

# Cross Talk



August 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 3 <sup>rd</sup> August, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> August, 9.30am	Breakfast Service <i>with coffee and croissants</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> August, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> August, 9.30am	Morning Service <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Everyone very welcome	



### St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August, 11am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> August, 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 31 <sup>st</sup> July, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>with refreshments and fellowship</i> <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August, 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 7 <sup>th</sup> August, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>with refreshments and fellowship</i> <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> August, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i> <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> August, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> August, 10.45am	Sung Matins <i>followed by refreshments</i>



**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 11am**

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

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 10.45am**

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

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August, 11am**

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

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

**No Services (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)**

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

**Malton Priory** - *Richard Byas p.5*

**Village News** – *p.7-8*

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## **Readings for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity to the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

#### **Collect**

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
Graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
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 13, Related, p1003)**

Ecclesiastes 1.2, 12-14; 2.18-23

Psalms 49.1-8, [9-11]

Colossians 3.1-11

Gospel: Luke 12.13-21



### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August, The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

#### **Collect**

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,  
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern  
both our hearts and bodies  
in the ways of your laws  
and the works of your commandments;  
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,  
we may be preserved in body and soul;  
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 14 Related, p1009)

Genesis 15.1-6

Psalm 33.12-21, [22]

Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16

Gospel: Luke 12.32-40

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August, The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

### Collect

Almighty God,  
who sent your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of your Church:  
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
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 15 Related p1015)

Jeremiah 23.23-29

Psalm 82

Hebrews 11.29-12.2

Gospel: Luke 12.49-56



## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August, The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

### Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,  
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;  
and that they may obtain their petitions  
make them to ask such things as shall please you:  
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 16 Related p1020)

Isaiah 58.9b-14

Psalm 103.1-8

Hebrews 12.18-29]

Gospel: Luke 13.10-17



## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August, The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

### Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power  
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:  
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,  
that we, running the way of your commandments,  
may receive your gracious promises,  
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;  
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 17 Related p1026)

Ecclesiasticus 10.12-18 or Proverbs 25.6-7

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16

Gospel: Luke 14.1, 7-14

## August Reflection

The month of August traditionally marks the height of English summertime with the schools on holiday, and it brings with it what we hope will be typical summer weather and a change in the way we experience the world around us.

Whether out in the country or just passing neighbours' gardens, summer reminds us of the insane generosity of God. Trees and plants flower and fruit in a way that can seem almost criminally wasteful. Bees buzz past, drunk on nectar. Neither animals nor humans can eat and use all the fruit that emerges from the trees and bushes, a bountiful provision for all.



The notion of bountifulness is intricately linked to God's character and His blessings include not only material wealth but also spiritual richness, health, and overall well-being, and we are invited to embrace both the gifts we receive and the responsibility to share those blessings with others reflecting the heart of God towards humanity.

If a spirituality of summer tells us anything, it is that the fruitfulness of the earth and the fruit of time spent contemplatively going about our daily tasks, is always going to be more than we can calculate and make use of in obvious ways.

Wasting time with the God whose times and seasons are full of generous wastefulness can remind us of what truly matters. The God who is with us always, to the end of time, is not limited to any season. God is both within and beyond times and seasons, but invites us in the summer, perhaps more vividly than at any other time, to hear 'this is my body' as an invitation to savour the beauties of creation.



Does it make sense to write about a spirituality of summer? At one level, not at all, if it is to suggest that the spiritual life is subject to seasonal fluctuations, or that there is something about the summer that is more or less spiritual or spiritually significant than any other time of the year. But the liturgical life of the church has always been firmly governed by a sense of times and seasons.

One of the most disconcerting things about modern travel is the way that it can transport us from one season and climate to another within so short a space of time that our own bodies and inner sense of rhythm become completely disorientated. Church liturgy tells us that times and seasons do matter. Our bodies are attuned to the onset and passing of seasons of the year and our whole cycle of life as Christians is dominated by liturgy and sacrament. So, in that sense, we can talk about a spirituality of summer and be making sense as we talk.



One of the delights of an English summer is in being able to shed layers of clothing and carry round fewer protective barriers between our bodies and the cold and damp of the external world. Behaviour becomes less guarded: people sit on outdoor seats to chat, drink coffee outside and eat their lunches outside instead of huddling indoors.

Summer becomes a time for reconnecting with the natural light with greater opportunities for communal living afforded by being able to sit out of doors for longer, watching children playing and people talking outside instead of sitting indoors. There is a sense of a general relaxing into the present, a willingness to linger over meals or encounters, savouring the moment, allowing the time to flow by. Summer takes us into holiday time, when in families the rhythms of work change, children and adults may spend more time together, positively or negatively as such an experience may be. Holidays can take us into different environments, give opportunities for exploration and expansion of horizons. Summer becomes an invitation to contemplate the risen Jesus in the other, to experience the presence of God in human encounters.



The warmth and light of summer bring so much enrichment in sight and scent and touch and taste. Perhaps part of the spirituality of summer is an invitation to a more contemplative approach to ordinary things: the feel and scent and taste of food, of flowers and plants, sea air, sunlight and warmth, fresh wind and the sound of towns, streets and gardens unusually alive.

The Biblical meaning of “bountiful” further unfolds through the lens of abundance found in God’s creation and His providence over all things. The myriad ways God sustains life, encouraging a deeper appreciation for His generosity that surrounds us daily.

Bountifulness in a biblical context also emphasizes the importance of generosity. It encourages us to share our blessings with others, reflecting God’s own giving nature. This principle teaches that true abundance is not merely about accumulating wealth or resources for ourselves, but sharing them out of compassion for others.

**Richard Byas**

## **Malton Priory**



The earliest mention of a church on the site of the church now known as Malton Priory is in 1086 with an entry in the Domesday Book. It is believed that this church was damaged when Thurstan of Bayeaux (then Archbishop of York) burned the village to the ground in 1138 after the Battle of the Standard. Eustace Fitz-John, the local landowner, donated the damaged church to the Gilbertine order and they rebuilt the church as a priory between 1147 and 1154. Eustace had been heavily involved in the rebellions of 1138, and this donation was probably an attempt to make amends for this.

Little if anything remains of the early church building though recent works revealed stone foundations pre-dating the footings of the piers of the present church and was so presumed to be part of the earlier structure.

The new Priory was endowed with farmlands and churches in the surrounding area. The priory was never large by the standards of North Yorkshire monasteries, but as one of the largest Gilbertine houses it constituted one of the major local landowners and several canons represented the area in Parliament.

The Gilbertine Order, the only fully English monastic order, was founded by Gilbert of Sempringham in about 1131 and was highly unusual in its provision for both nuns and canons. Each Gilbertine priory had one church, divided unequally by a wall. The nuns had the larger part, and the canons the smaller. The latter would join the nuns only to celebrate mass. From the church, the nunnery normally stood to the north and the canons' lodgings to the south.

Malton Priory church was originally aisled with transepts, a central tower at the crossing and twin West End towers. This may reflect the relative wealth of the house, or the layout of a preceding parish church. An account given by William of Newburgh of the deaths of three monks poisoned by carbonic acid gas in the process of burning lime either for mortar or limewash suggests that major building works were still in progress in 1197. Mason's marks on the piers include those of men who worked on Ripon Cathedral, and while slightly smaller than the cathedral, Malton Priory must have been a comparable building.

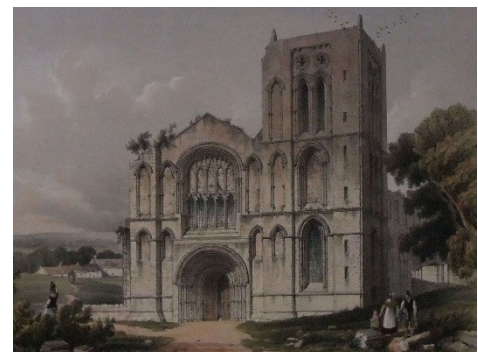
Malton Priory was dissolved in December 1539 and the eleven canons then resident in the Priory were pensioned off, about half of them becoming parish clergy in the area. By the time of the Dissolution, there were twenty-six houses of Gilbertines, but only four of these were ranked as "greater houses", having annual incomes above £200. Following the Suppression of Religious Houses Act 1535, these houses gave in to King Henry VIII in 1538 without a fight, surrendering "of their own free will". Each nun and canon then received a pension for the rest of their lives.

The last Master of the Order, Robert Holgate is credited with using his influence to save them for a few years. Malton Priory, one of the lesser Gilbertine houses, was the last to surrender in December 1539. Holgate was already the Bishop of Llandaff but translated to become Archbishop of York in 1545.

The Gilbertines were the only purely English order therefore the Dissolution marked their permanent end.

Sometime before the time of the dissolution, the church suffered its first major structural problems. The north-west tower seems to have collapsed in a fire causing major damage to the north side of the aisle.

The central tower was taken down in 1636 as it became unsafe, and the church sustained minor damage from cannonballs during the Civil War. The process of using the stones elsewhere continued and by 1728 most of the



monastic buildings were in ruins though the cloister walls were still standing. Re-used fragments of worked stone may be seen in many local buildings.

By 1733 the south aisle, the chancel and the transepts had all either fallen or were demolished as was the north-west tower. The rest of the church was semi-ruinous, and the parish was granted permission to demolish the north aisle, to reduce the height of the roof by 8 ft. and to shorten the East end by 36 ft. despite furious protests from George Watson who owned the site. Records suggest that a stone rood screen was also demolished at this time.



1877 saw the start of major restoration works when the parish was faced with the imminent collapse of the remaining tower. On the advice of Gilbert Scott, a major underpinning operation was undertaken. In 1887 the architect Temple Moore supervised restorations in the course of which the floor level was lowered 4 ft to its original level and those pillar bases in the south aisle apparently destroyed by a fire were restored. The east windows were blocked and the canopy over the altar was put in. New chancel seating was installed incorporating the remaining medieval misericords, together with a new organ, font and altar.

There are few remains of the Gilbertine priory. The undercroft of the monastery kitchen survives as a cellar in the adjoining Abbey House, as does the undercroft of one of three hospices run by the Priory as the cellar of the "Cross Keys". The "Doodles", a small area of wooded wetland and earthworks near the priory is thought to be the site of the Priory fishponds.

The present church has services on most Sunday mornings at 11.15am. These services are in Traditional language (BCP) with hymns and led by the choir singing music from the Anglican choral tradition. Refreshments follow the services of Evensong which take place twice a month. Midweek services also take place in the Priory. The Priory is open for personal prayer throughout the year during daylight hours. It also welcomes tourists to come and look at this unique church building.

**Richard Byas**

### **A Preachers Problem**

During a drought, early in summer, prayers for rain were spoken  
by the preacher at a Methodist chapel in Wensleydale,

Afterwards a local farmer went up to the preacher and said:  
'Steady on a bit with your prayers for rain,  
we need another two dry days to get t' hay in',



**Richard Byas**



## **Licensing of Reverend Dawn Ward**

**The Reverend Eva Dawn Ward , Assistant Curate for Thirsk Benefice in the Diocese of York, has been appointed House for Duty, Associate Priest for the Benefice of Topcliffe, Baldersby with Dishforth, and Skipton on Swale, and Dalton**

**The Bishop of Whitby will officiate at the licensing Service which is to take place on Wednesday 1st October, at 7.30pm, at St James' Church, Baldersby St James."**

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

### **Book Sale**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> of September** in church. Open at 19am.

Our big fund raiser for the year for church repairs – this year we are repairing our windows on the north side of the church. We would be grateful if you could help put out huge collection of books in the week leading up to the sale. Also if you have any books in tidy condition to donate please drop them off in church. We always have a fun time that weekend and are thrilled by the many helpers, especially on Sunday from 4pm when we pack away surplus books and clear church. Our record to be beaten is around 6pm!!

### **Tuesday Coffee, Cake and Chat**

Every Tuesday between 10am and noon with home-made scones

### **Open Church.**

Just to remind everyone that our church is open every day from around 9.30am to 6pm. If you would like to drop by for a quiet peaceful sit and cup of tea – it is there for anyone to drop in. We have two bookcases of books if you would like to borrow one and usually a jigsaw out to finish.

### **North Windows**

Over the next year we are hoping to repair the ground floor windows on the north side of church. We have commissioned a report from the Glaziers in York which is being used for permission ("faculty") to carry out the work and also for grant applications to add to funds that we raise. An estimate for the 4 windows (8 panes) is in the region of £4,500 per window, which is a big figure, but if we don't start we will never finish! We may repair them individually as money is raised.

*Susan Brown, Baldersby St James PCC*

## **Dalton Church and Village Events**

### **Coffee Morning**

The next Coffee Morning run by St John's will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September in Dalton Village Hall from 10.30am until 12 noon, in aid of MacMillan. There is no Coffee Morning in August.



## Pop-up Pub

There will be a pop-up pub in the village hall on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 7pm. Fish and chips will be available, without pre-ordering. Families welcome.

## Domino Drive

The next Domino Drive is in the Village Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 7pm. Entrance is £2, with £1 for 5 raffle tickets. Tea and biscuits will be provided at the interval. All ages and abilities welcome.

## Future events

There will be a **Pop-up cafe** in the village hall on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am until 12 noon.**

A **Quiz and Bingo** evening will be held on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.**

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!

**St John's Harvest Festival** will be on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.**

*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.

## 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)

**BALDEBSBY 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  
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