

# Cross Talk



February 2026

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 1<sup>st</sup> February, 10.45am** Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30am** Breakfast Service *with Coffee and Croissants*
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 10.45am** Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm** Ash Wednesday Service *with imposition of Ashes*
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 9.30am** Morning Service *followed by refreshments*
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm** Compline for Lent



### St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 11am** Family Service *followed by refreshments*
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 11am** Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*



### St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

*Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society*

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 8.30am** Said Holy Communion (BCP)
- 6.30pm** Choral Evensong for Candlemas *followed by pre-supper nibbles and wine*
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 11am** Midweek Morning Prayer
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 10.45am** Holy Communion
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 11am** Midweek Morning Prayer
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 10.45am** Choral Matins
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm** Benefice Ash Wednesday Service *with imposition of Ashes* at Baldersby St James Church
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 11am** Midweek Morning Prayer



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 10.45am Holy Communion**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm Compline for Lent**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer**

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**February Reflection – Revd Dawn Ward p.4**

**Battle of Myton-on-Swale - Richard Byas p.5**

**Village News – p.7**

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## **Readings for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany to 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

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

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany [Use the Service for Candlemas below]**

### **Collect**

God our creator,  
who in the beginning  
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,  
shine into the hearts of all your people,  
and reveal the knowledge of your glory  
in the face 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 (p53)**

1 Kings 17.8-16

Psalm 36.5-10

1 Corinthians 1.18-31

Gospel: John 2.1-11

## **2<sup>nd</sup> February, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple : Candlemas**

### **Collect**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son  
was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.



### **Readings (p56)**

Malachi 3.1-5

Psalm 24.[1-6,] 7-10

Hebrews 2.14-18

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February, The Second Sunday before Lent**

#### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
reigns supreme over all things,  
now and for ever.



### **Readings (p72)**

Genesis 1.1-2.3

Psalm 136.1-9, [10-22,] 23-26

Romans 8.18-25

Gospel: Matthew 6.25-34

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, The Sunday next before Lent**

#### **Collect**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Readings (p77)**

Exodus 24.12-18

Psalm 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1.16-21

Gospel: Matthew 17.1-9



## Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February : Ash Wednesday

### Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
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 (p81)

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58.1-12

Psalm 51. 1-18

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Gospel: Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21 or John 8.2-11



## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, The First Sunday of Lent

### Collect

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves  
in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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 (p87)

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5.12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4.1-11



## February Reflection



Dear friends,

As we move into February we leave behind the season of Epiphany and start to think about Lent. Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Ash Wednesday is a day of turnings. A day when we turn inwards and examine our lives, a day when we turn from the depth of winter to waiting for Easter. And a day when we choose to turn away from sin and towards new life.

This isn't something we do on our own. Christians all over the world use this time as a line drawn in the sand, a yearly reminder of both our frailty, and God's grace.

The fact that we do this together, rather than on our own, reminds us that it isn't just our personal lives that need transforming, but that of our communities, countries, and entire world. On Ash Wednesday, and in Lent we lament the brokenness of the whole world, its sin, inequality and injustice and we long for God's intervention to come and teach us what justice, peace and freedom truly look like.

Lent is a time when the whole Church is invited to revisit 'the basics' of the faith alongside those who are exploring them for the first time.

The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is **Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent.**

This year's resources have at their heart the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

The six weekly themes for our Lent devotional are highlighted below:

As we follow the Way of Christ,  
we affirm the presence of God among us,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God calls us to **share in worship.**

*Jesus said, where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*

***Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.***

God calls us to **share in prayer.**

*Jesus said, remain in me, and I will remain in you.*

***Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.***

God calls us to **share the Scriptures.**

*Jesus met his disciples on the road and opened the Scriptures to them.*

***Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.***

God calls us to **share in communion**.

*Jesus said, do this in remembrance of me.*

***Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.***

God calls us to **share in service**.

*Jesus said, as you do it for the least of these, you do it for me.*

***Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.***

God calls us to **share the good news**.

*Jesus said, go and make disciples of all nations.*

***Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.***

I do invite you to explore these resources on your own, with family or in groups.

**"Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too."**

**Where to Find Resources:**

- **Church of England Website: For general information and links.**  
<https://churchofengland.org>
- **Christian Bookshops (CPO, Eden, ICM): For purchasing physical booklets (adult and children's editions).**
- **Diocesan Websites** <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk>

**And so, we Pray.**

Loving God, we bring ourselves, our churches,

And our world before you: we ask that you show us,

Alone and together, how to turn and walk in your ways, **Amen.**

God Bless,

**Reverend Dawn.**

## The Battle of Myton-on-Swale

Fulford, Stamford Bridge, Marston Moor and Towton were some of the most infamous and bloodiest battles fought on English soil but many other clashes, often less well known, also helped to shape the region and the nation, such as the Battle of Myton-on-Swale.

With the victory of Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June 1314, and the deaths of many leading English noblemen, Bruce then used raids on areas of Northern England to try to persuade Edward II to recognize his sovereignty and Scottish independence. The Borders and as far south as Yorkshire were included in Bruce's terror campaign.



One major blow to Edward II was the fall of Berwick upon Tweed in April 1318, and this led to Edward and Thomas of Lancaster patching up their differences and uniting in the attempt to recover the town which was a significant port as well as the symbol of regional power.

While Edward's and Thomas' forces besieged Berwick, King Robert sent a major raiding party to attack deep into English territory, possibly hoping even to capture Queen Isabella who had remained in York while Edward was at Berwick.

The Scottish raiding force led by Sir James Douglas and Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray moved south and in mid-September 1319 they burnt Beverley and advanced toward York. This force numbered less than 5000 men and in response, William Melton, the Archbishop of York, along with other ecclesiastical dignitaries, raised a makeshift army of clergy, townsmen, and local militia of between 5000 and 10000 men armed largely with farm tools and worn swords. The two armies came together at Myton-on-Swale on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1319, a few hours' march north-west of York and some three miles east of Boroughbridge.

Thomas Earl of Moray, the Scottish commander, originally tried to avoid battle, but when the nature of the rabble facing them became clear his army went into action. Hayricks were burned to send smoke into the faces of the English, disguising what the main Scots force was doing – preparing to attack. A detachment of Scottish light infantry seems to have cut off the English rear, holding a bridge across the Swale. When the English line neared the Scottish, the latter charged and routed the untrained troops instantly.

The untrained troops panicked, many drowned in the river while trying to escape, and the rest were cut down. Estimates of English dead vary wildly, but it seems that the Scots put at least 1000 and very possibly more than double that number to the sword, including it is said 300 priests and friars – giving the battle its sobriquet – The Chapter of Myton. Another 1000 may have drowned trying to escape the bloodbath. Some of the wealthier English



combatants were captured for ransom, but the mayor of York was not one of them – he died in the fray.

The Scots continued raiding before returning north but the raid had the desired effect, and Edward II abandoned the siege of Berwick. This had been insisted upon by the northern earls who wished to protect their lands.

Edward II failed to intercept the Scots on their return homewards and a two-year truce between Scotland and England followed. Relations between the King and his critics, principally Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, worsened further and Lancaster openly rebelled against Edward and was beheaded in 1322 at Pontefract.

The written sources for Myton are as detailed as those for any other fourteenth-century battle. They inform us of the preliminaries, the formations adopted by the two sides and the outcome once the fighting started. The involvement of so many clergy probably accounts for the interest shown in Myton by the chroniclers of religious houses.



A visit to the battlefield site can seem unrewarding due mainly to the lack of any archaeological evidence to help to pin down the exact locations of the main events. But a visit is still worthwhile, for you can gain a very good feeling for the scale of the rivers and can understand how great a barrier they will have represented.

The battlefield, as currently interpreted, lies close to the confluence of the rivers Ure and Swale, in the angle between the two. There is no road bridge across either river at Myton, but there is a 19th century bridge which gives pedestrian access over the Swale from the village itself, enabling access to the battlefield from the east.

It is also possible to reach the battlefield on foot from Boroughbridge, but this is a long trek and Myton village has no pub or shop to provide refreshments en route.

### Richard Byas

#### Yorkshire Friendship

'I want some grapes for a sick friend; how much are they?'

'They're £2 a bunch.'

'Oh, he's not as sick as all that.'



## Baldersby St. James Church

### Ash Wednesday Service and Lent Compline

An Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes for the Benefice will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Everyone is most welcome.

A Compline Service will be held at 7pm each Wednesday during Lent from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February onwards.

**Coffee and Chatter on Tuesday Mornings, 10-12 noon** – everyone is very welcome. Jigsaw swap on the last Tuesday of the month.

**Plough Sunday** – We had a lovely service and lunch. Our thanks go to Terry once again for bringing a wonderful old plough.

*Susan Brown, Baldersby St James PCC*

## Dalton Church and Village Events

### 130 Club results for January

£15 Pat Barker, No.74; £10 Lexi and Jack Ramshay, No.52; £6 Ron Taylor, No.16.

### Coffee Morning in Dalton Village Hall

Our regular monthly Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, from 10.30am until noon. This month the profits will go to Dalton Village Hall. There is no set charge, but donations are welcome. Come along and have a cuppa, a piece of cake and a chat with friends and neighbours.

### Pop-Up Pub

There will be a pop-up pub in the Village Hall on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February from 7pm. Families welcome.

### Pop-Up Cafe

There will be a pop-up cafe in the Village Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February from 9.30am until 11am. Bacon or sausage sandwiches will be on sale, along with tea, coffee, with juice for the children. Toasted teacakes will also be available. Everyone welcome.

### Knit and Natter

This is held every other Wednesday. You don't have to knit or crochet, you can just come along for a natter. For more information contact Sharon on 01845 577643.

### Domino Drive

The next Domino Drive will be on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7pm in the Village Hall. Entrance is £2, with £1 for 5 raffle tickets. Tea and biscuits will be served at the interval. The proceeds are given to the church and the village hall in rotation.

### Craft Classes

These are held on the first Wednesday of the month from 9.30am until 3pm. New members are welcome. Contact Lois Gillie for details on 01423 325608.

**Future Events** – see next month's Cross Talk for more details.

Easter Egg Hunt – This year’s Easter Egg Hunt will be held around the village on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Quiz & Bingo Night – Dalton Village Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Pop-Up Pub – Village Hall on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

*Sylvia Binks*

## **St Columba’s Church, Topcliffe**

### **Compline Services during Lent**

The church will be holding a Compline Service each Wednesday at 7pm during Lent, from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

### **BENEFICE DIRECTORY**

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

Reverend Dawn Ward, Associate Priest for the Benefice

mob: 07957 374191 email: [revevadawnward@gmail.com](mailto:revevadawnward@gmail.com)

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

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