

Cross Talk



September 2025

Cross Talk is published monthly by email. To receive a copy please contact 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 and baldersbychurch.com.

CHURCH SERVICES

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

Sunday 7th September, 10.45am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 14th September No Service *(Book Sale weekend)*

Sunday 21st September, 10.45am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 28th September, 9.30am Morning Service *followed by refreshments*

Everyone very welcome



St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 7th September, 11am Holy Communion
followed by refreshments

Sunday 21st September, 11am Family Service
followed by refreshments
All are most welcome



St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

Thursday 4th September, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer
with refreshments and fellowship
led by Richard Byas

Sunday 7th September, 6.30pm No morning Service
Choral Evensong *followed by*
pre-supper refreshments and wine

Thursday 11th September, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer
with refreshments and fellowship
led by Richard Byas

Sunday 14th September, 10.45am Holy Communion
led by Revd Dawn Ward
followed by refreshments

Thursday 18th September, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer
led by Revd Dawn Ward



Sunday 21st September, 10.45am Sung Matins *followed by refreshments*

Thursday 25th September, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer *with refreshments and fellowship
led by Revd Dawn Ward*

Sunday 28th August, 10.45am Holy Communion *led by Revd Robert Williamson*

Thursday 2nd October, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer *with refreshments and fellowship
led by Revd Dawn Ward*

September Reflection - *Richard Byas p.3*

York Treasurer's House - *Richard Byas p.5*

Village News – *p.8*

Readings for the 12th Sunday after Trinity to the 15th Sunday after Trinity

(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)

Sunday 7th September, The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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.

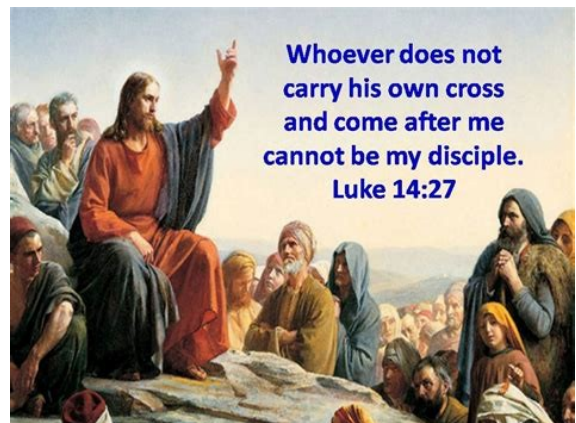
Readings (Proper 18, Related, p1032)

Deuteronomy 30.15-20

Psalm 1

Philemon 1-21

Gospel: Luke 14.25-33



Sunday 14th September, The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Readings (Proper 19 Related, p1037)

Exodus 32.7-14

Psalms 51.1-11

1 Timothy 1.12-17

Gospel: Luke 15.1-10

Sunday 21st September, The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth:
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 20 Related p1042)

Amos 8.4-7

Psalms 113

1 Timothy 2.1-7

Gospel: Luke 16.1-13

Sunday 28th September, The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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 21 Related p1048)

Amos 6.1a, 4-7

Psalms 146

1 Timothy 6.6-19

Gospel: Luke 16.19-31



September Reflection

Recently there has been a high-level meeting between presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin to discuss the war in Ukraine and, at least as far as President Trump was concerned, the objective was to return peace to Ukraine. However, Russia and Ukraine are poles apart in what they are able to accept; Russia wants to keep the land it has invaded and more whilst Ukraine wants its internationally recognised borders to be honoured and Russian troops to withdraw back to their own country.

Everyone in the civilised world wants the daily killing of Ukrainian civilians to stop, but for peace to be declared there needs to be much more than the cessation of armed conflict.

Peace is much more than the absence of conflict or war which is often the common western definition of peace. The Hebrew word shalom, often translated as peace in English, means so much more. In the translation of Exodus 21-22, shalom is translated as “make it good”, “shall surely pay”, “make full restitution” or to “restore”. The ancient Hebrew meaning of shalom was “to make something whole”. Not just regarding practical restoration of things that were lost or stolen but with an overall sense of fulness and completeness in mind, body and estate. For peace to return to Ukraine it will take far more than the silencing of the guns; the 20,000 abducted children will need to be returned, the damaged infrastructure repaired and where war-crimes have been committed then those responsible will need to be brought to justice.



Each year, the Nobel foundation award various prizes; for chemistry, physics, medicine, literature and economics. Each of these prizes is awarded to recognise those who have made discoveries or advanced our understanding of the world in each of these disciplines. Each award acknowledges the new.

But alongside these prizes, there is one that feels like it is an age-old quest, and one that never seems to advance as securely or as definitively as the others. It is, of course, the prize for Peace.

Since its inauguration in 1901, the Peace Prize has often gone to an organisation rather than an individual or individuals. The International Committee of the Red Cross has been awarded the prize a record three times. The most recent award to an institution was the 2020 Prize given to The World Food Programme. Significantly, the Peace Prize is not automatically awarded. There have actually been 19 years in which no award was made, notably during the First and Second World Wars.

What about Nobel himself? Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) was a Swedish scientist and inventor. He made his mark in many spheres of activity, as a gifted chemist and engineer but also as a businessman who held 355 patents in his lifetime. He is now best known for bequeathing his fortune to establish the Nobel Prizes. His other chief claim to fame – or notoriety – is as the inventor of dynamite, a nitro-glycerine explosive which he patented in 1867. Of course, dynamite can be used for “peaceful” purposes, in mining, quarrying and demolition, for instance. Still, there is a certain irony in Nobel’s association with a peace prize!

It is a sobering thought that since the Peace Prize was first awarded, we have endured two world wars, and that even now there are more than 110 armed conflicts currently taking place around the world. Clearly there is still some way to go in our quest for peace.

The path to peace runs through the human heart. In the armed conflicts of the world, we see our own fears, insecurities, and prejudices being scaled up to the point where we no longer see each other as people and instead demonise the ‘other’. What we need is to discover for

ourselves a path to our own peace with the world, that we might begin to see that peace being lived out in the world.

When Jesus was talking to his disciples shortly before what was going to be a terrifying and confusing time in their lives as they watched him being arrested, subjected to a sham trial, and then crucified, Jesus said to them, "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." In spite of everything that they were going to experience, Jesus promises them that peace is possible, a peace rooted in trust in God.

I would guess that most, if not all, of the individuals who have received the Nobel Peace Prize would say "it wasn't just me." Peace is and always has been a joint enterprise! "Pursue peace with everyone," the writer of the biblical letter to the Hebrews says, and Jesus famously says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." This is a call to us all. Peace is far too important to be left to "the great and the good" to achieve. It's a prize we can all play a part in winning!



And that same call to be ambassadors of peace echoes to us today. We might not feel like we can change the world, but we can each be an agent of peace in our daily lives and relationships. In coming to Jesus may we find peace for our own troubled souls, so that we might be those who are then enabled to live out that peace in a world that so desperately needs to know there is hope and that, in Jesus, there really is the possibility of peace.

Richard Byas

The Treasurer's House, York

The Treasurer's House lies between York Minster and the city walls. It earned its name as the medieval home to the treasurers of York Minster but the present house dates primarily to the 17th and 18th centuries.

The first Treasurer for York Minster was appointed in 1091 when the office was established by Archbishop of York, Thomas of Bayeux, but all that remains of his original house is an external wall which forms part of Gray's Court and sections of 12th century masonry in the present Treasurer's House but it is uncertain whether they are in-situ or have been reused.



The residence served in this capacity until 1547, when the Reformation of the English Church brought the job of Treasurer to an end. The last Treasurer surrendered the house to the crown on 26th May and it was granted to Protector Somerset by whom it was sold to Archbishop Robert Holgate. Thomas Young, Archbishop between 1561 and 1568, and his descendants are responsible for the structure of house as it is today. In the early 17th century

the Young family added the symmetrical front and almost entirely rebuilt the house. In 1617, the Treasurer's House played host to royalty when Sir George Young entertained James I. The house then passed through a number of private owners including Lord Fairfax and over time was sub-divided into separate tenements.

The house was restored to its present state by Frank Green, a wealthy West Riding industrialist, who between 1897 and 1898 bought each part of the house. He appointed Temple Moore to restore the house and remove numerous earlier additions.

This work was mostly completed by 1900. Working with architect Temple Moore, the interior was transformed as features were revealed, removed or introduced according to Green's vision.

The cellars of Treasurer's House are home to one of York's most famous ghost sightings, that of Roman centurions in the 1950s.

Although several ghosts reportedly haunt the house, including that of George Aislaby, who owned the property in the seventeenth century, the most notable haunting is by a group of Roman soldiers, who have been witnessed in the cellar, firstly by a party guest of Frank Green and then many years later during restoration works carried out by the National Trust. In February 1953, local 18-year-old apprentice plumber Harry Martindale was repairing pipe work in the cellar. After about four hours of work at the top of his ladder, Harry reported that he became aware of a musical sound, resembling a series of repeated single trumpet-like notes. The sound grew in intensity until, just below his ladder, he saw a soldier wearing a plumed helmet emerge from the wall. The soldier walked through the cellar and disappeared into the opposite wall. Following behind the soldier came another soldier, riding a horse. Following along behind them came more soldiers, two abreast, about nine or ten pairs in total. Terrified, Harry fell from his ladder and stumbled into a corner to hide. The soldiers appeared to be armed legionaries, visible only from the knees up, in a marching formation, but were "scruffy". They were distinctive in three ways: they carried round shields on their left arms, they carried some kind of daggers in scabbards on their right side and they wore green tunics.



At first Harry's account was dismissed because his description didn't match what was known about Roman soldiers that manned the fortress in Eboracum (York). In fact, Harry's sighting was ridiculed for years by academics saying that what he had seen that day didn't match up with the history books. Many years later, excavations in the city revealed that the descriptions of the soldiers' dress he gave in fact matched those of soldiers who took over the Roman garrison in the fourth century. During the course of his life, Harry told of his experience many times but never changed any of the details.



The new research that came to light over the years showed that what Harry had seen were not legionaries but Roman auxiliaries - native troops who served alongside the legions, using their own weapons and wearing their own clothes.

However, the first recorded mention of Roman ghosts was by a female guest of Frank Green, who went to the cellar on the hunt for more wine. After being barred by a man dressed in a Roman soldier's uniform, she complained to her host. There was no such person in the house.

The next was the warden at the time who came across Harry and upon seeing his obvious shock said, before Harry could utter a single word, "By the look of you, you've seen the Roman soldiers."

Harry said that the ghosts appeared solid and real – making him quite terrified that they may be able to see and react to him. Not only could Harry see the soldiers passing through the cellar, but he could also hear their speech and the sounds of their footsteps.

When asked years later if he believed in ghosts Harry replied 'I don't know about ghosts – you know I had never seen a ghost before that day, and I have never seen one since. But I do know what I saw down here that day'.

The Treasurers House, York is managed by The National Trust.

Opening times for the House, Garden & Cafe 11:00 - 16:00 April - October, tours only. Last tour starts 3pm. Visits should be booked in advance.

Richard Byas

Yorkshire Humour

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, French scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 200 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 150 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the French: in the weeks that followed, American archaeologists dug to a depth of 20 feet before finding traces of copper wire. Shortly afterwards, they published an article in the New York Times saying : "American archaeologists, having found traces of 250-year-old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network 50 years earlier than the French."

A few weeks later, 'The British Archaeological Society of Northern England' reported the following: "After digging down to a depth of 33 feet in the Skipton area of North Yorkshire in 2021, Charlie Hardcastle, a self-taught amateur archaeologist, reported that he had found absolutely nothing at all. Charlie has therefore concluded that 250 years ago, Britain had already gone wireless."



Richard Byas

Baldersby St. James Church Events

Book Sale

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th of September in church. Open at 9am.

Our big event of the year!

We will be putting out books on **Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th, and Friday 12th** and would appreciate lots of help between 10am and 5pm each day, but good fun when we have many helpers! If anyone can help on the sale days (Sat & Sun) that would be most welcome serving teas and tidying books. Also if you have time to bring cakes, scones etc to sell for teas.

From 4pm on Sunday we will be boxing up the unsold books and returning the church for services. We usually manage to do this in under 2 hours, with about 18 helpers last year. **But it is quite a feat (and workout) so please help (especially strong men) if you can.**

Windows

Hopefully we should be receiving our faculty (planning permission from the Church Authorities) within the next couple of weeks. We are already receiving generous donations from our congregation and funds from our book sale will be added. These will be needed when our grant applications are submitted when we will be asked how much money we have raised. So fingers crossed, and a prayer, for them to be successful! The total cost is approximately £18,000 for all four windows. If anyone would like to see the specification from Martin Johnson for the windows please email me: c.b.brown398@hotmail.co.uk.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 1st October at 7.30pm Rev. Dawn Ward will be licensed at Baldersby Church for the Parishes of Dalton, Topcliffe, Baldersby with Rainton, Dishforth & Skipton upon Swale. All Welcome.

Sunday 19th October at 10.45am St James Church Harvest Festival with bring and share lunch.

Susan Brown, Baldersby St James PCC

Dalton Church and Village Events

Pop-Up Cafe

There will be a **Pop-up cafe** in the village hall on **Saturday 6th September 9.30am until 12 noon**. There will be bacon, sausage and bacon & sausage sarnies on sale, also toasted teacakes. Come along and enjoy a late breakfast/brunch and a natter with friends and neighbours.

The **Village Autumn Lunch** will be on **Sunday 14th 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, quiches and new potatoes, followed by lots of delicious puds! You won't go home hungry! The bar will be open and there will be a raffle. The proceeds are for St. John's church.

A **Quiz and Bingo Evening** will be held in the village hall on **Saturday 20th September**, 6.30 for 7pm start. The bar will be open.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This will be held in the village hall on Wednesday 24th September from 9.30am until 12 noon. Come along and have a chat, meet our new Vicar, Dawn, eat cake and raise money for a great cause. What could be better?

Domino Drive

The next domino drive will be in the village hall on Saturday 27th September at 7pm. Admission is £2. There will be a raffle, with tickets 5 for £1. Tea and biscuits will be served at the interval.

Sylvia Binks

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Thursday Morning Prayer Service

The short 11am weekday service will be led by Richard Byas while Rev Dawn Ward is on leave. The service is followed by chat and refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.



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.

PARISH DIRECTORY

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

Pending the appointment of Revd Dawn Ward, for parish matters please contact our Area Dean, Rev'd Mary Rolls, mob: 07877 213327 email: mary.rolls@mowbraydeanery.org.uk

BALDESBY with DISHFORTH and SKIPTON-ON-SWALE - PCC Secretary: Mrs Jennifer Wharton wharton370@btinternet.com

DALTON - PCC Secretary: Mrs Hannah Bissett tel: 07739 382831 spannerb79@gmail.com

TOPCLIFFE – PCC Secretary: Mrs Roz Norris RozNorris@aol.com