, we can take comfort in the fact that the Sower has an abundance of seed to plant. We are aware that some germinate, and others do not, but this does not mean that anything is wasted. For any remaining dormant now may in the future result to something beautiful and unique. Therefore, life isn't a matter of missed opportunities, but a looking forward to the hopeful potential contained within every moment and every day.



As the Sower sows in our lives, so we too have the opportunity to sow seed in the lives of others. We can share our harvest with others, especially with those who are currently struggling on the margins. The work of the Sower shouldn't imply that we're only to be passive recipients, ignoring and forgetting those around us who are struggling.

Through our actions, we also sow seeds for others and through our sowing, we have the chance to extend God's harvest for all as we are called to be co-workers with God.

**Richard Byas**

## **Bolton Abbey**

In about 1120 a group of black-robed Augustinian canons set up a small religious community in the village of Embsay. In 1154 or 1155, they moved to the more accessible and sheltered pastures by the village of Bolton on land given to them by Lady Alice de Romille of Skipton Castle, 'for', as she put it, 'the salvation of my soul and those of my predecessors and successors'. Despite its name, Bolton Abbey was led by a prior and was technically a priory.



In the early 14th century Scottish raiders caused the temporary abandonment of the site and serious structural damage to the Priory but over the centuries the Priory grew and prospered, despite the occasional setbacks caused by raiding Scots, severe winters, agricultural disasters and the Black Death from 1348 to 1350.

The Augustinian canons lived together like monks but were also ordained priests and so were very much involved in village life. They preached, taught, ran a hospital, sheltered travellers and ministered to the local community who came to worship in the Priory. However, their prime duty was a continuous round of prayer and worship, seven times a day, seven days a week, starting with Matins for which they left their beds at 2 a.m. Their priorities were summed up by 'Before all things, dearest brethren, let God be loved, then your neighbour, for these be the commandments that are chiefly given to us'.



The nave of the priory church was in use as a parish church from about 1170 onwards and survived the Dissolution of the Monasteries because the last prior, Prior Moone, negotiated with Thomas Cromwell to secure the nave as a place of worship for the local community. The current church is the surviving part of the otherwise ruined 12th-century Augustinian religious community.

In the early years, as the reputation of the community grew, it attracted donations from other wealthy patrons who asked the canons to pray for their souls. This money was wisely invested in a number of farms, mills, lead mines and other enterprises, which in turn brought in extra income from tithes, rents, and the sale of produce. With some of the proceeds, the canons paid masons to extend their living quarters and to construct a great church, as impressive and beautiful as any being built in England at that time. The Priory's walls still bear masons' marks, these being the so-called 'sign manual' (or in modern language, the 'signature' or 'logo'), of each particular craftsman.

With changes in society and the growth of commerce in local towns, there was employment for young men who might otherwise have taken vows and entered the religious life. As a result, the numbers of canons dwindled, eventually being outnumbered by the lay brothers who were paid to do the manual and clerical work within the Priory and its outlying properties.

Bolton Priory, with its great wealth but tiny religious community, was an early target of Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539. The commercial assets of the Priory were seized and sold with the money going to the royal coffers; the furnishings and fittings from the monastery buildings were likewise disposed of. Even lead stripped from the monastic roofs was sold, which, with the help of the weather, ultimately caused many buildings to disintegrate.

Work on the great West Tower which started in 1520, was abandoned; the canons were pensioned off into retirement and most of the estate was sold to the Clifford family (to pass later to the Cavendish family, the Dukes of Devonshire). But Bolton village's parish church continued in the nave of the building with new Protestant clergy, a new English-language Bible, new forms of worship and a new east wall separating the nave from the remaining ruins.



Today the Priory Church and Ruins of an Augustinian Priory are at the heart of the Bolton Abbey Estate in a beautiful riverside setting next to the River Wharfe.

The estate is open to visitors and includes many miles of all-weather walking routes. Much of the estate is open to the public. A charge is made for car parking.

**Richard Byas**

### **An American is on a tour of European churches:**

His first stop is the Vatican. He's surprised to see a golden telephone offering direct calls to heaven at £1,000,000 per minute.

His second stop is St Paul's, London. Another golden phone but now £100,000 per minute.

His third stop is York Minster. He's shocked to see another golden phone, but calls are now just 10 pence a minute.

Puzzled, he stops a passing deacon and asks what the deal is. The deacon says "the answer is quite simple, lad. You're in Yorkshire now, so it's just a local call".



**Richard Byas**

## **Baldersby St. James Church Events**

### **Music at Junction 50**

On **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm** we welcome **JKL Duo**, a lovely Scottish and Italian duo who play Flute and Guitar in a wide range of music. Tickets are £12.00 and include a supper during the interval. We are happy for you to play on the door.

Last week we had a lovely, well attended concert by the Silver Keys, playing clarinets on a beautiful evening in church.

**Tuesday Coffee, Cake and Chat** Every Tuesday between 10am and 12 noon pop in for a chat and enjoy Sheilagh's cheese scones as a treat.

### **Book Sale**

Once again our **"Mammoth Book Sale"** is in church on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> of September**. We welcome everyone to help put out books the week before - to buy books - and to pack away on Sunday evening. As ever we are so grateful to the many generous people who support us every year. This is a big event with many new books and is our major fund raiser, which enables us to keep our beautiful church in better condition year by year as you will see when visiting.

*Susan Brown, Baldersby St James PCC*

## **Dalton Church and Village Events**

### **Monthly Coffee Mornings**

St John's is starting monthly Coffee Mornings in Dalton Village Hall from 10.30am until 12 noon. The next one will be on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July and will be in aid of North Yorkshire based charity Dementia Forward. There will be no set charge but donations will be welcome. Please come along, have a cuppa and a piece of cake and have a chat with friends and neighbours.

## **Dalton Village Gala**

This year's gala will be held on the Village Hall Playing Field on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July from 2pm until 5pm. There will be lots of competitions, children's races, Ripon Morris Dancers will be performing. There will be an ice cream van and the bar will be open. Come along and enjoy a lovely family day out. For more details of the competitions and how to enter, please check the Dalton Village Facebook page.

## **Domino Drives**

Domino Drives are held in the Village Hall every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 7pm. Entrance is £2. Tea and biscuits will be provided at the interval and there will be a raffle. Proceeds to St John's Church and Dalton Village Hall in rotation. Everyone welcome.

## **Craft Classes**

These are held in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month from 9.30am until 3pm. Come along and enjoy any crafts that you are interested in and have an enjoyable day out. New members welcome. Please contact Lois Gillie for details on 01423 325608.

## **Knit and Natter**

The Knit and Natter group is held fortnightly in the Village Hall. For more details contact Sharon Spence on 01845 577643.

## **Future events**

There will be a **Pop-up Pub** in the village hall on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm**. Families are welcome.

The **Village Autumn Lunch**, run by St John's Church, will be on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September**, 12 for 12.30 pm in the Village Hall. Tickets are £14, under 5s free, available from Judy on 01845 577607. There will be cold meats, salads and new potatoes, followed by lots of delicious puds! You won't go home hungry!

*Sylvia Binks*

## **St Columba's Church, Topcliffe**

### **Thursday Morning Prayer Service**

The short 11am weekday service led by Rev Dawn Ward is held each week, followed by chat and refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

### **Sunday Morning Holy Communion**

On the first Sunday of the month (6<sup>th</sup> July) Rev Dawn Ward will lead a short said service of Holy Communion (BCP) at 8.30am followed by fellowship and refreshments. It is hoped that this early service may be helpful to those who have other commitments on a Sunday. Choral Evensong will be at 6.30pm as usual followed by wine and pre-supper refreshments.



## **PARISH DIRECTORY**

### **The Parishes of Topcliffe, Baldersby with Dishforth and Skipton on Swale, and Dalton.**

There is currently no Vicar of the parishes. Until one is appointed, please contact our Area Dean, Rev'd Mary Rolls, mob: 07877 213327 email:

[mary.rolls@mowbraydeanery.org.uk](mailto:mary.rolls@mowbraydeanery.org.uk)

**BALDEERSBY with DISHFORTH and SKIPTON-ON-SWALE** - PCC Secretary: Mrs Jennifer Wharton [wharton370@btinternet.com](mailto:wharton370@btinternet.com)

**DALTON** - PCC Secretary: Mrs Hannah Bissett tel: 07739 382831  
[spannerb79@gmail.com](mailto:spannerb79@gmail.com)

**TOPCLIFFE** – PCC Secretary: Mrs Roz Norris [RozNorris@aol.com](mailto:RozNorris@aol.com)