

Cross Talk



November 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 2nd November, 10.45am** Holy Communion – All Souls' Day
we will be lighting candles for departed loved ones.
- Sunday 9th November, 9.30am** Breakfast Service for Remembrance Sunday
we will hold an Act of Remembrance during the Service
- Sunday 16th November, 10.45am** Holy Communion followed by refreshments
- Sunday 23rd November, 9.30am** Morning Service followed by refreshments
- Sunday 30th November** No Service **11am Benefice Service is at Dalton**



St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

- Sunday 2nd November, 11am** All Souls Family Service
followed by refreshments
- Sunday 16th November, 11am** Holy Communion
followed by refreshments
- Sunday 30th November, 11am** Benefice Service
All are most welcome



St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

- Sunday 2nd November, 8.30am** Holy Communion (BCP) - All Saints' Day
led by Revd Dawn Ward
- 6.30pm** Requiem Mass for All Souls followed by
pre-supper refreshments and wine
- Thursday 6th November, 11am** Midweek Morning Prayer
*with refreshments and fellowship
led by Revd Dawn Ward*
- Sunday 9th November, 9.45am** Said Communion (BCP) led by
Revd Dawn Ward
- 10.45am** Remembrance Service
led by Revd Dawn Ward



Tuesday 11th November, 10.45am Regimental Armistice Day Service

led by Revd Dr Henry Afful CF

Thursday 13th November, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer

led by Revd Dawn Ward

Sunday 16th October, 10.45am Sung Matins followed by refreshments

Thursday 20th November, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer with refreshments and fellowship

led by Revd Dawn Ward

Sunday 23rd November, 10.45am Holy Communion *led by Revd Robert Williamson*

Thursday 27th November, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer with refreshments and fellowship

led by Revd Dawn Ward

Sunday 30th November 11am Benefice Service is at Dalton

November Reflection – Revd Dawn Ward p.4

Martinmas - Richard Byas p.5

Village News – p.8

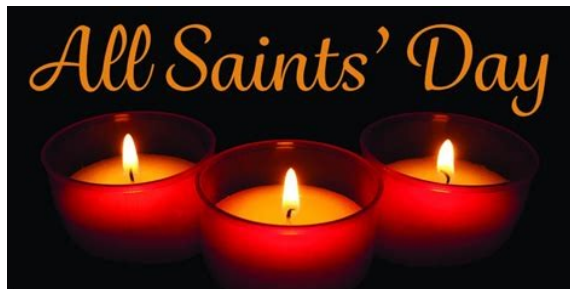
Readings for All Saint's Sunday to Advent Sunday

(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)

Sunday 2nd November, All Saints' Sunday

Collect

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love 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 (p1071)

Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1.11-23

Gospel: Luke 6.20-31

Sunday 9th November, The Third Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)

Collect

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the king of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,

to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings (p1081)

Job 19.23-27a

Psalm 17.1-8, [9]

2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-17

Gospel: Luke 20.27-38



Sunday 16th November, The Second Sunday before Advent

Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him
in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings (p1083)

Malachi 4.1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Gospel: Luke 21.5-19

Sunday 23rd November, Christ the King, the Sunday Next Before Advent

Collect

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of
heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet:
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever.

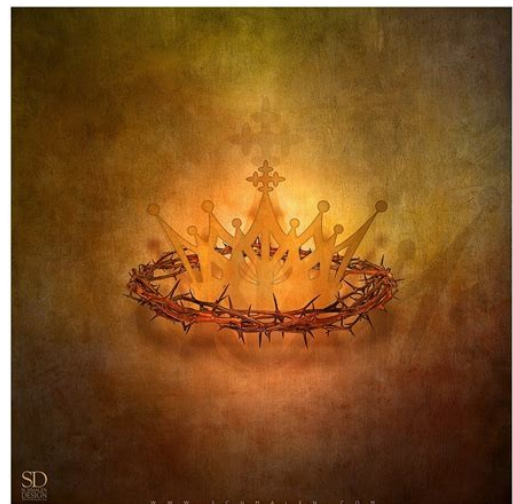
Readings (p1086)

Jeremiah 23.1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1.11-20

Gospel: Luke 23.33-43



Sunday 30th November, Advent Sunday (Year A begins)

Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on that last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever.

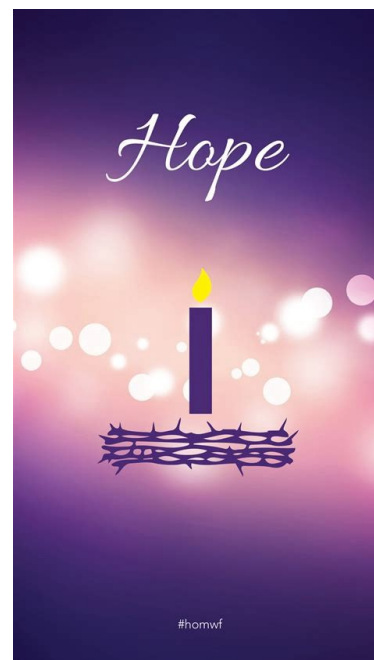
Readings (p3)

Isaiah 2.1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13.11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24.36-44



November Reflection



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In October we have seen wonderful thanksgiving celebrations in our churches for the Harvest and God's Creation. These services have focused on gratitude for food and gifts, environmental stewardship and the importance of charity and sustainability.

As we have given thanks for the harvest, we are called to consider our role in the environment and remember those who are hungry and in need and how food banks are essential resources for many families. We have been called to recognise our dependence on the natural world, the cycles of nature and the human effort involved in growing and providing food. We must also remember that, for many, harvest is not a reality but a hope and for people living in urban areas there is a disconnect between planting and growing and food appearing on supermarket shelves.

As I have been reflecting on how we can link the theme of a traditional harvest and caring for creation I came across a great book by Becky Hall, called *The Art of Enough*.

This is how Becky describes it: enough is the state in which every single person on the planet can thrive- living with dignity, equality, and sufficient resources... without overshooting planetary boundaries.

With enough, each of us learns how to live within the natural limits of our lives, and this sets us free to flourish. Enough, she says, is the wisdom to follow the natural patterns of growth, challenging the idea that growth is always about being bigger or

having more. Enough is a state of being and way of living. Many faiths tell us we need to live gently with the earth, to sit well with the world.

The truth is we need to be humble. As the prophet Micah says in the Hebrew Scriptures "God has told you what is good and what is required of you: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God".

Something to ponder as we move into the next season.....

With the clocks now put back by one hour on Sunday 26th October we start to encounter darker nights and move into winter. Our churches prepare to commemorate All Soul's Day on 2nd of November, Remembrance Sunday on the 9th of November and Armistice Day on the 11th of November.

Although Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day are well recognised, All Soul's Day seems to be less recognised in the secular world.

So, as we remember loved ones departed, I would like to share these words from Julian of Norwich, which captures our fragility and even insignificance as humans, and God's perfect love for each of us despite all that.

Our Lord showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand. I looked at it and thought, 'What can this be?' And the answer came to me, 'It is all that is made,' I wondered how it could last, for it was so small I thought it might suddenly disappear. And the answer in my mind was, 'It lasts and will last forever because God loves it; and in the same way everything exists through the love of God.'

Revelations of Divine Love.

May we all know the unconditional love of God.

Reverend Dawn.

Martinmas

We not only note the passing of the year by observing the changing seasons, we also have national celebrations which mark the passage of time. Although these celebrations appear fixed, and some like Christmas and Easter have been celebrated for many centuries, others such as Bonfire Night are only a few hundred years old and others such as Remembrance Sunday / Armistice Day are even more recent. And national celebrations which once were so important such as Queen Elizabeth's Holiday (the anniversary of her Accession to the throne on 17th November 1558) are now long forgotten. One celebration which survived for centuries but which is now largely ignored is Martinmas.



St. Martin's Day or Martinmas is the 11th of November (which is of course also Armistice Day or Remembrance Day) but, as St. Martin's Day the 11th of November

had long been a special date in European calendars. The Feast of St Martin (Martinmas) is a Christian feast to commemorate the death and burial of the 4th century St Martin of Tours. Martin of Tours (died 397) was a Roman soldier who was baptized as an adult and became a bishop in Gaul. He is best known for the legend whereby he cut his cloak in half with his sword to give half to a beggar who was dressed in only rags in the depth of winter. That night Martin had a vision of Jesus Christ wearing the half-cloak. St Martin is the patron saint of beggars, drunkards and the poor.

As is common with saint's days, there were a wide variety of different traditions to celebrate the date across Europe. In Flanders, children received presents on this day rather than the more usual St Nicholas's Day (6th December). In Germany, Martinmas was marked with parades of paper lanterns and in England, after our switching of calendars and the infamous loss of eleven days, Martinmas became known as Old Hallowtide or Old Hallowe'en. Much like Michaelmas, Martinmas was a time for hiring fairs where men and women could secure employment for the coming year. This was particularly common in Northern England (and in Scotland).

Until the early 1900's, most single East Yorkshire lads and girls hired to live in on farms were either looked after by the wife of the farmer or, on large farms, of a hind, or foreman. They started out as young as twelve, being hired for a year at a time with a week off between contracts. This festival time was called Martinmas and was often seen as 'the farmworkers Christmas'.



Martinmas was a logical time to have such hiring fairs when the harvest was over, and the cycle of traditional farming tasks sank to its lowest ebb. Work was then relatively unaffected by the changeover of workers, and it was a fact of life in farm service that hired workers liked to move at least every couple of years. However, when the government cut eleven

days from the calendar in 1752 to get back in step with the astronomical year, hiring fairs changed their dates to keep in step with the farming year, though Yorkshire actually skipped 12 days, making the 23rd into Old Martinmas Day.

Newspaper reports show that even into the 1950s wages appeared absurdly low. The average for foremen was about £28 a year, whilst waggoners received from £20 to £22. Second lads got from £16 to £17, and plough lads accepted offers averaging from £13 to £15. Female servants received from £15 to £18. As the workers lived in at the farm, the value of their keep would double their income. In fact, until the 1920s, these wages were among the highest in the UK for farm workers, but then the Great Depression hit farming hard, and rates fell abruptly. The introduction of minimum wages stopped that, but stifled bargaining, especially as farmers' incomes had also collapsed, yet increasingly informal hiring still persisted well into the 1950s.

Their agreed wages were due only when the year ended, and farmers had got some harvest sales completed, and as contracts were legally binding you could neither resign nor be sacked without good cause. In contrast, married workers were called 'labourers', lived in the villages and were paid weekly until one side or the other ended it.

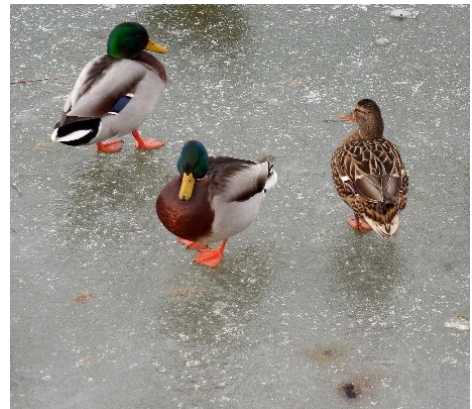
Further back in medieval and Tudor times, Martinmas was the traditional day for slaughtering animals. This served two purposes. It reduced the number of animals to be kept over winter when feed stocks were low and it ensured a good source of meat throughout the winter months. It wasn't just farms that would keep and slaughter animals, it was common for families to have a family pig that would be killed at Martinmas and the meat salted to preserve it. An old English saying 'His Martinmas will come as it does to every hog' meant 'he will get his comeuppance' and referred to the Martinmas slaughter.

Also, like other notable dates in the year, there were some folk traditions related to the weather of St Martin's Day. It was claimed that whatever the weather was like on St. Martin's Day, the opposite would hold true for Christmas. Therefore, if it was cold and icy at Martinmas, it would be mild by Yuletide, whereas if it were pleasant on St Martin's Day, there would be a white Christmas. Two rhymes have a similar theme of predicting the future weather:

If ducks do slide at Martinmas
At Christmas they will swim;
If ducks do swim at Martinmas
At Christmas they will slide

and

Ice before Martinmas,
Enough to bear a duck.
The rest of winter,
Is sure to be but muck!



Maybe with global warming these predictions may not be as accurate as when they were first written!

Richard Byas

Cricket cat

"My wife asked me if I had seen the cat bowl?
I said, I'll be honest, I didn't even know it could play cricket!"



Richard Byas

Baldersby St. James Church

All Souls Day, Sunday 2nd November at 10.45am – Holy Communion. We will be lighting candles for departed loved ones. If you would like the names of loved ones read out, please fill their names on the list in church. which will be read out during the service.

Tuesdays at 10am till noon – Drop in and Chat. On the last Tuesday, 25th November, there is a jigsaw swop.

Susan Brown, Baldersby St James PCC

Dalton Church and Village Events

Coffee Morning

There will be a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on Wednesday 5th November 10.30am til noon, run by St John's Church, in aid of The Royal British Legion. No charge, but donations are welcome. Come along and have a cuppa, a piece of cake and a chat with friends and neighbours. All welcome.

Domino Drive

A Domino Drive will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 23rd November at 7pm. Admission is £2, with £1 for a strip of raffle tickets. Tea and biscuits are served at the interval. All ages are welcome.

Benefice Service

St John's Church is hosting the first revived Benefice Holy Communion Service at 11am on Sunday 30th November. All are most welcome.

Sylvia Binks

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Church Maintenance by Royal Artillery

Ten soldiers from 4th Royal Artillery regiment based at Alanbrooke Barracks helped with some essential maintenance at St Columba's churchyard last Wednesday morning. Led by Padre Henry Afful, they split into small groups and tackled specified tasks including painting the arch above the main gate, the mesh gates at the church main doors and handrails at the main steps and elsewhere in the churchyard.

Sunday 2 November, Feast of All Souls at 6.30pm - Choral Requiem Mass

Everyone is invited to remember and give thanks for the lives of departed family and friends at this beautiful and uplifting service set to the music of Caspar Ett (1788-1847). There is an opportunity for loved ones to be remembered by name and also to light a candle in their memory during the service. Names to be remembered can be added to the list before the service or, if preferred, emailed to John Phillips (johnphillips05@gmail.com) or Chris Hewlett (celhewlett@outlook.com).

Remembrance Sunday 9 November at 10.45am

A special service which will include a two minutes silence at 11am and the laying of wreaths at the village war memorials in church. A group representing the 4th Regiment (Royal Artillery) will be attending.

Armistice Day - Tuesday 11 November at 10.45am

The 4th Regiment (Royal Artillery) will hold their Remembrance Service at St Columba's led by their Chaplain the Rev Dr Henry Afful CF. All service personnel in camp on the day are expected to be present, led by their Commanding Officer Colonel Harry Waller RA. Children from both Alanbrooke Academy and Topcliffe C of E Academy will also attend and both academies will be involved in parts of the service as well as others from our village community. The CO particularly hopes that this service will foster a stronger bond of relationship between the barracks and the communities of Topcliffe and Asenby and that as many as possible will be able to attend.

BENEFICE DIRECTORY

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

Reverend Dawn Ward, Associate Priest for the Benefice

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